

PHOTO OF THE DAY



PM Viktor Orbán on the campaign trail in Salonta, Romania

MTVA/PM's press office/Vivien Cher-Benke

UPCOMING EVENTS

Election campaign events

Events related to the wars in the Middle East, Ukraine

Stats office publishes figures on Q1 investments, March wages

TOP STORY

'BRUSSELS VIES TO REMOVE LAST OBSTACLE TO WAR'

Brussels is seeking "to repress pro-peace forces", making a last-ditch effort to remove the final obstacle to the war "by silencing [Hungary] or excluding it from decision-making", the foreign minister has said.

Péter Szijjártó was reacting to a recent remark by Hadja Lahbib, the foreign minister of current European Union president Belgium, who said in a recent interview to Politico that the Article 7 procedure against Hungary should be carried to completion with the possible outcome of Hungary being stripped of its voting rights. Szijjártó said Brussels "is enveloped in panic", with only six days left before the EP elections. "Six days are left for people to pull the brake on the apparently unstoppable pro-war train from rushing to its final destination, a third world war," he said, adding that "the brake can be pulled by European people on June 9". "We'll need very strong support and a big win so that we can withstand the pressure in the weeks and months to come and forcefully promote peace and act against Europe's preparations for a third world war," Szijjártó said. "Brussels, the liberal mainstream, visibly dislikes it, but the [Hungarian] government won't give in to pressure and will soon take over the European Union's presidency ... and do everything in the interest of peace," he said.

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SZIJJÁRTÓ: PUTTING END TO 'WORLD WAR FRENZY' IN INTEREST OF EUROPE, AFRICA

Putting an end to the war in Ukraine and "the world war frenzy evolving in Europe" as soon as possible "is in the interest of the peoples both in Europe and in Africa," Péter Szijjártó, the minister of foreign affairs and trade, told a

joint press conference held with his Angolan counterpart, Tete António. Szijjártó said "preparations for a world war are manifest in the political trends of Europe" adding that the continent, "earlier seen as an island of peace, is now dominated by the hysterics of war". Szijjártó said that escalation of the war in Ukraine posed a global risk, adding that "we now need the voice of the peace camp more than ever... So we appreciate the voices of common sense from Africa, and greatly appreciate the African states that clearly, openly, and honestly support the cause of peace," he said.

Noting the challenges Africa had to face in recent decades, the minister said: "It is worth listening when Africa says that each armed conflict ... will be resolved at the negotiating table." "The later we start the talks, the more people will die and the greater the destruction," he said. "The war can only be resolved through peace talks and a ceasefire," he added, noting the damage the war had caused to

the entire world in terms of higher energy prices, war inflation, and food security. Europe and Africa have a shared interest in putting an end to the war in Ukraine as soon as possible, he insisted.

Hungary and Angola see eye to eye on the issue of migration, Szijjártó said. He added that Africa's population was expected to grow by 750 million in the next 20 years, requiring as many more jobs, education, health services, and drinking water. Unless those conditions are provided "we will see one of the most terrible humanitarian disasters of all times or face the greatest migration pressure ever on the European continent," he added. The EU should come up with a comprehensive development strategy for Africa to prevent such migration pressures, he said, adding that the upcoming Hungarian presidency would promote that cause. As one of the first steps in the process, the EU and the Southern African Development Community will hold a meeting of their ministers in Angola on June 18, Szijjártó said, adding that the conference will be chaired by him and his Angolan counterpart.

At their talks, Szijjártó and the Angolan minister signed an agreement to continue a higher education agreement under which Hungary offers an annual 50 scholarships to Angolan youths to study at Hungarian universities.

Answering a question, Szijjártó said the Hungarian government had

declined to support the European Union's punitive tariffs on several Russian and Belarusian agricultural products "to protect the interests of Hungarian businesses". He said "if the EU imposes prohibitive tariffs on Russia, Russia will respond; and measures taken in reaction could create difficulties for Hungarian companies in Russia, even rendering their situation impossible." "Why would it be in our interest to support measures that could make it difficult for Hungarian companies?"

FINMIN DISCUSSES STRENGTHENING ECONOMIC TIES WITH LUXEMBOURG COUNTERPART

Hungary has continued to be a key destination for foreign investors, the country having retained its competitive business environment despite the war crisis, Mihály Varga, the finance minister, said after talks with Gilles Roth, his Luxembourg counterpart, in Budapest. The finance ministry quoted Varga as saying that Hungarian exports to Luxembourg have increased nearly five-fold in the past five years and the turnover of bilateral trade has reached a new record last year.

They were in agreement that the growth and innovation gap between the EU and its global competitors should be reduced, Varga said, adding that Roth had assured him of Luxembourg's support for the

upcoming Hungarian EU presidency in the second half of the year. The Hungarian presidency will give increased focus to the community's competitiveness issue and demographic challenges, its transition to a green economy, and a sustainable debt repayment schedule, Varga said, adding that Hungary was prepared to draft the EU budget for 2025.

Concerning bilateral economic ties, Varga said Luxembourg's investments in Hungary exceeded two billion euros, while Hungarian companies have invested nearly 400 million euros in Luxembourg. The minister added that the centenary of establishing bilateral diplomatic relations will be celebrated this year.

NATL ECONOMY MINISTER DISCUSSES FLAGSHIP PROJECTS WITH EGYPTIAN MINISTERS

Márton Nagy, the national economy minister, has met Egyptian transport minister Kamel al-Wazir and trade and industry minister Ahmed Samir to discuss Egyptian-Hungarian economic projects. After the meeting, Nagy said Hungarian-Egyptian ties were developing dynamically and said the government was working to "deepen and broaden" cooperation. Ties between the countries are bolstered by three flagship projects, Nagy said, according to a ministry statement. Under an agreement to manufacture 1,350 railway carriages,

Hungary has already delivered 913 and is manufacturing the remaining 437, he said. The project is worth over one billion euros, he added. Telekom Egypt and Hungary's 4iG are cooperating in constructing a submarine telecommunication cable between Albania and Egypt, he said. That project would create a new link between central and eastern Europe and Egypt, a hub of data transfer between Africa, Asia and Europe, providing new opportunities for investments and developments, he said.

Meanwhile, Egyptian company Elsewedy "has shown eager interest" in constructing a new gas plant in Hungary, he said. Nagy said they saw further room for development in agriculture, medical equipment and information communication.

ORBÁN: EP VOTE 'WILL STOP MARCH TO WAR'

Prime Minister Viktor Orbán held a campaign event in Salonta (Nagyszalonta), in Romania, at the invitation of the ethnic Hungarian RMDSZ party on Monday, and called on Hungarians "on either side of the border to vote for pro-peace forces, because we have a chance to stop the march to war." Orbán also had talks with the leaders of RMDSZ and their candidates for local representatives, the PM's press chief, Bertalan Havasi, said. Addressing the public, Orbán said the European Union "is mindlessly marching to war". "But no matter

how great the power and money of pro-war forces, we peace-loving people will be in the majority after the elections."

CSÁK: CREATING VALUE RIGHT RESPONSE TO TRIANON

It is by creating value and organising themselves that Hungarian communities can give the best response to Trianon, with a culturally strong, economically confident and prosperous Hungarian nation in every corner of the Carpathian Basin, János Csák, the minister for culture and innovation, said on Monday at a graduation ceremony in Targu Secuiesc (Kézdivásárhely), celebrating Hungary's Day of National Cohesion. Csák noted that the Hungarian government was wedded to the policy of creating a work-based society, and he said Szeklerland had proven itself capable of fostering a successful economy that has attracted foreign investments over the last 14 years, and for this to happen, he added, places were needed "where people want to come and study".

The minister thanked the region's political and ecclesiastical leaders for their cooperation and he noted the manifold increase in the number of students studying at the local vocational school. He referred to "world-class Hungarian dual training" as "vital knowledge platform in Szeklerland, noting that the Hungarian vocational training system ranks second among Organisation

for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries.

Meanwhile, Csák called Hungarians survivors of history, not its victims, but Hungarian survival in the future required “knowledge and self-organisation”. “We have been here for 1,100 years, even longer ... and we want to be here for another thousand years. For this to happen we must create value...” he added.

CANDIDATES IN BUDAPEST MUNICIPAL ELECTION PRESENT IDEAS IN TV DEBATE

Candidates of five political parties in the Budapest municipal election set for June 9 participated in a debate hosted by commercial television channel ATV late on Sunday and presented their proposals for the capital's development.

Alexandra Szentkirályi, list leader of the ruling Fidesz-Christian Democrat alliance and Péter Magyar of the Tisza Party had declined to attend, ATV said.

Dávid Vitézy, a candidate backed by the green LMP party, said he did not want to be “a party politician ... using Budapest as a springboard”. He said his focus was Budapest's development. He said public transport services between central Budapest and its greater area must be improved and called for a “fight” for government support to an upgrade of suburban train services and railway developments, developing the tram network and speeding up

road renovations. He criticised the incumbent mayor, Gergely Karácsony, for “getting involving in national politics rather than promoting the interests of Budapest residents”.

Karácsony said he would work for “an even greener Budapest with more solidarity for needy residents”. He said the city called for cleaner air and affordable rental housing. In the next cycle, he said, the city would spend a total 56 billion forints in EU funding for increasing green areas under his leadership. Karácsony noted that life expectancy in Budapest was 5 years lower than in other capitals of Europe. He insisted that in the past five years Budapest had seen “the largest outpatient service development” in its history, and said he wanted to continue in that spirit. He also stressed that health institutions should be kept under the control of district governments rather than centralised. Budapest is a “free, loyal and diverse European city ... while the government represents the opposite of all that, which does not make cooperation easy.” He added, however, that he was willing to cooperate “with anyone”, but he would not give up his principles.

LMP ACTIVISTS SHUT OFF ENTRANCE TO SAMSUNG BATTERY FACTORY

Opposition LMP activists have shut off the entrances to the Samsung battery plant in Göd, north of Budapest. Antal Csárdi, the green party's deputy group

leader, at a press conference held at the factory on Monday, called on the government to force compliance with the court ruling in respect of the validity of Samsung SDI's environmental permit and reduce capacity by more than 98%. Neither the environmental protection office nor the local government office had shown willingness to take action, he said.

He said LMP would “persevere” with its action with the goal of forcing the plant to abide by the court's ruling that the company was in breach of environmental regulations. He said it was “obvious” that the government was only concerned with falling in line with the interests of multinational companies rather than protecting the health of the Hungarian public.

HUNGARY HAS INTEREST IN SUZUKI'S SUCCESS, ORBÁN TELLS SUZUKI CEO IN BUDAPEST

Prime Minister Viktor Orbán held talks with Toshihiro Suzuki, the CEO of Suzuki Motor Corporation, in Budapest, his press chief said. They reviewed the situation of the automotive industry in Europe and Hungary and the challenges posed by the industry's technological transformation, Bertalan Havasi said. Orbán said Hungary had an interest in Suzuki's success, adding that the ties between Hungary and the company “is more than just business; it is a friendship”. Speaking about

Hungary's economy, Orbán told his partner that it was expected to grow this year and in 2025 as well, adding that credit ratings agencies, investors, Hungarian entrepreneurs and the Hungarian people had trust in the country. "We are optimistic," Orbán said, adding however that the war in Ukraine posed a big threat. "The situation is in that regard very difficult, because the war destroys not only human lives, families and the assets of people, but entire economies," the prime minister said.

BUDAPEST TO HOST FIRST WORLD ATHLETICS ULTIMATE CHAMPIONSHIP IN 2026

Budapest will host as an inaugural city the first World Athletics Ultimate Championship in September 2026, Sebastian Coe, the president of World Athletics, announced in Budapest. The capital will welcome nearly 400 of the world's top athletes from around 70 countries at the ground-breaking

new global championship event, he said. By launching the ultimate championship, WA aimed to organise a global athletics event that is watched around the world every two years between world championships, Coe said. Budapest has been selected to be the inaugural city of the event after it hosted the most successful World Athletics Championships in history last year, he added. The World Athletics Ultimate Championship offering a total prize of 10 million dollars will be held from Sept 11 to 13.