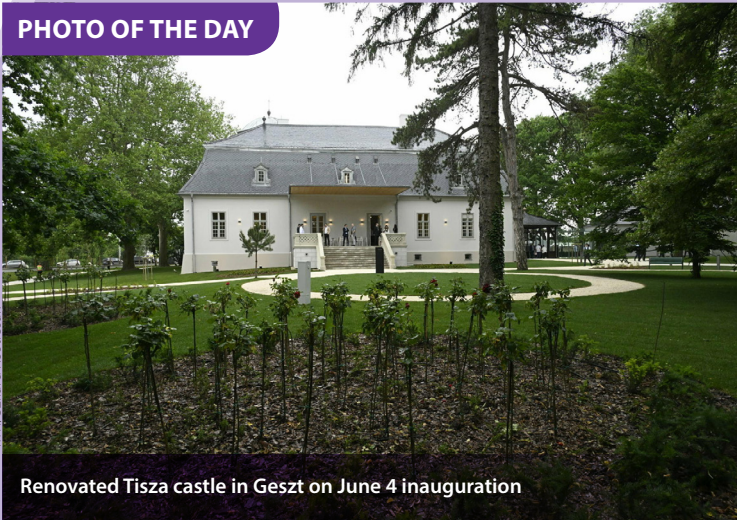


PHOTO OF THE DAY



MTI/Szilárd Kosticsák

Renovated Tisza castle in Geszt on June 4 inauguration

UPCOMING EVENTS

Election campaign events

Stats office publishes foreign trade figures for April

Events related to the wars in Ukraine, Middle East

95th Book Festival's presser

TOP STORY

IMPERIALIST WANT 'TO PLUNGE HUNGARY INTO WAR'

Hungarian voters will have a chance on June 9 to reject "another imperialist attempt to plunge us into war," the prime minister has said.

"We can now do what we have been unable to do for 110 years; the whole Hungarian nation can say no to war in a transparent and democratic way," Viktor Orbán said at the inauguration of the renewed Tisza castle in Geszt, in south-eastern Hungary. "War is never inevitable; war is always a matter of human decision-making. In the shadow of weapons, life and justice never grow; only death and injustice," Orbán said on the Day of National Cohesion. "Now we have to complete what [one-time] prime minister István Tisza could not manage to: prevent Hungary from getting involved in another European war, Orbán said, adding that "our chances are better than they were 110 years ago; we are a sovereign country and sovereignty is a personal cause and right of every Hungarian." He said that 110 years ago the peoples of the Carpathian Basin had been working for their sovereignty against Hungary. But now, "with another war threatening us, the peoples here have clearly indicated to the great powers that they have learned the lesson and do not want war," Orbán added.

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ORBÁN: PEOPLES OF CARPATHIAN BASIN DO NOT WANT TO BE ‘VASSALS THAT CAN BE SENT TO WAR’

Peoples of the Carpathian Basin “do not want to be dispensable pawns on the imperial chessboard, vassals that can be sent to war ... for the sake of Brussels, Washington, or George Soros,” Prime Minister Viktor Orbán said at the inauguration of the renewed Tisza castle in Geszt, in south-eastern Hungary. “It is Hungarians who will shout that the loudest, but we know that the others also think the same,” the prime minister added. Orbán said it had now become clear that “the rights of central Europe’s peoples should not be protected in a confrontation with Hungarians but in cooperation with them ... they need to realise that they are companions in distress.” Peoples in the region “are not only connected through cold geopolitical necessity but a shared history and some strange and inexplicably similar attitude to the world: a local, central European quality of existence. National cohesion is not only a fact but a programme, one for the integration of a nation,” Orbán said. “Commemorating a shared past is not enough, a shared future requires will and planning,” he added. The prime minister said those who strove to curb Hungary’s

ambitions “commit a crime against the nation”. “Hungarians have homes in every country in the Carpathian Basin” and they “make the whole more than just the sum of its parts”. Hungarians must urge cooperation and solidarity over and again, and “be glad when their neighbours are successful”.

The prime minister said June 4, 1920 had been “the day of an assassination attempt against the nation”, when the country was subjected to a ruthless and unfair diktat. Millions of Hungarians became strangers in their own homelands, the best of Hungary industry and soil, the biggest universities, the most beautiful cities, and the nation’s cultural assets were lost, he said. “One is Hungarian if their most painful wound is the one received at Trianon,” Orbán said. Looking back after so many years, it can be clearly seen that the aim of the diktat of Trianon was the death of the nation. But “the great colonising powers were unaware of the character of Hungarians”, Orbán said. “They wanted to bury us but they were not aware that we are seeds,” he added.

In the “darkest hour” of Hungary’s history the country was turned over to people “of whom, even a hundred years later, it is difficult to say whether they were a disaster because of their ineptitude or their evil intentions,” Orbán said, adding that “Tisza, the most intelligent,

was murdered, while the stupidest, Mihály Károlyi, was made prime minister.”

The disaster of Trianon was brought about by a war which Tisza, then prime minister, fully objected to, but “the country had not had enough strength to stay out because it was tied to a power which reserved the right to decide on issues of war or peace,” Orbán said. Both Vienna and Budapest were “full of people inciting war, false prophets and foreign agents”, and Hungary had no choice other than to “march into a war that was forced on the country”. He added, however, that the first world war had been one “on which defeated and victorious alike made losses”. “Peace was removed from Europe on the day of the Trianon diktat, as it failed to yield peace to Europe but fear of a new war, which led to an even greater cataclysm two decades later,” Orbán said. Soon after Trianon, much greater ethnic tensions flared up than before, and “countries came into being that were even more interdependent than earlier, but because of their historical grievances they considered one another as enemies,” he said. Central Europe was occupied by Germany first then it came under Soviet control, “that is why the region cannot have a enough say in today’s European Union,” he said. But those nations, Orbán added, “want to be free and sovereign despite all imperial scheming.” Orbán noted that in wake of a destructive war, Hungary lost two-thirds of its territory and “a third of its population ended



up beyond its external borders” 104 years ago, but “instead of resignation and extinction, they chose struggle and survival”.

“This nation is now able to express its unlimited desire of life and cohesion year after year, and it is finally able to express its gratitude to the family that has given so much to it,” Orbán said. The history of the Tisza family has become synonymous with the notion of a free, independent and sovereign Hungary, he said. He noted that the Tiszas participated in the struggles against the Turks, and despite their achievements in the battlefield, they had to fight for centuries to get back their ancient land. “We should not be surprised, the Western empires of old times were also among those who were not in the habit of recognising and returning what had rightfully belonged to Hungarians,” he added. Two members of the Tisza family, he said, were involved in the political leadership of Hungary and the last strong and successful era of the Kingdom of Hungary was inseparable from the family. The death of István Tisza marked not only the loss of a great prime minister but also “the painful end” of a historic era, he added.

Hungary’s national government and “the great majority and strength behind it do not facelift but restore”, he said. “We take revenge on communism by stepping over it, as if it had never existed,” Orbán said. “We take revenge for the 45 years robbed from us by linking Hungary before the time of German and Soviet occupation with

Hungary today, precisely the way as it is laid down in the Fundamental Law,” he said, adding that this was the original and deepest meaning of the change of the regime. Orbán said the two-thirds support he received in 2010 has been used to this end ever since. “Visitors to the castle of Geszt can see and understand what the Tiszas wanted and also what the current generation wants, he added. “Those who enter here will precisely understand what the slogan of our generation means: every match lasts as long as we can win it,” Orbán said.

**ORBÁN: EC ‘HAS FAILED’,
TIME FOR RIGHT-WING
REBIRTH**

The European Commission “has failed on every front”, from the war to migration, Prime Minister Viktor Orbán said in a newspaper interview, saying the time had come for the rebirth of the right wing, and for that to happen, an agreement between Giorgia Meloni and Marine Le Pen was needed. In the interview published on Tuesday in the Italian daily Il Giornale, Orbán said his Fidesz party’s European Parliament delegation was ready to join the party family of European Conservatives and Reformists (ECR) headed by the Italian prime minister. “We are aware of differences of opinion, but Giorgia and I have known each other for years, and she is doing extremely well in government,” he said. Orbán said he expected the European parliamentary elections to bring about a right-wing

majority. “This European Commission has failed on agriculture, war, migration and economy. They must quit,” he said.

Referring to Meloni and Marine Le Pen, the head of France’s National Rally (Rassemblement National, RN), he said: “We are in the hands of two women who must reach an agreement.” Put to him that the Fidesz EP group may also consider joining the Identity and Democracy (ID) party family, he said they were mulling multiple options, including setting up a new grouping. “The main goal is to be useful to Europe.” Orbán said that the EU was putting financial pressure on Italy because of its high public debt, and “blackmailing” Hungary for its stance on migration and gender policy. “It’s a political issue, it has nothing to do with the rule of law. We are resisting. We have a strategy to protect our sovereignty... Out fight may serve as an example to many other European nations,” he said.

Regarding the war in Ukraine, Orbán said the war was at a crossroads: “Either we isolate the conflict and find a diplomatic solution, or we wade deeper into the war.” Allowing Ukraine to attack Russian territories with weapons received from Italy and other countries may lead to a reaction from Russia and “the involvement of NATO will be just one step away”. Europeans wanted peace rather than war, he said, “and that is not to be toyed with”. He slammed the EU’s “failed” migration policy and said that Hungary wanted to preserve its

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identity and stable welfare system. "We must stop illegal migrants arriving in Europe without the permission of nation states," he said. Regarding Ilaria Salis, an activist placed under house arrest in Hungary who is running for a seat in the EP, Orbán said "Hungarians ... don't like foreigners coming to Hungary to commit crimes and beat up Hungarians."

SZIJJÁRTÓ: VOTERS ABROAD OFFERED MORE VOTING PLACES THAN EVER

By opening an honorary consulate in Monaco, Hungary has raised the number of voting venues abroad to a record 147, the minister of foreign affairs and trade said in Monaco. Péter Szijjártó said at the inauguration that "during the current hard times, when we have been living in the shadow of war for two and a half years ... we must strengthen our peace efforts as it has become clear that there is no solution on the battlefield". At the same time, "dangerous ideas" threatening escalation "keep on surfacing", he said. "A day is nearing in Europe when European citizens can pull the emergency brakes ... June 9 might become the most important day in recent European history," he said. The foreign minister called on Hungarians to turn out and "vote for peace". "Altogether 21,058 compatriots have registered to vote abroad worldwide, they have 147 polling places in 99 countries to choose from." Voting will

start on June 8 in the US, with polling places opening in other countries on the 9th, he said.

Noting that this was the first time for a Hungarian foreign minister to visit Monaco, Szijjártó said the visit was timely, among other things, in view of Hungary's upcoming EU presidency. He said the EU "is in a state of decline and needs new momentum and fresh energy", adding that one way to revitalise it was by strengthening ties with outside players such as Monaco. "We respect and understand Monaco's decision to not enter into an association agreement with the bloc; we sympathise with their commitment to sovereignty because we Hungarians are the same: we are committed to our sovereignty, traditions, culture, history and religion." At the same time, Hungary will continue to work to forge strong ties with the city state in the areas of the economy, trade, tourism and environmental protection, he said. The number of Hungarian tourists in Monaco is growing, and was over 1,200 last year, with 5 flights a week connecting the nearby city of Nice with Budapest, he added. Hungary also has an interest in having a representation in all European states as a first step towards improving economic relations, he said.

SZIJJÁRTÓ: PRO-PEACE POLITICIANS 'HUNTED DOWN' IN VARIOUS WAYS

It is clear from the examples of what has happened to Donald Trump in

court and Robert Fico in a public space that pro-peace politicians face exceptional hardships in today's world, Péter Szijjártó, the foreign minister, said on the campaign trail in Hungary. "They're hunted down sometimes physically, sometimes through legal means, sometimes politically," Szijjártó said at a public forum held in Marcali, in western Hungary, referring to the former US president and the Slovakian prime minister, the latter of whom has survived an assassination attempt. The minister also said there was a mounting danger of the war in Ukraine escalating, and he said many European leaders had been captured by "war madness". "While we have taken in a million refugees, western Europeans are playing war games," he said. Despite hundreds of billions of euros of arms shipments to Ukraine, neither side could gain the upper hand on the battlefield, he added. Diplomacy was the only solution, he said, adding that the sooner peace talks started the better.

He welcomed the upcoming peace conference in Switzerland but added it was "problematic" that Russia would not attend. While it was important to reach for peace, doing so "with one side only" was not feasible. Szijjártó said the Hungarian government was in the process of considering at what level to participate in the forum, "as it augurs limited hope as regards its efficacy". Only an outside factor



could bring Russia and Ukraine to the negotiating table, "but right now no leader of the great powers is up to the task". He said this may change if Donald Trump won the US presidential election. He called Trump "a man of solutions" with "his two feet planted firmly on the ground" who had a better chance than ever of establishing peace. Also, it would help if after this week's European Parliament elections a big turn to the right took place, he added.

KARÁCSONY: TRIANON 'INDELIBLE' PART OF HUNGARIANS' LIFE

While the trauma of Trianon is an "indelible" part of Hungarians' life, "we must talk about the injustice but refrain from hiding behind our trauma when it comes to facing reality and today's problems", Budapest Mayor Gergely Karácsony said, marking National Cohesion Day, held on the anniversary of the Trianon Peace Treaties. Marking the memorial day of the treaties concluding the first world war which cost Hungary two-thirds of its territory, Karácsony said Budapest had to set an example in tolerance, honesty and humanity. "Because in this city, everyone is free to love the homeland whichever way they want." Speaking in a rose garden planted late last year as a symbol of togetherness, Karácsony said

the garden contained a plant for every Hungarian town, as well as cities beyond the border with Hungarian communities. Budapest has been shaped by people coming from every corner of the country, "bringing their customs and cultures", he said. "Budapest would not be the same without the artists, architects and workers who came from Transylvania, Slovakia, Vojvodina and Transcarpathia, or the construction material transported from there," he said.

POTÁPI: HUNGARIANS READY TO FIGHT FOR HOMELAND ANYTIME

Hungarians have learnt in the past thousand years which issues they must make sacrifices for: the homeland, freedom and family, the state secretary in charge of policies for Hungarian communities abroad said, marking the Day of National Cohesion. "We're ready to fight anybody anytime" for these values, he added. Árpád János Potápi told an event in Dombóvár, in south-west Hungary, that Hungarians would not fight "for foreign interests or be pushed into servitude against the interests of our children ... And we'll take the gloves off in the face of anyone who wants to push that down our throats". "The election this weekend should also be a time for ... [saying] no to war," he added.

KSH: HUNGARY GDP GROWS 1.1% IN Q1

Hungary's GDP grew by 1.1% in the first quarter of 2024, the Central Statistical Office (KSH) said in a second reading of data. Adjusted for calendar year effects, GDP rose by an annual 1.7% in Q1. Quarter on quarter, GDP was up by 0.8%, adjusted for seasonal and calendar year effects. Overall industrial performance constricted by 4.2% year on year, production industries fell by 4.8%. The value-added of the construction sector rose by 3% compared with the same period last year, and that of agriculture edged up by 0.4%.

MAGNUS AIRCRAFT STARTS BUILDING FACTORY IN CHINA

Factory units of Hungarian-owned company Magnus Aircraft will be structurally complete near Wuxi, in south-eastern China, by October, enabling the company to start producing aircraft not only in Hungary but also in China, the company said. The new production base will be located in a 210,000 square metre industrial park currently being developed near Wuxi, mostly including Chinese state investments, the statement said. Once the production units are structurally complete, the training of employees will start and production

are planned to be launched starting next year. A Chinese-Hungarian joint company Jiangsu Magnus Aircraft Manufacturing is planned to create 300 jobs, with Hungarians in leading positions, the statement added. The company is planning to turn out two- and four-seater planes primarily for the Chinese, Iranian and African markets.

FLOOD ALERT ISSUED FOR BUDAPEST

Based on forecasts by the national water-level service, Gergely Karácsony, the mayor of Budapest, has issued a first-degree (lowest) flood alert along four stretches of the River Danube in Budapest, the mayor's office said. The lower embankment of the Danube is expected to be closed to traffic from 8pm on Thursday. Starting from Thursday afternoon, all cars parked in the area despite warnings to be towed, it added. Based on current forecasts, a higher level flood alert may be introduced in the coming days.

TURKISH-HUNGARIAN CULTURAL SEASON FEATURES 70 EVENTS IN HUNGARY

The Hungarian-Turkish cultural season currently under way in both countries featured 70 events in Hungary in the first five months, the Turkish ambassador to Budapest said. Gülşen Karanis Ekşioğlu told participants of a working breakfast that over 400 Turkish artists have participated in the programme so far. The programmes have drawn some 75,000 visitors in 10 cities, she said, adding that they hoped Hungary's EU presidency in the second half of the year would provide further opportunities. Besides Budapest, Szeged, Veszprém and other Hungarian cities, events will be held in the Atatürk Cultural Centre in Istanbul and the Presidential Symphony Orchestra Concert Hall in Ankara. Osman Can Ürel, a cultural counsellor of the embassy, said the season featured dance performances such as Güldestan and Dance Adrenalin, the Allegra Ensemble, and concerts by Omer Faruk Tekbilek

and the Önder Focan Jazz Trio, among others.

HUNGARIAN MUSICIANS AT SZIGET MAIN STAGE INCLUDE AZAHRIAH, BETON.HOFI, MARGARET ISLAND

The Main Stage at this year's Sziget Festival will feature Hungarian headliners Azahriah, Beton.Hofi and the Margaret Island group, while several other stages will showcase hundreds of other Hungarian acts between August 7 and 12, the organisers said. The Main Stage will offer an opportunity for Hungarian musicians to use the event as a springboard to enter the international scene, they said in a statement. Azahriah, who has recently filled the Budapest Puskás Aréna three times on three consecutive days, is slated to draw an audience of up to 70,000. Beton.Hofi will perform a show with the world renowned Rajkó Gypsy Orchestra and Margaret Island celebrating its 10th birthday will put on a multidisciplinary act with guest dancers of Szeged Contemporary Ballet.