

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE
STATE SECRETARIAT FOR HUNGARIAN
COMMUNITIES ABROAD

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Children arriving from Transylvania, Serbia, Slovakia and Transcarpathia to take part in programs on the Day of National Cohesion

Nearly 5,000 children are arriving from schools from the motherland and abroad – Transylvania, Serbia, Slovakia and Transcarpathia – to participate in the events of the “Day of National Cohesion”. On Tuesday they will sing together at Kossuth tér, in front of the Parliament Building. At the event State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi will deliver a speech, then thousands of pupils will together sing the song “Kézfogás” (“Holding Hands”). State Secretary for International Communication and Relations Zoltán Kovács told the Hungarian news agency MTI that pupils from 188 schools, including 94 schools with sister schools outside Hungary, will participate in the events. Around 2,600 children are coming from Hungarian schools and nearly 2,300 from schools abroad: Transylvania, Serbia, Slovakia and Transcarpathia. The state secretary said: “alongside the pain that Trianon causes us, we should be proud that we have not only survived the mutilation of the country, but have also remained and survived the blood-stained 20th century.” By adopting the law on dual citizenship in 2010, the Government clearly stated that every Hungarian – wherever they live in the world – is part of the country.



Pope Francis: the Csíksomlyó pilgrimage is Transylvania’s heritage and the sign of fraternity

On Saturday, at the Mass celebrated for tens of thousands of believers in Csíksomlyó/Șumuleu Ciuc, Pope Francis said in his homily that making the pilgrimage to Csíksomlyó is Transylvania’s heritage, the sign of dialogue, unity and fraternity, and respects both Romanian and Hungarian religious traditions. The Pope stressed that one must not forget or deny the complicated and sad events of the past, but one must prevent them creating a barrier or excuse hindering the desired fraternity. The Holy Father said to more than one hundred thousand pilgrims: “With joy and thanksgiving to God, I join you today in this beloved Marian shrine, so rich in history and faith. We have come here as children to meet our Mother and to acknowledge that we are all brothers and sisters.” President of the Hungarian Republic János Áder, Deputy Prime Minister Zsolt Semjén and Romanian Prime Minister Viorica Dancila attended the Mass.

László Kövér: our most important task is to rebuild patriotism

Speaking at the 6th “Danube Day” in Transylvania’s Torockó/Rimetea, Speaker of the Hungarian Parliament László Kövér said that the most important task for our generation is to rebuild patriotism and the culture of national cohesion. The House Speaker stressed that we celebrate what is important for us, and every 4th June since 2010 “we Hungarian people mourn the falling apart of Saint Stephen’s Hungary, but at the same time we recall that over the past century cohesion has proved to be



stronger than the forces that seek to separate and alienate Hungarian people from one another.” The politician added that although Hungarians, with a history of 1,000 years of Christianity, lost the 20th century, they have never lost faith, hope and the ability to win the 21st century.



Szili: European solutions must be found for autochthonous minorities

Speaking at a commemoration held in Eberhard/Malinovo (Slovakia) on the Day of National Unity, Prime Ministerial Commissioner Katalin Szili stressed that European solutions must be found to ensure that autochthonous minorities can preserve their identity and that they are not discriminated against. Before the commemoration, which was the central ceremony among several other similar events on the Day of National Unity in Slovakia, an ecumenical service was held in the local Apponyi Chapel, where Albert Apponyi de Nagyapponyi was laid to rest. In her speech, entitled “European solution: autonomy”, Mrs. Szili pointed out that following the European Parliament elections the Hungarian parliament is working on launching the “Year of National Unity” in 2020. This proposes that there must be discussion of issues that can be raised in the European Parliament over the course of the next five years.



Deputy State Secretary: Hungarian government’s Vojvodina economic development program is successful

Speaking in Szabadka/Subotica on Thursday, Deputy State Secretary responsible for Cross-border Economic Development Péter Kiss-Parciu stressed that the success of the Government’s Vojvodina economic development program is based on three pillars: the Hungarian government’s intent to provide support, a strong partner in Vojvodina and brave entrepreneurs. The politician participated in three inauguration ceremonies in Vojvodina. The investments in Teremin, Kishegyes/Mali Idoš and Szabadka/Subotica are part of the Hungarian government’s Vojvodina economic development program. At the event in Szabadka/Subotica the state secretary stressed that the Hungarian government has set ambitious objectives with the economic development program, as the strategy sets goals for an unprecedented scale of development. These goals have started to be realized in the past few years. He added that these programs will definitely continue until 2022, and new tenders will be launched continually.





Tamás Menczer: together with the new President of Ukraine we hope to succeed in resolving disputes affecting the Hungarian communities

The State Secretary responsible for Information and the International Representation of Hungary expressed his hope that the situation that has developed with relation to legislation negatively affecting the life of Hungarian communities in Transcarpathia can be resolved successfully together with Volodymyr Zelensky, the recently elected new President of Ukraine. Tamás Menczer was speaking at a press conference in Gárdony on Wednesday, where the main topic was the provision of free holidays in Hungary to the children of families affected by the fighting in Eastern Ukraine. The State Secretary believes that the first statements made by the new Ukrainian president give cause for “cautious confidence”. Mr. Menczer emphasized that “Hungary has always endeavored to maintain good neighborly relations with Ukraine, as proven by the fact that in previous years Hungary has supported Ukraine’s euro-Atlantic and visa-free travel aspirations, in addition to providing aid to the war-torn country with vaccines and chlorine required for drinking water.”

The development program of cultural institutions in Transcarpathia launched

Speaking at a press conference in Budapest on Tuesday, Ministerial Commissioner István Grezsa said that the Government’s cultural development program in Transcarpathia includes infrastructural developments and program support. In the middle of May the Government adopted a decision on the funding of cultural developments in Transcarpathia, allocating HUF 2.5bn for this purpose. The Ministerial Commissioner said that in several municipalities in Transcarpathia there are huge post-Soviet cultural buildings which with some development can be venues for the presentation of national culture to the highest quality standards. Talking about the achievements, the Ministerial Commissioner said that the building of the Illyés Gyula Hungarian National Theatre in Beregszász/Berehove has been renovated with Hungarian funds, and soon the Sári Fedák Cultural Centre will open within it.



Péter Szilágyi: with its Hungarian Festival, the Hungarian community in New Brunswick is sending the message that its members are proud to be Hungarian

Addressing the 44th Hungarian Festival in New Brunswick, USA, Ministerial Commissioner responsible for Hungarian communities abroad Péter Szilágyi said: “We Hungarians should be proud that we have made a commitment to being Hungarian and to preserving our national identity in difficult times far away from the motherland – something which has made us a global nation.” Mr. Szilágyi added that the message of the Hungarian Festival, which has been organized annually for over forty years, is that the members of the Hungarian community in New Brunswick are proud to be Hungarian. In a telephone interview the Ministerial Commissioner told



MTI that the Hungarian community in New Brunswick is one of the biggest and best organized Hungarian communities in North America, and that dozens of organizations are operating there.

