

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE
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Zsolt Semjén: We all are the heirs and bearers of the universal Hungarian nation

On Monday, speaking at the presentation of the “Zoltán Kallós Award for Hungarian Communities Abroad” held in Parliament, Deputy Prime Minister responsible for Hungarian communities abroad Zsolt Semjén said that we all are the heirs and bearers of the universal Hungarian nation. Zsolt Semjén stressed that the award symbolizes that “we are members of one nation and one Hungarian nation” that will be able to continue to exist if every part of the nation remains. He added that every part of the nation is responsible for itself, for the other parts of the nation and for the universal Hungarians as well. He stressed that the award named after the Kossuth Grand Prize winner Transylvanian ethnographer Zoltán Kallós represents the universal Hungarian nation. This year the Zoltán Kallós Award for Hungarian Communities Abroad was presented to the following persons and organizations: the mayor of Csíkszentmárton/Sânmartin András Gergely; the 50-year-old Thália Theater in Kassa/Kossice; the mayor of Korond/Corund, Mihály Katona; the 25-year-old Transcarpathian Regional Hungarian Drama Theater; the Kincses Kolozsvár Association established in 2010; the “Without Borders” program of the Kossuth Radio; the Pannonia Foundation that operates the Pannon Television, Pannon Radio, the Hungarian Radio of Szabadka/Subotica; the former President of the Association of Hungarian Institutions in Argentina, Éva Puricelliné Szabó; Slovakian writer, poet, literary translator, literary historian, editor and publisher László Tóth; the Hungarian Language and Literature Faculty of the University in Újvidék/ Novi Sad. The awards were presented by Deputy Prime Minister Zsolt Semjén and State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi.

The Chamber of Business Development in the Carpathian Basin is established

Fourteen private individuals, together with the Hungarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry established the Chamber of Business Development in the Carpathian Basin to create and strengthen the economic unity in the Carpathian Basin area. The main patron of the chamber – representing the government – became Deputy Prime Minister responsible for Hungarian Communities Abroad Zsolt Semjén. Speaking at a press conference in Budapest in connection with the establishment of the chamber, Zsolt Semjén said that the government “seeks to act as a catalyst” and provide infrastructure for Hungarian businesses both in Hungary and in other countries. MKIK chief László Parragh said that helping businesses in the region “under market conditions and on a basis of a partnership of equals” is a priority for the government.



We have been given a chance to rebuild our alliances

According to the Minister heading the Prime Minister’s Office, in the past 30 years the Hungarian people have been given a chance to rebuild their alliances on the



foundations of mutual respect and common interests. Gergely Gulyás spoke about this before a gala performance organized on the occasion of the national holiday on Tuesday in Kolozsvár/Cluj-Napoca. He stressed that evidently the united efforts of Central Europe are able to influence European decision-making. Mr. Gulyás added that “Many do not like this, and they have a vested interest in maintaining centuries-long conflicts and intensifying discord.” Regarding the ongoing provocations the Hungarian community in Transylvania is subjected to, he said there will be no winners, but Hungarians and Romanians may fall victim to them together. Mr Gulyás took the view that the work of St. Stephen was the creation of a home which consecutive generations can pass on to one another. The minister said that the foundations laid by St. Stephen more than a thousand years ago have always been robust enough to build that house time and again. He believes that for Hungarians 20 August is a day of hope come true. Following his speech, Mr. Gulyás presented the Kallós Zoltán Award for Hungarian Communities Abroad to the Kincses Kolozsvár Association responsible for the organization of the Kolozsvár Hungarian Days. The award was received by Balázs Gergely, President of the Association.

Potápi at the opening ceremony of the Hungarian Days in Kolozsvár: this week Kolozsvár is the cultural capital of the whole Hungarian nation

On Saturday evening at the opening ceremony of the Hungarian Days in Kolozsvár, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister’s Office Árpád János Potápi said that during the week of the Hungarian Days in Kolozsvár/Cluj-Napoca, Kolozsvár becomes the cultural capital not only for the Hungarian communities in Transylvania, but for the whole Hungarian nation as well. The State Secretary recalled that the Hungarian Days have been organized this year 30 years after the beginning of the change of the political system in Hungary. He mentioned that the pace of the changes in Transylvania did not meet the expectations in 1989; we had to wait for 21 years to organize the first Hungarian Days in Kolozsvár and 29 years had to pass to achieve that multi-lingual place-name signs were placed at the entrances of Kolozsvár. He posed the question: “Who knows how many years we have to wait for the autonomy of Transylvania or Szeklerland.” Speaking at the opening ceremony, the President of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) Hunor Kelemen described the atmosphere of the Hungarian Days by saying that many people count the course of time from one Hungarian Day to the next one and adjust their annual program to these events.



István Grezsa inaugurates a sculpture commemorating Ferenc Rákóczi II

On Saturday, as part of the “Rákóczi Memorial Year” Ministerial Commissioner István Grezsa inaugurated a sculpture commemorating the last parliament of Prince Ferenc Rákóczi II. The ceremony took place in Salánk/Salanki in Transcarpathia, at the site of the National Assembly held from 11th to 18th February 1711. In his speech about



the way of life of Ferenc Rákóczi II, paying tribute to the historical importance of the prince at the same time, the Ministerial Commissioner stressed that there are only a few historical personalities like Ferenc Rákóczi II who can be regarded as their own prince not only by Hungarians but also Rysins, Ukrainians, Slovaks and Romanians. He added that “the memory of Rákóczi has been shining for centuries and will shine in the coming centuries as well. Transcarpathian people can be proud that a huge number of settlements preserve his memory with a sculpture, trees or legends. The Ministerial Commissioner pointed out that Ferenc Rákóczi set an example to us how to live together with different nations, how not to give up our principles or our desire for freedom for.

