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Péter Szilágyi: the motherland has not abandoned Hungarians living outside Hungary

Speaking in Győr at the closing ceremony of the 19th advanced training course for Hungarian language teachers in the Western diaspora, Ministerial Commissioner for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister's Office Péter Szilágyi stressed that the Hungarian government has shown its commitment to making Hungarians living in the diaspora feel that the motherland has not abandoned them. Mr. Szilágyi said that the first step in efforts to strengthen this feeling was amendment of the law on citizenship, to ensure that Hungarians in the Carpathian Basin and the diaspora have easier access to Hungarian citizenship. He described the next step as the Fundamental Law adopted in 2011. He pointed out that Hungary also bears responsibility for Hungarian communities living outside its borders, and this requires proactive government policy that meets the needs of Hungarian communities outside Hungary. The Ministerial Commissioner concluded by saying that the Prime Minister's Office has launched several programs to achieve this goal.



Commemoration in Úz Valley

On Monday, at the military cemetery at the border of Hargita/Harghita and Bákó/Județul Bacău counties thousands of people participated in the 25th commemoration of the Second World War battle of the Úz Valley. Unlike previous years, this year special attention was given to the event, which was organized by Csíkszentmárton Mayor's Office in collaboration with the Council and the Cultural Center of Hargita County. This is because just over two months ago violent Romanian extremists erected new crosses placed on top of existing graves, and also an Orthodox monument. The participants marched in the cemetery carrying Szekler flags and placards displaying the names of their settlements. The speaker at the commemoration, Franciscan monk Csaba Bőjte, stressed the necessity of truth and love. He said that "there have been and there will be sad events like the one in Úz Valley, but our responsibility is to build a bridge from the stones which have been thrown at us."

RMDSZ nominates Hunor Kelemen as presidential candidate

The Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) has nominated its current president Hunor Kelemen as candidate in the Romanian presidential election being held in November. The decision was made by the Council of the Alliances' Delegates (SZKT). A non-traditional, youthful campaign can be expected from the President of the RMDSZ, who is shown on one of the planned campaign posters riding his bicycle. The key word "Respect" – which is popular and often used on social media sites – clearly targets the younger generation. The word "Respect" (in



Romanian Respekt pentru toți) is the campaign slogan of Mr. Kelemen, who is running for President for the third time.



Most-Híd (Bridge) rejects coalition with the Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP)

The National Council of the Most-Híd party has rejected coalition with the Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP) in parliamentary elections being held next year. Vice-President of Híd Ábel Ravasz said that the reason for the decision was that the leadership failed to accept the proposal of the MKP, which was that candidates from the two parties should equally share nominations on the coalition list. Most-Bridge, however, would have preferred a seventy-thirty proportion in its favor. President of the MKP József Menyhárt pointed out that the Slovakian-Hungarian Most-Híd party's decision to reject coalition ahead of the forthcoming elections is bad news for the Hungarian communities in Slovakia, but the MKP will do its best to reach the threshold of five per cent needed to get into Parliament.

Katalin Szili: the foundations of tomorrow must laid today, and nursery schools are a vehicle for this

In Tornaľja/Tornaľa in Slovakia on Saturday, at the inauguration ceremony for a new local Hungarian Reformed kindergarten built as part of the Carpathian Basin Nursery School Development Program, Ministerial Commissioner Katalin Szili said that the foundations of the future must be laid today. For this, she said, kindergartens can be an excellent vehicle, and Hungarian communities abroad need such independent Hungarian kindergartens. The inauguration ceremony in the small Hungarian-majority town of G6m6r/ Gemer took place after a religious service. The Ministerial Commissioner spoke about the goals of the Carpathian Basin Nursery School Development Program, as well as the extra role that Hungarian kindergartens play in Hungarian communities abroad. Mrs. Szili also gave an address at the inauguration ceremony of another kindergarten in the Hungarian-majority Slovakian village of Nagyszelmenc/ Vel'ké Slemence. Ministerial Commissioner Istv6n Grezsa inaugurated the new institution, stressing in his speech that if you build a kindergarten, you think not only a few years ahead, but provide proof that you want to remain, and oppose the negative processes of the 21st century – such as assimilation, migration and economic hardship.



Hungarian school starters in 73 primary schools

Speaking as part of Pannon RTV's program "Szubjektív", the head of the Executive Committee of the Hungarian National Council (MNT) Anik6 Jerasz said that about 1,360 Hungarian pupils can start school this year, but the exact number will be



finalized at the end of September. At the same time, both the MNT and the institutions themselves are providing various forms of assistance, and will be an asset for parents as well as children in a successful start at school. The Rákóczi Association has already distributed copies of a book about King Matthias and school bags to pupils attending Hungarian language kindergartens. The school bags will be filled with the MNT's school-starter pack, which is worth about 5,000 dinars. Every pupil who starts first grade will receive the pack in the last days of August and the first days of September.



Catholic Caritas helps over three hundred Hungarian children to start school in Transcarpathia

The Catholic charity Caritas will distribute school bags and school equipment to over three hundred Hungarian children in thirteen Transcarpathian settlements to help them in starting school. On Wednesday they presented school bags and school equipment to thirty-six pupils in Kőrösmező/ Jasyna: the most distant settlement in the Transcarpathian mountains with a Hungarian community. Following the ceremony at the Hungarian school and kindergarten, the Head of Catholic Caritas Gábor Écsy spoke on the telephone with the Hungarian news agency MTI. He said that the charity organization has extended the program for Hungarian children abroad, "Starting school shall be a joy". It is now applicable to settlements in Transcarpathia with Hungarian communities. By doing so, the main goal is to provide assistance to families who face difficulties in enrolling their children, due to the serious economic and social situation in Ukraine.

