

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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Viktor Orbán meets István Pásztor, President of the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians

Bertalan Havasi, Deputy State Secretary heading the Press Office of the Prime Minister has told the Hungarian news agency MTI that in the Carmelite Monastery in Budapest on Friday afternoon Prime Minister and President of Fidesz Viktor Orbán received President of the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ) István Pásztor. The two men held talks on the upcoming general election in Serbia. The parties confirmed that in the upcoming election VMSZ will compete at every level. Mr. Pásztor informed Mr. Orbán that “the strategic partnership with Fidesz-KDNP proudly proclaimed by the VMSZ in recent years” has not only strengthened the Hungarian community in Vojvodina, but has also earned appreciation and respect for Hungarians in their homeland. According to the President of the VMSZ, after one hundred years of solitude Vojvodina Hungarians are not only proud of belonging to the nation in a constitutional sense, but are also helping their neighbors in Serbia so that they can also enjoy its benefits. He added that the basis of inclusion, tolerance and coexistence is historical reconciliation, which – instead of merely erasing frictions – has “healed wounds with the balm of humanity and dignity”.

Prime Ministerial Commissioner Katalin Szili calls on the support of the Szekler National Council’s initiative

In Budapest on Tuesday Katalin Szili, Prime Ministerial Commissioner on autonomy issues in the Carpathian Basin, has called on the support of the Szekler National Council’s European civic initiative for the protection of national regions. Addressing the press, Mrs. Szili said that the aim of the initiative is to make sure that the EU supports minorities’ prosperity in their homeland with its decisions and actions concerning cohesion. The Prime Ministerial Commissioner pointed out that by 7 May there should be one million signatures from seven countries. She emphasized that this issue not only concerns Hungary, as there are 400 minorities living in Europe, and one in every seven citizen belongs to an indigenous or regional minority.

Hungarians living beyond the borders are expected to support the Paks II project

In Paks on Wednesday, as part of the Without Borders! Program, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi said that Hungarian specialists living beyond the borders are expected to be involved in the Paks II project, and Hungarian vocational training institutions are encouraged to take account of this in their range of training. The program includes school trips to visit Hungarian communities abroad. Mr. Potápi said that he and KDNP Member of Parliament János Süli, who is also the minister responsible for the Paks II project, had started planning the project months earlier, in order to involve Hungarian specialists living abroad in the project. He added that they would contact Hungarian vocational training



institutions abroad in order to coordinate the training curricula with the number of specialists required by the Paks II project.

Árpád János Potápi: Nagyenyed has a strong Hungarian community

Speaking to the Hungarian news agency MTI after the Bethlen Ball in Nagyenyed (Aiud) organized by the Bethlen Gábor College, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi praised the vitality of the Hungarian community in Nagyenyed. The state secretary participated in the ball as its main patron. Speaking to the MTI, he stressed that the Bethlen Gábor College – which will celebrate its 400th anniversary in 2022 – is more than a simple secondary education institute; it unites all Hungarian communities and has a “cultural vibe”. He added that he felt the same at the opening of the ball. The state secretary greeted the students in his speech and expressed his hope that they would attend the same ball as parents someday. He recalled that 2020 is the Year of National Cohesion – as adopted by the National Assembly of Hungary – and the Year of Strong Hungarian Communities as part of which the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad will realize a program series in Hungary and abroad.

Parliamentary elections in Slovakia – six parties will enter the parliament

According to the results of the parliamentary elections in Slovakia held on 29 February – after 99 % of the votes have been processed – 6 parties will enter the parliament. The Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic (SÚSR) announced on Sunday that the right-wing opposition party Ordinary People and Independent Personalities (OL’ANO) leads the field with almost 25 per cent of the total votes. Direction – Social Democracy (Smer-SD) led by Robert Fico, the strongest party of the outgoing government came second – it gained 18.3 per cent of the votes, having its worst election result so far. None of the Hungarian lists entered the parliament. The Unity of the Hungarian Community (MKÖ) gained 3.9 per cent of the votes. President of Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP) József Menyhárt said that due to the sobering results, it is obvious that there’s a need for a stronger cooperation and a complete unity. He stressed that Hungarians in Slovakia do not have the time and the strength to make experiments instead of cooperation. Addressing the Hungarian News Agency (MTI), he emphasized that even though they could not enter the parliament, they gained more votes than four years ago with the MKÖ and members of the MKP did well, too. “Hungary is ready to further reinforce cooperation between the countries of the Visegrád Group (the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia)”, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó said with relation to the Slovakian parliamentary elections on his Facebook page on Sunday. “The countries of the Visegrád Group have gained significant strength in recent years. They form an



effective and close alliance within the European Union. Thanks to this rational government policy, the region has become the engine of European economic growth, while it has also been able to defend itself and maintain its security”, Mr. Szijjártó wrote.



István Grezsa: The respect for Rákóczi holds Hungarians together

Speaking at the commemoration of the last assembly summoned by Hungarian prince Ferenc II Rákóczi in Transcarpathia’s Salánk, ministerial commissioner István Grezsa pointed out that the memory and example of Ferenc II Rákóczi holds the Hungarian nation together, even though it is divided by the borders. The ministerial commissioner stressed that the ceremony is also “paying tribute to the Hungarian community in Transcarpathia” which is strong enough to “stand up” and survive even in the most difficult times. He stressed that 100 years after the signing of the Treaty of Trianon, it is important to remember historic events but it is also important to “celebrate” the strength of the Hungarian community.

