

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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Hungary cannot exist without Hungarian communities of Transylvania, Vojvodina, Felvidék and Transcarpathia

Bertalan Havasi, Deputy State Secretary heading the Press Office of the Prime Minister, informed the Hungarian news agency MTI on Sunday that Prime Minister Viktor Orbán sent a message to Hungarians beyond the borders on the 15 March national holiday. In this – in addition to the heritage of the 1848-1849 Revolution and Freedom Fight – he also made reference to the 100th anniversary of the Treaty of Trianon. The Prime Minister wrote in his message that 15 March 1848 is a joint heritage and celebration for all Hungarians. For 172 years on this day we have sworn allegiance to our freedom and national unity. Wherever we may live around the world, we will always remember the Youths of March, and we will pay tribute to the heroes who, from Pákozd to Háromszék, from Branyiszkó to Szenttamás, fought as one under the flag of Hungarian freedom. According to Mr. Orbán, the fact that it has been a hundred years since we lost a significant proportion of our country in consequence of the Trianon Treaty lends special significance to our commemorations this year. As he noted, just as 172 years ago, when the cause of freedom would have swiftly perished without Áron Gábor, also today Hungary cannot exist without the Hungarian communities of Transylvania, Vojvodina, Felvidék and Transcarpathia; therefore strengthening and protecting their rights is our joint mission and responsibility.



Hunor Kelemen: it is worth taking risks for liberty; it is not worth taking risks in a pandemic

Commenting on 15 March and COVID-19 on a social media portal, president of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) Hunor Kelemen pointed out it is worth taking risks for liberty, but it is not worth taking risks in a pandemic, and not right. He mentioned that Hungarians in Transylvania will be deprived of the joy of common celebration on 15 March because of the coronavirus and the related safety measures. He said no celebrations are being held in public areas on 15 March, as we look after each other. This was the responsible decision: we have to think clearly, we cannot celebrate together if it risks further spreading a contagious pandemic.



István Pásztor: we all know what it means to stand by 1848

Speaking in Szabadka (Subotica) on Sunday, on the 172nd anniversary of the Hungarian Revolution of 1848-49, President of the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ) István Pásztor pointed out that if we speak as steadfast Hungarians, we declare to stand by 1848 and we all mean the same thing: popular sovereignty. In order to prevent the novel coronavirus from spreading, the Serbian government



prohibited indoor events with more than 100 people, including the 15 March memorial celebrations. Limited events and wreath-laying ceremonies were held, and István Pásztor gave his speech on a television broadcast.

István Pásztor: VMSZ will have a candidate in every council with Hungarian communities

The Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ) reached its goals and set a new time record for collecting the signatures of supporters, and they published a list of parliamentary candidates on 9 March. The list was signed by 11,969 people and has already been announced fourth. Speaking at a press conference on Thursday in Subotica, Mr. Pásztor announced that the list of candidates of the assembly was published on Tuesday 10 March, signed by 5,236 supporters, also fourth. In relation to the local elections, the President of VMSZ highlighted that the party has a complete list of candidates in 11 councils, lists of 2/3 in 13 councils and candidates in coalition with the Serbian Progressive Party in 9 councils.



Ukrainian president signs the controversial secondary education law

According to an announcement on his website, last Friday Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelensky signed the law on secondary education objected by Budapest and many minority organizations in Transcarpathia. The law was adopted by the Ukrainian parliament on 16 January. According to the announcement, the law elaborates on the framework law adopted in 2017 and includes recommendations from the Venice Commission. The law divides minorities in Ukraine into 3 groups, offering them different secondary education models. According to the recommendation of the Venice Commission, private schools are offered the possibility to choose their own language of education. Hungary and minority organizations in Transcarpathia primarily object to the fact that from the 5th grade, the law obliges students to gradually adopt education in the Ukrainian language, which Hungary says violates their previously gained rights.

