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Viktor Orbán greets Hungarians abroad in a letter

On the anniversary of “the day on which Hungarian liberty was born”, Viktor Orbán sent a letter of greetings to Hungarians around the world, in which he emphasized that “in spite of these extraordinary conditions, in our hearts we commemorate together.” Mr. Orbán stressed that the successors of the patriots of 1848 are the tens of thousands of doctors, nurses, scientists and law enforcement personnel who, in spite of the pandemic, report for work every day and stand their ground in the battle. He described them as warriors fighting tirelessly in this campaign so that after the pandemic Hungarians can get their lives back and build their shared home – the Carpathian Basin – with their fellow people.

Semjén: Our duty is to strengthen our pride in our nationality

On March 15, Hungary’s National Independence Day, Deputy Prime Minister Zsolt Semjén told Hungarian daily Magyar Nemzet (“Hungarian Nation”) that it is crucial that “we protect our sovereignty and Christianity, against Islamic invasion and the imperial ambitions of Brussels if necessary”. According to Mr. Semjén, today the only realistic answer to Trianon is the unification of the Hungarian nation under public law. He called Pope Francis’s visit to Hungary “an important gesture” and thinks it will be an honor to receive him.

Árpád János Potápi: When our most important values are at stake, we need everyone

To mark March 15, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi shared his celebratory message in an online video. In it he emphasized that this pandemic has given us even stronger proof that all Hungarians can rely on the kin-state and on each other, and that the Hungarian nation is connected by real bonds. He drew a parallel between Hungarians fighting their common enemy in 1848, and doing the same against the pandemic in the 21st century. The war is not over yet, he said, and we all need to do our best to achieve victory.



March 10 is a tribute to Szekler courage

Katalin Szili, Prime Ministerial Commissioner and former Speaker of the National Assembly and Árpád János, Potápi State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad, issued a joint statement for the Day of Szekler Liberty. They pointed out that in January 2012 the Szekler National Council decided that the Day of Szekler Liberty and the symbol of Szekler unity would be 10 March. On this day, we bow to the Szekler martyrs executed at Postarét in Marosvásárhely/Târgu Mureş on 10 March 1854 and to the heroes of the War of Szekler Independence. Furthermore, this day is also a tribute to Szekler courage, which shows that it stands united as a community in



favor of autonomy situated within the European framework and following European principles and examples.

Rákóczi Association commemorates the 120th anniversary of the birth of János Esterházy

Speaking at an online commemoration hosted on Sunday by the Rákóczi Association, Chairman of the Hungarian Assembly's Committee on Foreign Affairs and Fidesz member Zsolt Németh pointed out that János Esterházy was a martyr who fought against Nazism and communism and sacrificed his life for his faith. In his speech given from the balcony of the Parliament Building, Mr. Németh highlighted that the Slovakian-Hungarian János Esterházy was a friend to Poles and a devoted warrior for the idea of Visegrád and human rights.

Árpád János Potápi visits Vojvodina

In Topolya/Bačka Topola on Friday, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi pointed out to Hungarians in Vojvodina and the kin-state that the only way back to normal life is to register and receive the COVID vaccination. Mr. Potápi brought sports kits to two settlements in Vojvodina as a gift from the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad, and at every stop on his visit he emphasized the importance of vaccination. On Friday he visited primary schools in Gunaras/Gunaroš and Bácskossuthfalva/Stara Moravica. After his visit, Mr. Potápi informed the Hungarian News Agency (MTI) that 2021 is the Year of New Beginnings and there will be thematic months. January was the month of sport, February that of children's health and March is dedicated to Hungarian communities.

Olivér Várhelyi, László Brenzovics and Andrea Bocskor meet online

At the initiation of Olivér Várhelyi, European Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement, an online meeting took place on 12 March which was also attended by László Brenzovics, the president of the Transcarpathian Hungarian Cultural Association (KMKSZ) and member of the Transcarpathian Regional Council, and MEP Andrea Bocskor. The aim of the meeting was to inform Mr. Várhelyi about Ukraine's policies on minorities and their effect on the Hungarian community in Transcarpathia.



Potápi: The first oath of nationality was taken ten years ago in the Carpathian Basin

On Saturday State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi gave a speech at the reinauguration of the recently vandalized statue of Petőfi in Haraszi/Hrastin, Eastern Slavonia. Mr. Potápi recalled that on 12 March 2011 – ten years ago that Friday – the simplified naturalization process made it possible for the then leaders of the Hungarian community in Croatia to swear the oath of nationality in the presence of Mayor József Szekó in Mohács: the first such ceremony in the Carpathian Basin. Mr. Potápi said that in order to launch the program of the Year of New Beginnings, as many people as possible should register for the COVID vaccination both in Croatia and in Hungary. He underlined that this is needed in order to get back to our normal life. The bronze bust of Sándor Petőfi was vandalized a month ago by unknown individuals. The bust has been repaired and ceremoniously returned to its pedestal.