

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE
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COMMUNITIES ABROAD



The new building complex of the János Arany Theoretic Lyceum is inaugurated in Nagyszalonta

The new building complex of the János Arany Theoretic Lyceum and Community Center for dispersed Hungarian communities in Southern Bihar county has been completed in Nagyszalonta/Salonta. The new buildings were inaugurated last Monday within the framework of the school year opening ceremony and church service. Speaking at the ceremony, Member of the Hungarian National Assembly Szilárd Németh rendered the welcoming message of Prime Minister Viktor Orbán in which the Prime Minister states that “we, Hungarians can always think proudly of our forefathers, who – through their deeds and work – always tried to multiply our values.” Mr. Orbán stressed in his message that “we owe a lot to János Arany who did not only recalled the glorious eras of our past in his works, but also encouraged us to be human and persistent.”

László Kövér: Hungarian renaissance is always possible if we believe in it

Addressing the inauguration ceremony of the new building of the László Németh Hungarian language High School in Nagybánya/Baia Mare, the Speaker of the Hungarian National Assembly László Kövér said that “there has always been and there is Hungarian permanence, and Hungarian renaissance is always possible if we believe in it and are making efforts for it”. The school building which was built in the 19th century is owned by the Reformed church and is located in the center of the town. It was renovated with the HUF 105 million (EUR 339.200) financial support of the Hungarian Government. In the building Hungarian pre-school groups and junior elementary school groups will operate. Speaking at the ceremony, the president of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) Hunor Kelemen said that education in Romania is underfunded and stressed that 6% of the country’s GDP should be spent on education in Romania.



Education in mother tongue: most important guarantee of advancement in homeland

Speaking at the academic year opening ceremony of the Selye János University in Slovakia’s Révkomárom/Komárno, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi stressed that education in the mother tongue is the most important guarantee of advancement in the homeland, and they are now trying to take this away from Hungarians in Transcarpathia. The state secretary urged Hungarian communities to stand up for Hungarians in Transcarpathia. Mr. Potápi highlighted that great dreams can only be made to come true with combined strength and a unified will. He added that the Selye János University, Slovakia’s first and only Hungarian university, is an outstanding example of such united action. The state secretary emphasized that there is only one thing more difficult than achieving



results such as this, and that is retaining them. He added that “That is something that has been successfully achieved in the case of the Révkomárom institution.”

The ashes of Hungarian martyr politician János Esterházy are buried in Alsóbodok

On Saturday, the ashes of Hungarian martyr politician of Slovakia János Esterházy were buried as part of a ceremonial commemoration and a liturgical ceremony in Alsóbodok/Dolné Obdokovce in Slovakia, held in the Exaltation of the Holy Cross Chapel built for this purpose. The last will of the martyr János Esterházy – who was born in Nyitraújlak/Velké Záluzie – was to bring his ashes home and bury them in his homeland. The commemoration was organized by the Association for János Esterházy’s Homeland and the Pázmáneum Civic Association with the help of Alice Esterházy-Malfatti, daughter of the earl living in Italy, to mark the 60th anniversary of the martyr’s passing away and the 70th anniversary of sentencing him to death. The speech of the Speaker of the Hungarian National Assembly and the patron of the event László Kövér – who was prevented from being present by sickness – was read by the Ambassador of Slovakia to Hungary Tibor Pető. In his message the house speaker stressed that the fate of János Esterházy is a tragic symbol of the 20th century for Hungarians and it is also a symbol of Central European fate of the 20th century seeking haven in God and in human liberty, in national faith and interdependence among nations.

The Esterházy Academy in Slovakia has started its operation

The ceremonial opening of the Esterházy Academy was held in Slovakia’s Martos/Martovce on Friday. The opening of the institution established as an intellectual think tank for education of young Hungarian intellectuals living in Slovakia was held in the center of the academy in Martos. Speaking at the event, Deputy State Secretary for Hungarian communities abroad Péter Szilágyi stated that “many of Hungarians hope and believe that with the taken life of János Esterházy the Hungarian community in Slovakia has not lost its spirituality. There will be and are many who are going to lead and strengthen the Hungarian community on this road.” He added that we take a step forward in order to reach this goal with opening this institution. The gap-filling institution was established with the HUF 60 million (EUR 193,840) financial support of the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister’s Office and the Bethlen Gábor Fund. The institution will be operated by the Marthos Civic Association.



President János Áder marks the 320th anniversary of the battle of Zenta

President János Áder marked the 320th anniversary of the battle of Zenta/Senta together with Aleksandar Vučić, his Serbian counterpart, at a ceremony in Zenta in Vojvodina. In his speech, Mr. Áder said “the nature of the peace we make with our



neighbors and ultimately with ourselves, of what we leave behind, is of great importance.” He added that it was important that succeeding generations do not leave behind “the inhumane acts of the 20th century” but rather “a genuine apology and the knowledge that it is worthwhile to fight together for our countries, communities and European cultures.” As part of the whole-day ceremony, the sanctification of the Saint Thérèse of Lisieux Church was also held in Zenta where State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister’s Office Árpád János Potápi delivered a speech. The state secretary highlighted that the cornerstone of the church had been placed 20 years ago and in the past two decades the Hungarians of the world united their force so that the church could be built, donations arrived from numerous countries. He emphasized that the building of the church justifies that “if we unite, we are capable of great achievements”



Ukraine’s decision is harmful for the Hungarian minority and particularly unfair

On Monday, Prime Minister Viktor Orbán and the president of the Cultural Association of Hungarians in Transcarpathia (KMKSZ) László Brenzovics held talks in Parliament to discuss Ukraine’s new Education Act, “which is having a harmful effect on Ukrainian-Hungarian relations and runs counter to Ukraine’s international commitments”. At the meeting the parties agreed that the new Education Act recently adopted by the Ukrainian parliament has made education in minority languages impossible – including teaching in Hungarian. Mr. Orbán and Mr. Brenzovics also agreed that this is in contravention of both Ukraine’s constitution and its international commitments, and is having an extremely negative effect on Hungarian-Ukrainian relations.

We will not abandon Transylvanian and Transcarpathian Hungarians

Speaking at a press conference in Budapest, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó declared that “We will not abandon Transylvanian and Transcarpathian Hungarians and will fight to the bitter end in the conflicts that affect them”. The Minister emphasized that “It is the duty of Hungarian foreign policy to protect Hungarians, no matter where they live”. The amendment of the Ukrainian Education Act, against which Mr. Szijjártó is taking joint action with the Bulgarian, Romanian and Greek foreign ministers, is “shameful and outrageous, and severely violates the rights of minorities”, he said, point out: “This clearly indicates that this is not a Hungarian-Ukrainian dispute”. The minister told the press that the joint letter from the four foreign ministers was submitted to the Ukrainian Foreign Minister, the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe’s (OSCE) High Commissioner on National Minorities. Mr. Szijjártó stressed that “The rights of every national minority have been severely violated, and this is something about which nobody can remain silent.”



Levente Magyar: Hungary can develop the Hungarian-populated areas of neighboring states

On Friday, speaking in Várdaróc/Vardarac in Croatia, State Secretary for Economic Diplomacy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade Levente Magyar announced that the Croatian economic development program has started with HUF 500 million (EUR 1. 569 300), and in case the first several months will show the expected results, further HUF 500 million will be available for the applicants from the beginning of the next year. At the official launch of the Croatian section of Hungary's Carpathian Basin economic development program, Mr. Magyar highlighted: "Hungary has now gained enough economic strength to enable it to not only develop itself, but also the areas of neighboring countries that are inhabited by Hungarians".