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László Kövér: Supporting signatures collected within the Minority SafePack Initiative give hope to national minorities

Speaking at a conference held in Budapest on the Minority SafePack – European Citizens’ Initiative, the Speaker of the Hungarian National Assembly László Kövér said that the more than 1 million supporting signatures which were collected within the framework of the Minority SafePack European Citizens’ Initiative give hope to the members of autochthonous national minorities – more than 50 million in Europe – to live peacefully, without legal restrictions in their own homeland, preserving their culture and national identity. The house speaker added that with the collection of the necessary number of signatures, they have “won a battle, but the war can only be won if the European Union will take into consideration this result and will adopt laws in order to improve the situation of national minorities living in Europe.” Mr. stressed that Hungarians have “more than 2 million practical reasons” to fight for this issue, since in 1920 – as a result the Treaty of Trianon – plenty of Hungarians became the victims of forced border changes and today more than 2 million Hungarians are living outside Hungary, in neighboring countries, who regularly face the violation of their rights.



The University of Medicine and Pharmacy of Marosvásárhely and Petru Maior University will be united

According to the decision of the senates of the Hungaria-language University of Medicine and Pharmacy of Marosvásárhely/Targu Mures (MOGYE) and the Romanian-language Petru Maior University of Sciences, the two higher education institutions will merge. The fusion of the two universities will start in fall 2019 – the decision about this issue was adopted on Wednesday as part of an extraordinary meeting. The contract on the fusion of the two universities states that in the light of multiculturalism, Hungarian and English-language education will be preserved in parallel with the Romanian-language education, in addition, there will be an opportunity to launch further Hungarian-language courses at the institution. On Wednesday evening, the declaration was also adopted by the senate of the MOGYE, however, the representatives of the Hungarian faculty did not take part in the meeting. The chairman of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) Hunor Kelemen said that the initiative to unite the two higher education institutions is a clear attempt to cease the multicultural characteristics of the MOGYE and weaken Hungarian-language education. Speaking at a conference in Marosvásárhely on Friday, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister’s Office Árpád János Potápi said that the Hungarian Government will make every effort to find a solution to the current difficult situation and will help Hungarians living in Transylvania create a new structure in which the Hungarian-language education of doctors can continue.



Dragnea: Romania will settle the situation of the Roman Catholic High School of Marosvásárhely

The head of Romania's governing Social Democratic Party (PSD) Liviu Dragnea has promised again to Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán that Romania will settle the situation of the Roman Catholic High School of Marosvásárhely. The head of the PSD stressed that he had talked to the Hungarian Prime Minister several times about Romania's bid to become a member of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and Mr. Orbán said that Hungary will support Romania's bid for membership of the OECD if Romania finds a solution to the situation of the Marosvásárhely school. Mr. Dragnea added that when this condition first occurred (in September 2017), he made a promise and he will realize it.



Péter Szilágyi: the development of vocational education is crucial for Hungarians' permanence in their homeland

Speaking at a conference in Slovakia entitled "Vocational education in the focus", Deputy State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Péter Szilágyi said that the development of Hungarian-language vocational education is crucial from the point of view of Hungarians' permanence and prosperity in their homeland. The two-day conference was organized by the Association of Hungarian Teachers' in Slovakia (SZMPSZ) for leaders and teachers of Hungarian-language vocational education institutions in Slovakia. The deputy state secretary recalled that the Year of Hungarian Vocational Education Abroad was launched by the Hungarian Government in 2015 and its aim is to help young Hungarians abroad remain and prosper in their homeland. Mr. Szilágyi added that in order to realize this goal, it is important that young Hungarians choose good professions and participate in high quality education in their homeland.



Prime Ministerial Commissioner takes part in commemoration in Slovakia

Addressing a commemoration on the 169th anniversary of the Nagysalló Battle in Slovakia's Léva, Prime Ministerial Commissioner Katalin Szili said that "in our everyday life we can do a lot for the permanence of our community's freedom and independence with our creed and joint stance for the community." The commemoration was held at the local memorial in Léva which pays tribute to the victorious battle of the 1848/48 Hungarian Revolutaiton and Freedom Fight and commemorates its victims. Ms. Szili stressed that the memorial which was built in 1871 is a symbol of the Hungarian community. She stressed that the freedom fight is an important pillar of our identity and emphasized that those communities which believe in the nation and are to cooperate with each other, can survive and prosper.



The VaMaDisz wins lawsuit against the University of Újvidék

According to the decision of the Újvidék/Novi Sad Court of Appeal made in the lawsuit between the Faculty of Law of the Újvidék University and the Association of Hungarian Students in Vojvodina (VaMaDiSz), during the past three years discrimination on the basis of nationality occurred at the Faculty of Law of the Újvidék University. The lawsuit was launched by the VaMaDisz 2.5 years ago against the university, since the institution – against the provincial regulation – did not make it possible for students to take entrance examinations in Hungarian language. The court decided in favor of the VaMaDisz and in its decision obliges the Faculty of Law of the university – from this year – to provide an opportunity for Hungarian students and the members of other national minorities to take the entrance examinations in their mother tongue.



Further renovated kindergartens are inaugurated in Transcarpathia

As part of the Carpathian Basin Nursery School Development Program of the Hungarian Government, government commissioner responsible for Transcarpathia István Grezsa inaugurated five renovated kindergartens in Transcarpathia's Beregszász/Berehove and its surrounding towns and villages. Speaking at a press conference held after the inauguration ceremony, Mr. Grezsa said that as part of the large-scale program – which is realized in Transcarpathia in cooperation with the Association of Hungarian Teachers in Transcarpathia (KMPSZ) – 24 nursery schools have already been renovated and inaugurated. He added that the renovation of further 19 institutions have been finished. He added that the five kindergartens which are inaugurated on Wednesday, are among them. Mr. Grezsa stressed that as part of the program, altogether 130 institutions will be either renovated or built in Transcarpathia, therefore, through this program the kin-state can reach every Hungarian-speaking community in the region. The government commissioner expressed the hope that the program will give rise to great positive changes in Hungarian-language education and make Hungarian kindergartens attractive for everyone.

