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Árpád János Potápi: cultural festivals strengthen Hungarian identity

Speaking at the official opening of the largest cultural festival of Marosvásárhely/Târgu Mureş named Vásárhelyi Forгатag, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister's Office Árpád János Potápi stressed that the event contributes to the strengthening of Hungarian identity in Transylvania, therefore, the Hungarian Government is supporting it. The state secretary highlighted that everyone who takes part in the festival, contributes to the strengthening of the town's Hungarian community and Hungarian identity in Transylvania. Mr. Potápi stressed that cultural festivals like the Vásárhely Forгатag are extremely important since they can pass on Hungarian customs and traditions to future generations and local Hungarians can show that they are a strong and vigorous community. The state secretary expressed his pleasure that in recent years more and more people, civil organizations and enterprises are supporting the festival as a result of which it has become the largest cultural event of Marosvásárhely.

Zsolt Tamás is appointed director of the Marosvásárhely Catholic High School

In its newsletter published on Friday, the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) stated that the Romanian Ministry of Education appointed Zsolt Tamási director of the Ferenc Rákóczi II. Roman Catholic High School of Marosvásárhely/Târgu Mureş. On Friday afternoon, the new board of the school held its first meeting. Speaking to the Hungarian public media, Mr. Tamási said that the harassments of the past two years made him stronger and he starts the new academic year with renewed energy. He added that "ordeal can often give strength and it can also have a community-building force." The director stressed that it was also important that teachers, parents and students had stood up for the school during the past year. He added that not only former students returned, but many new students applied, therefore, the school will start the new year with three classes more than originally planned.



István Grezsa: Carpathian Basin nursery school program has many positive effects

Speaking in Slovakia's Albár/Dolný Bar after the inauguration ceremony of a Hungarian nursery school which has been renovated as part of the Hungarian Government's Carpathian Basin Nursery School Program, ministerial commissioner István Grezsa said that "the program has already had several positive effects." Mr. Grezsa added that a lot of institutions will be built or renovated as part of the program, however, the majority of them will be handed over in only 2019 and 2010 – due to the new laws. Mr. Grezsa stressed that a lot positive phenomena can already be observed in Hungary's neighboring countries which are the direct results of the program. As an example he mentioned that more and more children who were born



in mixed marriages are enrolled in Hungarian kindergartens. He added that a similar positive sign is that both Slovakia and Romania have started to support Hungarian kindergartens – this shows their confidence in the Hungarian Government’s program. Mr. Grezsa added that the ultimate goal is to increase the number of children attending Hungarian kindergartens in the Carpathian Basin from the current 48,000 to 60,000.



Hungarian children in Vojvodina receive school supplies

Addressing the opening ceremony of the new school year in Serbia’s Bácskossuthfalva/Stara Moravica and Csantavér/Čantavir, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister’s Office Árpád János Potápi stressed the importance of the preservation of Hungarian-language education outside Hungary. As part of the ceremony – similarly to previous years – children entering the first class received a gift package (a package of school supplies) from the Hungarian National Council (MNT). As part of the Hungarian National Council’s Vackor Program – which is supported by the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad – every child who starts his studies in a Hungarian-language school, receives a gift package and a single financial aid from the Hungarian Government. The packages were handed over by the leaders of the MNT and State Secretary Árpád János Potápi. This year, 35 pupils have started their studies in Hungarian language in Bácskossutfalva and 43 children – in Csantavér. The state secretary expressed his pleasure that the number of children attending Hungarian schools – compared to last year – did not decrease in Vojvodina.



The development of Transcarpathia is what’s important to the Hungarian Government

“It is the development of Transcarpathia that is important to the Hungarian Government, and it is obvious that this requires Hungarian budgetary resources, which Hungary is providing”, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade said in a statement to Hungarian news agency MTI on Friday. The Ministry was reacting to the fact that, following a meeting with Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó on Friday, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Pavlo Klimkin wrote on Twitter that “Hungary is modifying the appointment of the Ministerial Commissioner for the Development of Transcarpathia and the Carpathian Basin Nursery School Development Program, which has been objected to by Kiev”. Kiev had previously stated that it regards the appointment of a Ministerial Commissioner for Transcarpathia during the course of the formation of the new government following the April elections in Hungary as interference in Ukrainian internal affairs. In the statement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade wrote that “It is the development



of Transcarpathia that is important to the Hungarian Government, and it is obvious that this requires Hungarian budgetary resources, which Hungary is providing. However, for some difficult to understand and unfortunate reason the Ukrainian Government is using all possible means to prevent the delivery of this funding, the latest step being to pick a quarrel with relation to the title of István Grezsa. If the price for our continuing to be able to assist Transcarpathia is that we must change the title of the Ministerial Commissioner, we will of course oblige.”



School year opening ceremony in Croatia

Speaking at the school year opening ceremony of Hungarian children in Croatia organized by the Forum of Hungarian Teachers in Croatia (HMPF) in Eszék/Osijek, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi said that “the Hungarian Government’s most important goal is to encourage parents in neighboring countries to choose Hungarian-language education institutions for their children. As part of the ceremony, Hungarian children entering the 1st and 5th class as well as students starting the 1st year of secondary school received “school starting packages” (school supplies). Speaking at the event, State Secretary Árpád János Potápi said that the demographic situation in Croatia is extremely bad and Hungarian towns are not exceptions, the Hungarian Government’s aim is to improve this situation through the supporting of Hungarian families.