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Péter Szilágyi: Thematic years will continue

Speaking at the opening ceremony of a summer open university entitled “The protection of national minorities in Europe” held in Hungary’s Gödöllő, Deputy State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister’s Office Péter Szilágyi said that thematic years aimed to support Hungarian communities abroad will continue, and the 2017 thematic year might be dedicated to Hungarian family farmers living abroad. The summer open university was organized for the fifth time by the Research Institute for Hungarian Communities Abroad (NPKI) and the Institute for the Protection of Minority Rights (KJI) for young Hungarian lawyers, law students and PhD students interested in the field. Speaking at the event, the deputy state secretary presented the institutional system and programs of the policy for Hungarian communities abroad. Mr. Szilágyi recalled that in 2010 a radical shift took place in the field: Hungary adopted laws and a comprehensive strategy for Hungarian communities abroad, the institutional system of the field was established, and several forums and programs were launched. In connection with the simplified naturalization procedure, the deputy state secretary said that so far more than 850,000 Hungarians living abroad have applied for Hungarian citizenship, and 780,000 have taken the oath of citizenship. Mr. Szilágyi highlighted that while the programs and measures started in 2010 focused on the strengthening of Hungarian communities abroad, programs launched in 2014 aim to enhance Hungarian economic life in the Carpathian Basin.

Ambassador Ljubov Nepop receives government commissioner István Grezsa in her office

Ambassador of Ukraine to Hungary Ljubov Nepop received government commissioner responsible for the government coordination of cooperation and accorded development tasks of Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg county and Transcarpathia István Grezsa in her office. During the talks, the ambassador stressed that there is a number of current issues which connect Hungary and Ukraine, and their realization is in the interest of both countries. Ms. Nepop mentioned the development of the military hospital in Munkács/Mukachevo, the supporting of medical treatment of soldiers injured in the armed conflict in Eastern Ukraine and the rehabilitation of the salt mine in Aknaszlatina/Solotvino. Mr. Grezsa stressed at the meeting that it is a responsibility of Hungary stated in its Basic Law to support Hungarian communities living abroad, including the Hungarian community in Transcarpathia. The government commissioner added that Ukrainians can also rely on Hungary’s support. Mr. Grezsa expressed his pleasure that more and more Ukrainians in Transcarpathia would like to learn Hungarian and participate in Hungarian language courses launched recently. He also expressed hope that the Ede Egán Transcarpathian Hungarian economic development program will bring positive results for the region’s economy.



Róbert Ráduly takes mayoral oath of office

On Friday, former mayor of Transylvania's Csíkszereda/Miercurea Ciuc Róbert Ráduly who was re-elected during the Romanian municipal elections on 5 June 2016, took his mayoral oath of office. Speaking at the ceremony, Mr. Ráduly said that in the forthcoming period, he will focus on people, families, institutions and education instead of the renovation of buildings and roads. Before taking the oath, Mr. Ráduly – who is the candidate of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) – addressed the participants as an ordinary citizen. He said that Csíkszereda had a hard year, and recalled the events which took place on 29 April 2015 when the Romanian National Anticorruption Directorate brought proceedings against him and transported him to Bucharest. Mr. Ráduly declared that the proceeding against him was a “clear abuse”. The newly elected mayor stressed that “a town must be led by one who has courage, stamina and knowledge since these are the qualities which make one suitable for this position.”

Hungarian Olympic Court opens in Kolozsvár

A Hungarian Olympic Court was opened in Kolozsvár/Cluj Napoca on Friday, on the official opening day of the 2016 Summer Olympic Games which takes place in Rio de Janeiro. The court provides an opportunity for Hungarians living in the region to watch Hungarian athletes' participation in the Games and cheer for them together. The court is part of the 7th Hungarian Cultural Days of Kolozsvár which will be organized between 14 and 21 August. The main organizer of the event Balázs Gergely told the Hungarian news agency MTI that the opening ceremony of the Olympic Court which is located in the city center was a pre-event of the Hungarian days. Mr. Gergely also expressed hope that the court will be a popular meeting point of the event's participants. The court will be open every day until 5 a.m.



István Pásztor looks forward to the formation of the new Serbian government

The president of the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ) István Pásztor announced that the VMSZ had already agreed on the details of its participation in the new Serbian Government with the head of the Serbian Progressive Party (SNS) Aleksandar Vučić. Mr. Pásztor said that the VMSZ intends to be part of the new government at the level of state secretaries in four ministries (Ministry of Transportation, Construction and Infrastructure; Ministry of Health and Care Services; Ministry of Education; Ministry of Agriculture and Environment Protection). He added that the VMSZ concluded an agreement in principle with Mr. Vučić on these



issues. Mr. Pásztor said that his party had talks with the SNS in June and agrees with the political guidelines the SNS represents.

As is known, soon after the Serbian parliamentary elections held on 24 April, Aleksandar Vučić announced that the Alliance of Hungarians in Vojvodina will be the only certain partner of the Serbian Progressive Party in the new government.

The board of trustees of the „Ede Egán” Transcarpathian Economic Development Center holds meeting in Beregszász

The board of trustees of the „Ede Egán” Transcarpathian Economic Development Center – which consist of the Cultural Association of Hungarians in Transcarpathia (KMKSZ), the Democratic Union of Hungarians in Ukraine (UMDSZ), the representatives of Hungary’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Hungarian historic churches – held meeting in Beregszász/Berehove. After the publishing of tenders, the board decided on the criteria of the applications’ evaluation as well as the selection of experts taking part in the evaluation procedure. In the meantime, the offices of the foundation in Ungvár/Uzhhorod, Munkács/Mukachevo, Beregszász/Berehove, Nagyszőlős/Vynohradiv and Técső/Tyacsiv also began their work.

As is known, the Hungarian Government launched a HUF 32 billion (EUR 102 million) economic development program in Transcarpathia in order to strengthen the Hungarian community in the region economically. The cooperation agreement on the launch of the program was signed by State Secretary for Economic Diplomacy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó and the president of the Cultural Association of Hungarians in Transcarpathia (KMKSZ) and member of the Ukrainian Parliament László Brenzovics on 9 June in Beregszász.

Memorial plaque unveiled in Macedonia’s Krusevo camp for 1956 refugees

A memorial plaque was unveiled on the site of a one-time camp in Krusevo, Macedonia, where hundreds of Hungarians found safe haven after the ill-fated anti-Soviet revolution of 1956. The plaque was inaugurated by Deputy State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister’s Office Péter Szilágyi. Altogether 20,000 Hungarians fled to Yugoslavia after the revolution to be distributed by the federal authorities among that country’s constituent republics. Fully 550 of them were sent to Krusevo. Speaking at the event, the deputy state secretary said that “Hungary will never forget that Macedonians had granted haven to Hungarian political refugees after the 1956 revolution.”