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Árpád János Potápi: 2017 will be the thematic year of family enterprises

Speaking at a three-day conference entitled “Hungarians in the Carpathian Basin – training, enterprises, labor market”, attended by Hungarian university and college students studying abroad, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi said that according to plans, 2017 will be the thematic year of Hungarian family enterprises abroad; as part of this they can apply for Hungarian state support. The state secretary added that, as with the 2016 thematic year – the year of young Hungarian entrepreneurs abroad – the aim of the program will be to help Hungarians abroad prosper in their homeland. The final decision on the topic of the thematic year will be approved by the Hungarian Standing Conference on 1 December. Mr. Potápi said that the state secretariat received 967 applications from young Hungarians abroad under the 2016 thematic year, and allocated HUF 600 million (EUR 1.9 million) for the program, instead of the earlier planned HUF 525 million (EUR 1.7 million). Out of the 967 applicants, 117 people – including farmers, doctors and applicants working in the service sector – won HUF 6 million per person. The conference, which was held on 4-6 November, was organized by the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad for the fourth time. The event was attended by 80 university and college students from the Carpathian Basin: 40 students from Transylvania, 18 from Vojvodina, 12 from Transcarpathia, 9 from Slovakia and 1 student from Croatia. The aim of the conference was to contribute to the permanence of Hungarian communities abroad and strengthen Hungarian-Hungarian relations by providing an opportunity for young people to meet.

The 13th meeting of the Hungarian-Slovakian Joint Committee is successful

The 13th meeting of the Hungarian-Slovakian minority joint committee meeting – which was held in Budapest on Thursday – ended successfully: the parties signed the final report, which contains several bilateral agreements. The agreements include the joint establishment of a Rákóczi memorial site at the Rákóczi Castle in Borsi, Slovakian government measures to develop the Hungarian educational system in Slovakia, and joint Hungarian-Slovakian measures to preserve the university status of the Selye János University. The Hungarian co-chair of the minority joint committee and ministerial commissioner responsible for Hungary’s neighborhood policy Ferenc Kalmár said that the last meeting of the committee was held three years ago, but it failed to reach agreement on several decisive questions. Mr. Kalmár expressed his pleasure that this time they had a successful meeting, which is due to the fact the political atmosphere between Slovakia and Hungary has improved.





The DNA launches further proceedings against Hungarian leaders in Transylvania

According to the Romanian National Anti-corruption Directorate (DNA), the Ferenc Rákóczi II Roman Catholic High School of Marosvásárhely/Targu Mures was formed in 2014 unlawfully. As a result, the DNA has brought the director of the school József Zsolt Tamás under official supervision. On Thursday evening the public prosecutor's office arrested the chief superintendent of Maros county Ștefan Someșan, on suspicion of abuse of office and two counts of exceeding his power. A statement issued by the public prosecutor's office stated that criminal proceedings have also been launched against the director József Zsolt Tamás, on suspicion of abuse of official power. State Secretary for Education András Király has refuted the charges of the DNA, stating that the establishment of the Roman Catholic Theological High School was lawful.



Tibor Navracsics: the EU Strategy for the Danube Region has reached permanent cooperation

Speaking at the 5th annual meeting of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region in Pozsony/Bratislava, EU Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sports Tibor Navracsics said that the Strategy for the Danube Region has reached the level of permanent cooperation between the countries taking part in the program. Mr. Navracsics stressed that one of the expectations of the strategy is to coordinate development politics in different fields in order to improve links in the region, to promote environmental protection, to increase prosperity and to strengthen the region. The 5th meeting of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region was opened by Slovakian prime minister Robert Fico, EU Commissioner for Energy Union Maroš Šefčovič and Tibor Navracsics.



Hungarians remember the victims of the 1944-45 massacre in Vojvodina

Hungarians held a commemoration at the memorial of the "Struggling Bird" in Zenta, remembering the innocent Hungarian victims of the massacre who lived in and around Szabadka/Subotica and were executed after World War II. The speakers at the event stressed that the people who were "defeated" in 1944-45 were not soldiers but innocent civilians, whose only "crime" was their Hungarian nationality. The commemoration was attended by: the president of the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians and head of the provincial house of representatives (VMSZ) István Pásztor; the deputy head of the provincial house of representatives Aleksandra Đanković; representative Milenko Jovanov; the Mayor of Zenta Bogdan Laban; the leaders of Hungary's and Croatia's foreign representations; the members of



Hungarian, German, Croatian and Bunjevac national councils; and the leaders of local parties and civil society organizations.

International conference in Beregszász on the 1956 Hungarian Revolution and reprisals following it

In Beregszász/Berehove on Friday, a two-day international academic conference started entitled “Without restrictions about 1956”. The conference was attended by experts from Hungary and neighboring countries. As part of the event, the president of the Committee of Foreign Affairs Zsolt Németh – on behalf of President of Hungary János Áder – presented the honorary president of the Cultural Alliance of Hungarians in Transcarpathia (KMKSZ) Sándor Milován with the Officer’s Cross of Hungary’s Order of Merit. Mr. Milován received this for his role in the 1956 Hungarian Revolution and Freedom Fight, as well as representation of the interests of the Transcarpathian Hungarian community, preservation of their language and his active role in Transcarpathian Hungarian public life. Mr. Németh stressed that the prize awarded to Mr. Milován is practically a lifetime achievement award, which is given to a person whose life has merged with the life of the Hungarian community in Transcarpathia. Mr. Németh recalled that in 1956 Sándor Milován – who was born in Nagyszőlős – was only 15 years old, but he prepared and distributed handbills condemning the Soviet oppression. His activity was judged to be subversive by the Soviet authorities, therefore they sentenced him to four years in prison and denounced him for life. The head of the foreign affairs committee recalled that Mr. Milován also played an important role in the organization of Transcarpathian Hungarian public life after 1989.

László Kövér: National minorities should be supported economically

Speaking at a joint press conference in Lendva with the house speaker of Slovenia Milan Brglez, the Speaker of the Hungarian National Assembly László Kövér said that “We should support national minorities – Hungarians in Slovenia and Slovenians in Hungary – not just through necessary legal conditions but also by economic means, in order to help them remain and prosper in their homeland.” Mr. Kövér stressed that both communities are very small and vulnerable, therefore it is important to make all efforts to ensure a favorable atmosphere for them not only in the field of politics, but also at the level of law enforcement, state bureaucracy and media: an atmosphere which makes their existence natural and guarantees their future. During their meeting, the parties shared experience concerning what other measures should be taken to help national minorities.



President of Hungary János Áder makes an official visit to Australia

President of Hungary János Áder arrived in Australia as part of an official visit. In the coming days, he will continue his program in New Zealand. The President will visit the Hungarian Center in Melbourne, the Délvidék Hungarian Association in Sydney, and will attend a service at St. Paul's Church in Brisbane, organized by the Hungarian Reformed Church of Australia, marking the 65th anniversary of the establishment of the church's Queensland parish.

