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Zsolt Semjén: Ernő Deák is the “day-laborer of the Hungarian diaspora”

Speaking at the presentation of historian Ernő Deák’s autobiographical book entitled “Az Öreghegytől Schneebergig” held in Budapest, Deputy Prime Minister responsible for Hungarian Communities Abroad Zsolt Semjén said that Ernő Deák is the “day-laborer of the Hungarian diaspora.” The Deputy Prime Minister said that 2016 was the first year when Hungarians had an opportunity to celebrate the jubilee anniversary of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution worthily. Mr. Semjén added that on the 60th anniversary of the revolution, several memoirs were published on the history of the Hungarian diaspora, among them Ernő Deák’s autobiographical book, published by the Magyar Napló. Praising the book Az Öreghegytől Schneebergig, the Deputy Prime Minister said that although it is an autobiographical work, it presents the life of the Hungarian diaspora: almost all emblematic figures of Hungarian communities living abroad appear in it. Mr. Semjén emphasized that Ernő Deák is a real “day-laborer of the Hungarian diaspora”: he has been organizing the Kufstein conference for years which focuses on the most important current issues of Hungarian communities abroad and he is the editor of the last remaining paper of the European Hungarian diaspora, the Bécsi Napló.

Hungarian future abroad depends on Hungarian teachers’ work

Speaking at a ceremony entitled “Teacher of the year” held in Budapest, Deputy State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister’s Office Péter Szilágyi said that “the indicator of Hungarian teachers’ work abroad is not what Hungarian life in Torda/Turda, Zenta/Senta or Rimaszombat/Rimavská Sobota will be like in the future, but whether there will be a Hungarian future at all in these towns, whether there will be students in the next decades and centuries who wish to study in Hungarian”. Mr. Szilágyi stressed that “being a teacher is more than a profession, it is more than making children familiar with a certain subject: teachers are responsible for future generations”. He added that Hungary firmly believes that an important factor which contributes to the permanence of Hungarian schools abroad is Hungarian nursery school education. In the light of this, the Hungarian Government has launched a HUF 17.1 billion (EUR 54 million) program with the aim to build and develop Hungarian kindergartens in the Carpathian Basin. Mr. Szilágyi added that with the help of this program, 68 new day care centers and kindergartens might be built in neighboring countries and further 215 institutions might be renovated or developed.

Exhibition about the life and heritage of Saint Ladislaus opens in Budapest

An exhibition entitled “The life, cult and spiritual heritage of Saint Ladislaus” was opened at the House of Hungarians (Magyarság Háza) in Budapest. The exhibition is part of the Saint Ladislaus Year. Its aim is to present King Ladislaus as an army chief, law-maker and church-builder and his impact on posterity. Addressing the event, Deputy State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Péter Szilágyi recalled



that the Saint Ladislaus Year was launched by the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad to mark the 940th anniversary of Saint Ladislaus' becoming a king and the 825th anniversary of his canonization. Mr. Szilágyi said that the events of the memorial year "reached and moved" a lot of people, including representatives of churches, the civil society, cultural life and education. He added that the memorial year has already begun in several towns including "Nagyvárad/Oradea, Győr, Gyulafehérvár/Alba Iulia, Munkács/Mukachevo, Zamárdi, Révkomárom/Komárno, Gombos/Bogojeva, Szépvíz/ Frumoasa, Gömör/Gemer and Székelyföld/Szeklerland". Speaking at the event, the director of the House of Hungarians Krisztina Csibi stressed that due to the Saint Ladislaus Year, tens of thousands of Hungarians have an opportunity to get acquainted with the heritage of the knight king throughout Hungary and Europe.

Hungarians abroad will also receive maternity allowance from Hungary

State Secretary for Family, Youth and International Affairs at the Ministry of Human Capacities Katalin Novák has announced that from January 2018, Hungary will expand maternity allowance to Hungarian children who are born abroad. Ms. Novák said that both Hungarian citizens living permanently abroad and those who are residing outside Hungary temporarily will be entitled to an allowance of HUF 64,125 (EUR 205) if their children are registered according to the Hungarian Law. The state secretary said that through this measure Hungary intends to "strengthen the Hungarian-Hungarian umbilical cord" and help those Hungarians who raise their children abroad.



The interrogation of parents is not unlawful according to the Judicial Inspectorate

According to the Judicial Inspectorate of the Romanian Superior Council of Magistracy it is not unlawful that the parents of students who study at the Roman Catholic Theological High School of Marosvásárhely are also interrogated in connection with the issue concerning the school's establishment. The inspectorate was commissioned by the Superior Council of Magistracy to supervise the lawfulness of the prosecutorial proceeding in the case of the theological high school following complaints raised by the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) and the leaders of the school.

As has been reported, at the beginning of November the Romanian Anti-Corruption Directorate (DNA) launched proceedings against Zsolt Tamási – who in 2014 was the director of the Roman Catholic High School of Marosvásárhely/Târgu Mureş – and Ştefan Someşan, the chief superintendent of the county. According to the prosecutor's office, Mr. Tamási and Mr. Someşan acted unlawfully in establishing the high school. The proceedings of the DNA were condemned by several Hungarian organizations in Transylvania and abroad and the Hungarian Government.



The MKP and the Most-Híd hold talks on potential cooperation during county elections

The leaders of the Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP) and the Most-Híd inter-ethnic party held talks in Pozsony/Bratislava on potential cooperation during the approaching Slovakian county elections. At a press conference held before the meeting, the chairman of the MKP József Menyhárt expressed his gratitude to the delegation of the Most-Híd for the abolition of the Mečiar amnesty and the installation of bilingual place name signs at several railway stations in Slovakia. Mr. Menyhárt added that the MKP also played an active role in the realization of the latter issue. In connection with the approaching county elections which are scheduled to take place in the fall, the parties had already had talks at the beginning of the year. However, at the meeting held on Wednesday no agreement was reached since the MKP intended to cooperate at only county level, while the Most-Híd's goal was to realize cooperation at national level.



István Grezsa: further 500 Ukrainian children can take part in summer camps in Hungary

Speaking in Kiev/Kijev, government commissioner István Grezsa announced that due to the support of the government commissioner's cabinet responsible for Transcarpathia, further 500 Ukrainian children can take part in summer camps in Hungary near the Lake Balaton. Mr. Grezsa added that he had had talks on this issue with the representatives of the Ukrainian Government during his two-day visit to Ukraine. He added that the participants of the summer camps will be Ukrainian primary school children who study Hungarian as a foreign language. During his stay in Ukraine, Mr. Grezsa's took part in a Hungarian folk music festival which was held in Ukrainian towns with the participation of Transcarpathian folk ensembles. On the first day of his visit, the government commissioner held talks with the deputy leader of Chernihiv county Natalia Romanova, while on Thursday he met with the head of the European department of Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs Vaszil Bogнар and several members of the Ukrainian Ministry of Culture. Mr. Grezsa informed the parties about the Hungarian foreign ministry's plan to buy a building for the Hungarian community living in Kiev in order to establish a Hungarian House. He added that this measure would realize a ten-year-old dream of the local Hungarian community. Mr. Grezsa also talked about the Hungarian Government's economic development program launched to support Hungarians in Transcarpathia and help them remain and prosper in their homeland.