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Friday, November 28, 2014

News of the week

Budapest: A video of the police to combat violence against women has caused a controversy. The movie shows girls dressed provocatively dancing and drink alcohol in a disco. Upon returning home one of them is attacked. The final slogan invites the girls to not adopt attitudes which cause sexual assaults. Feminists protest and claim that the video gives implicitly the responsibility of sexual violence to women. For Réka Sáfrány, representative of an association of organizations that are committed to protecting the interests of the female sex, the movie is "monstrous" and bear a message "characterized by a extremely conservative morality". Several women's organizations have written open letters to the police to demand the

withdrawal of the video.

Budapest: The government spreads comforting figures on the reduction of unemployment and the national economic growth, but a recent poll from Tárki Institute highlights a very critical socio-economic reality. According to the study, almost half of the Hungarians living in poverty, unemployment and deprivation of social rights. The institute says that in 2012 17.7% of Hungarians lived within the poverty line earning 60% of the average monthly wage. According to the Tárki, 19% of Hungarian belongs to the category of working poor and 36.7% leads to a standard of living characterized by the absence of four of the nine indices of wellness that relate, for example, the possession of a car, of a suitable heating system and the possibility of making holidays every year. According to the Central Statistics Office (KSH), the poverty rate in the country in 2011 was 32% compared to the average of 24% of the European Union.

Budapest: From 17 November to 6 December at the Library of Writers, Írók Boltja, Budapest, Andrásy út, you can "buy" the words and sentences of 59 contemporary Hungarian writers. 1 word = 3 preserves (or 10 kg of flour, pasta, rice)

1 written by one or more sentences = 9 preserves (or 30 kg of flour, pasta, rice).

The food collected will be donated to the school and kindergarten children - among the "schools for the poor," the largest in Hungary - the Wesley János Általános és Iskola Szakiskola of Abaújkér.

Bratislava: Prime Minister Robert Fico has said the government will present in 2015 a second package of measures for the most disadvantaged social groups. "We will continue crackdowns against tax evasion" added Fico who expressed his belief that the government will implement a package of measures worth 200-250 million euro and that the Slovaks will accept with satisfaction the new measures. The Prime Minister also stated, during a parliamentary session, that the government party Smer is considering for next year a series of measures that can help those who are forced to travel for work, in order to reduce the costs associated with commuting. According to Fico a higher minimum wage will not only meet the needs of

employees but will contribute to the growth of employment. The Prime Minister also expressed his disagreement with those who believe that the increase in the minimum wage does not comply with the economic reality of the country. The prime minister also reiterated the will of the executive in 2015-2016 to reduce the price of gas for domestic use.

Bratislava: President Andrej Kiska has fixed the referendum on the protection of the family to February 7, 2015 despite having voiced doubts about its constitutionality. As we wrote in the newsletter of 26 September, the referendum was proposed by the Alliance of Families (AZR) and concerns the constitutional definition of the concept of family and the protection of the latter. According to a recent survey, 28.5% of Slovaks do not know if they go to vote, the rest of the respondents said they did not want to participate in the referendum. The 89.3% of respondents believe that the term marriage should be used only in reference to the union between a man and a woman. AZR is also committed to prevent same-sex couples can adopt children, a battle which is supported by 79.4% of respondents. In addition, 76.4% of persons interviewed in the survey believed that other forms of union should not have the same rights and obligations as married heterosexual couples. The political parties expect a debate on the subject.

Prague: According to recent statistics the number of illegal immigrants has increased this year in the Czech Republic. From January to date 4,000 cases have been detected, about 500 more than in the previous year. The countries from which most illegal immigrants are Russia, Ukraine and Libya.

Prague: Adriana Krnáčová is the new mayor of Prague. For the first time the Czech capital has a woman as mayor. Elected last Wednesday, Krnáčová is a member of Ano and was supported by an alliance consisting of Ano, ČSSD and Trojkoalice (coalition of Greens, KDU-ČSL and Stan). The Krnáčová was supported by 33 of the 65 members of the city council of Prague.

Prague: The Czech Prime Minister Bohuslav Sobotka believes that the EU should support, even with financial resources, projects that make possible gas supplies alternatives to Russian. Sobotka made this statement during a security conference

in the energy which took place in Prague. In his opinion, Azerbaijan, Iran and the United States, could be alternatives. The conference was also attended by Minister of Industry and Trade Jan Mládek, who stressed that the Czech Republic does not intend to orientate on the solution of gas-fired plants and the support of renewable energies but prefers to invest in the coal and nuclear energy.

Prague: Recent statistics show that Microsoft is the company in the Czech Republic that pays its employees better. The latter, in fact, earn an average of 163,000 crowns per month. In general it seems that workers employed by consulting and software production gain better than the employees of other sectors.

Sources: Tárki, SITA, Čtk, HN 3, Ihned, La Pagina, Lidovky, Pravo

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