

News

Tragedy at West Balkan

Three young girls died at West Balkan, a Budapest nightclub on Saturday night. Police officers detained five suspects in connection with the case. “Obviously, the three young girls were crushed by the crowd; however, the real cause of this tragedy was carelessness and greed” – said Minister of the Interior Sándor Pintér at an extraordinary news conference on Sunday night. During the memorial at Nyugati Square the next evening – also attended by PM Viktor Orbán and his wife – police arrested fifteen people for disrespecting the dignity of the deceased and disturbing the memorial by shouting. In his blog entry ex-PM Ferenc Gyurcsány expressed his heartfelt sympathy and honest astonishment: “We feel sorry for the girls, and will mourn them; our hearts are breaking when we think about their parents and their relatives”.

Comments

The Orbán package

They lied when they accused the Gyurcsány and Bajnai governments – which implemented structural reforms – of ruining the country. How much better could the situation be if they had not supported hatred and violence in the streets after their election defeat in 2006, but had let us carry through some reforms completely?

What is happening now is the exposure of Orbán’s true policy. Fidesz has never had and does not have any concept regarding the future of the country. They only wanted power at any costs. They started with the lies about the skeletons in the closet and the 7% fiscal deficit. Then they came up with the idea of decreasing the deficit, although reaching this goal required them to raise the previously opposed Robin Hood tax by ten times and to steal the pension savings, which meant throwing their campaign promises into the waste basket.

Zsolt Gréczy, Népszava, January 17 2011

The new opposition in the streets

While the prime minister is desperately looking for the way out from the labyrinth of his own political philosophy, while the opposition is completely inactive and keen on working in the shadow, tens of thousands of ‘commoners’ gathered to protest in front the Parliament. The new opposition is about emerging in the streets.

Robert Friss, Népszabadság, January 17 2011

Die now, pay later

If it was not just so shocking that a ‘civil’ government wants to allow us free choice by putting a gun against our faces, it could be even comical when they proudly say that “Hungary is financed from the markets”, while the same is not permitted for the citizens. Dear Mr. Minister and principally Ms. Matolcsy, I made the decision: I am going to stay and I am going to opt out from the system of national solidarity.

László Seres, Hírszerző, January 17 2011

How Was It That the Mayor of Terézváros Failed to Notice a 3,000 Party?

Noise Night Life used to be a party with thousands of guests. This year, it was quite well-advertised and in my opinion that, too was no secret that it would be held at West Balkan, a nightclub situated in the 6th district of Budapest (which is also known as Terézváros). Even the exact date of the party could be discerned from the advertisement. Moreover, also the mayor of Terézváros admitted that the program had been mentioned on the problematic organizer's web page.

Thus, it seems that neither the mayor nor anyone else in the municipal administration realized the fact that a large-scale illegal party was about to be organized in the district that is supposed to be under their supervision. Can the organization of such a large-scale event be really kept secret from local and municipal administrations?

Is that a competent administration that fails to realize the organization of a gigantic illegal party in its own village, town or city district?

More information about the tragedy in Hungarian:

http://piroslapok.blog.hu/2011/01/17/a_terezvarosi_polgarmesternek_nem_tunt_fel_egy_3000_fos_rendezyeny

Unknown path

Even if opinions differ about the causes and the possible outcomes, it is even acknowledged by government representatives that something has changed in the last two months of the year 2010: notably the ruling party's (Fidesz) momentum broke somewhat and it found itself in a constant cross-fire and in a more or less defensive position. Quite interestingly, what seemed to be flustering and searching for the path in daily political battles actually turned out to be the result of insisting on a straight political orientation. Last year Fidesz defined a path to follow and did not even consider altering it, albeit it didn't even know whether they were still on the map at all.

Gábor Török, torokgaborelemez.hu, January 13 2011

Interviews

Schiff: Bayer is a raving fascist

Last Sunday, the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung* carried an interview with András Schiff entitled "Courage". The correspondent of the German weekly reminded him of an article written by Zsolt Bayer in January, in which the publicist of *Magyar Hírlap* had expressed his view that not enough left-wing supporters were killed in 1919. He also mentioned Schiff, along with other persons (Cohen, Daniel Cohn-Bendit) by the name as people who are presumed to be Jewish. Reacting to this article the pianist said: "I am a persona-non-grata in Hungary. I don't think that I am ever going to perform in Hungary again, or set foot in the country. I am not a hero, are I?"

This is what they say

Hungary in EU presidency 'history' carpet row

A giant carpet installed by Hungary in Brussels to mark the start of its EU presidency has triggered accusations of nationalist nostalgia in Budapest.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-12194899>