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Zsolt Semjén: everyone has to take part in nation-building

Speaking at the Presentation of the Awards for Hungarian Communities Abroad held in Parliament on 20 August, Hungary's national holiday, Deputy Prime Minister for Hungarian Communities Abroad and president of the Christian Democratic People's Party (KDNP) Zsolt Semjén stressed that "We can be loyal to the heritage of Saint Stephen only if everyone – in his own community – takes part in the building of the country and the nation." The Deputy Prime Minister stressed that the Hungarian Government "has done its part": it has ensured the organizational, legal and financial background for Hungarians living abroad. Mr. Semjén added that Hungarians living outside the kin-state have never received as much support as today. The Deputy Prime Minister stressed that Hungary makes every effort to help Hungarians preserve their Hungarian identity and culture regardless where they live in the world. He added that "however, this support is only a frame and only Hungarian communities can fill this structure with life." Mr. Semjén stressed that Saint Stephen was a state founder but also a "country builder" since he built churches, villages, towns and he laid the basis for the Christian Hungary. The deputy prime minister added that the recipients of the Award for Hungarian Communities Abroad had an even bigger responsibility and were under even greater pressure than those living in Hungary to help develop the nation beyond Hungary's borders.

This year, ten Hungarian persons and organizations received the Award for Hungarian Communities Abroad. The recipients included, among others, Mária and Árpád Bíró, the heads of the St. Michael's Children's Home in Rát/Rativci, Ukraine, József Lócsei, head of the Istria chapter of the Democratic Community of Hungarians in Croatia, the Western Canadian Hungarian Folk Festival and the Hungarian Scout Association in Slovakia. The awards were presented by Deputy Prime Minister Zsolt Semjén and State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi.

Árpád János Potápi: work done by Kőrösi and Petőfi scholarship holders is priceless

Speaking at the education week of scholarship holders who will travel to Hungarian diaspora communities as part of the Kőrösi Csoma Sándor Program and Petőfi Sándor Program, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi said that the work done by the scholarship holders over the past years is priceless. As part of the two programs, this year near 220 young people will travel to dispersed Hungarian communities living in the Carpathian Basin and the diaspora (countries far from the kin-state). Mr. Potápi stressed that the most important task of the scholarship holders is to address children and the youth, since "without children and young people there is no Hungarian future." The state secretary recalled that in 2013 the Kőrösi Csoma Sándor Program (KCSP) – focusing on diaspora communities – started with 47 scholarship holders, while the Petőfi Program – based on the model of the KCSP, supporting dispersed Hungarian communities in the Carpathian Basin – was launched in 2015. Mr. Potápi expressed his pleasure that the number of



scholarship holders grew year by year. He also stressed that due to the programs, a “huge knowledge base” has been formed which is very useful in the formation of the policy for Hungarian communities abroad. The state secretary added that through the scholarship holders, the Hungarian Government can receive a better picture of Hungarian communities in the world and their organizations.



Gergely Gulyás: Hungary’s interest lies in having strong and successful neighbors

Speaking at a round-table discussion at the Hungarian Cultural Days in Kolozsvár/Cluj Napoca, Minister of the Prime Minister’s Office Gergely Gulyás said that Hungary’s interest lies in having strong and successful neighbors. The minister added that Hungary would prefer to see the central European region strengthen together. He added that “the Hungarian card” is generally played by those in domestic political matters “who aren’t strong enough to build political capital on their own”. The minister said that when it comes to dialogue with other central European countries, the fact that Hungary had to hold talks with “leaders of countries dealing with constant internal crises and sovereignty-related problems” rather than countries that are strong and getting stronger was “unfavorable”. He added that “however, this cannot lead to a change in the goals of Hungary’s policy for ethnic Hungarians.”

Zsolt Tamási appointed director of the Marosvásárhely Catholic High School

On Monday, Zsolt Tamási was appointed director of the re-established Ferenc Rákóczi II. Catholic High School of Marosvásárhely/Targu Mures. He was the director of the school before the Romanian Anti-Corruption Directorate (DNA) launched proceedings against the institution. As has been reported, at the beginning of November 2016, the DNA launched proceedings against Zsolt Tamási – who in 2014 was the director of the Roman Catholic High School of Marosvásárhely – and Ștefan Someșan, the chief superintendent of the county. According to the prosecutor’s office, Mr. Tamási and Mr. Someșan acted unlawfully in establishing the high school. Due to a new ministerial decree which was published on 10 August 2018, the high school can be re-established and education can re-start in September 2018.



Hungarians in Slovakia commemorate 20 August

Speaking at a commemoration held in Dunaszerdahely/Dunajska Streda marking 20 August, Hungarians’ national holiday, the chairman of the Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP) József Menyhárt spoke about the message of the thoughts and teachings of Saint Stephen. Mr. Menyhárt stressed the importance of strengthening unity among Hungarians living in Slovakia. The head of the MKP said that “the heritage of Saint Stephen can be preserved only if Hungarians living in Slovakia “hold



together”, since this is the only way to preserve the nation. Mr. Menyhárt highlighted that the era of “internal luxury wars” is over, and stressed that “it is not enough to remember the past and hope for a better future”, “it is time to act.”



István Pásztor: Hungarians must be loyal to the heritage of Saint Stephen

Speaking at the central 20 August commemoration of the Hungarian community in Vojvodina, the chairman of the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ) and president of the Provincial House of Representatives István Pásztor said that “a thousand years after Saint Stephen was crowned, in 2018 Hungarians decided – with strong spirit and brave heart – to protect their principles and Hungarian identity.” Mr. Pásztor added that this is what the 2018 election was about. He stressed that the 2018 parliamentary election in Hungary was the election of the nation, including Hungarians living in Vojvodina. Mr. Pásztor stressed that the most important message of Saint Stephen for today is “to be loyal”: loyal to that policy which could preserve Hungarians throughout a thousand years.



Consul General: Transcarpathian Hungarians can rely on the kin-state

On Monday, Hungarians in Transcarpathia held commemorations marking 20 August in several towns of the county. Similarly to previous years, the central commemoration was held in Aknaszlatina/Solotvino. Speaking at the ceremony, Consul General of Hungary in Beregszász/Berehove, Mátyás Szilágyi said that 20 August has a special message for Transcarpathian Hungarians. Mr. Szilágyi also stressed that Hungary “uses all legal and possible means to protect the interests of Hungarians in Transcarpathia”. He recalled that in recent years the Hungarian Government made serious efforts to develop economic, infrastructural, cultural and educational institutions in the region. Mr. Szilágyi also highlighted that Hungarians living in Ukraine can always rely on the kin-state.



Hungarian national holiday marked in Washington

Hungary’s holiday celebrating the founding of the nation was marked in Washington, DC on Monday. The event jointly held by the Embassy of Hungary and the Hungarian House in Washington began with a “Pilgrimage” walk from the Marymount University of Arlington and finished with Mass held in the Basilica of the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception of Washington. Addressing the event, Hungarian Ambassador László Szabó greeted the congregants and Father Thomas Yehl asked for a special blessing for Hungary and its leaders. After the mass, the embassy hosted a reception. Mr. Szabó noted the role of King St. Stephen and the struggles of Hungarians over the centuries for survival, emphasizing that Hungary is a Christian state.