

Kosovo's Culture, Youth and Sport

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NEWSLETTER



The 13th session of the European Cultural Parliament will be held in Prishtina

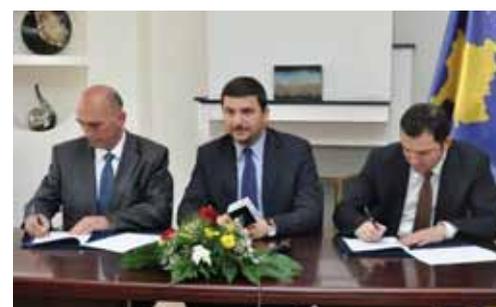
Prishtina shall be the hostess of around 120 people of art from all over Europe, which in October are coming to the capital city of Kosovo to participate in the 13th session of the European Cultural Parliament. Therefore, the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports and the European Cultural Parliament signed a Memorandum of Understanding. Prior to signing the Memorandum, Minister Memli Krasniqi had a meeting with the General Secretary of ECP, Karl – Erik Norman.

[More on page 4](#)



Subsidy of over 800 thousand Euros on cultural projects

7



MCYS allocated 50 thousand Euros for Kosovo Olympic Committee

18



Kosovo Youth Development Project, evidence of a new concept of thought and action for the youth

22



Minister Krasniqi met the President of International Olympic Committee, Tomas Bach



KOSOVO NATIONAL FOOTBALL TEAM



The 13th session of the European Cultural Parliament



Continued from Front Page

In a press conference, after the meeting and signing the Memorandum, Minister Krasniqi expressed his estimation for the organization of the 13th session of ECP in Prishtina, as a very important event for the culture of Kosovo, its promotion and exchange of experiences.

“Three years ago we started a very fruitful cooperation with the European Cultural Parliament. I have had the privilege to take part in the last editions of ECP, in Edinburgh and Berlin. I have had the pleasure to present the cultural developments and challenges of Kosovo. ECP is an great orga-

nization which serves a lot to the culture, especially, the culture of the countries like us, as we need experiences. In Kosovo around 120 people of art shall come from all over Europe and this event is an indication that Prishtina is becoming a center of culture in Balkan”, said the Minister, as he thanked the British Council in Kosovo for its support in the organization of this session.

The Minister added that Kosovo in these three years was a part of the biggest cultural events in Europe and World and this approach shall proceed.

“Cultural diplomacy shall continue to be in our focus, since

in these years indeed we have achieved to promote our country and culture”

Whereas, General Secretary of ECP, Karl – Erik Norman, thanked him for the invitation to visit Prishtina and expressed his pleasure that the 13th session of ECP shall take place in our country. He stated that this was the initiation of Minister Krasniqi to organize this important cultural event in Prishtina.

“We are very happy to organize the meeting of the European Cultural Parliament in Prishtina that shall take place at the beginning of October. We were very pleased when the Minister Memli Krasniqi contacted us, and it is of great importance that we are meeting in a symbolic city such as Prishtina” said Mr. Norman.

He said that 13 years ago when the Cultural Parliament was founded, the idea was to contribute with culture to the idea of Europe, in order to not have artificial barriers between members of the European Union. “We have members from 43 states and may say that we are the most Pan-European institution” he said.

Members of ECP from Kosovo nominated by Minister Krasniqi are Eliza Hoxha and Veton Nurkollari. Earlier in this mechanism joined also Erzen Shkololli, Director of the Kosovo National Gallery. ■





Minister Krasniqi met the President of International Olympic Committee, Tomas Bach

Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi, met the President of International Olympic Committee, Tomas Bach, in Turkey, within the frame of SportAccord Convention. In this meeting, the Minister was accompanied by Head of Kosovo Olympic Committee Besim Hasani, whereas, Mr. Bach was accompanied by Pere Miro, director of National Olympic Committees in the International Olympic Committee.

Minister Krasniqi and Head Hasani also met President of SportAccord and meanwhile President of International Judo Federation, Marius Vizer, as well as director of Football International Federation Association (FIFA), Walter Gagg.

In the meeting with Tomas Bach, Minister Krasniqi talked about general sport developments in Kosovo, achievements and challenges in this regards. He mentioned that there was an immense progress in the recent years and highlighted the commitment of the Government of Kosovo to assist the advancement of sports, always guided by Olympic Chart principles. The Minister congratulated Mr. Bach for his duty and for the important developments that happened up to now under his management.

“The Republic of Kosovo deserves to be part of sports international mechanisms and be equal

in every competition. This right is warranted also by the Olympic principles. We have waited with patience up to now and have had a compatibility to make the application process for acceptance in the International Olympic Committee in a coordinated way. We believe that this moment has come now that Kosovo, our athletes become part of the Olympic family” Minister Krasniqi stated.

In his turn, President of IOC, Tomas Bach, congratulated Minister Krasniqi and Head Hasani for positive developments in the sport of Kosovo and for the investments that are done for its advancement. He stated that Olympic principles apply for the whole world, and shall apply also for Kosovo.

The parties agreed to have

continuous communication and coordination until Kosovo applies for acceptance in IOC.

Whereas, in the meeting with President of SportAccord and International Judo Federation, Marius Vizer, it was discussed about the possibilities of cooperation also in the future advancement of the Sport in Kosovo. Minister Krasniqi congratulated Mr. Vizer for his work as President of SportAccord and JIF. Minister Krasniqi notified Mr. Vizer on the developments of sport in Kosovo in general, and commitment that is done by all sports community along with state institutions. Expressing his gratitude to Mr. Vizer for the immense support he has provided to the sport of Kosovo, Minister Krasniqi notified him that he has proposed





to the President of the Republic of Kosovo, to award him the Presidential Medal of Merit.

In his turn, Marius Vizer thanked the Minister for the proposal given for the decoration, and estimated the work done by Minister Krasniqi and Kosovo sports community for the development of sport and its international advancement.

He promised for continuous support on the internationalization and development of sports in Kosovo. Mr. Vizer said that the success of Kosovo in judo is a good proof that the athletes from Kosovo deserve to be equal part of every international competition. In this regards, he promised continuous engagement and cooperation.

In the meeting with Director of FIFA, Walter Gagg, it was discussed for the developments of football in Kosovo. Minister Krasniqi thanked Mr. Gagg for his presence at the first friend-

ly match of Kosovo, which took part on the fifth of March versus Haiti. It was also discussed about the next coming matches that the Representative of Kosovo shall organize with Turkey and Senegal. The Minister said that the Government is ready

to support KFF just like it did at the first match for an as dignified organization of these matches as possible. Within commitments of the Government, Minister Memli Krasniqi notified Mr. Gagg on its decision to build a National Stadium of Kosovo in Prishtina, with a capacity from 25 to 30 thousand seats. Furthermore, he notified also for other investments that the Government



shall make in the renovation of the stadium in Prishtina.

The Minister said that Kosovo shall coordinate constantly with FIFA for international friendly matches, but also in other processes which relate with the development of football

and membership of KFF in FIFA. Appreciating the support FIFA has given to Kosovo, the Minister notified Mr. Gagg that he proposed President Sepp Blatter to be awarded a Presidential Medal of Merit.

Walter Gagg highly estimated the decision of the Government of Kosovo for the construction of a new stadium. He estimated the organization of the match Kosovo - Haiti, and the seriousness on organization of the next matches. Mr. Gagg said that FIFA shall pay special attention to Kosovo, its friendly matches and the internationalization process in football.

Minister Krasniqi and Head of



INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

KOC, Hasani have also organized meetings with other international Olympic and non-Olympic federations, in order to accept federations of Kosovo. In this occasion, special attention was paid to the sport of gymnastics, athletics and swimming.

This is the 12th session of the biggest sports convention, SportAccord. Within the SportAccord are gathered the most important Olympic and non-Olympic federations of the world. In this session of convention that is held in Turkey, around 1500 representatives have participated from International Olympic Committee, federations, sports associations, donors and state officials. ■

Subsidy of over 800 thousand Euros on cultural projects

This year, the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports allocated an amount of more than 800 thousand Euros for cultural projects from annual competition. In comparison with the last year, the support was increased for about 200 thousand Euros.

In this competition, more than 500 projects have applied in all categories, whereby around 300 of them were financially supported.

This has resulted in the increase of support on traditional cultural events in Kosovo, which have already created also a significant international image.

Hence, the total amount of subsidy for different projects related with the field of cinematography is around 130 thousand Euros.

20 thousand Euros were allocated for the Documentary Film Festival 'DOKU Fest', as compared with 15 thousand Euros that were allocated last year. 22 thousand Euros were allocated for the Film Festival 'PriFilm Fest', as compared with 20 thousand Euros that were allocated last year.

15 thousand Euros were allocated for the Festival 'Skena UP' (UP Scene), 10 thousand Euros were allocated for the 'ShqipFilm-Fest' and 10 thousand Euros were allocated for 'Nine Eleven'.

MCYS has allocated 144 thousand Euros for projects related with the field of theatre in the country, 120 thousand Euros for different projects. There is included also an allocation of a budget of 10 thousand Euros for the seven theatres in the country, as well as for the theatre ODA, whereas, 15 thousand Euros were allocated for the Festival 'Etno Fest'.

Projects in the field of visual arts were supported with a total amount of 104 thousand Euros, among which tens of personal exhibitions, annual program of Centre for Contemporary Art 'Stacion' (Station) were supported with 9 thousand Euros, projects of students of the faculty of Arts were supported with 5 thousand Euros, etc.

Whereas, more than 64 thousand Euros were allocated for different projects interrelated with the cultural promotion. Some of them, support of the PEN Centre on annual activities with an amount of 10 thousand Euros, traditional games 'Álbaniada' with 10 thousand Euros, etc.

More than 70 thousand Euros were allocated in the category of literary projects. Whereby, 10 thousand Euros were allocated as budget on annual activity Kosovo Writers' League, whereas, 15 thousand Euros were allocated to the Kosovo Publishers' Association on annual activity in which the Book Fair in Prishtina falls, the Fair in Frankfurt and that in Tirana.

In accordance with the Law on Libraries, MCYS has allocated means for the enrichment of book funds and also for municipal libraries. In this case, 30 thousand Euros were allocated for the enrichment of book funds for municipal libraries of Mitrovica, Gjakova, Peja, Kamenica, Kaçanik, Ferizaj, Gjilan, Skenderaj, Junik, Podujeva, Kaçanik, Hanit të Elezit, Obiliq, Vushtrri, Lipjan, Fushë Kosova, Suhareka, Istog, Drenas as well as the Library of the Blind / "Our Eyes" / (Our Eyes) in Prishtina. This financial support for municipal libraries

falls within the support that they are going to receive again through the competition on book purchase, announced weeks ago.

MCYS has allocated 80 thousand Euros from the competition for the promotion of cultural diversity, respectively, for the support of the cultural projects of all minority communities living in Kosovo. Last year, around 50 thousand Euros were allocated for this.

160 thousand Euros were allocated in the category of musical arts. MCYS has supported the Kosovo Composers' Association for their annual activity with 7 thousand Euros, whereas, traditional festivals were supported this year, too. Thus, 'ReMusica' festival was supported with 9 thousand Euros, 'Kosova Kamer Fest' was supported with 9 thousand Euros, 'Chopin PianoFest' Festival was supported with 9 thousand Euros, 'Kosovarja Këndon' (Kosovar girl sings) Festival was supported with 7 thousand Euros, etc. Priority was given also to the support of folklore music festivals as 'Hasi Jehon' (Hasi echoes), 'Anadrintia Jehon' (Anadrintia echoes), 'I këndojmë Lirisë' (We sing to freedom) and 'Rapsodia Shqiptare' (Albanian Rhapsody), which were supported with 4 thousand Euros each. ■



Jahja Shehu, laureate of the National Prize for Life Work in the field of theatre

The well-known actor Jahja Shehu is the laureate of the National Prize for Life Work in the field of theatre. He was given the prize, on the World Day of Theatre, by Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi in a ceremony of event in MCYS, in which were also given annual Prizes on theatre for 2013.

The best play awarded was the play "Mbas zonjushës Julie" ("After Miss Julie") directed by Kushtrim Koliqi and the Kosovo National Theatre Production.

"Sikur kjo të ishte shfaqje" ("As if this were a play") is awarded with the prize for successful international presentation. This play is a production of theatre company 'La Rremë' in cooperation with the Theatre ODA.

Kushtrim Koliqi was awarded the prize for the best direction of play "Mbas zonjushës Julie" ("After Miss Julie")

Actress Gresa Pallaska was awarded the prize for the best actress in her role in play "Mbas zonjushës Julie" ("After Miss Julie").

Based on the Regulation for the distribution of annual prizes on theatre, the National Prize for Life Work has a financial value of 5 thousand Euros, whereas, other categories shall be awarded with 2 thousand and 500 Euros.

Minister Krasniqi stated that he feels honoured for having had the opportunity to work in the realisation of these awards and their distributions.

"Kosovo has many names, personalities who have built and developed the theatre, and also has a new generation that is coming and glowing not only in Kosovo but also in world stages. These awards are an honour made to these famous personalities of cultural scene by the society and the state and an

honour and motivation for the new generations for even greater works", was stated by Minister Krasniqi.

Meanwhile, the Minister talked about the personality of Jahja Shehu, estimating him as one who has developed the theatres throughout Kosovo". It is an honour for me to give him this award and undoubtedly tell him, Mr. Shehu, that this award does not mean that you are getting retired but rather a gratitude for those emotions you have bestowed us for years and tell you that we still need your experience" he stated in addition.

Furthermore, the Minister highlighted that he has signed the new Statute of KNT, and informed that in the following days, the Regulation on resident ensembles shall be signed, which shall open the way to the advertisement of a competition for completing the resident ensemble of the National Theatre.





Moreover, Minister Krasniqi said that after the finalisation, in the following days, the Regulation on procedures and criteria for establishing theatres shall be signed. He stated that this shall open the way for the Theatre of Gjakova to take the status of a national theatre.

Minister Krasniqi added that in recent years, there was a high commitment to increase the support for artists and cultural institutions. He mentioned the budget increase in each year for both the institutions and independent cultural operators.

Laureate of National Award for Life Work, Jahja Shehu expressed

that he felt very happy for two reasons, first, that in this age he celebrated one more time the International Day of Theatre, and the second, for appraising the work of actor by this award.

Mr. Shehu thanked the Minister that the prize is awarded every year. "It is not important how much the award is, it is not important the value of the award. I could not sleep in peace for three nights thinking that in our Kosovo, there are still people who know to appraise, value the very hard work and with lots of sacrifices of an actor", expressed Mr. Shehu.

Director Kushtrim Koliqi stated that the time has come for the artists to be more united and raise their voice.

"I want to use this opportunity – the International Day of Theatre to call the artistic committee to raise our voice, and be stronger thus not become beggars in the aspect of thanking, because we do not need to thank anyone, because we are the ones who entertain people, the ones who make ideas and the ones who educate the mass", stated Koliqi.

In her turn, Rebeka Qena was awarded with the prize "For the best success in the international scene", she expressed her high emotion for the appraisal.

"I want to really state that we have started with an idea to present something, say something and what we said was liked very much, initially by the public which gave us an immense influence", said Mrs. Qena.

Head of the jury, Burbuqe Berisha, emphasised that it was not easy to select winners, as there were many nominations. Actor Jahja Shehu has been nominated by almost all the theatres.

Other members of the jury which gave these awards were: Basri Lushtaku, Arben Zharku, Orhan Kerkezi and Liridon Cahani. ■





Kosovo deserves membership in the World Intellectual Property Organisation

Kosovo meets the criteria for membership in World Intellectual Property Organisation and this should happen, as it does not represent only a right, but a necessity too for advancement of protecting the intellectual property in our country.

This is what the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi said in the conference titled “the System of Intellectual Property in Kosovo – achievements and challenges”, organised by the Agency for Industrial Property, Office of Copyright and Related Rights within MCYS and the Project financed by EU “Strengthening the System of Intellectual Property in Kosovo”. In this conference, the Minister of Trade and Industry, Bernard Nikaj, representatives from World Intellectual Property Organisation, police representative, customs, creators and businessmen participated too.

Minister Krasniqi also spoke more broadly about the achievements which have been marked towards protection of copy rights

in Kosovo. He mentioned that a considerable progress has been marked, but he also mentioned that there are still challenges ahead of us.

“It is encouraging the fact that many creators and authors have used the legislation and have reported to the competent bodies and have initiated legal proceedings to protect their works. Although, we do not want misuses to happen regarding the rights of the author and intellectual property, it is important that in events when such cases occur, the authors themselves, creators, inventors and respective organisations undertake the legal actions so that the abusers are convicted in accordance with the law”, Minister Krasniqi said while he also added that for having a progress in these fields only the work of institutions is not sufficient.

“It is the society the one who should say stop to such things. If we see a movie circulating in pirate form before a premiere has been shown, if we see that an original book is copied for material benefit

purposes, the cases must be reported accordingly. And to respond to such requirements in time, the responsible institutions of the country dealing with intellectual property must continue their work towards creating a functional system of intellectual property rights”, he said.

Minister thanked all local and international partners who have helped and are helping this segment.

On the other hand, the Minister Bernard Nikaj, stressed that Kosovo has marked a huge progress in protection of intellectual property.

“One of the challenges we are facing as a country is to ensure a business environment which is suitable for local entrepreneurs and creators, but also for attraction of investments from anywhere abroad. When speaking about innovators, entrepreneurs and local businesses, protection of ideas, protection of trademarks, protection of their patents is a key to encouraging and providing incentive to our creators and businesses who come forward with new products and ideas which add value not only to our economy but also penetrate to other countries of the region and even broader”, Nikaj said.

He also added that when we speak about foreign investors, it is critical for us to be able to guarantee these investors that the products and services they provide and produce, develop and trade in Kosovo and broader are protected according to modern and European legislation. ■







117 instruments donation from Japan solemnly handed over to Kosovo Philharmonics

Kosovo Philharmonics in its collection of orchestra now has 117 musical instruments more. In a ceremony organised by the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports (MCYS), in the National Theatre of Kosovo, the handover of these instruments took place which were donated by the Government of Japan, through Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Balkans Office.

In the handover ceremony present were the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi, Ambassador of Japan in Austria, Makoto Taketoshi, Minister of European Integration, Vlora Çitaku, and the resident representative of JICA, Balkans Office, Toshiya Abe.

Minister Memli Krasniqi, in the capacity of the host expressed that the two peoples, that of Kosovo and that of Japan, although in geographical distance, in difficult or happiness circumstances have felt together the experiences they have gone through, considering that this ceremony also is a good sign of cooperation between the two peoples and at this point he thanked the Government and people of Japan for the support.

"These 117 instruments are not simply a donation. They are a highly valued asset which bring the new sounds in the culture of Kosovo, which day to day is developing and is being promoted in world stages", minister Krasniqi said.

In addition he promised that

MCYS is going to work even more in the future towards improvement of work conditions for the Philharmonic of Kosovo and congratulated the instrument players for work and concerts to be even more successful in the future, not forgetting increase of artist and experience exchange between the cultural institutions.

Whereas the Ambassador of Japan in Austria, Makoto Taketoshi expressed his pleasure to be present in this ceremony of handover of new musical instruments for Kosovo Philharmonics. He expressed the memories from the earthquake of 2011 which hit Japan when Japanese people felt hopeless and the international community sympathised with them.

"We will never forget that Kosovo Philharmonics as a part of a people of the other side of the globe sympathised with Japanese people by holding a memorial concert for us", Ambassador Taketoshi said, by further stressing that Kosovo as a new country is advancing towards development by building good relationships with the neighbours and thus contributing to advancement of Western Balkans.

He promised that Japan is going to continue to support Kosovo in efforts to build its future.

Whereas, the minister Vlora Çitaku expressed her excitement for these altruistic projects, and congratulated Kosovo Philharmonics for the new instruments. She also expressed her gratitude for

the Government of Japan for the support provided.

E Toshiya Abe, representative of JICA for Balkans congratulated for the arrival of new instruments and considered that this support for Kosovo Philharmonics is special as the cooperation is marking 5 years now.

"Orchestra of Philharmonics is well known in Japan as it is led by Toshio Yanagisawa, and I hope that this orchestra continues to play sounds which deliver messages of peace", Abe said.

Whereas the director of Kosovo Philharmonics, Baki Jashari, expressed that the Philharmonics of Kosovo since its establishment in 2000 has developed from year to year and after the declaration of Independence of the Republic of Kosovo and recognition by Japan. Conditions for cooperation in the field of music between the two countries have been created.

"The new instruments, the voluminous donation from Japan amounting the value of half a million Euro makes Kosovo Philharmonics to have better work conditions", Jashari said, where he used the opportunity to thank and express consideration for Japan people and state.

In the instruments' handover ceremony the Philharmonics performed with some musical parts of composers like Edvard Grieg, Baki Jashari and Valton Beqiri. ■

Minister Krasniqi proposes Sepp Blatter, Jerome Champagne and Marius Vizer to be awarded the “Presidential Medal of Merit”

Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi has sent proposals to President of the Republic of Kosovo, Atifete Jahjaga, whereby Joseph “Sepp” Blatter, President of International Football Federation Association (FIFA), Jerome Champagne, former senior official of FIFA and candidate for president of FIFA, and also Marius Vizer, President of International Judo Federation (IJF), to be awarded with “Presidential Medal of Merit” for their extraordinary contribution to the sport of Kosovo.

Proposal of Minister Krasniqi is based on Article 4, point 3, Article 7, point 1.7 of Law No. 04/L-070 for the Conferment of Decorations by the President of the Republic of Kosovo

In his justification for Mr. Blatter, the Minister said that as a President of FIFA, he has had a proactive approach to the advancement of the position of Kosovo Football Federation (KFF) in relation with FIFA within the frame of our mutual engagements for the internationalization of the football in Kosovo.

“Thanks to the engagement and work of Mr. Blatter, today the representative teams and clubs of Kosovo are entitled to play international official

friendly matches and KFF is on its way for full membership in FIFA. We believe that the role of Mr. Blatter shall be crucial also in this very important process, knowing that he supports the fundamental principle of sport, which consists of the right of all athletes to have equal opportunities, including also the opportunity for international competition, which our football players have missed until now”, said Minister Krasniqi in his justification for Mr. Blatter.

For Mr. Jerome Champagne, Minister Krasniqi said that he is the personality who has strongly supported the affirmation of the football of Kosovo in the international arena, as well as breaking the international isolation on this sport, standing beside the Kosovo Football Federation (KFF) and relevant institutions of our country in fulfilling these noble intentions.

“Since 2010, he has been the Special Counselor of KFF in the process of internationalization and development

of football in Kosovo. Thanks to its concrete contribution, KFF has achieved to advance its agenda for the membership in international mechanisms of football, highlighting in this regard the permission of organizing international official friendly matches, upon approval by Football International Federation Association (FIFA). He remains our main supporter also in the further stages of the internationalization process, up to the membership of KFF with its full rights in FIFA”.

Whereas, for Marius Vizer, President of International Judo Federation (IJF), Minister Krasniqi justified that he was and remains to be one the main supporters of Kosovan judoists.

As for the justification for the President of International Judo Federation (IJF), Minister Krasniqi said that he was and remains to be one the main supporters of Kosovan judoists.

“Furthermore, despite many obstacles, he enabled our judoists to participate in international competitions, as well as he was the key person who made possible the acceptance of Kosovo Judo federation in IJF.

Thanks to his enormous contribution, our judoists have the opportunity to present as equal at all levels of international competitions, decently representing the Republic of Kosovo.

In many of these important competitions they won medals, among which the golden medal by Majlinda Kelmendi in the World Champion is distinguished, which was held in Rio de Janeiro of Brazil in 2013. ■





**FIRST INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLY
FOOTBALL MATCH OF KOSOVO vs. HAITI**



Olympic Stadium 'Adem Jashari' ready for the Kosovo's first International Football Match



Olympic Stadium "Adem Jashari" in Mitrovica is ready for the first international official friendly match of the Representative Team of Kosovo, against the Representative Team of Haiti that takes place in 5 March.

Prime-minister of the Republic of Kosovo, Hashim Thaçi, accompanied by Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports (MCYS), Memli Krasniqi and Head of Kosovo Football Federation, Fadil Vokrri, welcomed the renovations in this stadium.

The renovation of this stadium was accomplished by the investments of MCYS, about 740 thousand Euros.

Prime-minister Hashim Thaçi estimated the work done in the complete renovation of the stadium in accordance with European standards. "I am impressed with the workings done in the complete

renovation of the stadium "Adem Jashari" in accordance with European standards. The day after tomorrow, the match against Haiti is going to take place and I am looking forward to it is going to be a real feast" the Prime-minister said.

He also expressed his gratitude to Minister Memli Krasniqi and President of KFF, Fadil Vokrri, who did a great work towards the internationalization of the football in Kosovo and emphasized that Mr. Vokrri is a key image known by the whole international community.

Whereas, he promised that the support and investments in sports infrastructure shall continue.

In relation to this, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi stated that MCYS is ready to invest also in the stadium of Prishtina. "Kosovo Government has continuously been interested in in-

vesting in the stadium of Prishtina, even with a greater priority. But, as the owner of the stadium is the Municipality of Prishtina, then, there is a need for cooperation and co-investment. We have sent a request also to the actual Mayor of Prishtina, and we are waiting for a reply in future weeks and, thus, start together the renovation, with a similar planning of the stadium "Adem Jashari", Minister Krasniqi stated, as he welcomed the big changes that are taking place in the sports infrastructure across Kosovo.

President of KFF, Fadil Vokrri, thanked Prime-minister Hashim Thaçi and Minister Krasniqi for the support and contribution they are providing in aiding sports and specifically football. He considered that with this state support the work is being conducted easier and the success shall not be missing. "I believe the whole state is standing on its feet and for us as the President of KFF it will be easier to work towards achieving goals" Mr. Vokrri stated.

Besides investments in stadiums, the Government of the Republic of Kosovo has supported KFF also in other aspects, especially, in the organization of the match against Haiti. Hence, the Government, a few days ago, has allocated 75 thousand Euros. ■



23 thousand footballs to be distributed to all primary and secondary schools throughout Kosovo

Around 23 thousand footballs started to be distributed at all schools of Kosovo. This campaign was opened by Kosovo Prime-minister, Hashim Thaçi, in a ceremony at the primary school "Ismail Qemali" in Prishtina. Distribution of these footballs that is called "One World Football" is an activity within the project of "Football4Peace", which in Kosovo is implemented by the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports (MCYS), in cooperation with the International Relief and Development and Sport Sans Frontières.

Besides Prime-minister Thaçi, also Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi, Ambassador of France in Kosovo, Maryse Daviet, directors of schools, the goalkeeper of the Kosovo Representative, Kushtrim Mushica and the Head of the School Sports Federation participated in this ceremony.

In his statement, Prime-minister Thaçi stated that the supply of all schools with these balls is stimulation for school sports, as an aspect of expansion and promotion of sports. He recalled moments of his childhood at school, stating that some time there were hard conditions for the development of sports at schools, since there were no sports fields, pitches and other equipment.

"As it is for you today, I believe, one of our favourite classes was the physical culture.

At that time, we did not have very good conditions for this class. We did not have the sports fields as you do today, and we used to improvise pitches. We all liked football. Almost all the school had just one ball.

When we played, it was difficult to find a goalkeeper, as everybody wanted to play at the pitch, and almost everyone was in offensive position. It is not that I had much talent for football, but I remember that marked several goals", he stated before the school pupils and other participants.

Furthermore, he stated that today there are much better conditions and that the Government of Kosovo shall continue to increase its support for the sports. Additionally, the Prime-minister stated that now the youth can make their dream come true, to play for Kosovo.

"Sport is a means of peace and union among the people. The Government of the Republic of Kosovo has invested in stadiums, fields and polygons at schools and cities. Soon, we shall start building a modern stadium in Prishtina.

We have prioritised the school sports, since through these you can be developed, you can develop your talent, and in future, we shall have many more eminent athletes", he stated, while expressing ones gratitude and congratulating the organizations as Sporti Pa Kufij (sports without borders) and International Relief and Development and the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports for this project.

Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi has estimated this project as among the most important within the priorities of MCYS in order to advance school sports and spread the sport in general.

Whereas, Estelle Maître, the directress of Sport Sans Frontières for Kosovo, considered that through this project it is aimed to

bring people close without gender, race, ethnicity distinction, through sport by promoting peace. "Sport is not only to play or win, but rather, it is also a means to get people united", she stated, adding that besides the distribution of footballs also trainings and tournaments of football shall be organised.

Meanwhile, Enver Hajredini, Head of School Sports Federation, estimated the work and commitment on this project, supporting and promoting school sports. He specifically thanked Minister Krasniqi for his high and consistent commitment on the development of sport. Hajredini said that the Federation he manages shall work even harder for many more qualified competitions throughout Kosovo.

Whereas, goalkeeper of the Kosovo Representative in football, Kushtrim Mushica, recalled his childhood at school, stating that it was a difficult journey. He said that new generations now have the necessary conditions and their dreams are coming true. "Sport stimulates children to build their sportive and humanitarian character" said Mushica.

The project in question, besides distribution of these balls, includes also different trainings on sports across schools, as well as football competitions. ■





MCYS allocated 50 thousand Euros for Kosovo Olympic Committee

The Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports allocated 50 thousand Euros for the Olympic Committee of Kosovo, as an annual budget for the organisation of the program for 2014. Therefore, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between MCYS and KOC.

The decision for allocating these means was made by Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi, in order to make KOC financially more independent and create opportunities for the implementation of the annual plan of KOC, as the highest sports body of the country

General Secretary, Veton Firzi has signed on behalf of MCYS, whereas, the Head Besim Hasani

signed on behalf of KOC.

In the ceremony of signatures, present were also Minister Krasniqi as well as the members of the Executive Board of KOC.

The Minister said that this Memorandum marks a step forward prior to the complete functionalization of KOC and is a big proof for the support the state is providing to the sport.

“We supported KOC even earlier in every activity. But through these we are facilitating procedures and creating a budget basis, thus, making it easier for KOC to enforce its plan. The Memorandum is a step for the enforcement of our vision to allocate an annual budget for KOC and other sport federations.

Soon, we shall finalise the Regulation on the sports classification, through which we could allocate the budget to each federation since the beginning of the year, based on the defined criteria by KOC” Minister Krasniqi stated.

In his turn, Head of KOC, Besim Hasani, highlighted that this is an extremely good cooperation between KOC and MCYS and this is in function on fulfilling the claims that Kosovo sport has.

“This Memorandum that is being signed today for changing the way of funding, is of significant importance, since together with the Executive Board we can plan all what we consider as priority, and a new period is beginning for sport”, Hasani stated, expressing ones gratitude to the Minister for his work and support he has given to the sport in general. He said that for the sport of Kosovo, and consequently, also for KOC, e new epoch is opened.

Based on this Memorandum, means of 50 thousand Euros shall be spent in some aspects, which are related to administration, organisation of activities within Kosovo and participation in international activities. ■



Kosovo Karate Federation gets eight fighting arenas in line with highest international standards

Kosovo Karate Federation (KKF) is equipped with eight karate arenas – ‘tami’ mats in line with international standards, which in total reach a surface of 1152 m², they were purchased by the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, which allocated 30 thousand Euros for them.

Minister Memli Krasniqi officially delivered these arenas to KKF, in a ceremony at Prishtina Youth Palace.

These arenas dedicated for karate fighting were considered appropriate since the Karate World Championship in Shotokan style is approaching, which is going to be held in Prishtina from 4-6 April.

Minister Krasniqi estimated the purchased equipment as a support and creation of the best possible conditions for Karate Federation, and are in service of karate fighters for their performance and training so that they can demonstrate their qualities also in the international arena.

“Our country has a long tradition in karate, resulting even with European World Champions, and there is no doubt that there will be champion men and women in future, too”, said the Minister, congratulating Head of Karate



Federation, Fadil Arifi, for his work done up to now, and promised that MCYS in future, too, shall be the main supporter on their overall objectives.

In his turn, Head of KKF, Fadil Arifi, expressed his gratitude to the Minister for his support and estimated this day as a special one, since it is for the first time ever in the history of karate in Kosovo that they are being equipped with arena types of the highest qualities.

“MCYS permanently supported Kosovo Karate Federation, especially in the internationalization, however, this time, with the purchase of these mats, it shall directly affect that we as Kosovo organize activities as per criteria of the World Karate Federation” said Head Arifi.

Furthermore, Head Arifi, talked also for the organization and preparation that have been done for the World Championship, and considered it as an important event not only for karate but also for our country.

Meanwhile, the Minister said that they are partners of all federations and MCYS in these three years has defined as its central priority the general investment in sports, increase the direct subsidies for federations, improvement of infrastructure and necessary equipment for sports development, mentioning that this investment also is within the development policies of the Ministry and promised that their support shall consistently increase in the future. ■



Kosovo and Senegal, cooperation in sports and culture

Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi welcomed in a meeting General Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Senegal, Amadou Kebe, with whom he discussed for the possibilities of cooperation between two countries in the field of sports and culture.

Minister Krasniqi said it witnesses that Kosovo and Senegal, although far away from one another in the means of geographic distance, can develop cooperation now as in the past. "This can be witnessed in the best way also from the fact that today it was officially confirmed that Kosovo and Senegal are going to play in a friendly football match. The Government of Kosovo shall provide its all support for the best possible organisation of this match", stated Minister Krasniqi, while expressing his gratitude to the Government of Senegal for the readiness they have shown to cooperate in this direction.

The Minister also highlighted that in the future the cooperation may be realised also in other forms, especially, in culture, organising common events in the promotion of artists from both countries.

"Artists are the best ambassadors of a country. Kosovo has such an ambassador as Rita Ora and Senegal has singer and composer Youssou N'Dour, who the public of Kosovo would be very much pleased to welcome" he stated.

In his turn, Secretary Amadou Kebe thanked the Minister for his hosting and readiness for cooperation. He notified the Minister that Senegal is the first country of Africa to play friendly match with Kosovo.

The Minister and Secretary Kebe agreed to have continuous communication so that in future they can make much more concrete steps on cooperation. ■



Minister Krasniqi met the National Football Team of Kosovo

Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi welcomed the Representative football players of Kosovo, together with the President of Kosovo Football Federation, Fadil Vokrri, as well as the technical headquarters, headed by selector Albert Bunjaku.

He stated that the whole Kosovo people are experiencing the international official friendly match as a feast. The Minister highly esteemed the football players now as a part of the Representative Team of Kosovo, everywhere in the world in their demonstration they presented the best image of Kosovo.



The Minister stated that "We are honored and proud to have you and together with you we are marking a historic step for Kosovo as a state, and even more for the sport".

Furthermore, he stated that "You and your many peers who play in many other teams in Europe are the best image of Kosovo and moreover the indicator and undeniable fact about how unfair was the isolation of Kosovo in football", while he informed the footballers about the investments and support that the state is providing for the sport in general.

On the other side, the President of KFF, Fadil Vokrri thanked Minister Krasniqi for the support provided for the internationalization of the football and especially for the improvement of infrastructure. He notified about the preparations the KFF has done for the first match, against Haiti. Vokrri stated that together with MCYS we are working so that the organization of the first match is as dignified as possible. ■



MCYS and the Municipality of Prishtina cooperate in several projects for sport and culture

Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi, welcomed in a meeting Mayor of the Municipality of Prishtina, Shpend Ahmeti. They discussed for the organization of several mutual projects in the field of sports, culture and cultural heritage.

Special attention was paid to renovation of stadium of the city, building an auxiliary stadium of football, investments from MCYS, building of an Olympic pool with co-funding by Municipality and MCYS, building of the Olympic Palace, premise for federations and which is the project of MCYS, building of a youth centre from the budget of MCYS, as well as the possibility of co-funding of a Universal Hall, project of the Municipality of Prishtina.

In a press conference, Minister Krasniqi expressed his pleasure to have found an understanding with Mayor Ahmeti that these projects are organized through cooperation between two institutions, and the soonest possible. He added that there are several months that teams of the both institutions have had regular meetings in order to coordinate the steps for these projects.

"We are in a good way to start the implementation of concrete projects. These projects are in the interest of citizens and especially in the interest of the performers of certain fields and we are interested to proceed them the soonest possible on bases of the

applicable legislation", said the Minister expressing his belief that very soon the actions shall be accomplished in order to organize these projects, through signing the Memorandum of Understanding. He added that MCYS has the budget ready for each project.

Whereas, Mayor of Prishtina, Ahmeti, thanked the Minister for his hosting and said that they have discussed for the projects that were requested by MCYS and which are foreseen within the budget. He distinguished the project for investments in the stadium of Prishtina.

"We agreed together to announce a competing procedure for the repairs in the stadium which are necessary and which must be completed this year", said Mr. Ahmeti, highlighting that they will see on the basis of the budget how many funds can the Municipality allocate for this mutual project.

"Of course, we as a Municipality are interested that each project that is in the interest of the citizens and where the citizens of the Municipality of Prishtina benefit, to be implemented as soon as possible".

In its turn, MCYS committed that it can invest up to 500 thousand Euros for the repairs in the stadium of the city of Prishtina.

Mr. Ahmeti emphasized that in May, the requests of MCYS for parcels of Olympic Palace, auxiliary stadium and Youth Centre, shall be in the daily agenda in the Municipal Assembly. ■

MCYS and KOC joint actions for full internationalisation of Kosovo sports

Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi met the President of Kosovo Olympic Committee, Besim Hasani, with whom he discussed for the recent achievements in sports and for the steps which should be agreed to be jointly undertaken in the future for development and internationalisation of sports. Both agreed that in the recent years sport of Kosovo has marked historical steps towards internal development and internationalisation.

Minister Krasniqi congratulated Mr. Hasani for the work undertaken by Olympic Committee, stressing that the support of the Ministry is going to increase in future steps towards internationalisation and more coordination will be made in the future. Minister said that the friendly match between Kosovo and Haiti had a great impact in international arena and which will help even more towards internationalisation of Kosovo in sports, in order to have full admission in all international sports mechanisms. He added that MCYS is going to provide support for each federation, and in particular to KOC in all processes in the future.

In particular in this meeting it was discussed for participation of Kosovo this year in the largest Convention of world sports "SportAccord", which brings together heads and representatives of many international sports mechanisms. MCYS is going to provide the whole support needed for the participation into this Convention. Kosovo had participated also earlier in this convention.

The president of KOC, Besim Hasani thanked minister Krasniqi for the support he has given to sports, thus estimating that this support has impacted on increasing the international attention and also attention within Kosovo for the sports. He in addition estimated that the projects undertaken by Government have helped on improvement of sports infrastructure and regulating the legislation for sportsmen and sportswomen.

Hasani notified the minister about the future steps for KOC becoming member in the International Olympic Committee and other federations into respective international federations. He said that KOC is going to closely cooperate with MCYS in order to have coordination and actions which bring concrete results. ■

Kosovo Youth Development Project, evidence of a new concept of thought and action for the youth

From 2011 to 2014, around 1500 youth have benefitted in different concrete forms from the Kosovo Youth Development Project, (KYDP), which was implemented by the Ministry of Culture, youth and Sports, supported by the World Bank and Italian Embassy in Kosovo. Its second stage was completed in an event ceremony, in which also Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi, Deputy Ambassador of Italy in Kosovo, Salvatore Marino and beneficiaries from this project participated.

This stage started in 2011. Value of the was around 2.8 million Dollars and through it grants were provided for over 250 businesses of the youth throughout Kosovo in the amount of over 900 thousand Dollars, 18 Youth Centres in Kosovo were supported with the total amount of over 300 thousand Dollars, over 800 youth were trained in professional fields, and also the Youth Department was supported in MCYS via increasing the capacities and finalising the Kosovo Youth Strategy 2013-2017.

Minister Krasniqi estimated this project as one of the most important that was designed and implemented for the youth in Kosovo. He thanked the World Bank and Italian Embassy for the support offered to this process, as well as supervising it together with MCYS throughout all implementation process.

“It was an itinerary with lots of results, with concrete and tangible steps, happy moments for the youth. Another reason is that during these 3 years, with the Kosovo Youth Development Project the concept of thought and action has been changed for the youth. Perhaps once attention was more paid on theoretical aspects on youth development and its support, but, in this stage, I would say we have hit the target. We have acted in practice, there where it was needed more and that has a direct impact on the development of youth, their ideas and plans. And then this affects also the general benefit” said Minister Krasniqi in the closing ceremony at Hotel Sirius in Prishtina.

The Minister mentioned in figures the results that this project has brought, stating that KYDP affected the opening of many new businesses by the youth, employment of youth, professional education of the youth, practical training, foundation and development of youth centres, as well as increase the capacities for the management of the field of youth in MCYS.

He stated that MCYS has raised funds for youth during these three years and has given priority to entrepreneurship. Furthermore, the minister said that support shall be raised even more in the succeeding years, since now there is a good model of the development of

youth policies.

“The support shall increase every year. Moreover, entrepreneurship shall be one of the priorities of the Government of Kosovo. This is the end of the second stage of the project but however, it shall be a new beginning. Prime-minister of Kosovo Hashim Thaçi soon will make a decision on the creation of a Development Fund for Kosovo, in the amount of around 1 billion Euros and one of the main components, thus, shall be the support of new businesses” he stated.

Whereas, Deputy Ambassador of Italy Salvatore Marino has congratulated MCYS and all other implementers for the results this project has marked.

“Italian Embassy was happy for supporting this project, since, as the Minister said, he has foreseen concrete support for the youth”, he stated. Marino added that Italy and Kosovo have many fields in which they can cooperate and expressed ones readiness for broadening the cooperation in the field of youth, culture and sports.

Besides, last year, MCYS also allocated grants in the field of entrepreneurship from this project from the annual budget. In 2013, around 100 thousand Euros were given as a grant for more than 20 business projects of the youth. Moreover, every year, MCYS has allocated 500 thousand Euros on different youth projects. ■



Continuous Support for the Municipality of Mitrovica and the Municipality of Drenas



Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi, has welcomed in separate meetings Mayor of the Municipality of Mitrovica, Agim Bahtiri and Mayor of the Municipality of Drenas, Nexhat Demaku.

In the meeting with the Mayor of Mitrovica, they discussed about different projects in the field of culture, cultural heritage and sports in this municipality. Minister Krasniqi stated that MCYS has prioritized Mitrovica in many projects on culture and sports. On this occasion, he talked about the renovation of the Olympic stadium 'Adem Jashari'. The Minister stated that MCYS now is expected to invest also in fixing up trails of athletics in this stadium. Furthermore, he also mentioned the construction of sports spaces at the Multi-functional Centre, a project that is co-financed with European Union in a value of over 20 million Euros, in which MCYS invests 8 million Euros.

A specific subject of discussion was also the installation of lightning, sound system and semaphore in 'Adem Jashari' stadium. Minister Krasniqi asked to install it as soon as possible, as foreseen also in memorandum signed

with Kosovo Football Federation. The Municipality of Mitrovica is responsible for installation of lightning, sound system and semaphores based on this document. The Minister stated that through this, the stadium shall be modernized even more and the conditions shall be fulfilled even better for international matches.

Minister Krasniqi mentioned that in Mitrovica, in the field of culture, MCYS supports several cultural projects. Further, he emphasized that this year MCYS has

foreseen to start the restoration of Xhafer Deva's house.

In its turn, Mayor of the Municipality of Mitrovica, Agim Bahtiri, thanked the Minister for the support he provided for this municipality, especially, in the field of sports and culture. He notified the minister for plans and projects they have for this year in the field of sports, culture and heritage, and also committed to broadening of the cooperation.

In the meeting with the Mayor of the Municipality of Drenas, too, it was discussed for the opportunities of cooperation in different projects in future, estimating projects that were implemented and also that are being implemented. On this occasion, they discussed for the Sports Hall, which is almost finishing, construction of the assisting stadium of football, renovation of the city stadium.

In his turn, the Mayor of Drenas thanked the Minister for his hospitality and readiness to support projects covered by MCYS, hoping to further broaden the cooperation aiming to get advanced in the field of culture and sports in this Municipality. ■





Minister Krasniqi met the Representative of the cultural association "Sofra Gjakovare"

Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi welcomed in a meeting the representative of Cultural Association "Sofra Gjakovare" from Skopje, directed by Head of this association, Baki Maliqi.

Minister Krasniqi congratulated the representatives of association "Sofra Gjakovare" for the work done up to now for the affirmation of the culture and broadening the cooperation with cultural institutions in Kosovo. He informed them about the activities and work that was done by MCYS in the field of culture, whereby he specified the achievement of the objective by signing the common cultural calendar between Kosovo and Albania.

Furthermore, Minister Krasniqi informed the guests that the support for culture has been increased continuously, doubling the budget for culture as compared to the past.

Whereas, Head of Skopian Association, Baki Maliqi thanked the Minister for the hosting. He notified the Minister for the history of association and the Albanian cultural organization in Skopje since after the Second World War.

Moreover, Maliqi gave information about the cultural and artistic plans and projects that have been accomplished for six months since they have been created as an association. Amongst their plans, Maliqi said, is also expanding their activities in Kosovo, too.

In the meeting, it was proposed to see for the possibilities of the coordination so that in the coming years, activities of Cultural Association "Sofra Gjakovare" could be included also in the common cultural calendar. ■

Minister Krasniqi welcomed in an introductory meeting, Ambassador of Albania in Kosovo, Qemal Minxhozi

The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports welcomed in an introductory meeting the Ambassador of Albania in Kosovo, Qemal Minxhozi.

Congratulating him for his duty, Minister Krasniqi thanked the ambassador for the cooperation Albania has offered to Kosovo in the field of culture, sports, youth and cultural heritage, cooperation which served as an example between two countries.

He notified the Ambassador for the developments in the field of culture, youth, cultural heritage and sports in Kosovo, as well as for the projects in future.

The Minister said that one of the most important projects for culture in Kosovo, but also in Albania, is the signing of Common Cultural Calendar, which already started to be implemented both in Kosovo and Albania.

He said that in future, there shall be even more common projects between Kosovo and Albania, as in culture, heritage, sports and youth.

In his turn, the Ambassador Minxhozi thanked the Minister for the hosting and congratulated him for the work he did in the advancement and promotion of cultural scene in Kosovo, improvement of sports infrastructure, as well as maintenance and promotion of cultural heritage. He added that he shall work for enhancing even more the cooperation between Kosovo and Albania in culture, youth and cultural heritage. ■



MCYS and British Council cooperate on the promotion of Kosovo's cultural scene

Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi welcomed in a meeting the Regional Director of the British Council, Michael Bird and Kosovo Director of the British Council, Arjeta Emra.

In this meeting it was discussed for the cooperation that the MCYS and the British Council have in the field of culture. Minister Krasniqi thanked Mr. Bird for the support the British Council has offered to cultural scene in Kosovo, emphasizing its promotion. He talked about the achievements and challenges in the field of culture, expressing ones will for even a bigger engagement and broadening the cooperation with many other stakeholders.

The Minister highly estimated the contribution of BC for the opening of the exhibition of the famous artist Henry Moore, in Kosovo National Gallery, more specifically, the exhibition "Grafika dhe skulptura të përzgjedhura" ("Selected graphics and sculptures"). The exhibition shall be opened on Thursday, 27 March 2014, in Kosovo National Gallery. The Minister also thanked the British Council for the support it shall offer in the organization of the 13th session of European Cultural Parliament, this year in October, in Kosovo.

In his turn, Michael Bird thanked the Minister for the hosting and the cooperation offered. He appreciated the achievements in the field of culture and expressed his readiness to increase the cooperation between the British Council and MCYS, especially in the sphere of cultural exchanges. ■

Coordination for the best organization and promotion of the International Half-marathon of Prishtina



Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports (MCYS), Memli Krasniqi welcomed in a meeting Head of Kosovo Athletics Federation (KAF), Halil Sylejmani, with the cooperators, where it was discussed for the aspect of internationalization, coordination of steps for joining of KAF in the European Athletic Association and International Association of Athletic Federations (IAAF), in the renovation of athletics trails in the Olympic Stadium of "Adem Jashari" in Mitrovica.

They also talked about the organization of the International Semi-marathon of Prishtina by KAF, which traditionally is supported by MCYS. Re-confirming activities, support for the activities, support for this activity, Minister asked Head of KAF, Sylejmani, that as many youth to get engaged as possible in this important sports event organized, and as many foreign athletes be invited as possible in order to make it the best promotion and organization, so that this traditional activity

could be promoted in the best possible way.

Moreover, Minister Krasniqi expressed his readiness to offer the full support to KAF, on the issue of internationalization of athletics and its membership in the European Athletics and IAAF.

Head of KAF, Halil Sylejmani, informed the Minister about the course of preparations for the Semi-marathon and the steps up to which they reached regarding the internationalization. In addition, he informed the Minister for activities and achievements of athletes and the work developed by FFK.

Sylejmani thanked the Minister for his and MCYS readiness to assist athletics in many aspects, which besides creating facilitates for athletes also contributes in the advancement of this sport inside the country and in its internationalization. In this occasion, he highlighted the investments that will take place in the entire renovation of athletic trails in the Olympic Stadium of 'Adem Jashari'. ■



Minister Krasniqi met the heads of Sport Fishing Federation of Kosovo

Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi hosted today in a meeting the heads of Fishing Federation of Kosovo, after their acceptance in World Confederation of Sports Fishing C.I.P.S.

Minister Krasniqi congratulated them for the up to date work for promotion of fishing covering many dimensions.

He said that it is important for this federation to have the doors open for international activities and in this aspect he appreciated the work of heads of federations. He considered the engagement of federation as outstanding in internal organisation and efforts for sensitizing fishing in sports aspect. Minister Krasniqi said that as it happened in the past, in the future as well MCYS shall support this federation too in the national activities and international presentation.

On his part, the Head of Fishers Federation, Arianit Sllamniku thanked the minister for his continuous support. He spoke about the activity they have developed till now and notified of the plans they have for the future. Sllamniku stressed that it is encouraging that they have support from the state in each of their initiatives. ■





MCYS and Kosovo Post sign an agreement of cooperation

The Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports and Kosovo Post have signed a Memorandum of Understanding on the mutual support in the fulfillment of legal mandate related with their activities.

‘On behalf of MCYS, the Memorandum was signed by Secretary General, Veton Firzi, whereas, on behalf of Kosovo Post, it was signed by chief executive Sejdi Hoxha. In the ceremony of signing, Minister Memli Krasniqi was present as well. He estimated this memorandum as a step that will provide better services and impact in the promotion of our culture.

Based on this memorandum, the Post shall provide all required post services for the needs of MCYS, making concrete agreement and also provide all post products for MCYS, in accordance with determined tariffs and internal policies of the Post.

Moreover, Kosovo Post shall provide advice and professional support for the way of presentation, maintenance and promotion of post stamps, collections for national and international exhibitions.

Meanwhile, MCYS shall support projects which are related with culture and presentation of the philately of Kosovo by the Kosovo Post. ■



Deputy Minister Dedaj met his homologue from Albania

Deputy Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Gjergj Dedaj stayed for a work visit in Albania, where he met his homologue, Deputy Minister of Culture of Albania, Zef Quni.

Deputy Minister Dedaj thanked for the hospitality and informed his homologue Quni on activities, organization and achievements in Kosovo in the field of culture, where he also mentioned the signing of common cultural calendar between the two countries.

In his turn, Deputy Minister Zef Quni, felt satisfied for Kosovo-Albania cooperation, aiming thus the exchange of experiences in the field of culture and heritage.

Both Deputy Ministers discussed for the possibility of further broadening the cooperation between the Ministries and countries. ■



Dedaj welcomed a delegation from Texas, USA

Deputy Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Gjergj Dedaj welcomed a delegation from Texas USA and the representative of Christian International School of Vienna, who he initially thanked for the historic contribution of USA for peace, freedom, democracy, independence, and the Euro-Atlantic perspective of Kosovo. The Deputy Minister of MCYS, meanwhile, notified the representatives of the delegation from USA with the current situation in Kosovo, position of Kosovo Youth and the situation in the sphere of culture and sports in Kosovo.

Dedaj reemphasized the need to further broadening the cooperation between USA and Kosovo, especially, that of exchanging experiences of the youth, education and training the new leadership, cooperation in the field of culture and promotion of sports.

In their turn, the delegation from Texas of USA expressed their readiness to proceed the cooperation and notified that in June of this year, the first Baseball match is going to take place in the Municipality of Gjakova and thus, American sports shall begin to be promoted in the Republic of Kosovo. ■



**'Çarshia e Madhe' Grand Bazaar
Gjakova**

