

Kosovo's Culture, Youth and Sport

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NEWSLETTER

Rita Ora, our pride and our original value



Your work, your success, the whole image that you have transmitted all over the globe has made proud all Kosovo and all Albanians. For us, you are the most original image, the pride and value of our people. Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi made these remarks in the meeting with the famous singer from Kosovo Rita Ora, during her visit in Kosovo, country of her birth.

Continues on page 2-3 ➤



"Albaniada", a great contribution for the promotion of Albanian spiritual heritage

Continues on page 4-5 ➤

Culture

9

Kosovo in the 55th edition of the International Art Exhibition



Agenda

14

Minister Krasniqi met Ambassador Jacobson in an introductory meeting



Sport

12

Minister Krasniqi met the boxers Haxhi(Robin) Krasniqi and Nuri Seferi



Copyrights

14

Kosovo adopts the strategy against forgery and piracy



Minister Krasniqi: Rita Ora, our pride and our original value



Your work, your success, the whole image that you have transmitted all over the globe has made proud all Kosovo and all Albanians. For us, you are the most original image, the proud and value of our people. So said, minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi to the famous singer from Kosovo, Rita Ora with whom he had a friendly meeting at Emerald hotel, during her visit in Kosovo, country of birth.

Minister expressed the greatest thanks to Rita for mentioning Kosovo in every moment and also for choosing her hometown, her people to realize the forthcoming video. "It's a special honor for me to meet you, and whatever we do for you it's a minimum because your work really deserves every respect", said minister Krasniqi to Rita Ora. He congratulated her for the successes, and pointed out that people of Kosovo; the Albanian youth, wherever they are will always support

her. "Kosovo and our Institutions will always support you", said minister. He has given to her the ancient Illyrian instrument, the ocarina, as well as the Goddess on the Throne as symbols of early civilization in Kosovo.

Rita chose to give minister her first album titled "Ora", which was launched a few days ago and it's in the top lists of the most favorite albums of the world.

Rita Ora expressed special thanks to minister for his continuous care he has shown towards her.

"I would like to say thank you for everything you have done. Without your assistance I could not realize the entire filming of the video that easily", said Rita, while adding that with her video she wants to show to the world the beauty of her country and people. She said that this is her permanent priority.

Rita spoke regarding the moments she passed through so far during her carrier and for future plans as well.

Minister Krasniqi expressed to her once again the full support of the State of Kosovo. Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports has supported the all team of Rita Ora during the filming of the video, by standing next to them at every moment in order to make the work easier. Minister Krasniqi is the only State official to meet Rita Ora in her visit.

Rita Ora has arrived in Kosovo for filming the video "Shine Ya Light". The filming of the video is carried out in different parts of Prishtina, particularly at New Born, the symbol of the independence of Kosovo. Thousands of citizens continuously followed Rita during the filming of her video.





"Albaniada", a great contribution for the promotion of Albanian spiritual heritage



Albaniada is one of the best ideas of promoting the Albanian spiritual heritage, respectively, the various traditional games and sports. So, said Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi at the opening of Albaniada, which intends to be the Olympics of Traditional Albanian Games and Sports. This activity is being developed under the auspices of Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, and it is being held in village Kukaj, in Prishtina. In front of visitors there will be presented traditional games and sports such as stony (a game played with tiny stones), xau-xau (the original name of game), the downfall of hands (measuring the strength between two persons), kute – klicë (the original name of game), rope dragging on both sides, high jumping, long jumping, caps (a play in which a hidden object is placed under one of several cap-shaped covers) etc.

In his speech, Minister Krasniqi said that these games have turned back the childhood and youth memories of many generations. Minister congratulated the initiators of this idea, while saying that MCYS has highly appreciated their commitment.



According to minister Krasniqi, it is essential that many young generations, which did not play these games, will learn regarding the characteristics of childhood and youth of several years ago. "This activity, which I believe to be traditional, is one of the most creative findings that promote the Albanian spiritual heritage best. Furthermore, the significance of this event is greater on the occasion of 100 anniversary of Independence of Albania that we are celebrating this year", said minister, while promising once again that MCYS will support creative ideas which preserve and promote heritage and culture in each dimension. On the other hand, Ekrem Tahiri, one of the organizers of Albaniada said that he is happy for bringing this idea into life, thanks to the support of MCYS. Tahiri added that their purpose is Albaniada to be traditional and from the following next year to have a competitive character as well.



The National Ballet of Kosovo marked the 40th anniversary of foundation



The National Ballet of Kosova has marked the 40th anniversary of foundation. In a ceremony at the National Theatre of Kosova, the Ballet has recalled the journey of four decades, by also sharing the gratitude for all those who provided contribution in setting up and development of this institution.

At this ceremony was also present Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi and individuals from the field of art from Kosova and other countries as well.

Minister Krasniqi assessed the National Ballet of Kosova as a part of great twists for Kosova as it was raised at the time when the youth in Kosova had began its efforts for freedom and equality.

“Our thoughts today inevitably go to all those who have given to the public great emotions and have enriched the art and culture in the country for so many years. Their work at those difficult times should truly be appreciated.

I would like to express my thanks for all those friends of the Ballet of Kosova,

from different countries, who stayed with us for 40 years”, he said, while adding that 40 years represent a long history but in fact the ballet of Kosova is still youthful. “I say so when I see the young ballerinas who with a full will and passion are keeping alive the ballet in Kosova”.

As the all society in general, the ballet has many challenges as well, said minister Krasniqi. But he added that the respective institution is much better than it was yesterday, and certainly tomorrow will be even better. “As you already know since the beginning of the last year the legal and financial status of all art creators and performers, in this case all members of the Ballet Troupe have been solved after ten years.

Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports will continue to work with a great commitment to enhance the support for the entire culture and the ballet in this case with the aim of representing Kosova to the international scenes with much more dignity”, pointed out minister Krasniqi in his speech. On behalf of MCYS he handed a

gratitude to the director of the National Ballet of Kosova, Ahmet Brahimajt for the work carried out since the first steps of ballet, especially after the period of war.

On the other hand the director of Ballet has recalled some of the special and important moments of this institution through years. Brahimaj said that there have been many challenges but the strong will and passion have kept the National Ballet of Kosova alive. He thanked MCYS, especially minister Krasniqi for the support provided to the ballet.

The director expressed his gratitude for all those choreographers and ballerinas from many countries that provided a valuable contribution in setting up and development of this troupe in Kosova. “We will continue to further work and with a much more energy”, he said.

At this ceremony the Ballet Troupe has presented to the public the show “The Wedding” of the Turkish choreographer Mehmet Ballkan.

Kosovo in the Venice Biennale again – this time in the 55th edition of the International Art Exhibition



As a conclusion, the dream of many artists from Kosova to be present in the Venice Biennale, at the greatest world event of contemporary art, the International Art Exhibition, will become true the following next year. Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports has received a positive answer from the President of the Venice Biennale, Paolo Baratta on the request addressed a few days ago for participation of Kosova also in the 55th edition of the respective exhibition. This derived thanks to a close cooperation between MCYS and organisers of the Venice Biennale, as well as good presentation of Kosova in the Biennale of Architecture in the current year. Tomorrow will be held the meeting of representatives of

participating countries in the International Art Exhibition, and in the meeting will also be present Erzen Shkololli, the director of the National Gallery of Kosova, as well as Eliza Hoxha, the Chairperson of the Steering Council of NGK. Minister Krasniqi appreciated the news to be extremely significant for art in Kosova. "Participation in this Biennale has been the goal and dream of Kosova artists. I feel happy that this will become true in year 2013. Our participation in this pivotal art event for the whole world, is the ongoing participation of Kosova in pivotal events of culture which happened this year", said minister Krasniqi. Information for other details regarding presentation of Kosova there will be available in the following next days.

MCYS and Customs of Kosova signed a collaboration memorandum for copyright protection and fighting piracy

Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports and the Customs of Kosova have signed today a collaboration memorandum in order to coordinate their activities for copyright protection and fighting piracy. General Secretary, Veton Firzi signed on behalf of Ministry, while Director Naim Huruglica signed on behalf of the Customs of Kosova.

Secretary Firzi, in this occasion said that signing of this memorandum witnesses once again the determination of Institutions for legislation implementation and progression of copyright protection, and it simultaneously has an impact on the accomplishment of obligations towards the Kosova European agenda. The principal goal of the respective memorandum is cooperation on preventing import or/and export of pirate products which infringe copyright.

Meanwhile, the Director of Customs, Naim Huruglica said that the Institution he manages will continue to closely work with MCYS for protection of the original artistic creativity.

In the report of feasibility study published a few days ago, copyright was considered as one of the fields where Kosova marked a major progress.



Major changes in heritage sector, but more responsibility is required from each one of us



Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi, has inaugurated the completion of partial restorations in the Museum of Kosova. Except this, Minister Krasniqi symbolically revealed another sculpture found this year during the archeological excavations at Ulpiana locality in Prishtina. In the Museum of Kosova as well was held another exhibition with the archeological findings during year 2012 and earlier, and were displayed sequences of a documentary realized by MCYS for the Ulpiana locality. These activities are held in the frame of the European Heritage Days, which is marked annually.

Minister Krasniqi, in his speech to the participants from the international institutions in Kosova, as well as the representatives of the cultural heritage institutions said that there will be new investments for other renovations of the Museum in the following next year as well. This year MCYS has made investments for the renovations of the floor on three storeys of the Museum. "The difference we are seeing in the Museum said minister is also a reflection of many positive changes that

happened this year in the field of heritage, which was, is and will further be a priority of the MCYS while he also notified that on Monday (yesterday) he has signed the additions made in the Temporary List of the Cultural Heritage Monuments under Protection, which consists of 1181 monuments. "The respective additions and the approval of the temporary list as well as completion of renovations in the Museum are good news that we receive in this activity today, which is organized in the frame of the European Heritage Days. The vision of Kosova is the European integration and the cultural heritage obviously is an important aspect of engagement by all member countries. We are proud with our cultural diversity which, truly, is a European value", said minister.

In the List approved by minister yesterday, and proposed and drafted by the Commission are added 295 monuments, among which 37 of the archeological heritage and 258 of the architectural one. 15 monuments which have been repeated with different names and 29 grave-yards and grave-yard complexes are removed from the

list under the Commission decision.

In his speech, minister mentioned a number of projects that are realized and are being realized this year in heritage. He mentioned emergency interventions in over 30 monuments of cultural heritage, which compared to the last year interventions has increased. He also mentioned the restorations carried out by MCYS in some historical monuments of different municipalities.

This year, said minister Krasniqi have continued restorations in some monuments of cultural heritage of Kosova, by a cooperation of MCYS and the American Embassy in Kosova, in the frame of the Collaboration Memorandum signed last year. This memorandum foresees a donation of 1.5 million dollars for heritage including restoration of some monuments such as the Church of St. Nicholas in Prizren, House of Shehzade in Prizren, the Old Hydropower in Prizren, The tower of Vushtrri and the digitalization of frescoes in Graçanica Monastery.

“I would like to express great thanks to the American Embassy for a very precious assistance, especially when we are expecting to receive another fund of 1.5 million dollars in the following next year for the restoration of other monuments of cultural heritage”. He thanked The Turkish Development and Reconstruction Agency for the project on restoration of five monuments of heritage in Kosova, which has been revealed the current year, and he also highly appreciated the support of the Italian Embassy in the issue of documentation and promotion of heritage. Minister said that different promotion materials are being prepared. “Very soon, by the assistance of the Italian Embassy, the archeological park of the Museum of Kosova will have a different view. We are planning to establish an information heritage centre there and except others there will be an

environment where many activities can take place. The plan is already ready and we expect to commence the concrete work very soon. It is worth emphasizing that for the first time it is undertaken a concrete step at this very significant area of heritage”, he said.

Other aspects of promotion such as the support of the artisan week “Tour de Culture” and the Project on Promotion of Cultural Diversity in Kosovo, in cooperation with the European Council are important steps of promotion as well”, said minister.

The archeological excavations have had a great support by MCYS this year and the Archeological Institute has conducted excavations at around 20 locations, where much evidence of early civilization has been found.

Regarding the legislative and institutional reform, minister notified that upon the amendments of the Law there will be

better management of heritage but he emphasized the responsibility of work as the significant aspect which will push forward the process. “What we should establish in our work is the responsibility towards the institution and duties we have undertaken. Without such functioning there will not be any results. That's what I require from each official”, he stated.

Minister dwelled on the question of the artifacts' return to Kosova, which were taken from Serbia during the period of war as well. “We have requested from some international institutions many times to return them as soon as possible. Unfortunately, there was the lack of Serbia's will on returning them so far but we hope and believe to return them in Kosova very soon”, he said while also adding that some of the stolen artifacts, which were found in Germany is expected to return in Kosova soon.



Hermes Sculpture, according to the Archeological Institute of Kosova

During excavations of summer season 2012 in Ulpiana, at the part between the Roman temple and bathroom, while opening the northern annex of Sector B, Square 64, in a depth of around 40 cm, is discovered a sculpture made of local marble and it presents the head and torso of an entire Hermes. The Hermes shaping is from the Greek origin but it is adapted to the Roman art and it has an apothropaic function. The sculpture is 59.5 cm tall, while its head captures the length of 21 cm. The phallus is an integral part of his sculpture and it symbolizes the reproductive force of nature.

Hermes naming refers to the God of fertility (productivity), luck but also the protector of roads and borders.

Hermes sculptures were usually standing on end and placed at public and frequented places such as the road's crossroads by serving as the indicators of roads, at the borders, palestra, gymnasiums, bookshops and temples, the fact that is also confirmed after the discovery of this sculpture next to the temple of Ulpiana. Nevertheless, it should be emphasized that it was discovered as secondary material or spoliom (reused material) and it was reused in the water canal of Roman bathroom. This sculpture belongs to the early Roman period, respectively, century I-II AD. Usually, to such sculptures were brought gifts and they were dyed with oil.

Studies of this sculpture will continue mainly through analogy in the region and beyond and it can be said that this sculpture is unique in Kosova.

Restorations in the church of St. Nicholas in Prizren are inaugurated



Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi, the President of the Republic of Kosovo, Atifete Jahjaga and the Ambassador of the United States of America in Prishtinë, Tracey Jacobson, have inaugurated the completion of restorations in the church of St. Nicholas in village Bogoshevë, Prizren.

The restoration of the respective monument of cultural heritage, dating since the end of 16th century has began in May of this year and it is the first monument to be restored in the frame of 1.5 million dollar fund that MCYS benefited last year by the American Embassy. The implementation of this project was carried out by IRD.

Minister Krasniqi, in his speech, thanked the American Embassy for continues contribution provided in preservation and promotion of heritage. He congratulated IRD on carrying out a professional work. Minister added that cultural heritage already has a special attention of the Institutions of the Republic of Kosovo. "Our presence here today witnesses the commitment of the Institutions of the Republic of Kosovo, our friends and above all our citizens in order to preserve our cultural, ethnic and religious treasure. This event today shows that heritage is our common value, and we should not allow to divide us as it happened in the past. Our cultural diversity is a distinctive value of our state and this should be protected by each of us while leaving

behind impacts of any kind." he stated. "Kosova has a very young population and our goal should be the actual generation in particular by planting to them a spirit of collaboration and commitment for preservation and propagation of our cultural heritage". Minister Krasniqi emphasised once again that cultural heritage has been and is still a priority of Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports. He added that through such collaboration of many institutions have been achieved many concrete outcomes. Minister expressed his commitment on even greater engagement in order to having much more progress.

From her side, the President Atifete Jahjaga thanked USA for remaining close to Kosova in the process of the State building. She said that the Republic of Kosovo is a place that offers opportunities and respect for each citizen, without any distinction. "I greet all of you, at this symbolic act bur very significant for this area, the restoration of the church of St. Nicholas in Bogoshevë, which since the fourteenth century has been functioning in these areas as a gathering place of worshipers and citizens. As the President of Kosovo I will strongly be committed for the return of residents to their homes, in order to build our future together", said President Jahjaga in this occasion. The Ambassador of the United States of America, Tracey Jacobson was honoured

to seeing how many monuments in Kosova are being restored and expressed the pleasure that her State assisted in this respect. She said to have visited some monuments of heritage these days and appreciated the fact that Kosova has a truly rich cultural treasure. "Truly, our presence here, of the President and minister Krasniqi proves the commitment shown by the Institutions of Kosova in preservation and propagation of heritage.

"What I have been seeing these days and I would like to specify is the fact that local expertise on cultural heritage here is being enhanced", she said, while adding that in the following next year as well, the American Government will provide funds for the heritage of Kosova. Jacobson added that cultural diversity of Kosova is a very precious treasure and it should be protected and promoted by everyone. Around 100 thousand dollars were allocated for the restoration of the respective church.



Cultural heritage will be one of the identifying segments of Kosovo



The Project on Propagation of Cultural Diversity in Kosova, has been one of the most important steps that we have jointly undertaken, and it actually did not have its aim only on propagation of the entire cultural heritage in Kosova but it also served as an awareness mission for the population, for the significance of the cultural heritage and its preservation.

So, said Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi at the opening of the exhibition for the sake of the respective project. In this occasion participated also the Chief of the Office of the Council of Europe in Kosova, Tim Cartwright, the Ambassador of Greece and the facilitator of EU on cultural heritage, Dimitris Moschopoulos, the Operations Chief in the Office of the European Commission in Kosova, Christof Stock, and other local and international officials engaged in the field of heritage.

Minister said that the outcomes of the first phase are truly tangible and he expressed the confidence that the second phase will bring even more achievements. He thanked the Council of Europe and the European Commission for the contribution given in this respect.

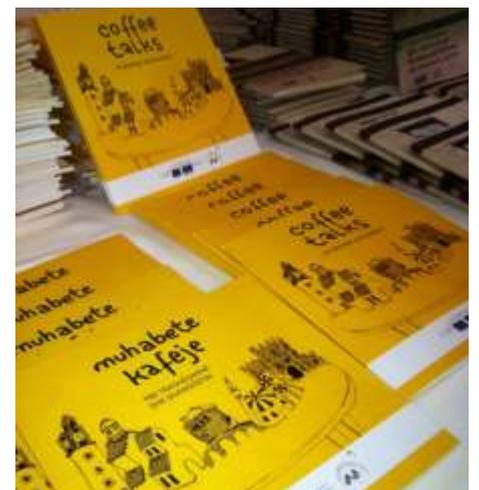
Minister added that cultural heritage

will be a priority for the MCYS. "Cultural heritage is a priority of Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports and we have marked really positive steps, and I emphasize here in particular, the legislative and institutional reform, archeological excavations and restorations as well. Our commitment will increase and we are already working together with the Council of Europe, European Commission and other partners in many other projects which will bring back the cultural heritage in one of the identifying and unique components of Kosova", he said.

On the other hand, Tim Cartwright said that the Council of Europe's priority is the preservation of heritage in Kosova and the propagation of the cultural diversity as well. Cartwright added that people should view the cultural diversity as a collaboration point. He added that the Council will continue its commitment on working even harder in the second phase of the project and he thanked MCYS for the close collaboration provided.

Meanwhile Christof Stock said that for the European Commission this constitutes an important segment of the contribution given to Kosova and he appreciated the work carried out so

far. He said that Kosova has a rich heritage so its preservation and propagation is very significant. The Project on Propagation of the Cultural Diversity in Kosova is financed by the European Commission and it is implemented by the Council of Europe in collaboration with MCYS and other institutions dealing with cultural heritage, local and international ones. The open exhibition taking place at the square between the Municipality of Prishtina and the Government of Kosova, will be open until 18th September and there will be different propagation materials and photos on cultural heritage of Kosova.



Haxhi (Robin) Krasniqi, the leader of the future golden boxing generation of Kosovo

Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi welcomed in a meeting the boxer Haxhi Krasniqi from Kosovo, who won the title 'WBO International' in the semi-heavy category of the professional boxing on 25th August in Berlin. Krasniqi defeated the Turkish boxer Serdar Sahin by a knockout and closed the fight in the fourth round by a knockout.

This is the second significant title won in the carrier of the professional boxing by Haxhi Krasniqi and this said minister constitutes a pride for all people of Kosovo. He said that the very successful carrier of the boxer Haxhi Krasniqi and the forthcoming challenges he will face as he is only a 25 year old boxer, mark the coming of another successful boxing generation of Kosovo.

Boxing, said minister is one of the



sports where Kosovo has achieved many successes in the past and it has a great potential. He said that the State of Kosovo will always support Krasniqi and all other boxers on their way towards successes, in order to promote the potentials of Kosovo in general. Minister added that for boxing and other sports in Kosovo are already open the international paths and young athletes will have the opportunity to show their talent and simultaneously represent their state.

On the other hand the boxer Krasniqi thanked minister for his continuous support given while facing each challenge. He said that after he was given the title he is even more motivated on greater engagement to achieving much more titles. Krasniqi appreciated the steps undertaken on internationalization and sports development of Kosovo by promising at the same time that he is ready to give his contribution on further affirmation of our athletes.

Minister Krasniqi met the boxer Nuri Seferi, the European champion in WBO version

Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi welcomed in a meeting today the boxer from Macedonia, Nuri Seferi, who won the champion title of Europe in WBO, by defeating the Serbian boxer Nenad Stankovic. He defeated the Serbian Stankovic by a knockout, and ended the fight at the very first seconds of the first round.

Minister Krasniqi congratulated the boxer Nuri Seferi for his achievements so far, especially, in the last fight.

"The very successful carrier of the boxer Seferi is a reflection of the great potential of Albanians in boxing, and the successes of boxers are an overall achievement. Boxing is one of the sports where Kosovo has achieved many successes in the past and it has a great potential for the future as well, said Minister".

Minister added that our State will always support boxers in order to enable them follow the path of their success, by promoting the potential of the State of Kosovo in general as well. Minister added that the international paths for boxing and other sports are already being open and our young athletes will have the opportunity to show their talent and at the same time represent their State.

On the other hand, the boxer Nuri Seferi congratulated Minister Krasniqi for the hard work on supporting sport, while thanking Minister for the warm welcoming as well. Seferi said that the support by the Institutions and people as well is an additional motivation for him in order to continue working with the aim of scoring even greater results in the international arena.



Regulations on Cinematography Prizes, Theater Prizes, amendments of the Regulation on the Book Council and the Statutes of the National Gallery of Kosovo approved



Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi has signed today Regulation on Annual Prizes for Cinematography, Regulation on Annual Prizes for Theater, additions-amendments of Regulation on the work of the Council of Books, and has also approved the Statute of Arts Gallery. The Gallery is having such document for the first time.

These steps have been undertaken within the frame of MCYS engagements on legislation and institutional reform, evaluation of our creators and performers in film and theater, and with the aim of increasing book publications as much as possible and municipal libraries as well.

Regulation on the award of prizes for Cinematography has the following two categories;

- National Prize for the Life's Work "Bekim Fehmiu"

This prize is awarded to prominent personalities in the field of cinematography for the success, achievements during carrier, innovations and special contribution for the progression of cinematography. This prize may also be awarded after the author's death. The prize winners may be: producers,

directors, screenwriters, actors, directors of photography, composers, editors, art directors, costume designers, animators, and creators who creatively contribute in the field of cinematography.

- Annual Prize for Cinematography

This prize is awarded every year for film works realised during the previous calendar year. The annual prize for cinematography, according to the jury decision, is awarded every year only in one of the following categories: the best production, the best director, the best screenwriter, the best actor/actress, director of photography, the best composer, the best editor, the best art director, the best costume designer and the best animator.

Regulation on the award of prizes for theater has the following categories:

- National Prize on Life's Work
- Annual Prizes for theater, awarded in the subcategories as follows
- Annual Prize for the best performance
- Annual Prize for the best direction
- Annual Prize for the best actor/actress
- Annual Prize for successful international presentation

Regulation on the Council of Books

In the Regulation on the work of the Council of Books, except the usual support of the Council of Books, it is also foreseen to provide support in the purchase of books which have been published in the last two years by publishing houses, and by distributing them afterwards to the municipal libraries. This will enable a greater support for publishers, as well as the enrichment of book stock of our libraries.

Gallery has the statute for the first time

For the first time the Gallery of Arts has got the statute. Minister Krasniqi has approved today the statute of this Institution that except others is awarding the Gallery with the naming National Gallery of Kosova.

Draft Law on the Ensemble "Shota" approves

In the last meeting of the Government of Kosovo, the Draft Law on Song and Dance Ensemble "Shota" and other Ensembles approves. This Draft Law regulates the functioning of the activity of National Song and Dance Ensemble "Shota" and other cultural artistic Ensembles. This Draft Law regulates definition, types, establishment, activity, organization, financing, artists' position and other issues of this field.

Minister Krasniqi welcomed Ambassador Jacobson in an introductory meeting



Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi, welcomed in an introductory meeting today the Ambassador of the United States of America in Prishtina, Tracey Jacobson, with whom they discussed regarding developments in the field of cultural heritage, culture, sport and youth in Kosova.

Minister Krasniqi has informed the Ambassador Jacobson with the achievements in the respective fields so far, particularly, in the field of cultural heritage. Minister re-emphasized the fact of cultural heritage remaining a priority of MCYS, and further working for more achievements in the future, with the aim of better promotion and protection of heritage. Minister underlined that Kosova has a rich heritage and its diversity represents a unique value that should be appreciated by all of us, without any distinction.

Minister Krasniqi thanked the Ambassador Jacobson for the assistance provided by her state in every segment in Kosova, particularly, for cultural heritage and sport as well. He mentioned the fund of 1.5 million dollars worth that the American Embassy has allocated for the restoration of some monuments in Kosova last year. He also expressed his thanks for many other projects of heritage that the American Embassy is assisting and will assist in the future as well. Minister expressed his readiness on deepening the cooperation between MCYS and the Embassy, as well as other partners providing valuable contribution in this respect. Except heritage, Minister Krasniqi highly appreciated the assistance of the American Embassy for sport in Kosova, especially, for the promotion of football for girls, by supporting different football clubs, as well as organizing seminars and meetings with the aim of experience exchange.

From her side, the Ambassador Jacobson congratulated Minister for the work carried out so far in all fields covered by MCYS, especially, in heritage. Jacobson said that the United States of America will further continue to support Kosova in the future as well. The Ambassador reconfirmed that the support of the United States of America in other projects of heritage will continue in the following next year as well.



Kosovo adopts the strategy against forgery and piracy

In his speech to the Government's Cabinet, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi said that the respective document was a common goal of MCYS and all creators of the field of art.

He said that this is a very serious answering of the State for those who maltreat the copyright and other related rights in Kosova. "This document of a special significance, through the establishment of the Task Force against forgery and piracy, defines many parties, such as institutions as well as non-governmental bodies, who will jointly work with the aim of avoiding barriers so that creators enjoy the rewards of their efforts. The best practices of EU legislation have been reviewed and consulted to for the establishment of this Task Force stated minister Krasniqi.

From year 2011, a new Law on Copyright and Other Related

Rights was drafted, and since then important steps have been undertaken, such as the approval of the regulation on licensing collective associations for administration of copyright. Two associations such as APIK that administers musical creativity and VAPIK administering the film creativity have been licensed the current year.

Upon the approval of the strategy, concrete steps are expected to be undertaken very soon with the aim of protecting the original creativity.

On the other hand, the boxer Nuri Seferi congratulated Minister Krasniqi for the hard work on supporting sport, while thanking Minister for the warm welcoming as well. Seferi said that the support by the Institutions and people as well is an additional motivation for him in order to continue working with the aim of scoring even greater results in the international arena.

Kosovo is offering equal opportunities for all



Sport unites people with each other, and the work carried out by people with special needs proves this best. So, said today, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi at the presentation of brochure of the pre-Olympic Committee of Kosova. At this ceremony were also present the French Ambassador in Prishtina, Jean Francois Fitou, the Italian Ambassador in Prishtina, Michael Giffoni, as well as the representatives of local and international Institutions. Minister Krasniqi said that MCYS will continue to be the principal sustainer of the pre-Olympic Committee of Kosova, as it also was so far. He highly appreciated the work carried out by the respective Committee. "The brochure you are issuing today could be a small step, but it is an initiative to be highly appreciated as we lacked such initiative so far and undoubtedly it will also be a good way of awareness for all citizens as well as those with special needs in order to enable their integration in the democratic society of Kosova. I am aware of the challenges but undoubtedly, we marked a considerable progress. We are working hard in order to offering everybody feeling equal in our society and have the opportunity

to realize their needs", said Minister, while expressing his thanks to all other partners who assisted pre-Olympic Committee as well. The French Ambassador in Prishtinë, Jean Francois Fitou said that people with special needs have the necessity to be seen the work carried out by them and their passion as well. At this occasion, he appealed to media on representation of the activities of pre-Olympic Committee of Kosova as much as possible. "They are a significant part of our society. They are equal to us and they deserve our respect", he said. Meanwhile, the Chairperson of the pre-Olympic Committee of Kosova, Njozma Emini expressed her thanks to MCYS for the support provided in every aspect. She spoke regarding the issue of brochure and as she also said, the publication of the brochure aims the awareness of persons with special needs regarding sport and their integration in the democratic society of Kosova. "This brochure has inspiration and motivation features with respect to persons with special needs and it will be a guide for their activities", she said.

Minister Krasniqi met the veteran athlete Muhamet Rama



Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi has welcomed in a meeting today the veteran athlete Muhamet Rama, who broke two Balkan records for veterans, in the discipline of 800 and 1500m at the 21st Balkan Championship which was held on 21 – 23 September in Izmir, Turkey. In 800 meters he ran 2:34.20 whereas the record was 2:36.4 that was held by the Turkish athlete Aziz Londer since 1992. In the discipline of 1500 meters Rama ran 5:16.12 where the previous record was held by

the Greek athlete Theodosiov Giorgos since 1999 with the time 5:22.46. Minister Krasniqi congratulated Rama for the record of successes within a ten year period that he has been engaged in athletics while he assessed him to being a very good example of a hard work and a high commitment towards sports. He also congratulated the Federation of Athletics of Kosova and the Association of veteran athletes of Kosova on their work and results they have achieved at this competition and other competitions as well.

In Izmir have participated 8 athletes from Kosova, and two among them have broken two Balkans records and brought 11 medals, 2 gold, 4 silver and 5 bronze. Minister said that MCYS will continue supporting the athletics sport in order to achieve even greater successes. On the other hand, the athlete Muhamet Rama thanked minister Krasniqi for his continuous support given at every competition and after each success. Rama said that he still has the willpower to do athletics and he is a big fan of many other sports as well.

Memorandum on drafting Local Plans for Cultural Heritage



The Understanding Memorandum for the Program “Local Plans of Cultural Heritage 2012-2015” was signed between the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, Cultural Heritage Without Borders, Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning as well as seven Municipalities such as Gjilan, Gjakovë, Vushtrri, Kaçanik, Partesh, Dragash and Rahovec.

By a collaboration of all these institutions the Local Plans of the Cultural Heritage will be prepared, and they will identify the resources of the cultural and natural heritage that will serve as the basis for the economic and social development of the community. Such plans will have the form of a list of activities and projects, as a result of coordination of the relevant institutions. Signing of the Memorandum on drafting Local Plans of Cultural Heritage derives from the MCYS engagement and its cooperation with CHwB.

Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports,

Memli Krasniqi, said that the respective document will be a good basis for all in order to enhance our concrete steps at local level as well in the view of preservation and cultural heritage. “I would say that Local Plans of Cultural Heritage are a necessary step to be undertaken”.

They will assist us to manage this field much better and will provide an additional framework of coordination among us. Heritage is a priority of the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports and our goal is municipalities to play a significant role for realization of general plans in this domain. MCYS will be ready at any time to provide municipalities with necessary cooperation in our engagements to preserve our common treasure.

Municipalities should see heritage as one of the great potentials for the economic development as heritage consists one of the main components of tourism, particularly in Kosova”, he said,

while thanking the Swedish Government for the support provided to Kosova for several years in the field of heritage. From his side, Minister of Environment and Spatial Planning, Dardan Gashi expressed the support of the Ministry he leads to contribute on drafting and implementation of these plans.

He added that through this Memorandum the legal framework for cultural heritage and spatial planning is supplemented even more. Sali Shoshi, director of CHwB in Kosova, expressed his thanks to MCYS and other Institutions for cooperation provided in this initiative. He said that through Local Plans of Cultural Heritage will be addressed the immediate needs, and simultaneously, will be drawn a long term vision for cultural and natural heritage. Signing of the Memorandum on drafting Local Plans of Cultural Heritage derives from the engagement of MCYS and its cooperation with CHwB.

Our Lady Helper Chatholic Church – Prizren, XIX century



Mirusha Waterfall, Klina, Kosovo

