

Kosovo's Culture, Youth and Sport

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NEWSLETTER



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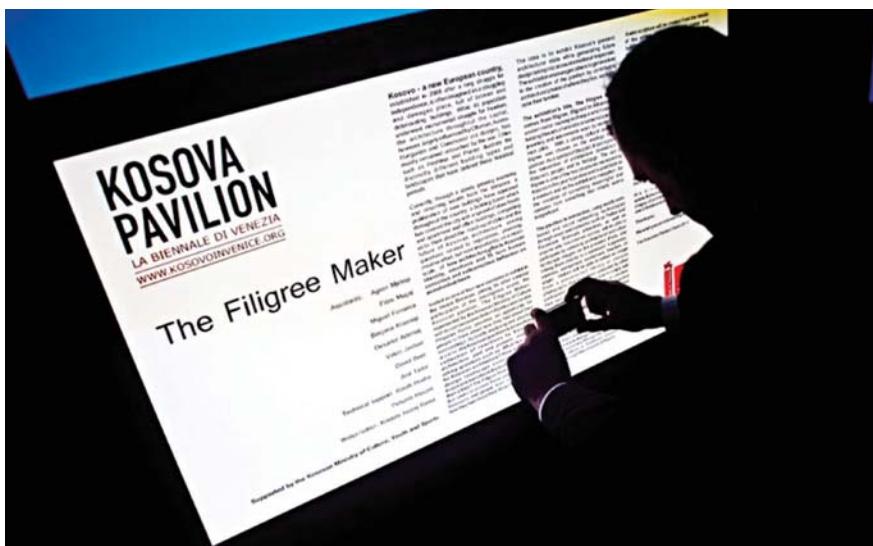
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Kosovo and Albania with a Common Cultural Calendar

Kosovo and Albania will have a common annual cultural calendar. in Tirana, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi and Minister of Culture of the Republic of Albania,

Mirela Kumbaro – Furxhi, signed the Protocol of Cooperation in the field of culture, and whereby established the Common Cultural Calendar.

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Kosovo again participates in the Architecture Exhibition in Biennale of Venice. Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi, made a decision to appoint the Commissioner and the Advisory Board.

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Ethnological Museum, Gjakova





Gëzim Paçarizi, Curator and Ron Arad, Special Advisor to Kosovo Pavilion at the Venice Biennale

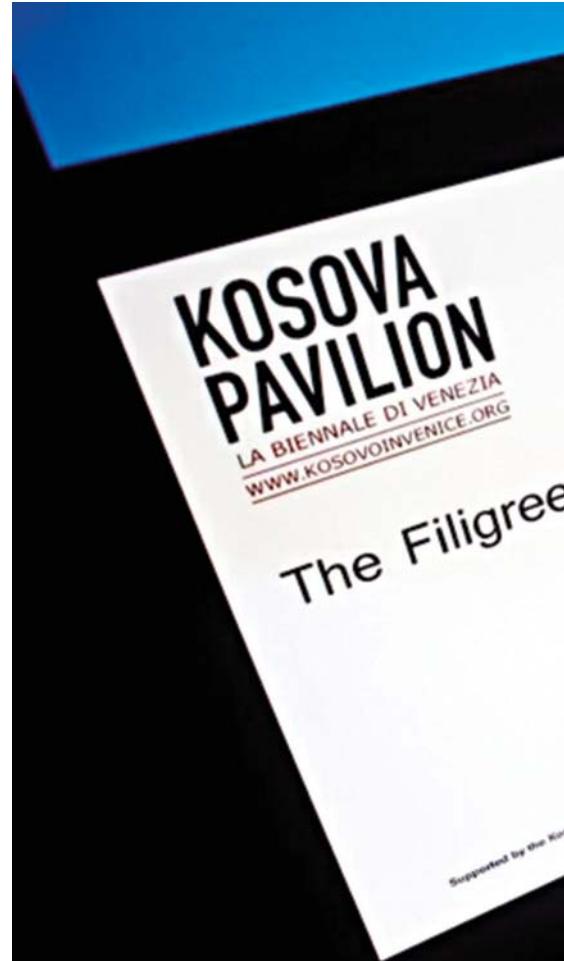
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The Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports is appointed as the Commissioner of the Republic of Kosovo for the Architecture Exhibition in the Biennale of Venice 2014.

While famous Kosovar architect, Gëzim Paçarizi, shall be the Curator of the Pavilion of the Republic of Kosovo in the Exhibition of Architecture in the Biennale of Venice. Mr. Paçarizi is nominated by the Secretary General of the

Ministry of Youth and Sports in Kosovo, Veton Firzi, in accordance with the previous decision of Minister Memli Krasniqi on the participation of Kosovo in the Biennale of Venice in the Exhibition of Architecture, and after the proposals made by the Advisory Board, nominated through the decision of the Minister. The Advisory Board consists of: Ilir Gjinolli, Ilir Mursejli, Gjeokane Hoxha, Florina Jerliu and Përparim Rama.

Gëzim Paçarizi studied architecture in Prishtina and Geneva. He



has been working in Switzerland and also in Kosovo for several years in the field of architecture. He participated in many international exhibitions of architecture and different conferences.

The curator has a duty to create ideas, develop and implement the concept of exhibition. The curator should be ready to work closely with the Commissioner to implement the concept in exhibition and is the author of the idea and concept of exhibition.

Alias, recently, Ron Arad, one of the most famous architects of the world, is nominated Special Advisor of the Pavilion of Kosovo in the Exhibition of Architecture in the Biennale of Venice, which is going to be held this year. The decision of his nomination was made by Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi.

Special advisor, based on the decision shall advise the Curator of the Pavilion at every stage.

Arad is a British architect



Ron Arad

born in Israel. His architecture office is located in London. He has been estimated as unique for his work, which is mainly based on metals. Except the architecture, Ron Arad is one of the outstanding figures in the field of industrial design.

Advisory Board, in line with the decision, shall make 3 up to 5 proposals to the Commissioner for the potential curator.

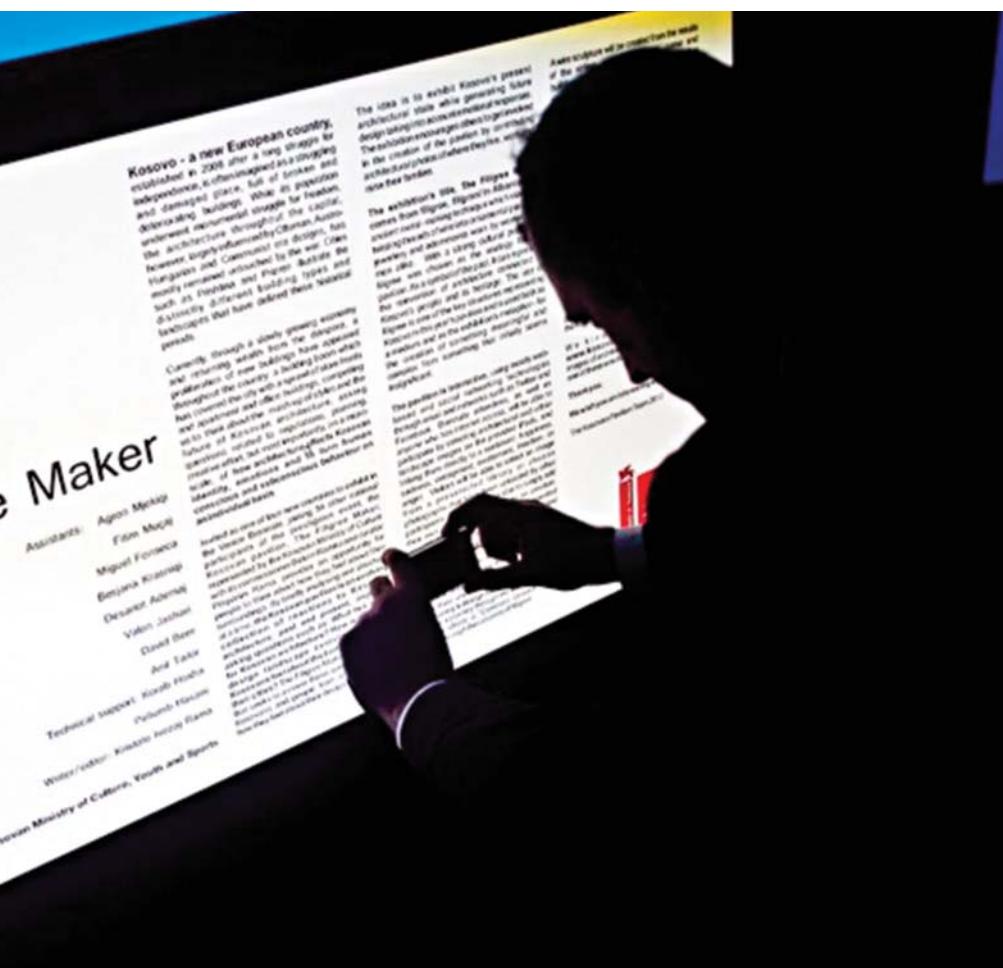
The Board shall pay full attention to the Curator and Commissioner, regardless whether it is professional or technical, if they are requested to do so.

The Commissioner is obliged to work closely with the Curator and support the execution of the project, manage the project, manage the budget including also the potential donations, search and contract the potential locations for placing the exhibition, communicate with journalists and officials of Biennale as well as offer administrative support.

The Commissioner shall offer its support to creative processes for the implementation of the project, as per the request of the Curator, and also be available to the Curator, assisting him/her from the development of the idea up to its final presentation.

Expenses for the organization of exhibition will be covered by the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, including also the coordination of potential donations. MCYS is also the Commissioner of Pavilion.

This is the third time that Kosovo takes part in the Biennale of Venice, and the second time in the Exhibition of Architecture. ■





Kosovo and Albania with a Common Cultural Calendar

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Protocol of Cooperation shall be applicable for the next four years, with the possibility of amendment. The Common Calendar was approved for 2014, whereas, it shall be amended each year.

The Protocol of Cooperation and the establishment of Common Cultural Calendar follow several meetings held in Prishtina and Tirana since September 2013 and the meeting of two governments in January 2014.

Minister Memli Krasniqi welcomed the Protocol of Cooperation and the establishment of Cultural Calendar as a new stage of cooperation between the two countries.

Minister Krasniqi stated that "Today's meeting undoubtedly marked a new stage for our two countries and for our nation in general. Our cultural cooperation is of crucial importance, where there is a special engagement of our two Prime-Ministers. The joint meeting of our two governments was a historical step, whereby, also other steps in different fields of cooperation, besides culture, are materialized. I would say, there is nothing separating them any longer, referring to Kosovo and Albania, even in physical means. Now, this potential that we posses in the scene of cultural-artistic tradition, but also in many other fields, should be developed and, meanwhile, in

full coordination be protected by us", while adding further that the Common Cultural Calendar shall be a joint commitment of the two governments towards the culture.

He stated that "they endeavored to give priority to several aspects, such as: protection of values and tradition, strengthening the cultural scene in our social life, promotion of our cultural scenes and, of course, opening the way for new generations to create values, always bearing in mind the whole generations of artists that have built the real image of our nation".

Minister Krasniqi invited Minister Kumbaro and other heads of cultural institutions of Albania to come to Kosovo from tomorrow and celebrate together the sixth anniversary of the Independence of Kosovo.

On the other side, Minister Kumbaro-Furxhi said that this cooperation linkage was not simply declarative but rather a concrete step.

She stated that "Today, they had come together to make a step forward towards knowing each other, in our relationships, exchange of ideas and experiences. We are here together not only for declarations, but rather for a common cultural project, for our actions, for our public here and there, for the men of art, for a range of common cultural heritage. I feel that our common project is a circulation of common values, exchange of experiences in the management of the institutions of art".

Kumbaro – Furxhi further stated that culture is our common space and that there are no limits in engagement and concrete actions.

Minister Krasniqi and Minister





Kumbaro - Furxhi also paid homage at the grave of well-known Albanian singer Vace Zela.

The Common Cultural Calendar shall begin tomorrow with the exhibition Marubi: A movable objective of an archive in the Kosovo National Gallery.

The Common Cultural Calendar starts from 14 February.

The exhibition of Marubi Photo-archive in cooperation with Prishtina Art Gallery: "Movable Objective of an archive" – 14 February 2014, in Prishtina.

The manifestation for children "Princesha Teuta" (Princess Teuta) and folk songs and dancing, poetry of National Children Centre, Tirana, will be in Prizren on 17 February 2014.

Films of the archive of both countries will be played for the anniversaries of Kosovo and Albania Independence, respectively in February and November, in Prishtina and Tirana.

The full work of Jeronim De Rada is published associated with the promoting activity in Kozanca, Tirana and Prishtina. Anthology of Albanian poetry of XX century will be published, supported by both ministers. Today we declare the mutual commitment on the support of Festival of Gjirokastra in 2015. Following the commitment of both governments, Doku Fest is also a part of this Calendar. Corps of Ballet and Prishtina soloists of Ballet Theater come



for the first time in Tirana, in March, with the play "Dashuria që vret" ("Love that Kills"). "Ballo e Diplomes" (Diploma Ball) play will also come from Prishtina.

The concrete engagement in including artists from Kosovo in TKOB projects in Tirana. Cultural Calendar includes a common space for films in prestigious festivals as Berlinale and Cannes in 2015.

National Children Centre will organize a manifestation "Dy trëndafila një kurorë" (Two Roses a Garland) in Prishtina and Tirana, in September.

Exhibition of Simon Shiroka will be organized in the visual art in Tirana.

An exhibition of Socialist Realization in Pristina. Annual conference on material

and non-material cultural heritage with specific themes will be held once in Prishtina and once in Albania.

Common trainings held by specialists of UNESCO and other organizations.

Trainings held by National Library of Tirana for specialists from Prishtina.

Participation of representatives from Kosovo in activities of the Archaeological Services Agency. Common premiere and choreographic production of the ensemble of folk songs and dancing and Shota ensemble "Pazari i Korçës dhe Prizrenit" (Korca and Prizren Bazaar).

The last is the demonstration of a premiere of National Theatres in Tirana and Pristina.

Conference on Dramaturgy in Tirana. ■

18 thousand Euros for Olympic and Paralympic Hopes



Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi distributed scholarships for Olympic and Paralympic Hopes for 10 athletes as recommended by Kosovo Olympic Committee. Distribution of scholarships which took place for the first time was conducted pursuant to Regulation no. 03/2013 on Olympic and Paralympic Hopes, as adopted last year.

Each athlete benefiting the scholarship shall receive the financial means in value of 150 Euros a month, in duration of 1 year, thus in total the amount allocated to hopes is 18000 Euro.

Minister Krasniqi qualified this year beginning as a successful one for Kosovo sports. Following the news from FIFA, he considers that another good moment is also allotment of these scholarships to these athletes.

"Should the saying 'the good day is noticed in the morning' is valid, then we may say that this year is going to be a very good one for our athletes. Several days ago we received good news for football, and today we gathered here for a very important event, and which is happening for the first time,

for distribution of scholarships to Olympic and Paralympic hopes", the minister said.

Minister also expressed his pleasure that now based on the law, the youth is encouraged to deal with sports and he also congratulated the trainers of federation, thus sharing the message to them to work zealously promising that the support shall grow further, thus making possible the breaking of isolation and creating possibilities that the talent of hopes of sports of our country be represented in international competitions and to make our citizens feel even prouder. "I am very pleased that this has been regulated by law, the state awards and the permanent support. You have jointly shown even more amazing results, and now the state is doing its own duty towards you", minister Krasniqi said.

Whereas, the President of Kosovo Olympic Committee, Besim Hasani, expressed that last year was a successful year for sports in Kosovo. Five awards have been distributed for success achieved in sports, followed also with distribution of these 10 scholarships for hopes and young athletes.

Whereas the President of Kosovo Paralympic Committee, Njomza Emini, said that the initiative for support to persons with disabilities is a good thing and also expected that the state is doing for them. She thanked the minister and officials of the ministry that for the first time, in legal basis they are allocating financial means also for the athletes with disabilities.

On the name of athletes benefiting from this scholarship, the swimmer Rita Zeqiri expressed pleasure for this support the state is allocating for them. "This support makes us work even harder, and it is an additional encouragement for us to achieve more successes in the future", Zeqiri said.

Athletes benefiting in this scholarship program of Olympic and Paralympic hopes that were financially supported by this program are the following: Medina Surdulli – swimmer; Rita Zeqiri – swimmer; Vijona Kryeziu – athlete; Milot Rashica – football player; Armend Gjogaj – boxer; Dardan Syla – wrestler; Baton Çitaku – table tennis player; Hazir Asllani – archer, Akil Gjakova – judoist and Distria Krasniqi – judoist. ■



The budget increases again for cultural institutions

As it happened in the last three years, also this year the cultural institutions of Kosovo will have a budget increase. The total increase for the institutions this year will be about 20%.

Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi signed program policies for the Department

of Culture and in this occasion also the budget sum was determined for each cultural institution. The National Library, too, from this year will be under the subordination of MCYS, but this institution has its own budgetary code and hence the budget was allocated for it at the moment of the approval of

Budget 2014.

There will be increase of the budget also for the subsidies part and this will be reflected in the support of independent cultural operators' activities of the country.

Further, the budget will be increased also for the books. This year MCYS allocated 100 thousand Euros, which will be divided into three categories by the Book Council: financing publishing new books, purchase of the books of the last two years and support of the literary magazines. The purchased books will be distributed to municipal libraries, as it was the case in the last year.

Minister Krasniqi appreciated the budget increase as a dignified care towards cultural institutions, cultural activities in Kosovo, creators and publishers. Hereby, broader opportunities are created for composition and richer cultural programs for this year. ■

The Budget for cultural institutions shall be as follows:

- National Library - 600 thousand Euros
- Kosovo Cinematographic Centre - 700 thousand Euros
- National Theatre of Kosovo - 330 thousand Euros
- Kosovo Philharmonic - 250 thousand Euros
- Kosovo Ballet - 160 thousand Euros
- Kosovo National Gallery - 160 thousand Euros
- 'Shota' Ensemble - 140 thousand Euros
- 'Qafa' Gallery - 25 thousand Euros
- Kosovo film - 10 thousand Euros

The Statement of Minister Krasniqi regarding FIFA's decision related to international friendly matches for Kosovo



A very first and important step was made in the internationalization of Kosovo's football. I have now been officially informed about FIFA's decision regarding the international friendly matches for Kosovo, inclusive of attendant modalities, which marks a progress for Kosovo in contrast to the earlier decision, decried by both the Kosovo Football Federation and the Government of the Republic of Kosovo.

I believe that decision is a victory for Kosovo's

football, especially as it will be officially introduced to the international stage and has now embarked on a safe journey towards full membership.

I wish to congratulate all football players of all ages and bid them success in future. With hard work and dignified appearances they are given a chance to display their skills and qualities in order to become members of major international clubs, just as their many peers from Kosovo have already done.

I urge all football players, clubs and Kosovo Football Federation to work even hard in organizing competitions inside Kosovo, as a basis for building a successful national team.

I also wish to express my gratitude to all sports staff, coaches, referees, journalists and all those who, in their many years of work, managed to

sustain Kosovar football and see it through during its trying times. I especially wish to thank the President of the Kosovo Football Federation, the icon of our football, Fadil Vokrri, for extraordinary effort he made to reach this point and for his motivation to work until meeting this goal, the full membership in UEFA and FIFA.

I was close to them at every step of the way as we worked together, probing many avenues to break the isolation and will continue to work together in all the fields in future.

In recent years, the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, for the first time after the war, invested in renovating stadiums, to upgrade them to the point where international games may be hosted in them. It is clear that many challenges persist in this regard. However, we will not desist and will step up commitment to conduct quality games and create conditions equivalent to international standards.

I wish to reiterate my commitment to work relentlessly to break the isolation in sports. Already important steps have been made in many sports, but more work is in store for both the sports community of Kosovo and myself, which we pledge to carry out. ■



FIFA





CLOCK TOWER, PRIZREN

Agim Vinca winner of the National Literary Award 'Azem Shkreli' for lifetime achievement

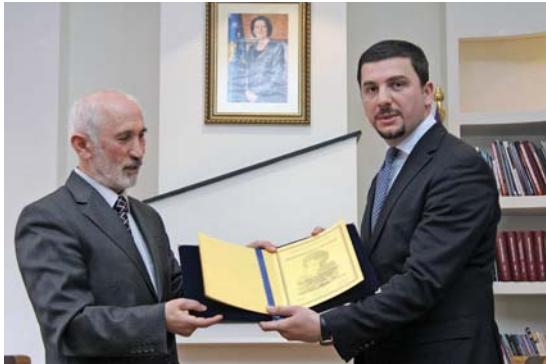
Poet and researcher, Agim Vinca is a laureate of National Literary Award on 'Azem Shkreli' Life Work. In a solemn ceremony, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport, Memli Krasniqi granted the award to Vinca and also to laureates of annual Literary Prizes for 2013.

Award for the best work of prose for 2013 was granted to Drenusha Zajmi - Hoxha for her novel 'Krrokamat'.

Award for the best work in poetry was granted to Adem Gashi for his poem "Kthimi i Pamundur, Lady" (The impossible Return, Lady), and Sabit Rrustemi for his volume "Murele Shpirti" (Spirit Murals).

Award for the best literary criticism was granted to Merxhan Avdyli for his summary of researches 'Dritësimë letrarë' (Literary Illuminations) and Flamur Maloku for his research 'Polisemia of the work: empiric readings of the poetry of Sali Bashota'.

Whereas, the award for the best work translated into Albanian or from Albanian into other languag-



es was granted to Izet Sylaj for his translation from French into Albanian of the novel 'Tregoju përbetejat, mbretërit dhe elefantët' (Tell them about the battles, kings and elephants') of the author Mathias Enard.

Minister Krasniqi praised the creations of the laureates, and specifically the contribution of Agim Vinca in literature, journalism but also in the University of Prishtina, where he works as a professor.

He said that the state has institutionalised the care towards creators in many fields of culture. "Granting the Award on National Literary for Life Work 'Azem Shkreli' and Annual Awards on

Literature that is conducted every year, is a special day. MCYS is institutionalising the respect for artists and creators. Besides awards on literature, we have founded and granted also awards on cinematography, theatre, music. We are increasing the support on books every year. I believe that it is important that we created a trend of budget increase", stated further Minister Krasniqi.

On the other side, Agim Vinca said that he feels himself honoured for the award, showing his gratitude to MCYS and the jury. He spoke that the writer Azem Shkreli has been an inspiration for him.

He stated that "A man regardless of his age believes that he is going to write his best work in future. Literary Awards provide the work and creation with even more echo and this is not little".

National Literary Award 'Azem Shkreli' on Life Work reaches the financial value of 5000 € (five thousand Euros), whereas each annual award is 2500 € (two thousand five hundred Euros). ■





Marubi, a multidimensional confession on the culture and life of Albanian nation

This evening, Kosovo National Gallery is filled up with crowd. The exhibition of "Marubi" was opened there: movable objective of an archive, which was organised in cooperation with National Photo Archive "Marubi" in Shkodra. This exhibition which brings about 250 photos, has marked also the beginning of the application of Common Cultural Calendar Kosovo – Albania and official celebrations for the 6th anniversary of Kosovo Independence.

In the opening of the exhibition

present were minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi and Minister of Culture of the Republic of Albania, Mirela Kumbaro – Furxhi, as well as many artists from Kosovo and Albania.

Minister Krasniqi stated that the exhibition of Marubi is one of the most special cultural events in Kosovo, even more as it also marks the beginning of the Common Cultural Calendar.

Further, Minister Krasniqi stated that Marubi is a multidimensional confession on Albanian



nation, since it presents artistic values and also the way of living throughout generations. The whole collection consisting of hundreds and thousands photos is a heritage in itself for us.

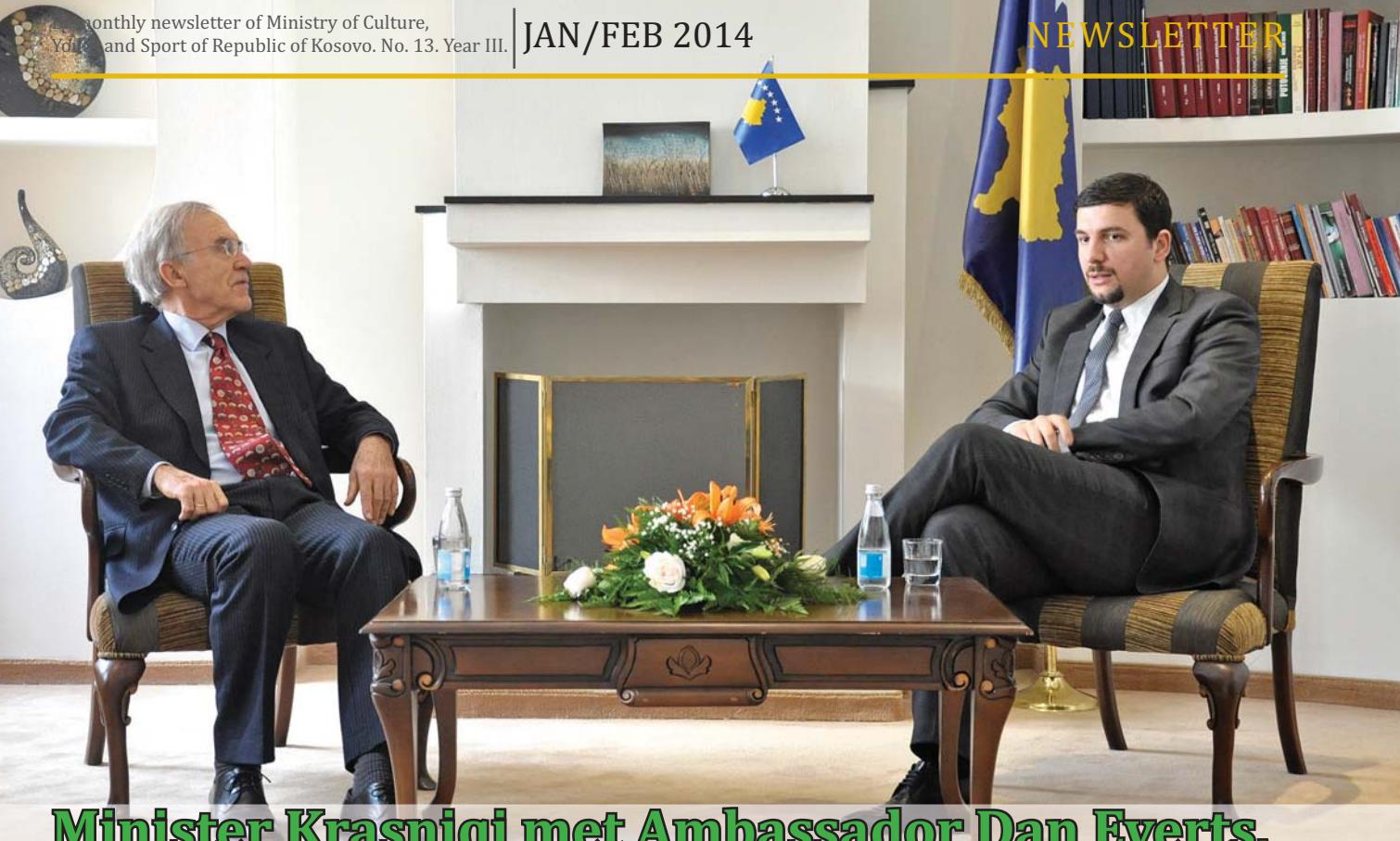
On the other side, Minister Kumbaro – Furxhi stated that Kosovo and Albania are marking new steps in cultural cooperation. She stated that Marubi photo archive shall be turned into a museum, and thus it should be a very important institution for Albanian culture. ■





CEILING WOODEN ORNAMENT, GJILAN





Minister Krasniqi met Ambassador Dan Everts, representative of Sports for Children

Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi, hosted in a meeting the former Chief of OSCE Mission for Kosovo, Ambassador Dan Everts, who is visiting Kosovo, as a representative of Foundation of Sports for Children (SfC), with its main office in Netherlands.

This Foundation aims at supporting various states in the field of school sports. The support is orientated mainly at schools, where as a donation, different sports equipment is given.

Ambassador Everts informed the minister that this foundation has supported three schools in Kosovo, "Sami Frashëri" gymnasium in Prishtina, "Frang Bardhi" gymnasium in Mitrovica and the primary school "Emin Duraku" in Shtime.

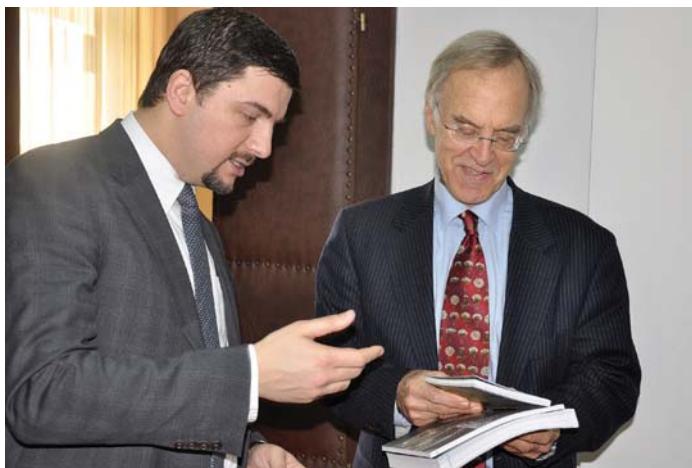
Minister Krasniqi thanked the former ambassador Everts for the help and contribution of SfC foundation. He appreciated the engagement of Kosovo friend, Dan Everts, and

expressed his pleasure for the support provided in the school sports. He also informed the former ambassador for the work and achievements which have been made in the field of culture, youth and particularly in sports. Minister added that Kosovo is working to significantly improve the infrastructure of sports, and the entire legislation in order to harmonise it with the best international practices. The minister in addition said that Kosovo has many talented young people, and this support for the three schools is an incentive for those dealing more with sports.

"The Government of Kosovo, the school sports is in its priorities for sports, thus it will help on affirmation and discovering new talents as sports is considered as a strong means of peace and union", minister said.

While, former ambassador Everts, said that he feels pleased to be in Kosovo again, and he sees progressive changes. He appreciated the efforts made in Kosovo for enhancement, in this case also for the school sports. Everts considered that the work with the young generations in order to motivate them to deal with sports means a lot for Kosovo, thus, in the future, the country will be presented with many qualities in the competitions, and various world sports events.

Minister and ambassador Everts agreed to continue the cooperation in the future on benefit of advancement of school sports, and through it to motivate the youth to deal with sports and to zealously work in the future too. ■



Inauguration of renovations in the Sports Hall at Youth Palace in Prishtina



The Sports Hall in Youth Palace in Prishtina now has a new look. It has new seats for fans, telescopic seats in the official part and also new baskets placed on the flour. This renovation was enabled from an investment of over 115 thousand Euros by the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports.

The inauguration of renovations was made by Minister Memli Krasniqi, where present were also managers of the Palace and officials of clubs who organize competitions and trainings in this hall.

Minister Krasniqi stated that the renovation of the hall is a

service that is accomplished not solely for Prishtina but to all athletes of Kosovo.

He said "This is a sign that we are committed to improve conditions in sports on behalf of not only sportsmen/women but for the whole public. It is a pleasure to have the opportunity to create fairly condign and dignified conditions", while he added further that MYCS has similarly invested also in the Hall "1 Tetori", which is now used for sports and cultural activities.

The Minister states further that it is the first time MCYS invests also in the stadiums all over Kosovo and in the existing halls, too, but also in building new halls. With regard to Prishtina, the Minister mentioned that in this year it is planned to start building the auxiliary football stadium, Olympic pool and Youth Centre. Moreover, he stated that MYCS is ready to distribute means also for the renovation of the stadium in the city, but it expects cooperation also from the Municipality of Prishtina.

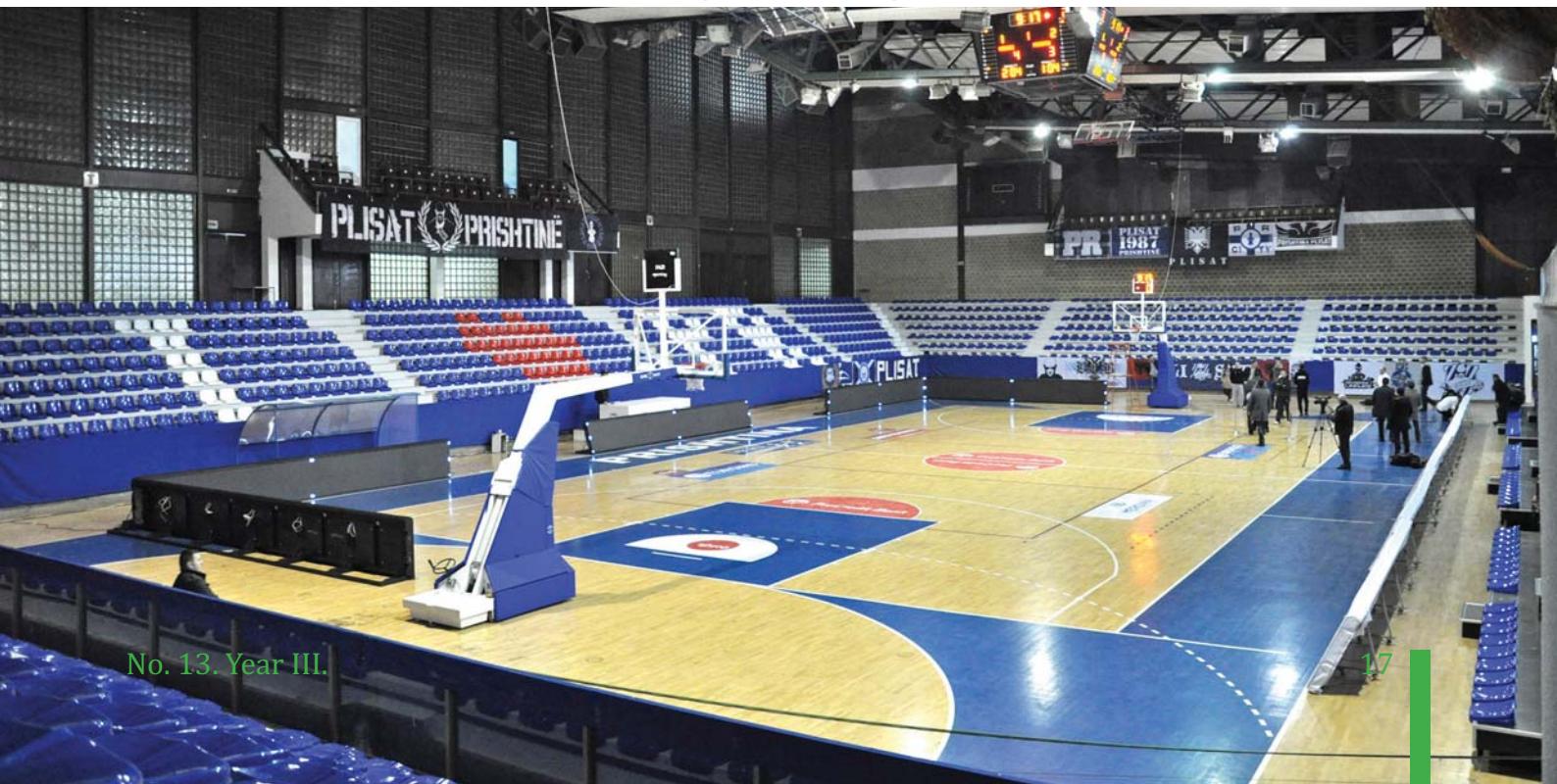
On the other side, Bajram Ukaj, the General Director of the Youth Palace thanked the Minister for the support, highly appreciating this



investment. He claimed that this is the first time after more than 30 years that it has been invested in this hall.

Ukaj estimated this as very important for the sport and public in general. He said that the management shall fulfill its obligations to increase efficiency of maintaining the hall.

Also the directors of basketball, handball, football clubs and other sports, highly appreciated this investment of significant importance for the affirmation of sportsmen/women, holding races with conditions in line with international standards. ■



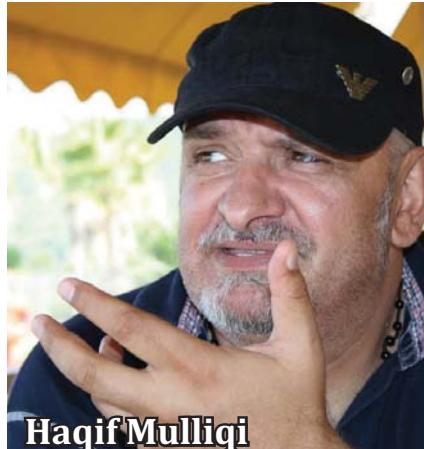
Steering Council of the National Theatre of Kosovo Appointed



Fadil Hysaj



Igballe Qena

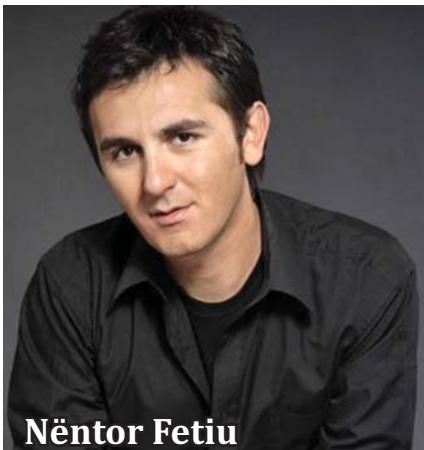


Haqif Mulliqi



National Theatre of Kosovo has now its new Steering Council. Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi, based on the competences he is delegated by the Law on Theatres, pursuant to Article 11, paragraphs 1, 2, 5 and 6 made the decision to appoint the new Steering Council of National Theatre, which is going to have the following composition for the four coming years:

Fadil Hysaj
Igballe Qena
Haqif Mulliqi
Nëntor Fetiu
Naser Shatrolli



Nëntor Fetiu



Naser Shatrolli



Visare Aliu and Ahmet Brahimaj, representative from MCYS.

Steering Council, based on the Law on Theatres has the following responsibilities:

supervises the work of theatre; approval of long term policies for theatre development and artistic policy; with proposal of the general director, approves the annual budget of theatre; upon proposal by artistic manager and in concordance with the annual budget approves the annual artistic program of the theatre; reviews and adopts the annual financial report

of the theatre; drafts and proposes the status, regulations and other sublegal acts of the theatre which are approved by the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports; inter-



Ahmet Brahimaj

views candidates and appoints the general director and the artistic manager; initiates procedure and dismisses the general director and the artistic manager. ■



Visare Aliu

Deputy Minister Abazi at the Kosovo Youth Assembly



A solemn session was held on the establishment of Kosovo Youth Assembly in the Municipal Assembly of Prishtina, which occasion was attended by the Deputy Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports Hajdin Abazi. He wished success for their work and claimed that MCYS constantly supports and prioritizes the youth as the main asset of the country.

The Deputy Minister Abazi emphasized that MCYS, as in every other country where relevant ministries operate, has projects and programs through which encourage youth to be a part of different decision-making processes.

Further, Abazi stated that a solid legal framework has already been created for the Youth Sector, encouraging it in the creation and support of mechanisms for the increase of youth participation in state-building processes. He mentioned that MCYS has compiled the Kosovo Youth Strategy 2013-2017 and the Action Plan 2013-2015.

"Kosovo Youth Assembly as a youthful circuit is of significant importance in representing the rights of the youth and is an important partner in increasing the participation of the youth in decision-making processes with which the De-

partment of Youth has cooperated many times up to now".

This solemn session was also attended by representatives of different local institutions, ambassadors and other representatives from civil society and NGOs.

Meanwhile, the Deputy Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Hajdin Abazi, welcomed in a meeting the president of the Indo-Kosovar Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Anil Mirsha and the Kosovar representative of this Chamber Besim Jashari, who disclosed the goals of IKCHC, among which two ideas were of certain importance: the idea of the Film City and that of the cricket sport.

Both of these initial ideas besides of business investing aspect also enable swaps in cultural and sports spheres, as well as approximation between two nations and two countries, and it also enables our country to be promoted via sports.

The Deputy Minister Abazi expressed his pleasure for this initiation of IKCHC, regarding it as a good possibility to continue cultural connections between two nations, connections which were very close in the 60s-70s of the previous century, at least form the virtual aspect via broadcasting movies from India, tradition which continues to nowadays but needs to be extended.

Moreover, Deputy Minister Abazi appraised these two ideas, which if become true would create strong bridges of cooperation. The Deputy Minister also stated that "MCYS is open for cooperation in culture and sports field, therefore, he compliments this initiative and welcomes specific proposals through projects".

While, Mr. Anil Mishra, emphasized that he is pleased with the opportunity for the two countries to cooperate with each other and hopes it to be extended even more via concrete projects and exchange of experiences from the field of culture and sport. ■



Minister Krasniqi met former French football player, Alain Giresse

Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi hosted in a meeting the selector of Senegal and former famous French football player, now trainer of the national team of Senegal, Alain Giresse. In the meeting, Fadil Vokrri the President of Kosovo Football Federation (KFF) was also present.

Giresse is staying for a visit in Kosovo in capacity of a guest in the ceremony of announcing the best football players of the year organised by Kosovo Football Federation, but also to be better informed of the developments in Kosovo regarding football.

Minister Krasniqi notified Mr. Giresse regarding the support that the state is giving for football and sports in general, thus informing him also about the successes and challenges the football of Kosovo is facing. He also thanked for the support given to Kosovo towards internationalisation and requested from him to continue with the support for Kosovo for membership in UEFA, FIFA and other institutions.

In addition, minister Krasniqi said that France is a friend of Kosovo, and that the Football Federation of France has shown a high level cooperation in the visit that the minister and the President of federation Mr. Vokrri had in December 2013.

Minister spoke also about the priorities in sports, where he highly estimated the role of KFF towards internationalisation of football.

Whereas the former football player Alain Giresse, expressed his pleasure for the visit in Kosovo and thanked the minister for the meeting and the work he is doing for the football and for the aims toward internationalisation. He expressed his optimism that FIFA is going to give positive response for Kosovo. ■



Gymnastics Federation is licensed – School Sports is a priority

Kosovo now has the Gymnastics Federation as well. Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi handed over the license to President of this Federation, Besim Halilaj.

Minister Krasniqi appraised the foundation and licensing of this Federation as of a substantial importance for the sport and youth in Kosovo, since the gymnastics is a distinguished sport which interrelates with other sports, too.

He stated that MCYS shall support the activities of this Federation, aiming to have as much youngsters as possible who engage in sports.

On the other side, President Besim Halilaj expressed his gratitude to Minister Krasniqi for the support that MCYS offered during foundation and licensing process, as well as for the readiness shown to support activities inside and outside of Kosovo.

He informed the Minister about the plans scheduled for this year and the following ones.

Today, Minister Krasniqi also met the heads of School Sports Federation. He congratulated them for their engagement in spreading the sport in Kosovo and promotion of talents via school competitions.

The Minister stated that school sports have been of MCYS's priority since 2011 and shall remain likewise in the future, too. He encouraged the heads of this Federation for even greater commitment in order to involve as many schools as possible in the official activities of the Federation and for a better organization, too.

President of School Sports Federation, Enver Hajdini thanked the Minister for his great support offered as well as for his commitment for the athletes to be taken care of from the state. He added that giving priority to school sports has influenced both municipalities and schools appreciating the sport as of much greater importance. He notified that competitions are spreading each year and their quality is constantly increasing. ■





Handball a good model of work

The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi had a meeting with the President of Kosovo Handball Federation, Eugen Saracini, together with other heads of the Federation. The handball Federation marks the 60th anniversary of its foundation.

Minister Krasniqi congratulated the heads of KHF for its 60th anniversary, acknowledging it as a symbol of a long sports journey of Kosovo and a tradition that brought work and results. He expressed his honour for many personalities who for many years, since its foundation, have worked for the development and affirmation of this sport.

While congratulating KHF for the decision of European Handball Federation made a few days ago allowing friendly matches for Kosovo, the Minister stated that "Handball in Kosovo is a good model of work and it demonstrates also the results the Federation has achieved in the international arena, but in the development of this sport in Kosovo as well". He stated that MCYS shall continue to support KHF in its further steps, too, until its full entrance in the European Federations and World

Handball Federation.

Minister Krasniqi stated that "I believe that this decision will be a great booster for all of them who work for greater success. I shall continue to offer my full support and the support shall never be lacking from the Government of the Republic of Kosovo, too. The decision of EHF is a clear signal that the unjust isolation of the sport of Kosovo is being broken day by day".

Eugen Saracini, the President of KHF, thanked the Minister for his welcome and continuous sup-

port for the activities inside and outside Kosovo, as well as for his assistance in the internationalisation of handball. He spoke about the achievements and challenges through which the handball has passed in these 60 years, and also for the plans and work that they are going to do for spreading, development and internationalisation of the sport. Saracini stated that this year they are waiting for good news as far as the entrance in the European Handball Federation is concerned. ■





Minister Krasniqi met the Turkish singer of Albanian origin, Metin Şentürk

Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi met the famous Albanian origin singer, Metin Sentürk. He also is the President of World Fund for Disabled Persons and of the World Union for Disabled Persons.

Minister Krasniqi highly qualified the up to date career and work of Sentürk, be it in music or philanthropy. He also appreciated the readiness of Mr. Sentürk to cooperate in many fields in Kosovo, providing his experience and support. Minister Krasniqi also highly appreciated the fact that the singer Sentürk has always affirmed his origin. Minister expressed the readiness of MCYS to provide support in various projects towards enhancement of culture in Kosovo, but also the support for disabled persons.

From his part, Mr. Metin Sentürk expressed the pleasure for his visit in Kosovo, and thanked the minister for his welcoming. He also appreciated the work done in the recent years for culture and its promotion. Sentürk stated that he is going to continue to stay near Kosovo, to work in various activities for art, what also contributes to integration of the society of persons with special needs. ■



Appreciation for the Japanese donation of musical instruments



Deputy Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Hajdin Abazi, has welcomed in a meeting Toshiya Abe, the representative resident in JICA Balkan Office as well as his deputy Ryuichi Ito.

Deputy Minister Abazi expressed his gratitude for the donation of Japan to the Kosovo Philharmonics, consisting of 117 musical instruments. He appreciated this aid as a very positive development which shall contribute to the work of Philharmonics.



Further, Mr. Abazi stated that MCYS is committed to work constantly to increase the support of Philharmonics in the future, too, as it did in the last three years.

Whereas, Representative of JICA for Balkan, Toshiya Abe, expressed his pleasure and gratitude for the meeting and congratulated the MCYS staff for the work accomplished in the field of culture. Japanese guests also expressed their readiness for further support in future as well. ■

Cooperation continues with Slovenia



Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi, hosted in an introductory meeting the Slovenian Ambassador accredited in Prishtina, Miljan Majhen, with whom they discussed on developments in the field of heritage, culture, sports and youth in Kosovo and for enhancement of cooperation between the two countries in this field.

Minister Krasniqi informed the ambassador Majhen on the achievements made till now in these fields, in particular in that of culture. He added that culture is one of the priorities of MCYS and a lot of effort is being made to have more achievements in the future.

He expressed the readiness for enhancement of cooperation between MCYS and Slovenian embassy, but also with other partners who are giving a precious contribution in this direction.

While the Slovenian ambassador Majhen, thanked the minister for welcoming and congratulated the minister for the work done till now in all fields covered by MCYS, in particular in culture. He emphasised that Slovenia and Kosovo will continue to be close to each other in the future too. He re-confirmed that the support of Embassy in various projects will continue in the future as well. ■



MCYS continues the support for municipalities

Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi has welcomed in separate meetings Mayor of Vushtrri Municipality, Bajram Mulaku and Mayor of Obiliq Municipality, Xhafer Gashi.

In the meeting with the Mayor of Vushtrri, they talked for different projects in the field of culture, cultural heritage and sports in this municipality. Minister Krasniqi expressed his pleasure that many projects of MCYS, but also those in cooperation with other local and international partners, have been accomplished in the last three years in Vushtrri.

He expressed his readiness to assist this Municipality in other projects as well. In the discussion, special emphasis was given to the opportunity of investment in the city stadium.

On the other side, Mayor of Vushtrri Municipality, Bajram Mulaku, expressed his gratitude to the Minister for the support he offered to this Municipality, espe-

cially in the field of cultural heritage. He informed the Minister for the works which realised in Vushtrri Municipality during the last year and for plans and projects they have for this year in the field of cultural heritage, culture and sports.

Also in the meeting with Mayor of Obiliq Municipality, Xhafer Gashi, they talked for the possibilities to cooperate in different projects. The Minister informed Mayor Gashi that the sports hall in Obiliq, which is being built by an investment of MCYS and it is expected to be completed in the next months. He stated that MCYS shall be open for cooperation also in other projects in the field of culture, youth and sports.

On his part, the Mayor of Obiliq expressed his gratitude to the Minister for the welcome and readiness to support projects in the fields covered by MCYS, hoping that the cooperation shall deepen further aiming to advance the field of culture and sports in this Municipality. ■



MCYS committed to cooperate with the Municipality of Prishtina to accomplish numerous projects for sports and youth

Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi met the Director for Culture, Youth and Sports in Municipality of Prishtina, Blerta Zeqiraj and the Director of Urbanism, Liburn Aliu, with whom he discussed for the possibilities of cooperation in various projects related to culture, youth, sports and cultural heritage. He congratulated them on their new posts and wished them good work. Minister Krasniqi expressed his full readiness for cooperation in different projects in these fields, further adding that many projects of MCYS also planned from before have remained pending as a result of negligence of the Municipality of Prishtina in the recent years.

As regards to sports, minister mentioned the requests that MCYS has sent and is going to send to the Municipality of Prishtina for designation of locations for some projects and opportunities for co-financing in different fields, at sports, culture and heritage.

He said that for this year the plan is to start building the Youth Centre, Olympic Palace, a building where the sports federations shall be accommodated. Afterwards, the



Olympic Pool, the project of which has been prepared by MCYS since 2012. In addition, the project for building an auxiliary stadium of football, with synthetic grass, similar to those financed by European Commission in some other municipalities. The one in Prishtina shall be financed by the ministry.

As for investments in the existing football stadium of Prishtina, Minister Krasniqi said that MCYS is ready to allocate financial means, but for the investments to be higher, he also requested that investments are from two sides,

meaning also from the Municipality of Prishtina.

In this meeting it was also discussed about the condition in Hamam (Public Bath) of Prishtina, and a close cooperation was requested as for the works which were completed earlier, MCYS had lots of remarks.

For the culture, in this meeting the parties agreed to have coordination especially for the traditional activities organised in Prishtina, in order to have a broader support from the central and the municipal institutions. ■





Homage paid for Vaçe Zela in Prishtina



Heads of the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, Culture Institutions in Kosovo, hundreds of artists, heads of the Embassy of the Republic of Albania and deputies of the Assembly of Kosovo came to 'Adem Jashari' Airport of Prishtina to pay homage before the coffin of the dead body of the well-known Albanian singer Vaçe Zela.

Present were also family members of the singer and artists from Albania. There was homage paid and afterwards, the coffin was set off to Tirana with state escort of the Republic of Kosovo. This ceremony was organized by MCYS.

Homage in honor of the artist Vaçe Zela will be organized on Saturday 08.02.2014 in the Nation-

al Theatre of Opera and ballet in Tirana, from 10:00 to 12:00 am.

The ceremony in honor of the artist will be organized by the Ministry of Culture of Albania and under attention of Prime-minister, Edi Rama.

Escort to the last dwelling and the mortal ceremony will be held on Saturday at 13:00, starting from the National Theatre of Opera and Ballet to rest in peace in the graveyard of Sharra.

Vaçe Zela died yesterday in a hospital in Basel of Switzerland, after a long time disease, she was 75 years-old. ■





MCYS allocates additional 25 thousand Euros for the KFF

The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports allocated 25 thousand Euros to Kosovo Football Federation for the best possible organization and presentation of the first official friendly international match, which the Representative team of Kosovo is organizing On 5 March in Mitrovica in 'Adem Jashari' stadium against the Representative team of Haiti. Besides this budget, yesterday, the Government of Kosovo in its meeting made a decision to allocate 50 thousand Euros for KFF, for the organization of the match Kosovo vs. Haiti.

A Memorandum was signed for the allocation of 25 thousand Eu-

ros between MCYS and KFF, which prescribes also the obligations of the party and the aims where these means shall be spent.

General Secretary signed on behalf of MCYS, Veton Firzi, whereas, Fadil Vokrri on behalf of KFF.

In accordance with the Memorandum, the means of 25 thousand Euros shall be used only for:

Purchase of football poles approved by FIFA;

Purchase of winger flags;

Purchase of semaphore for player shift;

Purchase of Wardrobe Inventory for guest and local teams, and referees and officials of the match, 60 units;

Purchase of balls approved by FIFA, 20 units

Purchase of sports flannels sets for players, two sets of 25 units, blue and white colour;

Purchase of tables for wardrobes with a wall board, 2 units;

Purchase of beds for wardrobe and physiotherapists, 4 units;

Purchase of VIP eco-leather seats (triplet, one, one);

Accommodation for players of Kosovo Representation.

Purchase of Flags and Requisites.

MCYS remains committed to assist KFF in other organizational aspects, too, seeing the importance that this match has for our country and sports in general. ■





**The Halveti's Tekke fountain
Prizren**

No. 13, Year III.

