

Kosovo's Culture, Youth and Sport

Bi-monthly newsletter of Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport of Republic of Kosovo. No. 12. Year II.

NOV/DEC 2013

NEWSLETTER



“Peace and Sport” Forum

Open the Doors to Kosovo Sportsmen

More on page 4



Kosovo - Albania joint initiatives in the field of culture and cultural heritage

13



State awards given to judokas Akil Gjakova and Distria Krasniqi

10



France will help the internationalisation and development of Kosovo sports



Around 200 more young people certified in the field of entrepreneurship

8

Internationalisation of sports, in particular football, cooperation in development of sports medicine, school sports and other joint activities in the field of sports and youth were topics of discussion in the meeting of the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi with the Minister of Sports and Youth of France, Valerie Fourneyron in Paris.

More on page 5



Mirusha Waterfalls, Klina





H.E. Memli Krasniqi
Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports of the
Republic of Kosovo

DEBAT

peace-building tool at the service of governments

Minister Krasniqi at the International “Peace and Sport” Forum: Open the Doors to Kosovo Sportsmen

Continued from Front Page

He was a panel member along with the Minister of Sports of Georgia, Levan Kipiani, Ambassador for Public Diplomacy of South Korea, Young Sam Ma, as well as the Secretary of EPAS, Stanislas Frossard.

The topic of discussion, which attracted many questions by the numerous audience was the role of the government and relation between the sports and peace.

In his address, Minister Krasniqi spoke of the challenges of the sports community in Kosovo, since the early 90s to present date.

He said that Kosovo athletes and the people at large, as a result of political situation, established a parallel system in 90s, incorporating its own clubs and federations.

“This was done in spite of severe lack of conditions”, he said.

“It was a dream shared by all that at the end of the war, sportsmen and sportswomen will enjoy equal opportunities just as all their peers throughout the world”, said Minister Krasniqi.

He singled out three,

of the many examples, whereby Kosovo sportsmen as a result of isolation were playing in many different teams in the world, to an extraordinary success.

“When few weeks ago, the match between Albania and Switzerland was held, most of football players were Kosovo, on both sides of the pitch. In the European Championship U-18, the MVP of Turkey was a young man from Prishtina, Kenan Spahiu. Above all, our judoka, who was prevented to compete in London under the Kosovo flag or as independent athlete, brought the very first gold medal for Kosovo, becoming a world champion in her category”, mentioned the minister.



He said that politics should maintain connections to sports, but should not be allowed to interfere. “Relation is useful when at the service of development, but not the interference. In our case, we urge the politics to do nothing more than a human gesture; desist from preventing our sportsmen to be equal to all others in the world”, he added.

According to Minister Krasniqi, peace does not only mean absence of conflict but rather it should engender freedom, democracy and development.

On the margins of the Forum, Minister Krasniqi met with many representatives of international federations, with the officials of International Olympic Committee as well as officials of various governments of the world.

He also met with officials of FIFA, in order to pursue concrete steps for allowing international friendly matches for Kosovo.

Peace and Sport is one of the largest world conferences for sports, which aims to develop dialogue and education on sports. ■

France will help the internationalisation and development of Kosovo sports

Continued from Front Page

Minister Krasniqi thanked the French Minister for the help her state is providing Kosovo in many fields. He informed her of the progress and challenges in the field of sports and youth, in particular in internationalisation of sports and its development inside Kosovo. In addition he pointed out that Kosovo sportsmen for many years have unjustly remained isolated from international competitions, and this has come as a result of politics. Minister stated that till now significant steps have been made towards internationalisation of many sports, but he further added that Kosovo must not be isolated any further, in particular by the International Olympic Committee and federations of popular sports like football and basketball. Minister requested from the French Minister to help towards internationalisation of Kosovo sports, in particular football, now, when FIFA is expected to take a decision regarding friendly matches.

“We have many youngsters who have already testified their talent and will for sports and themselves all over the world. We seek to be part of official international competitions as soon as possible, so that we give our contribution

for sports considered as a bridge linking the peoples”, he said, while he asked from the Minister cooperation into developing school sports and sports medicine.

“These are important aspects for us. School sports is a priority and a very important way towards wide recognition of sports and affirmation of the talents. Sports medicine also makes a very important part of the chain to the qualitative competitions and sports development”, Minister Krasniqi said, speaking also of the progress towards supporting the youth. In this view, he said that Kosovo is interested into cooperating with France as a friend country of Kosovo and as a model for many fields.

On the other hand, Minister Valerie Fourneyron congratulated Minister Krasniqi for the progress and the great efforts for development and internationalisation of sports. She expressed the interest for cooperation in between France and Kosovo in the field of sports to grow further. French Minister provided her support for internationalisation of sports, in particular football and also support into internal development of sports in Kosovo, in aspects like school sports, sports medicine.

After the meeting with the Minister, Valerie Fourneyron, Minister Krasniqi had a meeting with the heads of the Department for Continental Europe and for Balkans in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France. Minister Krasniqi requested support also from the heads of this department, towards internationalisation of sports but also for enhancement of cooperation in the field of culture, with particular emphasis in different exchanges and affirmation of the cultural scene of Kosovo in important cultural events in the world. He also requested that France supports Kosovo also in the field of cultural heritage, in particular for establishment of official relations between Kosovo and UNESCO.

The heading team of the department promised support in sports, cultural heritage and culture stressing here the need for enhancement of cooperation between the two countries in these two fields.

Minister Krasniqi is going to have a meeting with the deputy president of French Football Federation and with the heads of the Commission for Culture and Education Affairs of the National Assembly of France. ■



France Football Federation provides its support for sports in Kosovo



In this meeting, Minister Krasniqi requested from FFF, as an influential federation in the international community of football, which through their representatives in UEFA and in FIFA to help in particular regarding the issue of friendly matches for Kosovo to be adopted as soon as possible.

He also requested for the support to be continuous to enable membership for Kosovo in the nearest term possible with equal rights in international mechanism of football. Minister Krasniqi and Mr. Vokrri requested from FFF to use their influence to the president of UEFA, Michel Platini, who comes from this country, to facilitate the equal participation of Kosovo in official European and international football competitions.

“For us, the matter of allowing friendly matches now, and soon after the membership into UEFA and FIFA are not political, but they are becoming such. We request for our sportsmen not to be ignored. All our requests, above all are only sports and human based. Our sportsmen must come out of this isolation”, Minister Krasniqi said.

In addition he informed Mr. Desumer regarding the developments in sports in Kosovo, in particular about the challenges, especially about organisation and improve-

ment of infrastructure. He also mentioned that investments are already being made in order to ensure sports terrains in accordance with international standards.

While the president of KFF, Mr. Fadil Vokrri spoke about the organisational aspects of the competitions and administration of Football Federation. He also requested from FFF to help KFF in professional development, towards capacity development, organisation of different seminars for coaches and referees.

On the other hand the Deputy President of FFF, Bernard Desumer expressed his pleasure for the meeting with Minister Krasniqi and the president of KFF, Vokrri. He agreed that it is the right of sportsmen from Kosovo to play in international official competitions

and in this view he promised that FFF is going to provide its support. He also promised support for professional development of sports in Kosovo and building capacities.

Minister Krasniqi in the course of his visit, today had a meeting also with Patrick Bloch, Chairman of the Commission for Cultural and Education Matters in the National Assembly, who at the same time is deputy chairman of the group of friendship France - Kosovo. In this meeting, special attention has been given to culture, cultural heritage and sports. Minister requested from Mr. Bloch to lobby in UNESCO that this institution of cultural heritage in the world, to set up official relations with Kosovo. Also in sports, Minister requested from French deputies to use their influence to help on breaking the isolation for Kosovo.

Mr. Bloch expressed his understanding regarding the matters which were raised and provided the support in these aspects. He furthermore pointed out the need to enhance the cooperation between Kosovo and France in culture, sports and cultural heritage.

Yesterday, during the first official visit in France, Minister Krasniqi, accompanied also by the deputy Minister Gjergj Dedaj, met the Minister of Sports and Youth, Valerie Fourneyron and leaders of the department for Continental Europe and for Balkans. ■



Minister Krasniqi in 'Doha Goals' forum requests support for Kosovo sports

Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi held a speech in the summit of ministers of sports which was held as part of the Summit of 'Doha Goals Forum', in Doha in Qatar, which is finished. In this conference it was talked about the challenges in the future of sports and the relation of governments.

Minister Krasniqi participated in this summit following the invitation from the Minister of Youth and Sports of Qatar, Salah bin Ghanem bin Nasser Al Al. In this event, organised for the second time, over 1000 participants attended, including heads of various international sports institutions, ministers, sportsmen and former popular athletes from all over the world.

In his speech, Minister Krasniqi made aware his counterparts of the situation through which Kosovo sports has gone for years. He has also spoken about the progress and challenges Kosovo sports are going through at this time.

A special emphasis was given by the minister to the internationalisation and the infrastructure. He mentioned before the ministers the fact that sportsmen from Kosovo are not allowed to be an equal part in international official competitions. Minister also pointed out that this is a human right and therefore the international community should open its doors, to contribute to boosting sports and for elimination of the discrimination.

In this ministers' meeting it was also talked about the infrastructure and the challenges in organisation of the popular sports events. Minister stressed out the problems with the sports infrastructure Kosovo faces. He also added that efforts are being made to invest in this direction, and some initial steps have already been undertaken. According to him, small states in general face problems to ensure a ready infrastructure for big sports events,



but he also added that we have to jointly work to enable these states be organisers of smaller sports events, be them regional competitions or even international when it comes to individual sports, where no large infrastructure is required.

Following the meeting, ministers from different countries have approved a declaration through which they stress the role as a catalyser for innovations and investments. Through the declaration, ministers have reached an agreement that the cooperation in the private sector in the field of sports, and other stakeholders is very important for creation of a fair policy in order to have enhancement in a good organisation and on pursuing the steps of technology development, and to work for the good of humanity through sports.

Moreover, Minister Krasniqi met his counterparts within margins of the summit. He discussed with them regarding the need for cooperation in the field of sports, and requested from them support on capacity building at sports,

exchange of experiences and in particular support for the internationalisation. He made them aware of the progress in sports, of the many names from Kosovo showing success around the world, thus indicating of our potential. He had a special meeting with the Minister of Sports and Youth of Qatar, Salah bin Ghanem bin Nasser Al Ali with whom he agreed in continuing the communications so that in a near future the ways of cooperation in between the two countries are discussed and realised.

Together with the minister of Qatar and with the minister of Oman, Minister Krasniqi attended the ceremony of inauguration of the Centre of Excellence, which is going to deal with development of elite sportsmen.

Doha Goals Forum is held under the auspices of the King of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani. It is since now considered an important event because many sportsmen and officials of different governments participate there. ■

Around 200 more young people certified in the field of entrepreneurship

Around 200 young people from different cities of Kosovo got certified for participation in the training in the field of entrepreneurship, a project which has been supported by the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, and implemented by Novus Consulting.

The training was intended to educate youth on entrepreneurship, so that they are ready to take various initiatives for new businesses, and also to have the skills to manage them.

Minister Memli Krasniqi congratulated the youth for their training and further expressed the consideration that this certification marks an important step in vocational education of the youth and mentioned that MCYS in cooperation also with the World Bank has supported the training of 800 other youngsters, half of them in entrepreneurship and the other half in vocational fields.

“Good news for you is that, yesterday the competition opened in the Department of Youth for supporting new entrepreneurs, and this applies for all of you having passed the training stage in



entrepreneurship and I encourage you to apply for grants in this competition. The support shall consist of 3000 up to 4000 € in different aspects of business”, Minister Krasniqi said.

He further suggested the youth not to let their certificates serve only as a symbolic part of their CV-s but to use them and the knowledge they have obtained in practice.

Minister also mentioned the investment and grants which have been allocated for the youth and

for the businesses they have, for the youth centres in different cities of Kosovo, where he mentioned building of two new centres.

“We are going to build a youth centre in Gjilan and we also hope that the municipality of Prishtina finds for us a place where we can get a licence to build such a centre in the capital city. We have the project prepared already and the budget too in order to build these centres”, the Minister stressed out.

Minister Krasniqi pointed out that the youth never before had more funds for projects. This way the work and the support is provided for this resource and this pride of our country, and this is a national priority of the Government of Kosovo.

“After the independence of Kosovo the youth has taken an important role in the institutions, where they aim with their commitment to build a democratic state and aim to become a part of the European family”, the minister stressed out. In addition he also mentioned the challenges and the responsibilities that we as a society have. He further added that it is essential to respect the political, ethnical or religious diversity in every aspect. ■



Konferenca Vjetore e Forumit Kulturor

17 dhjetor 2013



Greater attention for culture in recent years

In Oda theatre in Prishtina, the Annual Conference of the Cultural Forum was held, which is a network of independent cultural organisations in Kosovo, where a topic of discussion of this conference was in particular the cultural policies and the strategic approach toward development of culture of central and local institutions. In this conference, the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi, Chief of Operations in the Office of European Commission in Kosovo, Christof Stock and Florent Mehmeti, Chairman of the Cultural Forum participated in the main panel.

Minister Krasniqi stated that in these recent years, the attention of the central and local institutions is greater for the culture. This fact was also emphasised by the leaders of the Forum and the participants in the conference. The Minister also mentioned that it is good news for the whole culture in Kosovo, that during this week the decision shall be made for establishment of a working group for drafting the National Strategy in Kosovo.

"Being also in harmony with the topic in this panel, I would like to say that this strategy shall constitute the key basis for our cooperation and dialogue. The strategy is not going to resolve the things just like a magic wand, that is clear. What we all must do is to draft the strategy in as more concrete way as possible, based on the best practices, the circumstances which we live in and implementation in the field", the minister said, considering that in this way, we would also contribute more in moving politics away from culture.

Minister added that these years

MCYS has worked for growing the budget in all spheres and to play a role of a facilitator for the community of culture.

"With understanding of the government, we managed to increase the budget for culture, especially in the field of subsidies which has been doubled. The budget for this year in subsidising of independent projects culture was over 900 thousand Euro. With increase of the budget, more opportunities were created for the independent artists to show their works in theatre, film production, exhibitions etc.," the minister said.

Another aspect mentioned by minister Krasniqi was also the cultural diplomacy, which in the three latest years has been one of key engagements and a continuous priority. He also mentioned that the cultural stage has been presented in important international activities including Berlinale, Cannes, Biennale of Venice, etc. He also added that with the increase of the budget of MCYS, the support for cultural activities developing in Kosovo has grown as well.

Minister openly expressed for the close cooperation with the cultural community in order to enable them to be the engine of a greater development of culture, of affirmation of values and of promotion of our cultural stage in the world.

He promised that next year as well, we will have increase of budget in all aspects which are related to culture, and it is encouraging, he further added that the budget increase is continuing every year.

As one of the challenges in cooperation between the central

institutions and private cultural operators, the minister considered the intercommunication itself, and the dialogue within the involved groups dealing with culture, low inclusion of artists themselves in various initiatives, and the small space that culture and artists have in the media. In addition, he mentioned that a remaining challenge is support from business for cultural activities. He stressed that cultural organisations must show more attractiveness and dedication to cooperate with business in order for the support to be greater. Minister said that there are many countries which do not have the Law on sponsorship, but the support of business for culture is never absent.

Whereas Christof Stock, Chief of Operations of EU Office for Kosovo, expressed his gratitude and pleasure for being given the chance to address in this conference of the Cultural Forum, which as an activity contributes to building of best policies which are related to culture and decision making for it.

"Every policy must find its inspiration in culture", Stock said, encouraging the minister and central and local institutions to make as good policies as possible for culture through debate in professional spheres of the field.

Whereas the Chairman of the Cultural Forum, Florent Mehmeti, stated that this is a conclusion of activities for this year, which as a Forum, has focused its work in two main pillars, on building the capacities and on education for development of cultural policies for improvement of the independent culture. ■



State awards given to judokas Akil Gjakova and Distria Krasniqi

Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi awarded officially the state awards to two young judokas, Akil Gjakova and Distria Krasniqi for their medals won in the European judo championships. The awards are given pursuant to Regulation no. 15/2013 for giving State Awards to the sportsmen achieving culminant results in international competitions.

Judoka Akil Gjakova took the award in value of 5000 Euro, as a winner of the Golden Medal in Judo in the category of Cadets (-66 kg) in the European Championship of Cadets held on 21-23 June 2013 in Estonia.

Whereas, Distria Krasniqi, received 4000 Euro, for two bronze medals she won in European championships held on 20-22 September 2013 in Sarajevo, respectively 15-17 November 2013 in Bulgaria.

Based on the regulation, the trainer of judoka, Driton Kuka was awarded the 50 % of the value of each award won by the sportsmen. In this case Kuka was awarded with 4500 Euro.

In the ceremony held in MCYS,

Minister Krasniqi said that giving these awards testifies once again the dedication that our youth is showing in many sports, and for the attention that our state is

already giving to them. In addition he stated that Kosovo every year, each year more and more is creating strong potential in many sports and competitive too in international level.

“These awards are evidence that Kosovo is creating a team of sportsmen for competitions in international level, by setting high standards all over the world for the work and success and also creating a team which is going to represent Kosovo in coming Olympic games”, minister Krasniqi said, adding that these successes are a result of an immense work of Ippon club, Federation and all sports community.

On the other hand, Gjakova

and Krasniqi thanked the minister for the support that the minister gave them continuously and for creating legislation which ensures support and meritorious awards. He said that this support is an additional motive for them and for the other sportsmen.

Whereas their trainer, Driton Kuka said that they will continue working even more for greater successes. He called this year a historical one for the successes shown in international level.

“These awards, this attention we have had from his team, and by the minister himself, have really restored our dignity as a trainer and as sportsmen”, he added. ■







Minister Krasniqi meets Albanian and Serb youth from south and north of Mitrovica

Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi hosted in a meeting today members of the Non-Governmental Organisation from Mitrovica, "D&G". This organisation is composed of Albanians and Serbs from south and north of Mitrovica. Their aim is to increase the interethnic communication and to develop different projects for youth, be it in informal education but also for activation of youth participation.

Minister Krasniqi highly appreciated their work, calling their cooperation an example of dialogue and work without difference. He pointed out that Kosovo has a clear vision for building a democratic society. Minister informed the youth of the program policies of MCYS for youth and projects which have been concluded up to date. He stressed

out that in the three last years, the support for youth has increased significantly, be it in inclusion of it in decision making processes, on creating representative mechanisms of youth, support of various projects of youth and nongovernmental organisations, allocating funds for youth centres, and the important aspect of entrepreneurship, where grants have been allocated for hundreds of young people for opening new businesses.

Minister Krasniqi offered his full support for this organisation,

encouraging them to further expand and increase their activities in function of improvement of relations between people and building a better future.

On the other hand, Milos Golubovic, the manager of the organisation thanked the minister for the reception and for the support he gave to youth up to date. He further mentioned some activities that they have developed up to date as NGO and also showed the plans for the future. One of these activities they are currently developing is

also the project known as "Increase of cooperation of Mitrovica youth through 'Karl Poper' debates.

Golubovic further added that their aim is to grow and through the voice of the youth and their cooperation to constantly build better relations. ■



Kosovo - Albania joint initiatives in the field of culture and cultural heritage

From January Albania and Kosovo are going to concretely start the work on drafting the important documents for a cooperation and interaction in the field of culture and cultural heritage.

This was mentioned in the meeting that the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi, together with the delegation accompanying him, with the counterpart, Mirela Kumbaro – Furxhi in Tirana.

Thanking for the invitation and the cooperation, Minister Krasniqi said that it is the time to truly work together in the field of culture and in cultural heritage.

“Cultural cooperation has been in good level, like in the cases of exchange of activities in joint months of culture, or even in individual cooperation of artists, but it is worth mentioning that there is cooperation which has remained fragmented to this purpose. What we need to work is creation of a cooperation framework which would be useful for the art, culture and our common values. I strongly believe that we have a common mission, and our challenges are common as well”, he said.

Minister Krasniqi explained the manner how the culture institutions function in Kosovo, the legal infrastructure in this field and also for the cultural heritage, considering that during the recent years progress has been marked towards removal of politics interference and also towards financial support. Minister Krasniqi further added that the financial support for the independent culture has increased and already Kosovo has created a wealthy calendar of cultural activities.

On her part, the Minister Kumbaro – Furxhi, after thanking her counterpart for the visit expressed the appreciation for the up to date work of the Ministry of Culture of Kosovo, having clear and determined objectives for preservation and affirmation of national and cultural identity. She expressed that the relationships between the two ministries must “mark a new era of cultural cooperation, translated into concrete actions. What we need to work is the creation of a common cultural strategy”.

“Regional cooperation in the field of culture is one of the priorities of the Ministry of Culture, but also of the new government of

Albania. We will work for creation of an Albanian culture area for all Albanians, supported institutionally, where the culture areas are being discussed with several centres, but unified ones”, minister Kumbaro – Furxhi said.

The main topics of discussion were the following:

1. Compiling a joint cultural calendar, not only in one month, in one week, but for the whole year, by the cultural institutions of our both countries in the field of theatre, cinematography, opera, ballet, book, etc.

2. Drafting a platform of cultural heritage, intending to build joint initiatives of cooperation for preservation and promotion of cultural heritage.

3. Harmonisation of legislation in the field of art and culture, within EU and experience of both countries. The aim of this harmonisation is to avoid the legal barriers for a free circulation of artists, joint art and culture.

Minister Krasniqi and Minister Kumbaro Furxhi agreed that a joint strategy must exist in the field of culture, a joint calendar and harmonisation of laws and management practices. ■

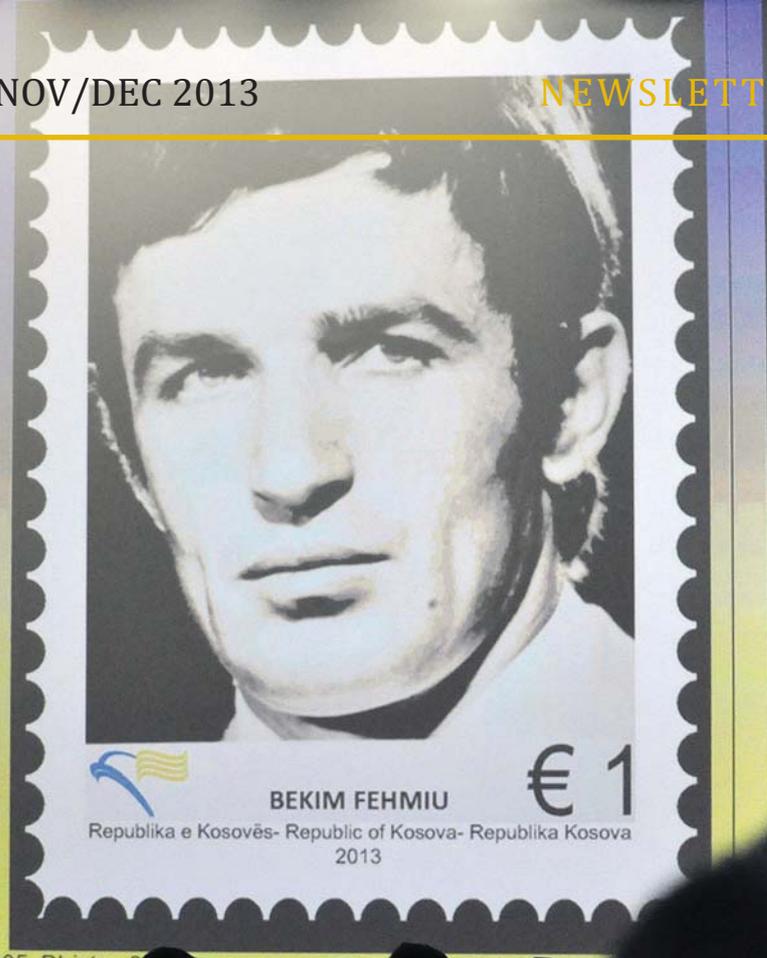




VILLAGE BROD, DRAGAS



Bekim Fehmiu on Postage Stamps



The postage stamp Bekim Fehmiu got inaugurated. In the ceremony organised in ABC Cinema in Prishtina, family members of the famous Albanian actor Bekim Fehmiu participated, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi, Deputy Minister of Economic Development, Gani Koci, managers of the Post of Kosovo, Minister of Local Self Governance in the Government of Macedonia, Tahir Hani, General Director of the Post of Macedonia, Rafis Haliti and different artists.

Minister Krasniqi said that with this postage stamp, now the image of Bekim Fehmiu is going to travel all around the world, where our actor played his roles and where he travelled, to promote once again in the best way Kosovo and its culture.

"Postage stamp with the photograph of Bekim Fehmiu is an original act and a very important one in honouring our most outstanding actor. Therefore, today is my honour to be present in an event like this. Bekim Fehmiu is the icon of art and of the cinematography of Kosovo. His work, all those roles and those films here he played are

a very important treasure for all of us, and besides the fact that we are proud with him, we must honour him to the extent and manner he deserves, and to certainly give an example of a great artist by always remembering in the manner that future generations have his impact as present as possible", Minister Krasniqi said.

He said that Kosovo institutions are honouring in the best manner the personality of Fehmiu.

"I am happy that Kosovo has also designed and set institutionally the prizes for cinematography for honouring the personalities of art and the young generations for their achievements in this field. Above all, we feel extraordinarily well that the Prize for the Life Work in the field of cinematog-



raphy holds the name of Bekim Fehmiu", he said.

Congratulating the post for this initiative, Minister expressed dedication for cooperation in the future, so that more art, sports personalities, but also monuments of cultural heritage are in postage stamps.

Chief Executive of Kosovo Post, Sejdi Hoxha, said that in the field of the world cinematography it was not very difficult to determine the person to be chosen.

"We are proud that we had an actor who is going to remain immortal in the history of world cinematography. From today, he has become a part of the greatest values of the philately of Kosovo Post".

On the name of Fehmiu family, the nephew of Bekim, Agon Fehmiu, spoke, who amongst others read a greeting letter from the wife of Bekim Fehmiu, Branka Petric - Fehmiu. She thanked people and institutions of Kosovo for the respect they are showing for the actor, further adding that he has become now a general blessing. This postage stamp marks number 100 of the total postage stamp number of the Post of Kosovo. ■

Ridvan Dibra, winner of the first Prize in the competition 'Katarina Josipi' for the best Albanian drama



Ridvan Dibra with the drama 'World War the Third' won the first prize in the Competition for Original Albanian Drama. While Mentor Haliti with the drama 'Factory of the dolls' is the winner of the second prize, whereas Naser Shatrolli with the drama 'Cassettes', was announced as the winner of the third prize.

The ceremony of awarding the prizes was held in the National Theatre of Kosovo, organised by the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports. The prizes from this year on are institutionalised pursuant to a special regulation by MCYS. Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi in this ceremony stated that these prizes are awarded for the honour of the great actress Katarina

Josipi and they are also an appreciation for the work of nowadays' creators in dramaturgy.

"Katarina Josipi did not live long, but her activity was an entire life. She played many roles and really lived in the theatre. Katarina played with many other actors, and that contributed to making that time they lived a golden era of the theatre and the art in general.

The work of Katarina and of her friends made Kosovo an important centre of art at that time, and also her work and the work of many others served as inspiration for many generations of art in Kosovo", Minister Krasniqi said. In addition, he stated that MCYS founded prizes in all fields of art aiming at honouring and appreciating the work of artists.

Thanking the jury for facilitating the awarding of these prizes, Minister said that it has been quite encouraging the fact that more than 40 applications were submitted.

"There is no doubt that the three selected dramas are an impersonation of a great passion for drama", he stated.

Ridvan Dibra, the winner of the first prize said that Kosovo has greatly honoured its' creation. Moreover he stated that founding the prizes shows the respect for



the artist. Dibra further added that he expects that the drama besides the critique from the art lovers be welcomed also by the public.

The president of jury, Ag Apolloni stated that the selected works are quite interesting ones and they bear values. He called the fact that a lot of competition emerged a quite significant one, what according to him testifies about the work and the will of the artists to create.

The prizes for the original Albanian drama bear monetary value too. The first prize is awarded the amount of € 3600, the second one € 2400, whereas the third prize was awarded with € 1200.

The following were members of the jury this year: Ag Apolloni, Burbuqe Berisha, Liri Cami, Emin Emini and Ismet Azemi. ■



Kosovo should create knowledge-based strength

The conference "Education and Employment of Youth in Kosovo", commenced under organisation of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare and DVV International (Organisation for Adult Education).

Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi said that education and employment are the main pillars of building a society.

He further pointed out that MCYS has in its program both these components and in this case he mentioned the projects which have been completed till now in these aspects.

"We have combined both these aspects in what is called entrepreneurship. In the two last years, in cooperation with the World Bank, we organised trainings up to three months for about 1000 youngsters. All of them have been trained and certified in professional fields and that they suit to labour market needs in Kosovo.

Trainings were from professional fields. After each training stage, MCYS announced competition for allocating grants for opening new businesses for the trained youth. Grants which were dedicated to hundreds of young people reach the value of over 700 thousand Euros. Each business has been



supported by an amount of 3000 to 4000 Euro. So, with these two programs, we have managed to educate thousands of youngsters and through them to open new businesses which generate jobs", he said, further stating that this is going to be priority for the next year as well.

Minister further added that in Kosovo, education must follow these steps, so that our youth are educated practically and not only in theory on what they study, in order to be able for the future to bring innovative ideas and not to be only in the local labour market but to further expand their area of action. Kosovo needs educated

people so that we are not counted only as labour force but also as a force of knowledge. To reach these points, responsibility lies on all us, institutions, teachers, but also the youngsters themselves", he stated.

Minister Ramë Buja, in his speech in this event stated that the Government of the Republic of Kosovo is engaged at regulating the legal infrastructure related to Inclusive learning realisation recalling the fact that MEST is already implementing the Law on Education and Vocational Education and Adult Education which have inclusiveness in their focus.

This engagement and the inter-ministerial cooperation minister Buja added, as regards to life long learning enables people who for different reasons have stagnated in education, to continue their education now, whereas to those professionally consolidated to enhance their knowledge.

"Through enhancement of our knowledge, we advance in economic, social, political and in general welfare aspect", minister Buja said.

Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, Berat Luzha, on his part stressed that the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare is dedicated to use the network of e-Centres for Vocational Training, as instrument of support of employment of the labour force in Kosovo. ■



Minister Krasniqi presented the priorities of the MCYS for 2014 in the 2nd Conference of Ambassadors of Kosovo



Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi presented today the achievements and the priorities of MCYS for the next year in the panel with the theme “Integration of Kosovo in regional and international organisations” within the Second Conference of Ambassadors of the Republic of Kosovo.

The Foreign Affairs Minister Enver Hoxhaj, the Deputy Prime Minister, Edita Tahiri and the Minister of Health, Ferid Agani spoke in this panel.

Minister Krasniqi in particular spoke of the promotion of the country and affirmation of our values in Europe and internationally through culture, sports and cultural heritage.

In addition he pointed out that during these three last years, significant steps have been marked in culture through our artists who have

been part of remarkable cultural events in the world, such as, Cannes Film Festival, Berlinale, Venice Biennale, Frankfurt Book Fair.

“As regards to culture, issues are more open in this direction already, and progress has been marked”, he added.

Minister spoke also about the cultural heritage reiterating that Kosovo has become part of the Process of Ljubljana.

In addition he stated that this year, for the first time Kosovo participated in the Council of Ministers of Culture of South-eastern Europe as observer, and membership has been sought regardless the challenges related to it.

Minister mentioned the difficulties Kosovo is going through for membership in UNESCO and the efforts by MCYS to set up official communication with this organisation.

Krasniqi in particular stressed sports, where he recalled participation of Kosovo in various international conferences and forums including Peace and Sport in Monaco and in Doha Goals in Qatar, and meetings with ministers of different countries.

“Our basketball teams entered Balkan League, and above all as a result of a great job of lobbying, following membership of Judo Federation of Kosovo, the judoist Majlinda Kelmendi from the international arena returned to Kosovo with golden medal from the world championship in Brazil, and young judoists got silver medals in European championships. This way we testified our great potential in sports, as our youngsters are witnessing themselves in football as well”, he said in addition.

Minister also notified about membership of 18 Kosovar federations in international arena, 12 of which are Olympic, out of them 6 with full rights.

The main challenges for MCYS according to Krasniqi remain the membership in international organisations of sports, which although independent, they are often source of political clashes.

“Our aim is to become part of UEFA-s, FIFA, FIBA, International Olympic Committee and of many other federations. We have exchanged many letters, we had many meetings and we have sought for Kosovo to become an equal part of these mechanisms, thus appealing to set aside the political motifs in order to give priority to sport as a symbol of unification and peace. We expect that FIFA take a decision regarding the request of Kosovo for playing international friendly matches in January 2014”, he said, thus seeking from the ambassadors of Kosovo to help in this direction. ■

Kosovo is doing considerable efforts towards internationalisation of sports



Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi, hosted in a meeting today Joël Bouzou, founder and the president of "Peace and Sport", and of the World Olympians Association.

He is staying in Kosovo for the first time to be informed of the situation of Kosovo sports, on the achievements and challenges it is facing, especially related to the issue of its internationalisation.

Minister Krasniqi thanked Mr. Bouzou for the invitation to participate in the Forum 'Peace and Sport 2013', which was an opportunity for further promotion of sports in

Kosovo in general in the international arena. He also thanked him for the support he has given for acceptance of Modern Pentathlon Federation of Kosovo into International Modern Pentathlon Federation, where Bouzou is the Vice-President.

Minister also informed the president Bouzou about the problems that Kosovo sport is facing towards breaking the isolation, where the political problems that our country has with the neighbour, Serbia, made that Kosovo faces consequent challenges.

"In the political aspect, we are trying to do the maximum to have

access to internationalisation of our sports, but politics also has its own limitations. While with your contribution we will have an approach from another perspective. Combination of these two approaches would impact into acceleration of this process", minister Krasniqi said. He said that Kosovo aims at continuing the cooperation with 'Peace and Sport' considering that this is one of the best ways to promote the idea of peace through sports.

Whereas Bouzou congratulated minister Krasniqi for his presentation and his contribution in the first session of the International Forum 'Peace and Sport 2013' held in Monaco, under the auspices of Prince Albert II. He asserted that presentation of Kosovo in the conference raised the attention of many representatives of sports from all over the world. Bouzou pointed out that the immense work of Kosovo and of the sports community in Kosovo for internationalisation is quite powerful.

In addition he pointed out that he is in Kosovo to see the condition of sports and the opportunities to help in different aspects of Kosovo sports, especially on breaking through isolation it currently has, using what is called 'soft diplomacy' at sports. ■





Minister Krasniqi hosted the Organisational Council of 'Adem Jashari' International Boxing Competition

Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi hosted in a meeting the Organisational Council of the International Box Competition 'Adem Jashari' which was held on November. 'Adem Jashari' competition is an official competition in the calendar of European Box Federation (EUBC) and of the International Box Federation (AIBA).

Minister Krasniqi congratulated the Box Federation for their engagement which led to internationalisation of box and organisation of competitions within the territory of Kosovo. He in particular appreciated the dedication of this federation along with many other stakeholders showed for organisation of this competition, the 15th under

this title and the first one as an official international competition.

"Adem Jashari competition has always been one of the best organised activities and one of the most important sports activities in our country. This competition will undoubtedly be one of the most important ones in the AIBA calendar and each year organisation will be better and better and the interest towards it shall be greater too", the Minister Krasniqi said, while he mentioned that MCYS in the same way as it grew the support during this year for this competition, is also going to show readiness for the support to increase in the coming years.

In addition he pointed out that the sports community in the

country in this case specifically the Box Federation must work more to witness before the world that they know organising qualitative competitions.

On the other hand, Ramadan Selimi, Chairman of the Box Federation and the head of the Organisational Council thanked the minister for the continuous support provided to federation and in particular for this competition. He also informed the minister about the preparations which have been made for this competition, stressing that they have worked a lot for the organisation to be as good as possible.

This year's competition shall take place on 16 and 17 November. On 16 in Prishtina the semi-finals are going to take place, whereas the finale matches shall be organised in Gjilan.

The participation in this competition has been confirmed by nine states: Albania, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Slovenia, Macedonia, Bulgaria, Italy, Croatia and Switzerland, that together with boxers from Kosovo reach the number of participating states into 10. ■





Meeting with the delegation of German Football Federation

Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi, hosted the delegation of German Football Federation (GFF), the Vice-President Rainer Milkoreit and the Director for Foreign Affairs, Markus Weidner, who are staying in Kosovo for continuation of licensing the trainers with licenses 'C' and 'B', and for training referees and the administration of Kosovo Football Federation (KFF), a project through which GFF helps Kosovo football.

Minister Krasniqi thanks the Vice-President Milkoreit for the support GFF has given and contin-

ues to provide for Kosovo football. He said that Germany is as strategic partner of Kosovo in football too, and they have already testified this till now.

Minister stressed that one of the objectives of MCYS besides internationalisation is also development of the sports, by building capacities on management of federations and clubs. Minister Krasniqi said that this is going to find Kosovo ready that from the moment of acceptance to be able amongst others to take the pertaining responsibilities.

In addition he stressed that from the strategic aspects that

MCYS has, it is also the work with the young generations by creating the best conditions possible in order to get the maximum from the young talents.

Whereas the Vice-President of GFF, Rainer Milkoreit, thanked the minister for welcoming and for the readiness to give support for football, and also mentioned that he is feeling what the state of Kosovo is doing for football, specifically the help and the support he is providing for KFF. "I feel here that the state of Kosovo is helping KFF, what does not really happen in other countries", Milkoreit expressed.

Furthermore the vice-president of GFF, Milkoreit, stressed out that KFF must continue working with small steps towards strengthening the structures starting from the base, from clubs to the administration. He also pointed out the importance of working with young generations. According to him, the triangle of cooperation between KFF, GFF and MCYS is highly encouraging, and further added that considering the work which will be done shall result into success. ■





HAMMAM OF PRISTINA

No. 12, Year II.

The Steering Council of 'Shota' Ensemble established

The steering council of 'Shota' National Ensemble of Songs and Dancing is established. They met the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqin.

The following members of the board have been appointed, Xhevdet Gashi, Sabri Fejzullahu, Hysni Klinaku, Burbuqe Berisha and Milot Mustafa.

Minister congratulated them for their new duty and thanked them for their readiness shown for contributing in development of the ensemble, preservation of genuine values and their promotion in the national cultural stage.

He said that 'Shota' is a very important institution for our country and it has contributed for decades on preservation of the national values and their promotion.



Minister Krasniqi also stated that the institutional support for the ensemble has increased and shall increase in the future, thus stressing the need to have even more progress in management and original creation.

On the other hand, members of the board thanked the minister for the trust he has had for them in relation to this institution. They expressed their dedication to work even more towards enhanced development of the ensemble. ■



Minister Krasniqi met the expert for art management, Martin Vinik

Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi hosted in a meeting the American expert on art management, Martin Vinik, who is staying in Kosovo for a series of lectures on the topic of how to increase the audience on festivals and how to organise cultural activities in the most attractive manner for all.

Minister Krasniqi informed the American expert about the institutional cultural organisation of the country explaining about the cultural life in general organised in Kosovo. He spoke about the legal infrastructure for this field and for the support provided by the state for the culture. In this view he mentioned that cultural institutions by law have been depoliticised and the budget for culture has significantly increased. Minister pointed out that Kosovo lacks cadre in the field of art management. He said that MCYS is working towards cooperation with many states in order to obtain and raise cadre in the field of art.

Minister thanked the expert Vinik for exchanging his experience and knowledge with people of culture in Kosovo, with the purpose of improvement of the cultural life in our country.

Whereas the professor of Columbia University, Martin Vinik, thanked the minister for welcoming and for the information he was provided for the cultural organisation in general where he stressed out that art management requires special care and treatment, where institutional support is included as well. He has explained about his experience and models of art management, expressing the readiness to continue helping Kosovo with his experience. Martin Vinik held a lecture in the Ethnological Museum. He is going to have such a lecture in American University as well, having the topic "Art business and the art of business" and also in Prizren in the "Beledije" centre Vinik is going to speak about "Actors in cultural heritage". ■

Gjergj Dedaj in the Parliament of Europe to lobby for sports

Deputy Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Gjergj Dedaj, is conducting a visit to the Parliament of Europe (PE) where he was hosted by Sir Graham Watson, deputy of PE and president of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats of Europe - ALDE.

Deputy Minister Dedaj thanked Sir Watson, for his welcoming and for his continuous contribution given for democratisation and for European perspective of Kosovo and of the region, thus opening opportunities that Kosovo also in future starts the process of integration into EU and NATO.

Deputy Minister also requested from the Europe Deputy Watson that he and his parliamentary group, who have a powerful impact in the EU institutions, to lobby and use their influence that Kosovo sports gets integrated in the mechanisms of respective European and world's sports institutions.

"We request your support and that of the Euro-liberals to lobby and influence that the sport of Kosovo is affirmed and become member of European and world institutions", Dedaj said, by further adding that this way it will be enabled for Kosovo as well to be participant in sports organisations and to develop sports matches of regional, European and world character.

On the other hand, Sir Graham Watson reconfirmed continuation of the support and contribution for affirmation of our country, including sports and culture of Kosovo. ■



Close cooperation with Albania in the field of bibliothecary

Representatives of both libraries, that of Kosovo and Albania organised in the National and University Library of Kosovo (NULK) in Prishtina a conference for aspects of management of the libraries of both countries, where in particular discussions took place regarding the digitalisation and bibliotheconomie and enhancement of cooperation between the libraries.

In this conference, on the name of Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, the deputy Minister Hajdin Abazi thanked the organisers for this activity and stressed that the cooperation also in the fields of library of the two countries has particular importance because this is a way how experiences are exchanged in between each other.

"I believe that in these days, through communiques and debates a better chance shall be provided to treat topics in the field of literature library and to exchange many experiences and approaches. Libraries are accumulators of knowledge, art and science, and they also have special importance for the culture", Abazi said.

Whereas the director of National Library of Albania, Aurel Plasari, said that this cooperation is going to continue in the future as well.

Whereas the acting director of NULK, Ramize Bajraktari, expressed that they are dedicated to creation of a spirit of cooperation and creation of a national strategy for development of libraries. ■



Steering Council of the National Library “Pjetër Bogdani” established

Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports (MCYS), Memli Krasniqi, hosted in a meeting the members of the Steering Council of the National Library of Kosovo who will have a four year mandate in office.

The Steering Council is going to function based on the duties and responsibilities as provided for by Law on Libraries. This Council consists of Sali Bashota, Ibrahim Kadriu, Dashamir Berxulli, Sadete Ternava and Xhevat Bajrami, repre-

sentative from MCYS.

Minister Krasniqi congratulated them for their duty and wished them success in their new assignment. In addition he estimated the process of division of the National Library of Kosovo (NLK) from that of University as a very important one.

“Culture in the recent years is a priority, which is testified by raise of budget year after year. In this view the library as well shall have the full support from MCYS”, the

Minister said. He in addition mentioned that MCYS this year paid particular attention to the book, thus growing the fund through financing new editions, purchasing books from the publishers and distributors of those books in the municipal libraries.

Whereas, Sali Bashota, in the name of the Council thanked the Minister for his welcoming and promised that together with 4 other members they are going to work so that libraries and the interest for the book in general grows in our country in this way to continuously have generations which love book, and through it we can be competitive with countries of the region and the world.

Following the meeting with the Minister, the Council held the first meeting and took two decisions. The first was appointment of the President of the Council, which was entrusted to Sali Bashotës, whereas the second decision was that of announcing the advertisement for director of the National Library. ■



Cannon over the castle Prizren



