Majlinda Kelmendi, Nora Gjakova and Driton Kuka were welcomed in a state ceremony in Prishtina, after the great success marked at the Judo World Championship in Chelyabinsk of Russia, where Majlinda Kelmendi for the second time was declared the World Champion of judo.

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Archaeological Site 'Ulpiana', a reference point for Kosovo

Cineuropa Award for Kosovo film “Three Windows and one Hanging”
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE IN ULPIANA - AROUND 10 KM IN SOUTH OF PRISTINA
Majlinda Kelmendi, Nora Gjakova and Driton Kuka were welcomed in a state ceremony in Prishtina, after the great success marked at the Judo World Championship in Chelyabinsk of Russia, where Majlinda Kelmendi for the second time was declared the World Champion of judo.

They were welcomed at International Airport of Prishtina, by Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi and a lot of citizens.

She addressed to the citizens stating that she is very happy for this success and that she feels really proud.

After welcoming the champion team, Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports and Kosovo Olympic Committee organized a levee for them, which was participated by heads of federations, athletes and personalities of cultural and social life of the country. In this ceremony, Ms. Kelmendi and Mr. Kuka were allocated a state award of 40 thousand Euros for Ms. Kelmendi and 20 thousand Euros for Mr. Kuka.

In this ceremony, Minister Memli Krasniqi said that this is a prodigious success and Majlinda
Kelmendi, together with her team are the real image and new history of Kosovo.

“Organizers attempted to blackmail our athletes, but they became even stronger. They could deny the state symbols of Ms. Kelmendi, but they could not deny that she is ‘the queen’ of the world of judo. Majlinda is the face of our country and even a model for all of us of how we can achieve, how we can work for success and for a society of values, success and pride”, said the Minister.

He stated that Kosovo has shown that although it is a small country, it can grow champion athletes in many sports. The Minister added that the country has raised its support on sports, and moreover, that up to know important steps were made in many dimensions, especially in breaking the unfair isolation in sports.

“We shall always be by the side of athletes, because, after all, it is our obligation”, he stated.

“We can say unreservedly that together we have achieved to gradually break the unfair isolation on sports. Very few steps are left, but until then, we shall show our potential, our sports. Now Balkan Basketball league shall start again, we shall be in European qualifications in handball, we have three more international friendly matches in football and many more other presentations. This is not little, considering the challenges that we had in front of us”, the Minister stated.

In her turn, the world champion Majlinda Kelmendi said that she dedicates this victory to all Albanian people and that all this has been as the result of a team and very disciplinary work.

“It was a challenging competition. But, nonetheless, my motivation was enormous to win the golden medal, which I managed to achieve” she said, while she was expressing her gratefulness to all her team and Minister Krasniqi for their continuous support.

Head of the Kosovo Olympic Committee, Besim Hasani, said that the success of Majlinda was not coincidental. “This success is not by chance, but the result of a sustained and hard work” expressed the Head of KOC, adding that Majlinda is a reference for any athlete.

Driton Kuka, a trainer of Kosovo representative said that this competition was a real challenge. “We had an extraordinary repression in Russia. Majlinda was under repression a day before the match and also on the days when she was in program. Inspiration and motivation to win the golden medal was exactly the provocation that the Russians were doing, whereas, Majlinda, on that occasion, said that now I am even stronger, after the provocation done by Russians.

Majlinda is the judo fighter number one in the world, in the 52 kg category and is the two time World Champion and European Champion as well.

After being welcomed in Pristina, another welcome ceremony was organized for Majlinda and her team in her birth place, the city of Peja. ■
Database of Cultural Heritage, a new window of Kosovo

"This database does not belong only to the institutions any more, it is of all citizens, since they, too, through their discoveries and promotions can help our cultural heritage become recognised as a unique value by the whole world" said the Minister.

The database is an important project which serves even more to the protection and promotion of our cultural heritage and it is an additional value for us, endorsed the Minister.

In his turn, Ambassador Cliff, expressed that Kosovo has a rich cultural heritage, "It has a mixture of different historic objects of all religions, and this database is a public window of that what Kosovo has to offer.

"The support of this project is that Kosovo can have a means to manage its cultural heritage. It is for the ministry and for everyone that is interested in the cultural heritage of Kosovo to make this means as useful as possible," he stated.

In our public online website, 265 assets of cultural heritage are presented, from which 185 are architectural, 52 are archaeological and 30 are movable. Thereby, monuments are presented separately also as per the regions in Kosovo. The site is in three languages: Albanian, English and Serbian.

This project has been supported by the Embassy of the United Kingdom and has been implemented by CHWB and MCYS.

Continued from Front Page
In this ceremony present were Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi, Ambassador of the United Kingdom, Ian Cliff, representatives of other embassies, international organisations and central and local institutions of cultural heritage.

Minister Krasniqi emphasised that the project for launching the database, is another opportunity for presentation of Kosovo to public inside and outside the country.

"From today we are opening a new window so that the world can better know Kosovo, as it truly is. Database of cultural heritage, that is today opening to the public, besides being an information opportunity for our historic, cultural and religious monuments, for traditions, habits, crafts, clothes and many more things, it also is a greater opportunity for citizens from all over the world to better know our cultural heritage and visit these monuments" he states, while expressing his gratitude to the Embassy of the United Kingdom in Kosovo for the financial support as well as the organisation Cultural Heritage without Borders for the implementation of the project.

He also stated that this is just the beginning and that this database shall be enriched and promoted much further.
Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi, has visited the archaeological locality of “Ulpiana”, in order to see closely the excavation process and new findings, at the three sectors of the space where excavations are taking place.

The Minister was informed in detail on the excavation process of and their conservation for archaeological-touristic aspects, new findings, the process of drafting the excavated parts and documenting the work in general.

The Minister estimated the work conducted in this locality, emphasizing that MCYS supports in all forms the archaeological excavations in order to discover our past as a country and to prove our civilization and ancientness as people, having passed through different historical periods.

“"The institutional care for archaeology has been increased continuously via all forms of support, and these excavations which started five years ago, are evidence of a commitment to learn for our past and proof of our early civilization which existed in this territory” said the Minister, while he added that the archaeological locality of “Ulpiana”, along with the findings in it and in Dresnik of Klina, shall be a centre of reference for Kosovo, its history and shall also serve as a very important touristic point.

Moreover, the Minister stated that Archaeological Institute of Kosovo that is authorized for all coordination processes of excavations in this locality, has done its duty via cooperating with different institutions of this field, among them also the University of ‘Mimar Sinan’ in Istanbul of Turkey, where he distinguished the work of professor Haluk Çentinkaya.

In his turn, Director of the Archaeological Institute of Kosovo, Enver Rexha, said that the support of MCYS for archaeological excavations has been doubled and this has resulted in more work for archaeologists and more discoveries. He stated that this support resulted in that the AIK increased its collaboration with many international institutions of this field, which are of a significant importance.

Whereas, professor Çetinkaya stated that he is satisfied with the collaboration and work in general. He talked also for new excavations that were conducted this year, during which a church of IV-V century was discovered, dimensions of which are 39 meters height, 19 meters width and 8-9 meters length. The size of the church, according to professor, for the time that it existed proves that Ulpiana was a very important centre at that time.

Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports (MCYS) together with the Archaeological Institute of Kosovo in the recent years have increased the investments in this locality and other localities, too, in which occasion, another early dwelling was discovered in Dresnik of Klina. Only this year 150 thousand Euros were invested in the Archaeological Locality of Ulpiana by MCYS, whereas, 100 thousand Euros for that in Dresnik.

Archaeological site ‘Ulpiana’, a reference point for Kosovo

No. 16. Year III.
Statement of Archaeological Institute of findings at the Archaeological locality ‘Ulpiana’

Archaeological Institute of Kosovo (AIK) deems necessary to provide some clarifications regarding yesterday’s reporting in media regarding that at the Archaeological locality ‘Ulpiana’ ‘the oldest church in the world was found’.

We would like to highlight firstly for the sake of correctness and right public information, that the reports were transmitted with a lot of fallibilities.

Excavations at Ulpiana have started since 2010 up to now. All excavation processes were directed, coordinated or authorized by Archaeological Institute of Kosovo.

Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports (MCYS) together with Archaeological Institute in the recent years increased investments and scientific researchers at this locality. Only this year, in this locality 150 thousand Euros were invested by MCYS.

At Ulpiana, in different periods, also, different institutes from Europe worked in cooperation with Archaeological Institute, especially Archaeological Institute of Frankfurt, University of Heidelberg, Museum of Bochum, etc.

Excavations on the wide area of Ulpiana are developed in three sectors. One of them is the space under the direct supervision and interaction with AIK that is excavated also by archaeologist from Turkey, prof. dr. Haluk Çetinkaya, with his working group, that is participated also by archaeologists and technical workers of different ethnic groups from Kosovo. Thus, the information that in this space in which currently professor Çetinkaya is excavating, no one works from Kosovo, is not true. Archaeologist from Kosovo who is directly related to this archaeological excavation is Mr. Kemal Luci. The major part of expenditures for excavations is covered by AIK, through the budget that is allocated to it by MCYS.

Professor Haluk Çetinkaya developed excavations on basis of Memorandum signed by Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports with University of Beautiful Arts ‘Mimar Sinan’ in Istanbul. This Memorandum was signed in 2011 and based on this agreement, the excavations started in 2012. The Memorandum signed between parties foresees cooperation for 5 years. Furthermore, on the basis of signed Memorandum, the project of excavations is carried out by AIK and every work is conducted in interaction, cooperation and authorization of AIK.

Every finding in this space, where professor Çetinkaya is developing his excavation, is then sent to AIK for its further research and presentation.

AIK wants to make known that reports have been sent to it for
the last two years. Findings were reported yesterday on media, were mainly conducted in 2013, continuing this year, too. The major part of these findings was included also in the annual report of AIK work for 2013.

Up to now, every finding and its study is previous, or of the studying moment and archaeologists doubts. The final report, that is to be sent to AIK, shall clarify exactly the oldness of every part researched and found up to now. The assumptions of archaeologist Çetinkaya, but also of AIK, for the moment are that the church in question belongs to IV-V century of our era. But this date is not absolute because during further developments and excavations, hence, up to the end of processes, researches may issue new evidence which shall provide final evaluation based on scientific researches.

At the place where this church is found, professor Çetnikaya explained that in antique period there were first Christian martyrs of Illyrian, Flori and Lauri people. But, in media, yesterday, the information issued was that these martyrs were female. Information transmitted from media was inaccurate.

Archaeological Institute of Kosovo expresses its pleasure for the interest on archaeology shown by media and society in general that is growing. This in fact raises the awareness on archaeology and cultural heritage of our country in general.

Therefore, having a focus on right information, AIK invites all actors of society as well as media that for every reporting which is related to archaeology in the Republic of Kosovo to address AIK. This is for the sake of not misinforming the opinion and for right promotion of our culture.

AIK and MCYS always remain, as they have declared up to now, open for cooperation on any issue that is related to archaeology and cultural heritage in general.
“DokuFest”, cultural map of Kosovo for the World

This year, in the southern city of Kosovo, Prizren, the thirteenth edition of Documentary and Short Film Festival, “DokuFest” was held, which is considered the most prestigious festival in the region for this category of films.

In the 9-day festival, which is of the competition category and of international extent, 237 films were presented from 56 countries in six competition programs. The festival was also reported on foreign media, such as Reuters and El Mundo, which emphasised this event as very important for Kosovo to become more known internationally.

In opening edition of this year’s DokuFest, present were president of Kosovo, Atifete Jahjaga, Minister of Culture in Albania, Mirela Kumbaro, her homologue from Kosovo, Memli Krasniqi, as well as several popular names of Albanian cinematography, whereas, in the closing ceremony of international festival of short and documentary film participated two Albanian Prime-Ministers Edi Rama and Hashim Thaçi, whose governments this year supported together this important cinematographic event.

Organizer of DokuFest festival, Veton Nurkollari, estimated that the organisation of such a cultural event influences the improvement and transmission of a great image for our country. DokuFest is visited by hundreds of foreign filmmakers every year and many of them carry a very good impression for Prizren and Kosovo, even those who had come having prejudices”, stated Mr. Nurkollari.

Ministry of Culture Youth and Sports supported the festival granting an amount of 20 thousand Euros. Minister Memli Krasniqi stated that the support of such cultural organisations promote our country, it should be continuous and likewise on the increase.

“DokuFest every next year is becoming one of the cultural events that is having impact on the transmission of messages in improving the image of our country and we have supported continually the festival” said the minister.

“Being part of this activity that has turned into a very important cultural reference of the film world and artistic debate is an honour for the Ministry of Culture of Albania.
Supporting DokuFest completely consists with the policy of the Ministry of Culture of our country in order to build a communication bridge with no borders nor barriers and we found an excellent model in DokuFest on how could art enweave with education, stated Minister of Culture of Albania, Mirela Kumbaro-Furxhi.

Film “Heshtje” (Silence) by producer Bekim Guri is announced winner in the category of national film in the 13th edition of DokuFest. This film which treats the thematic of war in Kosovo triumphed in the national competition in which 14 films competed.

In the following are winners in other categories:

COMPETITION OF SHORT FILMS: Film from Norway “Subtotal” of producer Gunhild Enger.

COMPETITION OF DOCUMENTARY FILMS FOR ENVIRONMENT: In the category of “Best Green Documentary”, film “Metamorphosen” by the German producer Sebastian Mez.

A special price was awarded to the documentary “My name is Salt” by producer Farida Pacha for presenting a powerful story on an ancient tradition of people who work on the land.

COMPETITION OF DOCUMENTARIES FOR HUMAN RIGHTS: The price was won by the cinematographic Hungarian-German and Portuguese coproduction “Judgment in Hungary” by the producer Eszter Hajdiu narrating the murder of gipsies in Hungary.

Two prices were awarded for the category of international documentaries competition.

COMPETITION OF SHORT INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARIES: Film “Emergency Calls” by Hannes Vartiainen, whereas, producer Manuel Ambramovich by Argentina was honoured with special gratitude for film “The Queen”.

COMPETITION OF LONG INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARIES: Film “Domino Effect” by Elwira Niewiera from Poland, whereas, film “Endless Escape Eternal return” by producer Harutyun Khachatryan from Armenia was honoured with special gratitude.

COMPETITION OF THE BEST BALKAN DOCUMENTARIES: Iva Radiivojevic is the winner with film “Evaporating Borders”, whereas, in this category, the producer from Serbia Stefan Ivanqiq was honoured with special price for film “1973”.

COMPETITION OF THE BEST BALKAN FILMS BALKAN NEWCOMER: Film “Waiting for August” by producer Teodora Ana Mihai from Belgium, whereas, special price was awarded to “My name is salt” by producer Farida Pacha.

Theme of the edition of DokuFest was the change, meanwhile, the title of the campaign and slogan was named “Ndrysho, mos u mshef” (Change, don’t hide) which are synonyms of the silent power of citizens and the attempt of citizens to have a more powerful voice for their future.

Categories of the festival DokuFest in this edition were divided in: competition of Balkan documentaries, international, environment, human rights, short films documentaries. Meanwhile, a number of categories were also included within the framework of special program.

Source: kultplus.com/
Kosovo obtains the right to propose films for OSCARS

A cademy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences which awards OSCAR, has notified Kosovo Cinematography Centre that from this year on has the right of proposing a film to be taken into consideration for OSCAR in the category of foreign film. This notification followed the application submitted by KCC this year and following fulfillment of criteria of the academy and international lobbying.

All long films that have been shown in cinemas of Kosovo for seven days in row from 1 October 2013 until 30 September 2014 have the right for nomination.

Kosovo, just as the other states has the right to nominate only one film. The nomination shall be made by a selectors’ group consisting of seven persons from Kosovo who will be confirmed by KCC in the following days.

“This is a very good news for Kosovar filmmakers, an excellent opportunity for their career and a high affirmation for Kosovo and film industry” KCC director Arben Zharku said.

Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi congratulated all filmmakers in Kosovo for this achievement.

“This is another step Kosovo is making for its presentation into world cultural scene. This is a very good opportunity for presentation of Kosovar cinematography”, minister Krasniqi said.

KCC and MCYS thank the board members of AMPAS, and all people and institutions which have contributed in the process.

Kosovo Cinematography Centre, respectively the evaluation jury consisting of Domenico La Porta– chairman, Nikolaj Nikitin, Pavel Jech, Astrit Aliahdaraj, Doruntina Basha, Edon Rizvanoll, and Visar Krusha – members, following the review of the projects submitted for subsidizing the long films, for the year 2014, announced the following winning projects:


Jury evaluated with the highest number of points this film project because of original tackling of problems of Kosovar society in transition, and of Kosovar diaspora in Germany.


Jury highly estimated this film project because it discusses with...
Kosovo Cinematography Centre supports eight feature films

Jury selected this project by highly evaluating its scenario, the universal theme, and the great commercial potential.

Jury estimated that the three following projects have high artistic potential, innovative approach, and intriguing topics and strongly believes in the capacities of their creative teams, therefore it decided that these projects are to be supported for further development of the screenplay.


Jury was satisfied with the high number of applications which have been submitted in the competition for subvention of long films for the year 2014, and it was not easy to select the abovementioned projects because the competition was very tough. Jury appreciated the original approach of screenplay writers and directors in tackling topics which have potential to present Kosovo before the public in the country and abroad, with a new spirit. The jury also estimates that all projects supported have high potential for international coproduction, and further deepening of other international cooperation.

Kosovo Cinematography Centre hopes that the selected projects for supporting the competition this year will be soon joining to the success of subsidised projects in the past competitions and will contribute to further enhance the cooperation with other states. Example of this success is the artistic film of long version ‘Bota – The World,’ of the directors Iris Elezi and Thomas Logoreci, coproduction of Albania, Kosovo and Italy, which will have the premiere on 5th of July 2014, in the festival of A category in Karlovy Vary.

In the competition of 2014, KCC also supported 7 other films of short version, 4 documentaries and 1 animation.

Photo: Kosovo Cinematography Centre
Tenth anniversary of “Muslim Mulliqi” International Prize - National Gallery of Kosovo

Photo: National Gallery of Kosovo
National Gallery of Kosovo organised the jubilee edition of the exhibition “Muslim Mulliqi” titled “As if fallen from the sky” where the thematic was the sense of public mentality. 32 local and international artists participated in the exhibition and this edition included also the public program of lectures and of artistic film shows.

Director of National Gallery of Kosovo, Erzen Shkololli, said that in this jubilee edition they decided differently from past times to go out of the building of NGK, and they also had spatial interventions, just as they had re-actualisation of various areas in the town which would possibly be interesting areas for the contemporary art.

“We will present the next project of the jubilee edition of “Muslim Mulliqi” exhibition, that this year is the tenth year and probably it is different from the past years, as regards to the structure of the project, how they are conceptualised and realised. Every project of Muslim Mulliqi must be different from earlier projects, and for this reason also the curators are there to take care of this job”, Shkololli said.

Whereas the curator of the exhibition, Corinne Diserens expressed that it has been a great pleasure for her to work in Kosovo and to discover the works of Kosovar artists and to understand the artistic context of this country.

The artist Flaka Haliti won the main prize of “Muslim Mulliqi” exhibition, with five paintings she completed titled “Hats are needed after this point”. The local artist was awarded with the main prize in the first jubilee of this international exhibition.

“I feel extraordinarily honoured to receive this prize from the National Gallery. A thank belongs to the jury which highly appreciated my creative work. I thank all, I will proudly keep this prize which makes me feel extremely proud”, the winner of the prize for the best presented work declared, where she was awarded with the amount of three thousand Euros.

“The decision of the jury is based on the quality of the mister, poetry and suspicions which are presented and represented in the work and drawings of Flaka Haliti titled “Kapuçaç nevojiten pas kësaj pike - Hats are needed after this point”, a work from the last year. So, these works of Haliti encouraged us as jury to have long discussions which are related to art in general”, the member of jury Friderich Machede said.

The jury consisted of Director of Fundació Antoni Tàpies in Barcelona - Laurence Rassel, Director of Bielefeld Museum and former director of the program of residence DAAD in Berlin - Friderich Machede and Visar Mulliqi, who is a professor in the Faculty of Arts in Prishtina, who selected the winner of Muslim Mulliqi.

In this edition of exhibition, works of art and newly selected productions were exposed in discussion with historical perspective and actualisation of three extraordinary tapestries of artist Hannah Ryggen, which were the starting point in building the whole jubilee of Muslim Mulliqi and that were exhibited for the first time in the region.

The body of the Ensemble of Songs and Dance “Shota” participated in the eighteenth festival of Vitosha which is held in Sofia in Bulgaria. Although it did not have a competing character, the festival was a good opportunity for creation of friendships, and bringing different people and cultures closer together, where “Shota” presented our folklore in dignitary manner.

Director of “Shota” Ensemble, Shefqet Gjoci said that they had invitations for participation in various festivals at the same time, e.g. “Culture Week” in Kili of Germany, then in the “Folklore Magazine” in Zagreb and invitations for participation in Vitosha in Bulgaria.

“The reason we went to Bulgaria is objective because it cost us lower, we have also thought that “Shota” Ensemble in this period needs to create more contacts, which we wanted and achieved during this festival”, Gjocaj said.

“Shota” Ensemble was presented with three formats of programs, a five minute program, another one from eight to ten minutes and the other format was a half an hour program where all the three formats were greatly welcomed.

Director Gjocaj also told that besides the achieved successes in participations abroad, “Shota” Ensemble this year is marking the 50th anniversary of its establishment. Now “Shota” is in a preparatory stage of marking its jubilee.

“These days we have made the selection of the general logo of “Shota” Ensemble, but some small modifications are needed in order to better specify the logo. The first place belonged to Zeni Ballazhi, and his logo will be the permanent logo of “Shota” Ensemble”, Gjocaj said, letting us also know that a set of photographs has been taken with the members of “Shota” Ensemble, which are going to serve for the monograph on the ensemble which will be a kind of passport for the ensemble into various festivals.

As part of marking the 50th anniversary, the ensemble is going to perform with a new dance which was prepared under the choreography of Xhemail Berisha. Fiftieth Anniversary of “Shota” Ensemble, will be marked in September.
Ritual of make up of the face of bride in the province of Zhupa

Photo: Ethnological Museum of Kosovo
For several days in row, in Prishtina, as part of “Handicraft week” which was held for the fourth time, various handicraft works which are cultivated in Kosovo were presented. This is very important for the heritage of our country, and it was organised in Ethnologic Museum of Kosovo.

One of the most special rituals of our people, the one of preparing, doing the make up of the face of the bride in the province of Zhupa, and at the same time the ritual which became a very interesting topic also in other various countries where CNN TV transmitted this ritual, it came as demonstrated in Ethnologic Museum in the capital city.

“This ritual is very old, and it is still present amongst our girls, there are still girls who now do not want this ritual. There are various types of face decorations, but the one we are demonstrating now is the oldest and the most frequently applied”, said the girl that is demonstrating this ritual, Elvisa Sagdati from Zhupa, by telling that this was done for the brides not to be distinguished from each other in order not to cause any kind of jealousy amongst them.

“The week...” was also followed by demonstration of the craftsmanship of silversmith, carpentry, white hat makers, pottery, drum and tambourine makers, handicraft from pearls, and also textile handicrafts.

In the opening of this week, the director of National Museum of Kosovo, Shafi Gashi, thanked the participants hoping to have many visitors and interested people for this important cultural event. Whereas the representative of “Culture for all”, Lila Skarveli estimated this organisation as very important. “I am happy that I am here, we are in a very good and comfortable environment, I thank a lot the Ethnologic Museum for this opportunity. I invite other international organisations to come here because I feel at home, therefore I am sure that they would feel well if they came”, she said.

This event was estimated as very important, and that such organisations are so much needed to our culture to be as frequent as possible. “Handicraft week” was qualified as one of the promoters and the most fruitful event regarding our ancientness and cultural origin. Along the five days, as it was foreseen as part of this activity, the participants stated that they are very satisfied. Also the organisers expressed their special pleasure for the progress of the whole week.

Handicraft craftsmen expressed to be very happy with the organisation of all the days of this event, they even call it a celebration of the whole week dedicated to craftsmanship.

During the “Handicraft Week” there were handicraft works presented which are endangered to be completely lost as activities because of forgetfulness, and this would be harmful to our country and thousand year culture.

Source /kultplus.com/
Floor surface (stone mosaic)
Archaeological site ‘Ulpiana’
Minister Krasniqi promises increase of his support for the Museum of Kosovo

Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi, welcomed in a meeting the new director of the museum, Arsim Mehmeti. They discussed for plans and projects expected to be fulfilled in future.

Minister Krasniqi congratulated director Mehmeti for his new duty and promised full support for the realization of his objectives and projects planned, so that the museum shall become one of the most representative institutions for our country and a place where citizens of Kosovo and tourists can see closely our cultural heritage.

The Minister informed Mr. Mehmeti that the Law on Museums is ready, and that as it becomes applicable, it shall assist and facilitate much more the work of museums and shall result in the increase of efficiency and performance. He stated that it is necessary for one to be responsible in work and respect of law in continual.

Whereas, in his turn, director of Museum of Kosovo, Arsim Mehmeti, thanked the Minister for his continued support that he has made for the Museum in past and for promises and support for the future.

He informed the Minister about the plans for the Museum of Kosovo, emphasizing that he shall build and develop further the collaboration with other local and international institutions, aiming to promote our cultural heritage. Mr. Mehmeti said that his goal is to make the Museum a reference and promotion point for Kosovo.
A new chapter for handball in Kosovo

A new chapter is opening for handball in Kosovo. This was said by Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi, in a meeting with Head of Kosovo Handball Federation, Eugen Saracini. World Handball Federation Council (IHF) approved the request of KHF for full provisional membership in IHF.

Minister Krasniqi said that this is an indication that Kosovo sport is definitely opening the doors of isolation and now that time is coming for equal presentation. In this meeting special emphasis was given to the discussion for preparations of the representative of Kosovo Handball on word qualification in 2015.

Minister Krasniqi stated “We are going to be supporters of handball just as we have always been and not only for handball. Moreover, our support shall intensify even more since we shall also have one more representative who is going to represent us in important international competitions”, while he was felicitating Head Saracini for the great effort he is doing on spreading and enhancing the quality of handball.

Head of KHF, Eugen Saracini, notified the Minister for the work they did up to now and the preparations for the final process of membership at IHF, as well as participation in international competitions. He thanked Minister Krasniqi for his support, appreciating it as rather significant for the achievements marked by Kosovo Handball.

Minister Krasniqi met Albanian footballer Shkodran Mustafi

Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi, welcomed Albanian footballer from Macedonia Shkodran Mustafi, who won the title of World Champion with German national team at the World Football Championship in Brazil, held in June and July of this year.

Minister Krasniqi congratulated Mr. Mustafi for his great success achieved, thus becoming the first Albanian to win the title of Football World Champion. He stated that Mr. Mustafi and all other Albanian footballers who played in Brazil have made all Albanian people proud.

Minister Krasniqi stated: “We have all been with you. Your splendid presentations and this great historical success have made us proud indeed and for us and the youth you are an inspiration”. He stated that the success of Mr. Mustafi and all other Albanian footballers who played at European world competitions serves as a motive for many young footballers in Kosovo to work and achieve success in their professional career.

He notified Mr. Mustafi with challenges and achievements of Kosovo football and sports in general, emphasizing that there are important steps towards recognition in UEFA and FIFA and he expressed his hope that Kosovo shall take part in qualification for World Football in 2018 that is going to be held in Russia.

In his turn, footballer Shkodran Mustafi thanked the Minister for his hospitality and expressed himself highly honored that all Albanians in the whole world have supported him and welcomed his success. He stated that this success is also a commitment for his people. Mr. Mustafi talked about the progress of his career and his future plans. He stated that the championship in Brazil and the golden medallion have been an additional motivation for him but also an enormous reference for his future career.
Cineuropa Award for Kosovo film “Three Windows and one Hanging”

In the 20th edition of the International Film Festival in Sarajevo, the world premiere of the film directed by Isa Qosja “Tri dritare dhe një varje” was presented, which was estimated as one of the best films of this festival.

The woman which decides to break the silence for the rapes which Serbs committed in the last war in Kosovo is the main topic of the film. The fact that a film with such a topic is presented in the state of Bosnia and Herzegovina is poignant, considering that it had quite a painful experience regarding rape of women.

The film, with the screenplay of Zymber Kelmendi, and direction of Isa Qosja, in this festival was awarded with the prize of Cineuropa, which is a partner prize of the Film Festival of Sarajevo and it is awarded one night before the main ceremony of prize awarding.

The prize awarded for the team of the film was accepted by both main actors of the film: Luan Jaha and Irena Cahani. Whereas according to Cineuropa which is an online medium, it is stated that the prize includes promotion on the internet during the next month, in the value of 5 thousand Euros.

This cinematography project with the screenplay of Zymber Kelmendi and direction of Isa Qosja was welcomed by the Bosnian public also for the fact that it tackles the pain of the war which was faced by the Bosnian people along with the people of Kosovo as a result of the aggression and genocide caused by the Serbian regime.

A courageous topic of this film, the directorial approach, and embodiment of actors in this movie, which according to the screenplay writer of this movie, Zymber Kelmendi, actors involved in this project caused to forget the imaginative ones while he was writing the screenplay.

“Tri dritare dhe një varje – Three windows and one hanging” was amongst the favourite films of this edition, to gain the main prize of the festival “The Heart of Sarajevo”, in the competition with nine other films. “Reuters” news agency in a text it issued estimated that the Kosovar film “Tri dritare dhe një varje - Three windows and one hanging” was aimed at winning the first prize in the international film festival in Sarajevo.

Following presentation of the world premiere in Sarajevo, this film will descend to the country of origin, and on 4 September it will introduce the premiere, to further go through procedures towards potential nomination for OSCAR.

The film was supported by Kosovo Cinematography Centre, and the following actors were involved: Irena Cahani, Luan Jaha, Donat Qosja, Aurita Agushi, Leona Mehetaj, Xhevat Qorraj, who now are known for their artistic charisma. The producers of the film are Shkumbin Istrefi and Mentor Shala.

Source /kultplus.com/
“Etno Fest”, cultivates our tradition and identity

E verything breathed “in Alba

nian” in Kukaj village, 30 km to the East of Prishtina. For the fourth year in row, the edition of Festival of Traditional Arts and Culture “Etno Fest” was held. Extending on the triangle Slivova, Artana, Marec, Kukaj village has become a destina
tion of festivals and traditional games organised by the support also from the Ministry of Culture.

Members of the ensembles of Albanian songs and dance, “Pegasi Albania” from Gjirokastra and “Sho
ta” from Prishtina, performed in total three choreographs in opening of this Festival, where its aim was that through theatrical shows, figurative exhibitions and ethno-performances to re-discover the ethno-cultural values of Albanian people.

Deputy Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Hajdin Abazi, estimated that “Ethno Fest” is one of cultural organisations which enables us to better get acquainted with our identity and at the same time to cultivate and preserve our culture roots. “Through the festival “Etno Fest” we will be able to know more about our autoch-

thonous and cultural identity. I hope that the local artists with their performances will conduct all the required artistic messages. I hope that during these days you will enjoy the time here”, these were the words of Deputy Minister of Culture, Hajdin Abazi.

Whereas the director of “Ethno Fest” Festival, Fadil Hysaj, emphasised that this year’s edition has a rich program which includes all Albanian geography and ethnography, where performances of before 2000 years will be shown, such as decoration of Albanian bride in Zhup of Zym i Hasit. “Artists exist for the human soul not to die. We have made efforts to create environments where the elderly would come just as in the old times, to make environments where actors can perform shows, fanatic artisans who want to preserve the tradition and where modern designers know to get inspired and make miracles. Before you come to Kukaj village, twenty figurative artists were here from Albania, Kosovo, Macedonia and Turkey, who got inspired and later created some paintings which you are seeing now”, Hysaj said.

In the end of the four day festival, twelve prizes were awarded. This festival was highly appreciated that it is an organisation to revive the national memory and to recreate the Albanian identity, an event tending to return the values of cultural heritage of our country, ancient traditions and archaic rituals. This manifestation, amongst others was also estimated for preservation and affirmation of traditional values from spiritual heritage of our people, so that the new generation and others to come wish to have more information for the tradition, habits, praxis and manner of living of Albanian people in the past.
"Albaniada", remembrance through sports and games

With lightning of flambeaus, officially the 3rd edition of the Festival of traditional Albanian games and sports, Albaniada, opened. The aim of this organisation is for the new generations to be better acquainted with the sports and games that our forefathers played, but with the time it is to be the event that attracts the interest of tourists but also of the curious people from the region and the world.

Deputy Minister of Culture, Hajdin Abazi, estimated that this event is of high importance and is a return to and remembrance of our past. “Traditional sports and games, because of modern development of the society have somehow been forgotten”. Abazi said.

Whereas the organiser of the festival of “Albaniada”, Ekrem Tahiri said that this event is constantly increasing the number of competitions. The novelty in this edition was the participation of girls in some disciplines. In this edition of Albaniada there are 23 disciplines of the games, where in 21 disciplines there will be males to compete and in 2 others the women will be the competitors.

He also explained that they have taken confirmation from 10 municipalities which have sent their participants in Albaniada. Whereas he hopes that after several years, in these traditional Albanian games there will be participants from all Albanian areas.

With the participation of 120 competitors in various disciplines, with presentation of various traditional sports, and with songs and dance, the third edition of Albaniada was concluded. Medals were given to all those who showed a good performance in old Albanian sports, concretely for: games of ‘the meadow’ and those of ‘the stage’, such as Collecting the Handkerchief, Pulling the Rope, Rock Throwing, Jumping called “pup”, Jumping and Running, Throwing the Pole, Running on one leg, and Jumping High.

It was promised that in the next edition, the next year, they will also bring the ensembles from Korça and Ulqin, in order to bring together the Albanian territories.

“Albaniada” festival which was supported by the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports was held in Kukaj village, Prishtina – Gjilan road.
Deputy-minister Mr. Abazi met with a group of Canadian students

Deputy-minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Hajdin Abazi, welcomed a group of Canadian students in a meeting, guided by Faton Bislimi, a former student of Harvard University and a university professor.

Deputy-minister Abazi informed student about MCYS, its setting and mission as a ministry, emphasizing than in recent years it continuously marked achievements and successes in culture and sports, resulting from its work and institutional engagement.

Furthermore, Mr. Abazi stated that although Kosovo is a new state, it possesses a rich cultural heritage which it shares with other communities that live in our country.

“Our attempt as a country is to create a culture which is based on cultural values of the communities which live in Kosovo, where common points are found, culture in which people cooperate with one another”, said Mr. Abazi.

Deputy-minister also informed students about the plans and projects that MCYS has in the future, the challenges it faces with, budget which keeps increasing each year, institutional cooperation for cultural projects, sports, subsidizing youth organizations on priority basis.

Whereas, students, in their turn, thanked deputy-minister Abazi for his hosting and information about MCYS and culture and sports of Kosovo in general. They expressed that they feel privileged for the opportunity offered to them to acquire a broader knowledge about the culture and heritage of our country.

Deputy Minister Dedaj attended the opening of the exhibition dedicated to 104th anniversary of birth of Mother Teresa

Gjergj Dedaj, Deputy Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, attended the opening of the exhibition dedicated to 104th anniversary of birth of Albanian saint and Nobel prize winner, Mother Teresa, organised in the Catholic Cathedral "Mother Teresa" in Prishtina.

In addition to the bishop of Kosovo Dodë Gjergj were present also representatives of Arbëresh community from Italy and dignitaries of political and cultural life in Kosovo and Diaspora. As for the personality of Mother Teresa it was Don Lush Gjergj who spoke on behalf of the bishoprics of Kosovo.
Majlinda Kelmendi
World Champion in Judo