Kosovo officially opened its Pavilion at the International Exhibition of Contemporary Art at the Venice Biennale. Many artists from around the world were present at the opening ceremony, including the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi, as well as the Ambassador of Kosovo to Italy, Bukurije Gjonbalaj.

Minister called opening of Kosovo Pavilion a special moment of the exhibition, which in fact constitutes the first participation of our country to this event, but the second in the Venice Biennale, after participating in the Architecture Biennale last year.

More on page 15
“Ora e shtëpisë” (Albanian houses’ nymph)
Carved by wooden root
Brought in Ethnological Museum of Kosovo in 2006 from professor Ukë Xhema
Snake - in Albanian mythology is a totem who protects house and family.
Minister Krasniqi hands over national awards to Majlinda Kelmendi and Driton Kuka

Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi today solemnly handed over rewards for judoka Majlinda Kelmendi and her coach Driton Kuka, for the bronze medal earned at the European Judo Championships in Budapest. Based on Regulation on Top Sports Performers, Majlinda Kelmendi was awarded 8 thousand euros, while Driton Kuka 4 thousand euros.

The awards ceremony was held at the MCYS, in the presence of the President of the Olympic Committee of Kosovo, Besim Hasani.

In his speech, Minister Krasniqi said that this moment marks a new beginning for the sport, as it was the first time that an athlete and a coach are given an official and state recognition for the success they achieved. He said that with establishment of a legal basis for awards, scholarships and permanent support for the Olympic and Pre-Olympic hopefuls, athletes are more eager to work towards greater success. Minister congratulated Majlinda Kelmendi and Driton Kuka for the hard work they have done during all these years, which helped a lot in opening the doors for Kosovo sports. "I want people, especially young people, see Majlinda as a model that was born here, grew here, trained here, sacrificed here, reached this level here and continues to operate here, travels the world and back again to Kosovo, which looks after her," he said.

With the award delivered today, Majlinda and Driton have also become eligible for standing support, as prescribed in Regulation for Standing Support for Top Sportsmen. "It is an incentive as it only establishes what is already a matter of common knowledge; that all of the work is really done for valid reasons. And the reasons are tangible and visible, these are the successes of our athletes and I think that, with near completion of the legal framework and support to sports and its athletes, which has undoubtedly increased significantly, we will have the opportunity to not only formally but also concretely urge our young people to continue with their sporting commitments because the state look after them. All people of talent and quality, who continue on their journey towards success in sports, may share the fortune of Majlinda, to succeed at the national and international level, but also receive the proper care," he said, and added that it was very important for the rewards and support to not only come as a result of minister’s good will but are rather basic and legal requirements. "In the past, we have undoubtedly supported Majlinda, and rightly so, which was based on merits, but that came as a result of my good will as a minister, of previous ministers or the good will of institutions we represent. However, henceforth, the assistance does not merely depend on our good will but also depends on the success of athletes and I think this is a major difference, which gives athletes additional assurance to continue their work,"
said Minister Krasniqi, adding that while many challenges clearly lie ahead, important steps were made both in internal organization as well as internationalization.

Minister Krasniqi also called on the business community of Kosovo, just as in many other countries, to increase support for athletes, as this would result not only in increased development of sports but also yield mutual results.

In the weeks ahead, the minister said that work was underway to complete the other legal infrastructure, in particular on categorization of sports, which is the responsibility of the Kosovo Olympic Committee. "No doubt there is room for improvement within federations, and the Olympic Committee, but they will always be encouraged by our side to continue, because internationalization brings with it not only privileges but also responsibilities."

On the other hand, judoka Majlinda Kelmendi said that she felt very happy about the reward. "I am certainly very happy today, not merely for compensation but rather this is an historic day for all Kosovar athletes. The minister also mentioned earlier that athletes will no longer be dependent on the desire or the good will of a minister or any particular institution but all athletes will come to the stage where I am now, which is rely on our own strength, on ourselves or on our successes. I am very happy because I know the work that my coach and the minister put together during the last two years. I know it has not been easy," she said.

And her coach, Driton Kuka said that the success at the European Championships and awards handed over are work and credit of all the people who have worked hard these two years to move the sports forward.

"I believe that today was a great day for sport, for athletes, coaches and all those who dedicated themselves to the sports because they will no longer depend on the people who are likely to be replaced by politics but will nonetheless be a great day for the minister because he will go down in history as the first man who has promoted the sport of Kosovo in the best way possible and has done so under great hardship and toil. We all know that Kosovo has many problems, we know that it is a very young country, with many challenges in the prevailing circumstances. However, I am very pleased that it has adopted a regulation so favourable to sports to the extent that I am speechless; I am still very happy not only for the awards but also for the fact that this will serve as a guide for future generations," he said.

The President of the Kosovo Olympic Committee, Besim Hasani said that the event indicated that the status of athletes is being regulated in an official manner. "This also represents a very good signal for all athletes, coaches and parents of Kosovo, all sacrificing in pursuit of a medal. There is tremendous work involved behind the medal and the Judo Federation has been doing an incredible work. Also, I wish to express my satisfaction that the Government, at Minister’s initiative, managed to complete all these regulations to regulate the status of athletes and coaches. Other regulations of importance for sports men and women and for sports in general are likely to ensue. We are on a good track and I hope that this will actually represent a turning point, the trend that will steer as many Kosovars towards sports as possible," he said.
Regulation on National Awards to Top Performing Athletes, Regulation on Standing Support to Top Athletes and Regulation on Scholarships for Olympic and Paralympic Hopes adopted

The Government of the Republic of Kosovo, at its regular meeting today, adopted the Regulation on National Awards to Top Performing Sports Men and Women in International Competitions, as well as Regulation on Standing Financial Support to Sports Men and Women who were awarded medals in the Olympic Games, World Championships or European Championships.

The Regulation entitles any sportsman or sportswoman who was awarded a medal at these competitions remuneration from the state, depending on the medal and also ensures standing financial support as of 45 years of age.

Minister Krasniqi, speaking to his cabinet, stated that these regulations are being adopted for the first time, adding that the adoption constituted one of the most important steps in Kosovo in terms of support to sportsmen and sportswomen and for development of sports in general. He said that the move would boost the competitive drive of men and women everywhere towards better successes.

“The Republic of Kosovo has many young sportsmen and sportswomen who have recently shown talent and results at many international competitions. In addition to other forms of support for our sports men and women, it is necessary to regulate the issue of national remuneration for top performing sportsmen ranking high at official international competitions, such as Olympic Games, World Championships and European Championships, along with standing financial support.

“The sports community welcomed the move as one of the most significant steps in developing sports and promoting institutional care for our sports men and women”, said Minister Krasniqi.

These regulations establish procedures and financial remuneration under state awards for sports men and women with top results at international competitions, duration and procedures of award of standing financial support for former sports men and women who were awarded Olympic or Pre-Olympic medals as well as World Championship or European Championship medals.

It is worth noting that awards established under the regulation are higher than in most countries of the region.

Regulation on awards will recognize results achieved at official competitions as of 01 January 2013. The Regulation on financial support shall apply to all sports men and women of Kosovo who were awarded medals at these three international competitions.

Standing support for top performing sportsmen will be as follows: 800 EUR per month for Olympic gold medalists, 600 EUR per month for Olympic silver medalists, 500 EUR for Olympic bronze medalists. 600 EUR for holder of a World Championship medal, while 500 EUR and 400 EUR for Silver and Bronze, respectively. For holders Gold medal at a European Championship, the pension shall be 500 EUR, while Silver Gold Medal will entitle the holder to 400 EUR and 300 EUR for Bronze. The sports men or women may retire at the age of 45 and may not receive an award or remuneration for the same medal from any other country.

National Awards for sports men and women who are awarded medals at official international competitions are as follows:

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<th>Olympic Games</th>
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<td>Olympic record</td>
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<td>Olympic gold medal</td>
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<td>Bronze medal</td>
<td>€ 8 thousand</td>
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The Regulation also entitles the coach of sports men and women who were awarded medals at 50% of the amount of award received by the sports men or women.

Young sports men or women who rank high at Olympic Games for Youth, World Championships or European Championships at a category U23 will be rewarded up to 25% of the amounts indicated above.

In addition to these two regulations, another important step was taken today related to support for young sports man and women. Minister Krasniqi signed the Regulation on scholarships for Olympic and Pre-Olympic Hopefuls. The scholarships for Olympic and Pre-Olympic Hopefuls will be 150 Euros per month, while the Regulation allows for up to 10 scholarships per month for young sports man and women of 14 to 21 years of age.
Minister Krasniqi met the President of the International Olympic Committee, Jacques Rogge

Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi met in New York today the President of the International Olympic Committee, Jacques Rogge, along with his counterparts and heads of various international sports federations.

Minister Krasniqi, accompanied by the President of the Kosovo Olympic Committee, Besim Hasani, held this meeting as part of the Third International Forum of Sports for Peace and Development, held in the headquarters of the United Nations in New York, under the auspices of both the UN and IOC.

This high level Forum, convened for today and tomorrow, was opened by the Secretary General of the UN, Ban Ki-moon as well as the President of IOC, Jacques Rogge. At the kick-off ceremony, Rogge awarded to the Secretary General Ban Ki Moon, the Olympic Order, which is the highest award bestowed by the Olympic Movement.

During his meeting with the head of IOC, Minister Krasniqi congratulated him on the work that the International Olympic Committee carried out in developing sports and use sports as a peace-building effort in many countries of the world. “We hope that the values of Olympics and of sports, as tools of peace and developments will also permeate Balkans, including the Republic of Kosovo, as a country with highest percentage of youth in Europe”, said Minister Krasniqi, expressing the willingness of the Kosovo’s sports community to become the members of the Olympic family as soon as possible.

On his side, Mr. Rogge, said that sports may play an important role in development of youth but also in reaching regional reconciliation, thus overcoming the disagreements of the past.

During the meetings with representatives of various international sports federations and his counterparts from various countries, Minister Krasniqi, but also the Head of KOC, Besim Hasani, reiterated the request that doors of sports are opened to Kosovo, noting the considerable potential that Kosovo has in many sports, which it had already proven in the international competitions.

Organized jointly by the IOC and the Office of the UN on Sports and Development for Peace, with the support of the US Olympic Committee, this biennial event aims to assess the successes and challenges in use of sports as a tool for human development and peace building and future concerted action in this regard.

The motto of the Third International Forum on Sports for Peace and Development is “Creating a Common Vision”, while themes of some of the panels are: Integrating and Mainstreaming Sport in Development and Peace; The Culture of Peace through Sport, Sport and Social Integration, Sport and Social Development Legacies, etc.

During his visit in New York, Minister Krasniqi in addition to attending proceedings of the Forum, today will also take part in a commemoration ceremony for the well-known actor from Kosovo, Bekim Fehmiu, organized by the Embassy of the Republic of Kosovo in USA.
At a solemn ceremony at the National Theatre held on Saturday evening, the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports awarded Cinematography Awards. Lifetime Achievement Award “Bekim Fehmiu” was awarded post mortem to actor Faruk Begolli, while the Annual Cinematography Award was awarded to director Ujkan Hysaj. The event also served to commemorate our renown actor Bekim Fehmiu on his birthday.

Branka Petric, wife of Bekim Fehmiu was also present at the award ceremony along with representatives of national institutions and artists.

Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports in his address said that Bekim Fehmiu was an icon of Balkans cinematography and that his work has helped change people’s perspectives. “He exposed us to the better part of the world, of life; he spoke of freedom, love and his strong passion for arts, movies and sports. Bekim Fehmiu is not merely a Balkans icon of cinematography. He is one of the rare people who, while protecting his own identity, brought the people of this part of Europe the free man, the universal man. To his country, Kosovo, Bekim Fehmiu brought his name, many friends but more importantly served as a model actor, which has been the source of education for many current and future artists”, he said, judging his career as magical. “If a major part of actors across the world were a source of material for gossip magazines, Bekim was different. He truly was and will remain an intellectual actor”.

Minister stated that the state was institutionalizing Cinematography Awards and has named one of such awards after Bekim Fehmiu. “Establishing these awards institutionally this year will serve as a meritorious step to honor Bekim Fehmiu’s personality. We owe him extensively and therefore our society, institutions and artistic community should cherish the name he bestowed on us every day. No doubt that the birthday of Bekim Fehmiu represented the best possible day for these awards and we hope that his name will be remembered in celebration, along with the names of those who will hold these awards”. Speaking about the actor Faruk Begolli, Krasniqi said that his name identifies both the Kosovo theatre and film. “For all who are informed, but for none more than his students, the theatre and film stage of Kosovo for the last 20 – 30 years is best identified with one name, that of Faruk Begolli.

The man who established the Academy of Arts here in Kosovo; the man who was the most passionate about arts, a beloved pedagogue of many generations of actors of Kosovo. Faruk Begolli was and will remain unique for with utmost respect and recognition, will be awarded the National Lifetime Achievement Award for Cinematography “Bekim Fehmiu”. Therefore, the event today is a true celebration of two iconic names of Bekim Fehmiu and Faruk Begolli - icons of Kosovar cinematography.
our culture, our art and identity”, said he. The Minister said that the figures of Bekim and Fehmi will serve as inspiration to many young generations and pledged institutional support for young artists.

Present at the event was also the wife of Bekim Fehmiu, Branka Petric. She shared moments from the life of Bekim Fehmiu with the present audience. Petric said that she felt honoured that the Lifetime Achievement Award was named after actor Fehmiu and said that it represented a very high regard. Petric said that the young generations should work really hard and learn from Fehmiu and Begolli. Speaking about Bekim Fehmiu, she said “he was entirely dedicated to acting. When he was cast to act at a movie in a foreign language, he would often learn the language”. With respect to culture, she said that the Balkan countries had to increase their spending in arts in general.

The Lifetime Achievement Award for Cinematography was awarded to Faruk Begolli, which was received by his brother Adil Begolli. He said that if Begolli were alive, he would greatly appreciate the award, all the more so as it was awarded by his own country.

The annual cinematography award was given to director Ujkan Hysaj. He said that the award represented a true honour, which will encourage him to work in many new projects, thus following the example of great artists such as Bekim Fehmiu and Faruk Begolli but also of many others who left their mark in cinematography.

The Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports awarded these prizes for the first time. The Lifetime Achievement Award “Bekim Fehmiu” carries a monetary award of 5 thousand Euros while the Annual Cinematography Award carries 2 thousand and 500 Euros. Jury members were named by the Minister, while the award ceremony itself was also attended by; Valon Jakupaj, Orhan Kërkezi, Liridon Cahani, Korab Lecaj, Visar Krusha.
“Kamenicas’ Stele”
Mortal Monument, Kamenica
Centuries III-I BC
Stone
Dimensions: 127 x 82 cm
Museum of Kosovo
Minister Krasniqi: High responsibility and creativity required in management of museums

Through a range of activities, today, the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports marked the International Day of Museums. Marking the day started with a discussion on museums and movable heritage, in which participated the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi also participated along with representatives of heritage institutions in the country and other experts in the field of heritage.

Minister Krasniqi in his speech, called the Museum one of the most representative institutions of a country and stated that for that reason, the responsibility in management and promotion should always increase.

"Museums carry a history of their own, a story of a people's journey through the years and centuries. Museums tell us about the life of our ancestors, how they dressed, worked, how they celebrated or were fed. They are the best narrators of the spirit of a people, the culture, tradition and faith. I am glad that we have even more activities to mark the International Day of Museums. This is perhaps a symbolic indicator that we have changed, we have made progress, above all in our approach to this institution in particular and cultural heritage in general," he said. The Minister spoke about the movable heritage and the work done in Kosovo to preserve and promote it. Movable heritage, he said, is one of the most important components of all our cultural treasure. "In fact I think it is one of the greatest assets of the whole of our cultural values. As in any other sphere, in this regard too we have had many challenges. The assets of this heritage, it must be frankly said have not been properly preserved and treated, nor were they sufficiently documented. Another aspect not related strongly with our own will is that we are still lacking more than 1200 ethnological and archaeological artifacts, which the Serbian authorities looted from the Kosovo Museum in 1999 and continues to hold them unjustly. " The Minister expressed appreciation for the research carried out by archaeologists and other scholars and promised that MCYS budget in this regard will continuously increase.

Another aspect that he mentioned was the cooperation between museums while urging a thoughtful study of the issue of promoting and increasing visitors and soliciting recommendations from those who know this area the best, for which the institutions will provide necessary support.

Speaking about the field of heritage in general and the efforts of relevant ministries, Minister Krasniqi said that MCYS will continue to treat the area as a matter of priority in the coming years.

"However, in addition to our objective of increasing the budget, the core of our efforts has been to introduce a new work logic, where each and every one of us assumes more responsibility over the work they carry out, respect the institut-
tion and his or her work, above all. It is extremely important for us to ensure that we see a radical shift in museums with many visitors, properly arranged and where the work and treasures contained therein are promoted in a creative and attractive manner”, he said.

Minister said that as part of cultural heritage preservation and promotion efforts, as well as a touristic value, MCYUS will commence works to open an Cultural Heritage Information and Promotion Centre in Prishtina, located inside the Archaeological Park of the Kosovo Museum. Also, he briefed on the steps taken to develop the draft Law on Museums, expected to be finalized by the end of this year.

In her speech, the noted scholar of heritage, Prof. Exhlaie Dobruna – Salihu, while welcoming the institutional efforts of Kosovo in preservation and promotion of movable heritage, noted two key issues that needed to be undertaken with respect to protection of movable heritage. “Items located in excavations in public properties need to be moved to museums or other relevant institutions as soon as possible and duly recorded. Another issue affecting the protection of movable property is socializing of protection, i.e. awareness and involvement of society in this regard”.

Gjejlane Hoxha, Director of the Kosovo Cultural Heritage Council said that one of the special fo-
Shaqir Hoti, a rhapsode and inventor of unique musical instruments; reproducer of the ancient instrument “Ocarina”
Kosovo’s Pavilion at the Venice Biennial, a special moment for our cultural scene

Continued from front cover

Kosovo is presented to this event, the most important of contemporary art in the world, through the young artist Petrit Halilaj.

"After many years of expectations, Kosovo is here to not only participate but to also make its mark," said Minister Krasiqi, while also appreciating the hard work that the Kosovo Pavilion team made. "There are no words to describe this particular moment for our contemporary art, for our whole cultural scene. A wonderful job, a very good team and I am very happy that there are so many of us together at this first but certainly not the last Pavilion," said Minister Krasiqi.

The commissioner of the ward, director of the National Gallery of Kosovo, said Shkololli Erzeni is truly a milestone Kosovo’s presence in Venice.

Pavilion’s Commissioner, Director of Kosovo’s National Gallery, Erzen Shkololli said that the presence of Kosovo in Venice was a truly historic moment.

"Our whole team has done a great job, while the artist did a wonderful job. Everything went very smoothly," said Shkololli. The Curator of the Pavilion, Katherine Rhonberg said that a good job was done, praising the work of artist Halilaj. She said that his work in this exhibition is an expression of his childhood, but also of many from his generation, of the prospects for the future. Halilaj’s story, she said, is the story of his family and many friends, and called it a unique art.

The artist Petrit Halilaj himself said that he worked with lots of freedom and commitment to produce a very good project. He said he hoped that people will like the work he has done.
Petrit Halilaj

“I’m hungry to keep you close. I want to find the words to resist but in the end there is a locked sphere. The funny thing is that you’re not here, nothing is” 2013
Various materials / birds, branches, earth, metal, clothes,
Dimensions variable
Courtesy the artist
Captions available for back cover also.
After nine years, the gallery of famed sculptor Agim Çavdarbasha has been restored. The reopening ceremony was held where present were many artists and representatives of local and international institutions. Renovation of the gallery started in 2011 by an investment of the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, of approximately 100 thousand euros.

Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi said he felt very happy that all areas where our sculptor Çavdarbasha worked and apart of his work, is being restored to its previous state, before burning in 2004.

"It was one of the tasks I as a Minister took upon myself, to restore the gallery as it once was, and I am extremely pleased that we managed to do so. I therefore wish to thank Agim Çavdarbasha Foundation for the close cooperation it extended to MCYS by ensuring careful management of restoration work," he said, stating further that Kosovo's cultural scene is further enriched with the addition of this gallery. The minister added that, above all, art friends and lovers will be able to see sculptor Agim Çavdarbasha's works, but more importantly, he said that the gallery will be a space where new generations could learn more about our art, and the famed sculptor creativity.

He said that MCYS is working to ensure that other galleries of our famous artists, painters and sculptors are given a look the deserve and that our citizens but also friends from abroad see our own real values.

The Minister said that in the last two years, Kosovo has enriched the cultural calendar of the country and promoted its cultural scene in the most important events of the world culture at an unprecedented level. "A case in point is the meeting that brought us here, an exhibition opening in an hour in the National Gallery of Kosovo, while a new premier is showing in the Kosovo's National Theatre tomorrow; another exhibition is opening at the Ministry's Gallery tomorrow, whereas Cinematographic Center of Kosovo launches its presentation at the Cannes Film Festival, and only a few days later, on May 28, for the second time in the Venice's Biennale, but for the first in the International Exhibition of Contemporary Art, Kosovo will have its own pavilion. There are many other important events awaiting us both inside and outside Kosovo, which make truly appreciate and promote more our genuine values by the day," he said.

On the other hand, Sebahate Çavdarbasha, the wife of Agim Çavdarbasha said that their dream became a reality in a matter of few years and thanked Minister Krasniqi for continuous care and support he extended until the full completion of restoration. Çavdarbasha said that the gallery will be open for artists and art lovers.

One of the friends of sculptor Agimi Çavdarbasha, the poet Eqrem Basha spoke about the work and personality of famed sculptor, qualifying him as a special story of Kosovo's culture. Basha said that by facilitating restoration of the gallery, institutions and the society are showing care towards artists, who have worked passionately and left a rich cultural treasury behind. ■
Agim Çavdarbasha
Wooden Sculptures
The Republic of Kosovo and the Republic of Montenegro are two cards that have many things in common but also great opportunities to step up cooperation in the area of culture and other fields. This was the statement of the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi after the meeting he held today with his Montenegrin counterpart, Branislav Mićunović. The meeting also marked the opening of the Forum of Friendship Kosovo – Montenegro, “Radovan Zogović” which is held in Prishtina today and tomorrow.

Minister Krasniqi briefed Mr. Mićunović on achievements and challenges of Kosovo in the area of culture. He said that Kosovo already established a rich roster of cultural activities in theatre, cinematography, music and other arts and introduced its cultural stage to many important cultural stages around the world, such as film, music, architecture or contemporary art festivals.

Minister also said that Kosovo has enter into cooperation agreements with many countries and in this context, at the press conference after the meeting, he said that Kosovo and Montenegro had agreed on the substance of the agreement and that it would be signed in the following weeks. To that end, work will also be carried out to plan concrete steps to be undertaken by both countries under the agreement. He said that the agreement represented an important step for both countries and will serve to strengthen the ties between the artists of these countries.

On the other hand, Minister Mićunović applauded the achievements of Kosovo in the area of culture and expressed his gratitude to institutions for the support they extended to the Montenegrin community in Kosovo. He said that the Forum of Friendship Kosovo – Montenegro represents one of the best initiatives to increase cooperation and hoped that the forum would extend to the region in future. Mićunović spoke of friendship he had enjoyed with artists in Kosovo and mentioned Bekim Fehmiu and Faruk Begolli. He greatly valued the initiative of MCYS on the Cinematography Awards, naming the Lifetime Achievement Award after Bekim Fehmiu and expressed his happiness that the award was given to Faruk Begolli. “Culture knows no boundaries and therefore our ministries had no barriers in developing cooperation between states and neighbours” said Minister Mićunović.

After the meeting, the two ministers opened the Forum of Friendship Kosovo – Montenegro “Radovan Zogović” in which many writers and artists took place. Minister Krasniqi said that the personality of the Montenegrin writer Zogović, who lived and died in Kosovo, served as a model of the spirit of love and respect for human beings.

“Montenegrin writer Radovan Zogović, who through his opposition to the hegemonistic Serbian project of Kosovo colonization, left a testament of pure friendship and humanism. His poem “Ardhësit
Kosovo - Montenegro steps towards peace and regional cooperation

In the meantime, the Montenegrin counterpart, Minister of Culture, Bratislav Mićunović said that the Forum of Friendship between the two neighbouring peoples was supported by the Government of Montenegro and added that undoubtedly, Radovan Zogović Forum is a strong message of friendship and mutual neighbourly cooperation.

Also, both ministers attended the first panel of the forum that dealt with the work of writer Zogović, the universality of his work as a symbol of friendship between the two people as well as the understanding and coexistence between the Albanians and Montenegrins.

Adem Demaçi, who was one of the panellists of the forum, expressed his appreciation for the organization carried out by MCYS and said that the relations between the people should be strengthening even more in the future. “We are, first and foremost, human beings and only then we are Albanians or Montenegrins and should therefore take this human relationship into account in order to develop genuine neighbourly relations”, said the writer and publicist Demaçi.
Minister Krasniqi nominates Eliza Hoxha and Veton Nurkollari as new members of the European Cultural Parliament

Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi nominated Eliza Hoxha and Veton Nurkollari as members of the European Cultural Parliament (ECP). The right to nominate two members from Kosovo was made pursuant to the request that the ECP’s officials have made to Minister Krasniqi after his participation in the eleventh annual session of the institution, which was held in Berlin last year. Minister Krasniqi’s nominations were immediately accepted by the leaders of the European Cultural Parliament. The only member of ECP from Kosovo has so far been Erzen Shkololli, director of the National Gallery of Kosovo.

European Cultural Parliament is a forum of diverse personalities of culture and art from Europe, which aims to promote cultural cooperation in Europe.

In addition, Kosovo is expected to further expand the cooperation with this institution. At the request of the Minister Krasniqi, ECP’s leaders in principle agreed that the thirteenth session be held in Pristina in 2014, where they will discuss the various issues of culture, with the planned attendance of over 100 personalities of European art and culture. This year, the annual session of the ECP will be held in Edinburgh, Scotland from 24 to 26 September.
Task Force Against Piracy and Counterfeiting, established by the Government of the Republic of Kosovo, launched today its information and education campaign against piracy and counterfeiting under the slogan “Stop Piracy”. The entire information campaign will be under the management of the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, which also chairs the Task Force.

The campaign started with notices sent to all persons, natural or legal, who are engaged in production, distribution, physical sales of materials, or online uploads of products under copyright protection informing them of the requirement to obtain contracts or appropriate authorizations from the relevant copyright holders. Specifically, they are required to ensure that products put up on the market are not pirated or infringe on copyright and related rights.

“Inspection of producers of products under copyright protection, the market as well as internet web pages will commence on 15 August 2013”.

Task Force, through its constituent institutions, the Market Inspector and Kosovo Police, will confiscate piracy material and production tools after 15 August 2013. The persons suspected of committing copyright violations and related rights will be subject to administration measure (pursuant to Law on Copyright and Market Inspectors) and criminal charges (based on the Criminal Code),” said the press release issued to all print media in Kosovo today.

In its notice, the Task Force also recalls the measures prescribed by the legislation in effect for all persons engaging in piracy and counterfeiting.

According to the Law on Copyright, if a legal person, either in its operations or in a business with others, uses any material or related rights without the permission of the author, a fine ranging from two thousand (2000) to ten thousand (10000) Euros may be cited. In addition, according to the Criminal Code, whoever commits a violation of copyright and related rights will be fined and/or imprisoned from 3 months to 8 years. Equipment and tools used for production of such materials in violation of copyright and related rights will be confiscated.

At its meeting held a few days ago, Task Force Against Piracy and Counterfeiting agreed to establish cooperation with collective association for administration of copyrights and the whole community in order to obtain a clearer picture of all legal and natural persons in possession of piracy and counterfeit materials. During this time, various field visits will be organized in order to disseminate information on the copyright legislation, specifically Anti-Piracy and Counterfeiting Strategy developed by MCYS and approved by the Government several months before.
Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi announced today that he reached a decision to establish the Museum of Jewish Heritage in Kosovo within the Kosovo Museum. The Minister announced the decision in his address during the Week of Tolerance, the activities of which began today. Present at the ceremony held at the Ethnological Museum was Jason Steinbaum, Chief of Staff to Congressman Eliot Engel, representatives of government institutions, non-governmental organizations, representatives of the U.S. Embassy in Pristina and other guests.

Minister Krasniqi said that his decision to establish this museum was in the context of promoting cultural, ethnic and religious diversity in Kosovo.

"The step that were undertaking in coordination with the Jewish Community of Kosovo will serve to protect the historical memory and above all the friendship between our two peoples. I believe that this year, with the assistance of world-renowned architect, Ron Arad, we will finalize a permanent exhibition that will present the Jewish community’s heritage in Kosovo in the best possible manner," he said.

The Minister expressed appreciation for the sacrifice that many Albanian families in Kosovo have done for Jews and also valued the friendship that exists between the two nations for many years.

"The Albanian people, at each stage of its history, have shown commitment to peace and tolerance among people. Even in the dark years of the World War II, our people in these lands were among the few who came to the aid of Jews, opening the doors of their homes to shelter and protect them from the clutches of Nazism, which had penetrated almost every corner of Europe. We take pride in the effort that our ancestors made, who have contributed not only to saving many lives, but also to preservation of cultural diversity in Kosovo, built though many centuries, which makes us a unique place. This cultural, ethnic and religious diversity is a special value of Republic of Kosovo, which should be cherished and promoted. In addition, with the spirit of cooperation among many communities that live here, we are becoming a good example for many countries, for building a future in a spirit of tolerance and cooperation," said Minister Krasniqi.

On the other hand, Jason Steinbaum, Chief of Staff to Congressman Eliot Engel, establishing a museum of Jewish Heritage in Kosovo and the commemoration to holocaust is a testimony to the friendship and high culture of respect for cultural, ethnic and religious diversity of the people of Kosovo.

He said that it was an exemplary story of a people who preserve the cultural tradition of many people that lived and continue to live there.
Chairperson of the Government Commission for completing the Epic of Ancient Heroes dossier for application to UNESCO, prof. dr. Zymer Neziri, submitted to the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi, the completed application file and briefed him on the work involved in the process for several years. Neziri thanked Minister Krasniqi for his continuous support and expressed his satisfaction that the entire file is now ready.

Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi, congratulated professor Neziri for the work done to date, along with other members of the committee, professor Shaban Sinani and professor Vasil Tole, as well as for the great zeal they showed in ensuring that the exercise ultimately results in a success. He said that it was an important step that after several years of work the dossier was complete.

MCYS has consistently supported professor Neziri and the entire governmental commission from the beginning throughout the preparation of this folder.

Regarding the application, Minister Krasniqi said that as all issues are now deemed complete, Kosovo will, pending the membership in UNESCO and together with the Republic of Albania, in accordance with the agreement reached earlier on this issue, apply for inclusion of Epic of Ancient Heroes under the UNESCO’s protection, as an important asset of spiritual heritage in all territories where Albanians live. He added that MCYS will handle the entire process very carefully and in full coordination with the Republic of Albania.

The Minister said that Epic of Ancient Heroes should also be presented very extensively to all areas inhabited by Albanians, in order to preserve this heritage as much as possible and that new generations may learn more about it.
Prishtina has joined many world capital cities by bringing the photograph exhibition World Press Photo 2013. Under organisation of the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, World Press Photo Fund and with support from Dutch Embassy in Prishtina and the Embassy of Kosovo in Amsterdam, the photograph exhibition of photo reporters was opened on Wednesday evening in the Museum of Kosovo. The photos have been selected from all over the world from the last year. In the exhibition opening ceremony present also were the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi, representatives from Dutch Embassy in Prishtina and the Embassy of Kosovo in Amsterdam, representatives from World Press Photo, Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister, Petrit Selimi, and artists and citizens.

On his speech, the Minister Krasniqi pointed out that the opening of such an exhibition for the first time in Kosovo constitutes a unique event in the whole cultural calendar. He further added that the photograph is often a better story than the words themselves for a certain history or human fates. “The famous sentence ‘one photo tells more than a thousand words’, is true particularly when we refer to the journalistic photograph”, he said.

“This exhibition besides being a documentation of many events all over the world, it also is a summary of photographs bearing high artistic values”.

Minister Krasniqi also stressed that MCYS is very much dedicated to enrich the cultural calendar in Kosovo supporting many cultural activities and undoubtedly one such activity.

“We are highly prepared to support promotion of the work of many of our reporters in Kosovo and abroad as well”, Krasniqi said, while he also added that Kosovo is honoured already 13 years ago when the photo-reporter Afrim Hajrullah won the prize in this great competition of photograph.

Minister also thanked the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Embassy of Kosovo in Amsterdam Dutch Embassy in Prishtina, World Press Photo Fund for their cooperation into bringing this exhibition to Prishtina.

The representative of Dutch Embassy in Prishtina, Carel Brands, expressed that he feels honoured that World Press Photo established in Netherlands more than 60 years ago comes for the first time in Prishtina. He congratulated all stakeholders who worked for opening this exhibition by highly estimating it as a very important event for the culture but in general for journalistic as well. Brands stressed that he hopes that it shall not remain the last time for World Press Photo to open exhibition in Prishtina.

On the other hand, the coordinator of the exhibition World Press Photo, Famke van der Valk, said that the initiative to bring this exhibition in Prishtina was launched two years ago already and during all this time a great work has been done. She further added that it is a result of immense engagement of all institutions having worked for this exhibition. “Media has a great responsibility, not only in the case of which photo shall be published by them but also have responsibility for the one that they don’t publish”, she further said, further adding that photo-reporters risk a lot and make extraordinary work to bring before us images from important moments throughout the world.

The exhibition shall remain open until 12 July 2013 in the National Museum of Kosovo.
MCYS and CHWB, model of cooperation between public institutions and non-governmental sector

Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi met at a meeting today, the newly-appointed Secretary General of the Swedish organization Cultural Heritage Without Borders, Ms Annika Magnusson as well as the outgoing Secretary Margaret Husen, along with Director of CHWB for Kosovo, Sali Shoshi. The topic of discussion was the cooperation developed so far between MCYS and CHWB in the preservation and promotion of cultural heritage.

Minister Krasniqi congratulated the outgoing secretary for the work done so far and for cooperation that was extended. He also congratulated Mrs. Magnusson on the new assignment and offered continuous cooperation to bring about more joint initiatives in future. Minister Krasniqi said that the cooperation between CHWB and MCYS is a model of a common work that led to tangible results. He particularly appreciated the Memorandum that these institutions have signed weeks ago related to emergency interventions on 50 monuments of cultural heritage in Kosovo. The Minister expressed his commitment to implement this memorandum properly so that similar initiatives may be repeated in future.

On the other hand, heads of CHWB thanked the minister for cooperation and appreciated the special focus MCYS has placed on cultural heritage. Secretary Annika Magnusson said she intended to increase cooperation between the two institutions and CHWB was going to expand its activities in Kosovo, with the aim of preserving and promoting the heritage.
Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi, met at a meeting today the Vice President of German Football Federation (GFF), Rainer Milkoreit, who is on an official visit to Kosovo to see first-hand the developments in the Kosovar football as well as the situation of the Kosovo Football Federation (KFF), where he is due to distribute coaching certificates for Licence “C”, a project implemented as part of GFF assistance provided to KFF.

Minister Krasniqi thanked the Vice President Milkoreit for GFF’s continued support to Kosovar football, especially to KFF, which includes among others the licencing of football coaches. “I wish to convey the thanks and gratitude for the continuous assistance and support you extended to Kosovar football and Kosovo Football Federation, but also for licencing of coaches, which through their work, will contribute to further development of football in our country”, said Minister Krasniqi.

Vice President of GFF, Rainer Milkoreit, thanked the Minister for the welcome and the assistance he has been offering to football and emphasized that GFF was ready to provide its help and contribution for licencing coaches not only with UEFA licences “C” but also “B” and “A”. He also expressed clear commitment of the GFF to assist KFF vis-à-vis UEFA and FIA, which would involve facilitation of friendly matches in the territory of German and lobbying for full permission of KFF to hold competitions within FIFA and UEFA. “GFF has been eagerly looking at opportunities and projects to assist KFF and I am here in Kosovo to convey this clear message of GFF”, said Vice President Rainer Milkoreit.

The Minister reiterated the willingness of MCYS for cooperation and support to any project originating from GFF and the friendly country of Germany and reaffirmed the gratitude for assistance they have been providing for the Kosovar football.
Support for cultural life in Presheva Valley

Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport, Memli Krasniqi and Deputy Minister Hajdin Aabazi met in a meeting today Gani Beqiri, the President of the Albanian National Council in the Presevo Valley and talked about the cultural life of Albanians in the valley and opportunities for cooperation and support that MCYS may extend. Minister Krasniqi and Deputy Minister Aabazi briefed Beqiri on some of the activities in the Presevo Valley supported by MCYS and on the cooperation with local institutions there but also various cultural and youth organizations.

MCYS said Minister Krasniqi, remains committed to increase the support and bring about many joint initiatives aimed at enhancing the cultural life there but also preserving the values of the Albanian nation.

On the other hand, Gani Beqiri expressed his gratitude for MCYS for the support it has given to the citizens of the Presevo Valley in various cultural and youth activities. He also said he remained committed to increasing cooperation between local institutions in the Valley and Kosovo in the field of culture and expressed appreciation for the readiness of the Ministry to step up support.

MCYS supports promotion of RAE community’s culture

Deputy Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports (MCYS), Gani Elshani, welcomed at a meeting today the director Ylli Pepo, Meritorious Artist of Albania, in which they discussed the opportunities for development and promotion of RAE community’s culture in Kosovo by implementing film projects of various genres and other cultural-artistic projects, which the Deputy Minister Elshani considered another in the line of cooperations between our two countries, Albania and Kosovo, in the area of culture.

Also, Deputy Minister Gani Elshani, informed director Pepo on the work of MCYS in the area of culture and its overall promotion in Kosovo and beyond, also taking into account the needs of the RAE community in Kosovo by support various projects such as “Rolling Film Festival” and other activities for the youth of this activity in the area of sports.

The guest from Albania, director Ylli Pepo, expressed his commitment as an artist to contribute to the promotion of the RAE culture in Kosovo and ensure its increased presence in Albania. He also valued the work and support of the MCYS to the culture and community’s activities in Kosovo.
MCYS and Association of Sports Journalists, close partners in advancing sports

Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports received today the new Presidency of the Association of Sports Journalists of Kosovo, which resumed its work a few days ago. Minister Krasniqi congratulated the new Presidency on its mandate as well as the initiative to get organized for contributing not only to sports journalism but to the development of sport in general in Kosovo. He said that the Association is an important partner of MCYS, Olympic Committee and federations, pledging MCYS’s support for the association at initiatives related to the development and promotion of and education in sports in general. The Minister informed the journalists about the current developments in sport and talked about future plans. In this regard, he said he expected the association to contribute to completion and issuance of legal infrastructure, with an emphasis on Sports Strategy, new laws but also on important regulations related to better organization of sports.

A particular aspect of cooperation with the association pointed out by the Minister Krasniqi was promotion of school sports, as an important step to massive adoption of sports and promotion of young talent, as well as taking initiatives to promote fair competition free of any violence.

On the other hand, the President of the Association thanked the Minister Krasniqi for his willingness to cooperate. He reported on the initiative of the journalists related to the association and talked about their plans in future. Krasniqi said that the association seeks to be a strong partner in the important processes of developing the sport.

MCYS allocates 35 thousand Euros for participation of Sigal Prishtina Club in the Balkan League

The Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports will provide financial support for participation of Basketball Club “SIGAL Prishtina” in the Balkans League, as the first basketball club to participate in an international competition recognized by the International Basketball Federation (FIBA). Therefore, today, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, the Kosovo Basketball Federation and ‘Sigal Prishtina’ Club, through which MCYS allocated 35 thousand Euros for participation of Basketball Club “Sigal Prishtina” in the Balkans League; specifically, for required payment of participation fees. The funds will be transferred to the account of the Kosovo Basketball Federation. Signing of Memorandum was done by the Secretary of MCYS, Veton Firzi, Nazmi Paqarada and Deputy President of Sigal Prishtina Club, Lulzim Ibrahimi.

In addition to this support, MCYS will also be involved to provide support with other aspects related to proper organization of competition in the Balkans League here in Prishtina.
“Aurelia Catulas' Stele”
Mortal Monument, Rahovec.
White marble
Dimensions: 180 x 28 cm
Museum of Kosovo