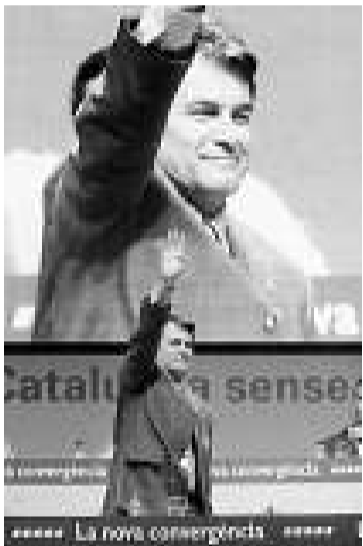


RELIGION

Unesco urges a voice for religion in the United Nations

The Catalan Unesco Centre has called for a more active role for religion within the United Nations. The call was made during a debate at the Barcelona Forum and the Centre proposed that a commission could be set up within the United Nations whose objective would be to associate different faiths with the objectives and campaigns of the United Nations. During the meeting the Centre proposed that Unesco, which it maintains official links, sets up a commission of experts to study religions of the world, which would be a permanent contact with different world faiths. "It's about helping the process that we have followed recently in Barcelona," said the director of the Catalan Unesco Centre, Agustí Colomines. "As they have published books about the world heritage, it would be necessary that that also start a major project about cultures and religious identities," he added. The third proposal the Centre has urged would be for the protection of sacred religious places around the world. The Centre wants to see an agreement put in place that would serve this purpose, similar to the legislation that exists for the protection of cultural heritage. For the Centre the place that should be safeguarded above all is Jerusalem. The Parliament of Religions is expected to hand over a prize for contributions made to movement of interreligion.



POLITICS

Mas reelected leader CDC

Artur Mas was reelected the secretary general of the CDC party during a meeting of its 13th Congress at the weekend. He obtained 96.3% of the delegates, which is 11 points more than four years ago. "We are all nationalists, but we are not federalists or autonomists or a party for decentralisation. We want a state plurinational," he said after his victory to the delegates. He also promised that the party would not "leave the road that is defined by two words nationalism and progress," he added. "We leave the Congress a united party, motivated and sure of ourselves and not to lament our injuries," he said.

MEDICINE

Meeting of top microscopy doctors

The world's leading experts in the field of microscopy are meeting in Barcelona to discuss the future for the electronic science which is used to diagnose illnesses. 150 delegates from 25 different countries are attending the conference called Ultrathin XII at the Fira Palace Hotel. Delegates will be told that the use of electronic microscopes are used in the detection of cancer and other illnesses. Doctor Josep Lloreta Trull, from the Society for Ultrastructural Pathology, who works at l'Hospital del Mar, said that this technology allows them to see much more than conventional equipment.



FESTIVAL

Man from Barcelona suffers serious injuries at festival

A 24 year old man from L'Hospitalet de Llobregat was seriously injured during the running of the bulls at the festival of San Fermín. Juan Marín Hinchada, suffered a "grave" injury to his arm and right armpit after a bull run which also left 17 other people with injuries. Hinchada was taken to the Virgen del Camino hospital, and he is the second Catalan man to have suffered injuries at the festival, after Joan Vallbona Serra, from Sabadell, was hurt last week after been gored by a bull. The latest injuries took place outside an entrance to the bull ring.



The new media complex, including the Filmoteca archives, will be housed in this former hospital in Terrassa / OSCAR ESPINOSA

New park aims to put Terrassa squarely on the media map

Project is one of the Generalitat's most important cultural initiatives

AGENCIES

Catalan minister of culture Caterina Mieras yesterday signed the agreement which aims to put Terrassa on the media map. The future Audiovisual Park of Terrassa (PAT), with initial investments of 35 million euros, is intended to become a major centre for audiovisual productions both for business and for cultural and educational purposes.

The Audiovisual Park of Terrassa is the centrepiece of a broader plan, dreamt up by the local town hall and the Autonomous Government of Catalonia or Generalitat called Terrassa, Audiovisual City.

The aim is to transform the city, formerly known mainly for its textile industry, into a magnet for Catalan and Spanish companies working in the television, film and educational industries. Yesterday's agreement with the Generalitat includes the decision to base the archives of the Filmoteca of Catalonia in the new park. This initiative, together with the 22@ high-tech pro-

ject in Barcelona's Poblenou, will make up "the new audiovisual map of Catalonia," according to Caterina Mieras. It is also one of the first results of "the new policy on media and audiovisual production which the Generalitat is putting in place," she said.

It has been set up as a publicly-owned company, with an initial working capital of 35 million euros, through Terrassa city council's Municipal Company for Communication (80%) and the Catalan Institute of Cultural Industries (ICIC) who owns 20%.

The complex will be housed in a former hospital building on the outskirts of Terrassa. 3,000 square metres have already been earmarked to house the Filmoteca archives. The Generalitat and Terrassa town hall also intend to set up a new centre for training people in techniques for restoring film on site.

Yesterday's agreement follows those signed by more than 30 different companies who have declared

their intention of getting involved in the PAT. It already plays home to Terrassa Film Office, the municipal company which handles granting authorisations and providing services to production companies wishing to use Terrassa as a location.

Terrassa Film Office has already handled affairs for over 30 film and television productions that have been filmed in Terrassa as well as numerous advertisements. With the added impetus the new media park should provide, Terrassa is aiming to put itself on the map alongside its successful neighbour Barcelona.

Barcelona is becoming increasingly sought-after as a location, with the number of films shot in the city rising by 36% last year. In 2003 157 films were made in Barcelona, 50 per cent of which were Catalan. This year, there should be 214 films made. Foreign film-makers also favour Barcelona for their productions. This year British production companies will make 19 films in the city.

Students taking selectivitat score lower on Catalan than on Spanish

CT

Catalan students taking the *selectivitat* university entrance exam scored markedly lower on the Catalan language section than on the Spanish language section. The average for Catalan was 4.95, while the average for Spanish was 6.17, while the average for all sections was 5.83. Several linguistic experts consulted by *El Periódico* agreed that the Catalan section was not more difficult than the Spanish section. Explanations varied, but there was a consensus

that while Catalan has become firmly established as the language of instruction in Catalan schools, it is losing ground to Spanish as the predominant language for socialising and written communication.

Mercè Lorente, a co-ordinator for entrance examinations for Pompeu Fabra University, said that "young people understand both languages well, but usually express themselves in Spanish", adding that deficiencies in Catalan are particularly noticeable in the written form

of the language. Jaume Aulet, a Catalan literature professor at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, finds that in the corridors of the university Spanish is the language most often heard. "On the trains, 80 per cent of the passengers who read do so in Spanish," he said. Jaume Aymí, a professor of Catalan philology at Rovira Virgili University in Tarragona, thinks that studying Catalan is not enjoyable for many students who look at it as something purely academic, like studying Latin.