The event “Kazakhstan’s Achievements in 30 Years of Independence” organized by the Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan in Tehran and hosted by the ECO Cultural Institute, was held on Sunday, October 17, 2021.

According to the ECO Cultural Institute, Mr. Sarvar Bakhti, President, ECO Cultural Institute, congratulated the Republic of Kazakhstan on the anniversary of its independence, calling the country one of the most important ECO member states with a long history and civilization. He described this event an opportunity to increase interactions between the Institute and the country.

According to the same report, Mr. Askhat Orazbay, Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the Islamic Republic of Iran, welcomed the guests and thanked Mr. Sarvar Bakhti, President of the ECO Cultural Institute for his support of the event, and spoke about some of the achievements of the Republic of Kazakhstan over the past 30 years.

Noting that Kazakhstan is a peace-loving country with no enemies in the world, he stressed that “Kazakhstan has the world’s largest land border with Russia, with a length of 7,500 km, and more than 130 ethnic groups, and 18 religious sects. However, there have been no border or internal conflicts.

Referring to the attraction of more than $350 billion in foreign direct investment in the 30 years of Kazakhstan’s independence, he added: The economic success of our government has made it possible to develop other important sectors, including tourism and hosting important global summits such as the International Expo 2017, the OSCE, OIC, CICA and SCO.

The Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan said that the city of Noor Sultan, which was built from scratch during the country’s independence, received the title of “City of the World” from UNESCO. “Today, Almaty serves as one of the best cities in the world for entertainment and Astana as an international and regional hub for trade and finance,” he said.

He also referred to the city of Turkestan as the heart of Kazakhstan’s tourism, which, despite the corona pandemic in 2020, has received $1 billion from the Kazakh government to develop its tourism infrastructure and facilities.

Askhat Orazbay praised the Islamic Republic of Iran as one of the first countries to recognize Kazakhstan’s independence, noting that the meeting of the two presidents at the recent summit in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, opened a new chapter in relations between Kazakhstan and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

He referred to the launching of Gorgan - Aktau direct flight as another bridge to expand cooperation between the two countries and wished the brotherly and long-standing relations between the two friendly countries to develop more than before.

Highlighting President Tokayev’s main strategies for new reforms to ensure economic progress and strengthen democracy, the Kazakh Ambassador said “Undoubtedly, the first president and leader of the nation, Nur Sultan Nazarbayev, has played a major role in all the achievements during 30 years of Kazakhstan’s independence”.

It is worth mentioning that Mr. Mojtaba Demirchi, former Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Kazakhstan, Ms. Dr. Elaheh Koolaee, Director, Center for Central Eurasian Studies, University of Tehran, and Ms. Dr. Mandana Tisheyar, Director, International Academic Cooperation, Allameh Tabataba’i University, also congratulated the anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Kazakhstan and spoke about the history and various dimensions of political, economic, cultural and scientific cooperation between the two friendly countries.

Video of the achievements during 30 years of Kazakhstan’s independence, as well as live Kazakh music performance, were the other parts of the event, which were well received by the audience.

At the end of the event, the Kazakh ambassador answered questions from Iranian journalists in various political, economic, tourism and cultural fields.
ECO Cultural Institute Holds Hafez Diplomatic Poetry Night

To mark the commemoration of Hafez, the first diplomatic Poetry Night of Hafez the messenger of peace and friendship in the world was held by the ECO Cultural Institute on Tuesday evening, October 12, 2021, with the presence of ambassadors, diplomats, cultural and artistic figures and high-ranking officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

According to the ECO Cultural Institute, in the ceremony led by Afshin Ala, a prominent Iranian poet, Mr. Sarvar Bahkti, president of this international organization, welcomed the participants and expressed hope that holding friendship evenings to commemorate great figures like Hafez would help to promote peace and friendship among the ECO member countries.

Yunus Emre Institute, Azerbaijan Technical University Sign Cooperation Protocol

Yunus Emre Institute and Azerbaijan Technical University signed a cooperation protocol to start Turkish language courses.

According to the ECO Cultural Institute, during his visits to Azerbaijan, Prof. Şeref Ateş, Head of Yunus Emre Institute, met with Prof. Velayat Valiyev, President of Azerbaijan Technical University.

Portrait of 8 Women on Iranian Postage Stamps

The portraits of eight women writer, linguist, poet, mathematician, social activist, mystic, translator, and painter go on the Iranian postage stamps to honor the women dignitaries of Iranian society.

According to the ECO Cultural Institute, stamp as a cultural product expresses the identity and history of a nation and apart from its traditional function, it is no longer considered as an economic or decorative commodity for affixing to postal items.

Rather, stamps are now recognized as cultural ambassadors carrying deep and rich messages about the history, civilization, art and culture of nations.

In this collection, portraits of women scholars Qamar Arian (writer), Badr al-Zaman Ghahar (linguist and Sogdian language teacher), Forough Farrokhzad (poet), MARYAM MIRZAKHANI (mathematician), ASHRAF AL-MULUKFAHR AL-DAWLA (social activist), SEYEDEH NOSRAT BEGUM AMIN (mystics), FARIDEH MAHDAVI DUMGHANI (translator) and ZINAT AL-SADAT EMAMI (painter) will go on Iranian postage stamps.

ECI releases special issue of ECO Heritage quarterly on Khiva

The thirtieth issue of the English ECO Heritage was published in October 2021.

According to the ECO Cultural Institute, in order to introduce the tourist attractions of the cities of the ECO region, the special issue of the ECO Heritage quarterly is dedicated to the historic city of Khiva, Uzbekistan.

Khiva special issue was published in cooperation with the Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in Tehran and the ECO Cultural Institute, the news reports.

Located in Uzbekistan, Khiva is the former capital of Khwarazm. It is a city with a collection of historical buildings surrounded by clay and mud called “Itchan-Kala”. It is the walled inner town of the city of Khiva. Since 1996, it has been protected as a World Heritage Site. Built in the style of Islamic architecture, the building includes gates, mosques, schools, tombs, palaces and traditional houses and has always been of interest to archaeologists and historians and has attracted many tourists.

The thirtieth issue of the English ECO Heritage is now out. Besides the main story of Khiva, the special issue includes articles on the history, culture, and art of the city.

Pakistan’s Karakoram Highway Ranked among World’s 15 Most Beautiful Roads

Already famed for its civil engineering marvel, the Karakoram Highway (KKH) has now been ranked among the 15 most beautiful roads of the world for its scenic beauty.

According to the ECO Cultural Institute, in its categorization, Wikicampers, a website providing tourist services in different parts of the world, called the KKH an “ideal setting for the most dizzying road trip.”

The KKH connects China to Pakistan while crossing the KKH, which connects China to Pakistan while crossing the Karakoram mountain range and running alongside certain peaks over 7,000 meters in height.

The highway is around 1,300KM long which extends from Hasan Abad to the Khunjarab Pass in Gilgit-Baltistan, where it crosses into China.

In its documentary, BBC had also called the KKH as one of the highest paved roads on earth which was major trade route between Pakistan and China. It also said the road was completely developed, smooth and safe.

Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism releases a new video to introduce Turkey to the world

This 27-second video was shared on the official account of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Turkey on social networks.

According to the ECO Cultural Institute, a new video introducing the natural beauties and ancient history of Turkey, produced by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, was shared on social media.

ECO Cultural Institute Hosts Afghan Poets

In September 2021, the ECO Cultural Institute hosted a group of Afghan poets, and writers residing in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

According to the ECO Cultural Institute, Shoh Mirzo Shah Mansour and Mahbub Sahel, Tajik and Afghan experts based at the international organization, held a cordial meeting with Afghan poets and writers residing in Iran to discuss possible programs related to the history of Afghan culture and literature.

“I Would Like to Become a Qari” Unveiled in Kazakhstan

The book “I would like to become a Qari” written by Malika Aytn, an Islamicologist, imam of the Baikon Mosque and head of the Balapan Qari Centre in Kazakhstan, was unveiled.

According to the ECO Cultural Institute, quoting ISNA, according to a report submitted by Iran’s Cultural Attaché in Kazakhstan, the book “I would like to become a Qari” written by Malika Aytn, an Islamicologist, imam of the Baikon Mosque and head of the Balapan Qari Centre in Kazakhstan, was unveiled in Kazakhstan.

In the ceremony, Deputy Minister of Religious Studies of the Muslim Religious Administration of Kazakhstan, the Grand Mufti of Almaty, Vice Chancellor of the Egyptian University of Islamic Culture Noor Mubarak, and other officials were present.

Krygyzstan, S. Korea Discuss Enhancing Educational Cooperation

The Krygyzstn Minister of Education and Science met with the South Korean Ambassador in Bishkek to discuss the expansion of educational cooperation.

According to the ECO Cultural Institute, quoting Fars News Agency, Minister of Education and Science of Krygyzstan Bolotbek Kupeshev met with Ambassador of South Korea to the Krygyz Republic Lee Won-jae to discuss the expansion of educational cooperation.

During the meeting, Minister of Science congratulated Lee Won-jae on his appointment as new ambassador South Korea to the Krygyz Republic and wished him good health and success in his mission, and stressed the development of bilateral relations in the field of science and education between the two countries.

Expressing gratitude for the warm welcome, the Ambassador announced his readiness to develop friendly relations between Krygyzstan and South Korea.

Latest Tajikistan Futsal Competitions

The third stage of the Tajik Futsal League was held by a match between the Futsal teams of Soro Co.and Sipar.

According to the ECO Cultural Institute, quoting Seday-e Tajiki of Khorasan Radio, quoting the Futsal Committee of the Tajik Football Federation, in the match, the two teams reached a 3-3 draw.

In this match, Iranian legionnaire Mohsen Mohammad scored two goals for Soro Co.azali Sardaraf scored the other goal. Sipar’s goals were scored by Bahadurkhorajev, Parviz Rahmatov and Shaukat Halimov.

In the 27-second video that was shared on social media and the account of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and Mehmet Ersoy, the Minister of this ministry, beautiful and interesting images from different regions of Turkey are placed and the natural beauty of the country with a long and rich history attracts attention.

The new Turkish introduction video titled “Let’s travel to Anatolia” includes numerous images of the wide and clean beaches and sands of the Mediterranean Sea, historical open-air museums and athletes of the Canyon (Deep Sea) in Turkey.

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**On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Independence Day of Uzbekistan;**

**Opened “Yangi O’zbekiston” Park and the Independence Monument in Tashkent**

On August 31, 2021, the opening ceremony of the “Yangi O’zbekiston” Park and the Independence Monument, created on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Independence Day of Uzbekistan, took place.

The President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev addressed the event.

“Today, all of us, the international people, is celebrating the 30th anniversary of the independence of our dear Motherland with great joy.

Our hardworking and noble people, since ancient times famous for their skill in building cities and villages, creation of gardens and parks, unique cultural monuments, despite the pandemic and the global economic crisis, meet this historic date with worthy labor victories, huge success and achievements”, said the Head of the state.

The first trees in the park were planted on May 1 this year.

The main attention was paid to the ideological content and architectural solutions of the Yangi O’zbekiston complex. The

**Six new documentaries on Afghanistan**

Six documentaries on Afghanistan have been produced and will be broadcast on Iranian television.

According to the ECO Cultural Institute, quoting ILNA, Otv Arts and Media Organization has produced six documentaries on Afghanistan issues for broadcast on television.

The documentaries “20 Years”, “House of Kabul”, “School Principal”, “Nazifa”, “Osta Ghasem” and “Shirin and Alam”, all from the products of this organization will be aired soon.

These documentaries will be unveiled soon and will be broadcast on television and Internet platforms.

**UT Geological Museum Listed on UMAC Worldwide Database**

The Geological Museum of the UT College of Science has been listed on the Worldwide Database of University Museums and Collections (UMAC).

According to the ECO Cultural Institute, quoting the UT College of Science, the 70-year-old Geological Museum with a wide variety of stones, minerals, and gems ranks among the top 25 university museums in Iran that have been listed on the UMAC Worldwide Database.

The establishment of the UT Geological Museum, Iran’s oldest geological museum, dates back to the 1940s. Following the establishment of Geology as an academic discipline at the University of Tehran in 1938, the late Dr. Yadollah Sahabi, Dr. Fereydoun Farshad, and several of their colleagues set out to collect multifarious stone-fossil specimens in Iran and also made a number of overseas purchases, which led to the foundation of the Geological Museum of the UT College of Science. Subsequent faculty members and graduate students at the UT School of Geology have ever since been making constant efforts to expand the collections of the UT Geological Museum.

According to the ECO Cultural Institute, the book aims to highlight the legacies from the ten countries in the ECO region inscribed on the UNESCO Representative List of the intangible cultural heritage of humanity by the end of 2020 to introduce the common heritage of the member states to the region and to strengthen the ties among the ECO peoples.

The book comprises 68 items of intangible cultural heritage from ten countries of Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan inscribed on the UNESCO Representative List of the intangible cultural heritage of humanity by the end of 2020.

**Kazakhstan’s Population Reaches 19 Million**

President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev announced on Aug. 3, 2021 that the population of Kazakhstan has reached 19 million people.

According to the ECO Cultural Institute, quoting Fars News Agency of Dushanbe, the President wrote on his Twitter: “In the year of the 30th anniversary of Independence, the population of Kazakhstan reached a historic milestone. Zhaneya Azamatkyzy from the Almaty region became Kazakhstan’s 19 millionth citizen. The girl is the fourth child in her family. I congratulate the parents and all Kazakh people on this event”.

According to the Bureau of National Statistics of the Agency for Strategic Planning and Reforms, the 19 millionth citizens were born on June 20. Azamatkyzy Zhaneya was identified as the 19 millionth citizen of the country. According to the birth certificate, her parents live in the village of Chapayevo in the Almaty region.

**No Place Can Match Beauty of Pakistan’s Tourist Spots**

Prime Minister Imran Khan on Monday stressed the need to promote tourism in Pakistan during his visit to Naran and said that no place in the world could match the beauty of tourist spots in the country.

According to the ECO Cultural Institute, speaking to tiger force members in Naran, the prime minister said that he was delighted to see more trees being planted in the area during the aerial visit.

“Our future generations would be thankful to us that we cared for them,” he said and added that previously the forests and trees were ruined.

He said that no place in the world could match the beauty Pakistan has and it is their responsibility to take care of such blessings of Almighty Allah.

The Prime Minister Khan also stressed the need to hire local volunteers to keep a watch on forests saying that they are more aware of the local dynamics and know people involved in cutting trees in their respective areas.

**Air travel by balloon from Turkey to Macedonia**

The balloon ride, which is carried out in cooperation with the Turkish Aeronautical Association and the Swiss Balloon Company, attracts the attention of many locals and tourists.

of Qalqan Delen and Gostivar in northern Macedonia from a bird’s eye can now use Cappadocia balloons.

If the weather conditions are right and the demand increases, the Turkish Aeronautical Association and the Swiss Balloons Company, which operates sunrise and sunset flights every day, will bring more balloons to the area.

**Presidential Democracy” and the joint measures taken within Development Program in the projects of “Strong and Inclusive**

Parliamentary Democracy” and the joint measures taken within Development Program in the projects of “Strong and Inclusive

**Azerbaijani Language Dictionary Published in Iran**

Azerbaijani language dictionary has been established in Iran.

According to the ECO Cultural Institute, The introduction to the dictionary compiled by Ahmad Buta has been written by Neyid Hassan Ameli, representative of Iran’s Supreme Leader in Ardabil Province.

The importance of protection of the language of every nation has been noted in the introduction.

“The dictionary with 392 pages has been published by the "Muhadjaq" publishing house of Ardabil.

**Kyrgyz Parliament Expands Cooperation with UN**

The Speaker of the Kyrgyz Parliament met with the UN Permanent Representative to the country and stressed the importance of developing parliamentary relations and cooperation.

According to the ECO Cultural Institute, quoting Fars News Agency in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Parliament Speaker Talant Mamytov met with Lius Chamberlain, UNDP Permanent Representative in Bishkek.

During the meeting, the two sides noted the positive results of the cooperation between Kyrgyzstan and the United Nations Development Program in the projects of “Strong and Inclusive Parliamentary Democracy” and the joint measures taken within the framework of the Parliamentary Development Strategy to improve its activities.

In turn, the UN Permanent Representative thanked for the meetings and provided information on the current activities of the UN in the field of socio-economic development, health, green economy, digitalization, gender equality and plans for further cooperation with Parliament.

During the meeting, special attention was paid to the forthcoming coordination measures in line with the new constitution of Kyrgyzstan.
ECI President travels to Sari for expansion of joint cooperation

Prof. Sarvar Bakhti, President of ECO Cultural Institute, traveled to Sari, the provincial capital of Mazandaran Province and during his 2-day visit met with the Governor, Representative of the Iranian Supreme Leader in the city and the Mayor of Sari. In all the meetings, ECI President emphasized on expanding joint cooperation to make the best use of the existing opportunity for promotion of Sari as the ECO tourism capital in 2022.

According to the ECO Cultural Institute, over the 2-day trip on 3-4 November 2021, made at the invitation of the Mayor of Sari, ECI President first met with Governor Hossein Zadegan and Talebi, the mayor of Sari. While appreciating the invitation and hospitality of the esteemed officials of the province, Bakhti said: “The most important purpose of the trip is that Sari tourism would be promoted as a symbol of tourism in the region.”

Sarvar Bakhti also considered Sari 2022 event as the best opportunity for joint cooperation between Iran and ECO countries and added: using this opportunity, the excellent capacities of Mazandaran province and Sari city should be introduced to the ECO countries and the world. Stating that the features of Mazandaran are well expressed in the poems and stories of Shahnamah, ECI President said: “With effective cooperation, operative steps can be taken to introduce the tourism and historical capacities of this historical province.”

Hosseinzadegan, the Governor of Mazandaran, welcomed ECI President and said that the unique attractions of the capital of Mazandaran have been neglected for many years. “Sari city has a long cultural history dating back to more than three thousand years ago.” The Governor added.

Emphasizing that a broader view should be adopted towards Mazandaran and only symbolic programs about its introduction are not enough, he added: “All cities of Mazandaran have unique features in various fields, including environmental blessings, which are the advantage of this province. Such advantage makes this province distinguished among other provinces of the country.” The Governor of Mazandaran also considered Sari 2022 event as the best opportunity to introduce the province’s capacities to ECO countries and even beyond.

Hosseinzadegan referred to the University of Mazandaran, Sari University of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Wood Industries Company, Maritime Tourism, Agricultural Tourism and Religious Tourism as important capacities that can be of common interest for Mazandaran and ECO countries.

According to the ECO Cultural Institute, Sarvar Bakhti in his second meeting, visited the Mayor of Sari, Javad Talebi in the presence of members of the Islamic City Council of Sari, Mahfroosi, secretary of the Sari 2022 event and deputy mayors on Wednesday, November 3, 2021. Bakhti referred to Sari as the city of friendship and brotherhood and said: Sari has historical, cultural, natural and tourism potentials that should be introduced to the world.

Referring to the selection of Sari as the ECO tourism capital, he said: “We are trying to make this important event by holding joint programs.”

ECI President described Sari, a city with a history of 3,000 years old, and enjoying valuable traditions, customs and history and added: “This event can be an opportunity for joint cultural cooperation of the 10 ECO member countries.”

The mayor of Sari also expressed his satisfaction with the visit of Prof. Sarvar Bakhti, ECI President to the capital of Mazandaran province and said: Sari Municipality, as the executive arm of the governorate, which is the main organizer of this event, is making efforts to introduce the capacities of this historical ancient city to ECO countries and even the world in this important event.

He announced the establishment of the Secretariat of the Creative City Tourism Committee in Sari Municipality and emphasized: “We are trying to figure out the best things to do next year to take advantage of this hosting.”

Parviz Shabani, Chairperson of the Islamic City Council of Sari, welcomed ECI President and said: “Sari, with the diversity of climate and enjoying sea and forest, is full of local customs and rituals that can be represented at Sari 2022 event.”

Seyed Hossein Yousefi, a member of the Islamic City Council of Sari and the head of the cultural commission of the council, also said: Sari 2022 event with a cultural perspective causes unity and cohesion among ECO member countries; using this opportunity, social values, traditions, customs and even the scientific and academic capacities of 10 member countries can be shared. “According to the same report, Ayatollah Mohammad Bagher Mohammadi Laini, Representative of the Supreme Leader in Mazandaran, also met with Sarvar Bakhti, along with members of the Islamic City Council and Javad Talebi, Mayor of Sari, on Thursday, November 4, 2021 and said: the economic potential, cultural and social diversity and tourism capacities in the ECO region are remarkable.

He considered it necessary to realize the envisaged goals and pointed to the many cultural commonalities of these 10 countries in different sectors, which are noteworthy. He stressed that centralized, comprehensive programs should be defined based on such commonalities.

The representative of the Supreme Leader in Mazandaran also said that cultural interactions in this important event should be seen as a special opportunity: “The transcendent culture elevates the society and it is very important to pay attention to this issue; “These countries should pay very serious attention to cultural interactions in order to achieve an acceptable record.” He added.

He considered the interaction and cooperation of different agencies in holding this event important and necessary, and stressed that the officials should take the ECO tourism event seriously. Ayatollah Laini pointed out that the necessary infrastructure for this event must be provided. Sarvar Bakhti, also pointed to the excellent hospitality of the people of Mazandaran and said: Since arrival in Sari yesterday, I have felt the unique culture and hospitality of the people of this city.” He added: “Turning ECO tourism into a symbol of tourism in the region will not only be the best way for the nations of the region to reunite, but will also ensure the inclusive growth of the cultural economy in all ECO member countries.”

ECI President explained that: “Every year, a city of the ECO countries is selected as the tourism capital of, and choosing the city of Sari for ECO tourism is an honor for all of Iran.”

Bakhti continued: in order to hold this event in the best possible way, the cooperation of all the related organizations is necessary, but it is obvious that introducing this city to ECO countries and even beyond is a great honor for Iran. Later at the meeting, Seyed Hossein Yousefi, chairperson of the Cultural Committee of the Islamic City Council of Sari, said: “The 2022 event is the best opportunity to introduce Mazandaran to ECO member countries and other countries in the world, and this opportunity should be used well.”

He added: “The ancient city of Sari, with a unique culture and history, has been not given special attention before, but in this opportunity, the history and culture of this historical city can be introduced to the world.”

The head of the Cultural Committee of the Islamic City Council of Sari informed that a Secretariat in Sari Municipality has been established for the ECO Tourism, calling this an important step to prepare for the ECO tourism event. Yousefi said that the success of this event requires the cooperation of all agencies and said: although the municipality of Sari is responsible for hosting this event, but the cooperation of other agencies in this event is essential.

It is worth mentioning that during the two-day visit of ECI President, in addition to signing a MoU with Sari Municipality focusing on ECO 2022 tourism capital, the book Tajikistan Dur Ashna was launched in the presence of Prof. Bakhti.