Pakistan and Azerbaijan: Symbol of Unity and Brotherhood

Elvin Ismailov, a graduate of BHOS Petroleum Engineering Department from Azerbaijan and Masoomeh Rija, a junior student of the same department who is originally from Pakistan have got married.

According to the ECO Cultural Institute, head of the General Union of Azerbaijani Journalists Ayaz Mirzayev wrote on Twitter: “This is a symbol of the unity of people with common religions and traditions. We wholeheartedly congratulate the newly married couple and wish them a life full of love, health and happiness.”

Azerbaijani Ambassador to Pakistan Ali Alizadeh also expressed happiness on this auspicious marriage of a Pakistani girl and an Azerbaijani boy in his tweet and said: “I wish them continuous health and happiness”.

Book by Kazakh Writer Published in Iran

The book “Shining a Light on Awareness”, written by Dourbek Duysiboy, a Kazakh writer and diplomat, was published in Kazakh in 100 copies by the Kohan Publications in Tehran. According to the ECO Cultural Institute, the book is a collection of poems translated into Kazakh by Kazakh authors that are being published in Kazakh for the first time.

Dourbek Duysiboy has translated poems from Rudaki, Saadi, Khayyam, Rumi, Hafez and Parvin E’tesami into Kazakh. It should be noted that in recent years, Persian poems have been translated from Russian to Kazakh, but this time they are translated from the original language.

In the other part, the book provides articles of Kazakh researches on orthography and useful expressions in Kazakh, the position of the mother, the history of the Kazakh steppes and the revival of spirituality.

Namangan hosts the 60th International Flower Festival (“Flowers Festival-2021”) from May 23 to 31

Yesterday, the 60th International Flower Festival started in Namangan, reports “Dunyo” IA correspondent.

During the week, wonderful and unique events await guests - a flower parade and exhibitions, master classes in floriculture and landscape design, performances by folklore ensembles and Uzbek pop stars, exhibitions of folk crafts and folk art.

The event is expected to be attended by more than 150 entrepreneurs-florists, as well as more than 300 amateur flower growers. This year, for the first time in the history of the festival, 10 million flower seedlings are expected to be planted.

The event kicked off with a floral car parade. A colorful convoy of 200 vehicles, cars and motorcycles, decorated with colorful flowers in the form of ornaments, drove through the streets of Namangan. Among them, you can also see combines, tractors, truck cranes.

There will also be contests “The world will be full of flowers”, “Whose flower is beautiful?”. More than 500,000 guests are expected to attend the flower festival.

Delegations from Namangan and other cities and regions were also invited to the festival - Isfarta and Osmangazi (Turkey), Qingdao (China), Incheon (South Korea), Mogilev (Belarus), Punjab (Pakistan), Chelyabinsk and Yekaterinburg (Russia) and Jalal -Abad (Kyrgyzstan).

At the end of the festival, the florists who took the most active part in the event will be awarded with valuable gifts, including cars.

It should be noted, that since ancient times, people were fond of flowers in Namangan. So, in the XVII-XVIII centuries, in the eastern part of the modern park of culture and recreation named after Zahirdin Muhammad Babur in Namangan, there was a mahalla “Gulazor” (“Flower Garden”), which turned into one of the largest districts of Namangan. Its name suggests that the main occupation of the local population was the cultivation of flowers. The first flower festival in the Namangan Culture and Recreation Park was held on August 19-20, 1961.

The Flower Festival is not only a celebration for all connoisseurs of beauty, but also an opportunity for florists and designers, artisans and landscape specialists to express themselves, exchange experience with colleagues and demonstrate their talent to the general public.

Two Afghan Women Conquer Shah Foladi Peak in Bamiyan

Two Afghan female climbers Tamanna Jahan and Nazima Khaizrad have climbed Shah Foladi, the highest peak in the Koh-e-Baba mountains of Bamiyan province on Tuesday.

According to the ECO Cultural Institute, The female climbers started training a year ago with a mountain climbing team called “Peak”, according to a statement.

The team made several attempts in recent years to climb Shah Foladi but failed, the report said.

“This time these two young women and six other male mountain climbers from Ghazni, Badakhshan, Kabul and Bamiyan, led by Sayed Alishah Farhang, technical head, and Mohammad Hussain Yasa, the team’s founder, climbed Shah Foladi.”

On Wednesday, the team met with deputy governor of Bamiyan, Atiqallah Atiq. At the meeting, Atiqallah Atiq described the successful summit of the female mountaineers as an important achievement in the field of mountaineering in Afghanistan.
ECI Holds Intl. Webinar on Latest Books on Pakistan’s Literature

The unveiling ceremony of the latest books published on Pakistan’s language and literature was held virtually on Monday, May 17, 2021 at the ECO Cultural Institute in the presence of representatives of the Embassy of Pakistan, writers, researchers and university professors.

According to the ECO Cultural Institute, at the opening of this virtual meeting, Mr. Sarvar Bakht, President of the ECO Cultural Institute, emphasized on the importance of the ECO region as a cultural and scientific platform for intercultural interaction. He further said: “ECO societies in all ages have paid special attention to reading books and knowledge has always been viewed as a significant merit. “The vast field of Pakistan’s national literature, which is one of the important components of cultural heritage and an element of national and historical identity, draws a comprehensive image of values and norms that can be seen in the literary and artistic works of the people of this land”, he added. Mr. Mubasher-Ali Zaidi, the author of “Tree of Words (Collection of Minimal Stories)”, thanked Mr. Sarvar Bakht for his initiative and discussed the influence of Persian language on Urdu literature, saying: “the use of Persian language in Pakistan is very vast and Persian-speaking poets in Pakistan create works in Persian language”.

In this meeting, Dr. Ali Bayat, Associate Professor, Department of Urdu Language and Literature, University of Tehran, analyzed the poetry collection “Pirhan Gomt Karde’am” composed by Ahmad Shahriyar in two sections: “first, the poems that embody the elements of Hindi style; second, the poems that due to the poet’s long-term presence in Iran and his acquaintance with contemporary poets, have Persian elements which in terms of themes and concepts are in line with the works of prominent contemporary poets of Iran.”

Dr. Ali Davoudi, Director of the Poetry Office of Arts Center, in his turn, stated that: “Today, many Pakistani scholars have sought to learn Persian as well as to recite Persian poems. One instance is Seyed Ahmad Hosseini, known as Shahriyar.”

Ms. Boroujerdi also welcomed launching a Kazakhstan Desk in Iran’s National Library.

Iran, Kazakhstan to Develop Library Cooperation

Heads of the National Libraries of Iran and Kazakhstan agreed on the development of cooperation on library, cultural and scientific in a joint webinar held on Monday.

According to the ECO Cultural Institute, quoting IRNA, Ashraf Boroujerdi, Head of Iran’s National Library and Archives and Bakhhtjamal Osmanova, Head of Kazakhstan’s National Library in Almaty, joined the webinar and agreed to improve cooperation between the two libraries. Osmanova said: “Kazakhstan National Library launched an Iran pavilion in 2005 to promote Iran’s culture, civilization and literature.”

Turkmenistan to Restore Tomb of Sultan Husayn Bayqara

Acting Minister of Information and Culture Mohammad Tahir Zuhair met with the Turkmen Ambassador in Kabul to discuss the reconstruction of the tomb of Sultan Husayn Bayqara and the construction of a Timurid-era museum.

According to the ECO Cultural Institute, quoting Bakhhtjamal Osmanova, Head of Kazakhstan’s National Library in Almaty, joined the webinar and agreed to improve cooperation between the two libraries. Osmanova stated: “Kazakhstan National Library launched an Iran pavilion in 2005 to promote Iran’s culture, civilization and literature.”

According to the ECO Cultural Institute, quoting Bakhtar News Agency, during the meeting, the Turkmen Ambassador expressed his country’s interest in the restoration of the tomb of Sultan Husayn Bayqara and stressed that the project will be carried out in coordination with the Ministry of Information and Culture of Afghanistan.

At the end of the meeting, both sides emphasized the signing of a MoU to expand Afghanistan and Turkmenistan cultural cooperation.

Pakistan Mountaineers Summit Annapurna Peak in Nepal

Sibarz Khan and Muhammad Abdul Joshi are the first Pakistani mountaineers to climb the Annapurna Peak in Nepal.

According to the ECO Cultural Institute, Pakistani climbers Sibarz Khan and Muhammad Abdul Joshi were the first Pakistanis to climb the 8,091-meter Annapurna peak in Nepal. A four-member team of Pakistani climbers headed to Nepal earlier this month to try to climb Annapurna, the world’s tenth highest peak.

The Pakistani mountaineering team made two unsuccessful attempts to climb Annapurna on April 13th and 14th. Finally, the team succeeded in their third attempt to summit Annapurna Peak in Nepal at 1:17 pm on Friday.

This is the first expedition of Pakistani mountaineers to Mount Annapurna with the aim of honoring mountaineers, especially Muhammad Ali Sadpara, and inspiring the younger generation.

Afghan Photographers Win Shah Marai Award in Paris

Two Afghan photographer, Mohammad Ismail and Mohammad Aref Karimi, win Shah Marai Award in Paris.

According to the ECO Cultural Institute, Mohammad Ismail, 41, a photographer at the Reuters news agency in Kabul, and Mohammad Aref Karimi, a photojournalist for Agence France-Presse in Herat, won the third round of the awards, according to this year’s judges of the Shah Marai Awards Foundation in France.

The winner picture which is taken by Mohammad Ismail portrays a young man who is training to swim with his legs amputated. The winner of the photo story group is 35-year-old Mohammad Aref Karimi, who works for AFP in Herat. He won this round of the Shah Marai Photography Foundation Awards for his portrayal of silk production in his native province of Tehran, analyzed the poetry collection “Pirhan Gomt Karde’am” composed by Ahmad Shahriyar in two sections: “first, the poems that embody the elements of Hindi style; second, the poems that due to the poet’s long-term presence in Iran and his acquaintance with contemporary poets, have Persian elements which in terms of themes and concepts are in line with the works of prominent contemporary poets of Iran.”

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**ECI Marks 110th Birthday Anniversary of Mirzo Tursunzoda**

On the occasion of the 110th birth anniversary of Mirzo Tursunzoda, the great poet of Tajikistan, an international webinar entitled “Poet of Peace and Friendship” was held by ECO Cultural Institute in cooperation with Embassy of the Republic of Tajikistan in Tehran on Thursday, May 20, 2021 attended by Sarvar Bakhti, President of ECO Cultural Institute, H.E. Mr. Nizomiddin Zohidi, Ambassador of the Republic of Tajikistan to Iran, Dr. Gholam-Ali Haddad Adel, Head of the Academy of Persian Language and Literature, and several prominent academic figures from the ECO region.

According to the ECO Cultural Institute, Sarvar Bakhti, in his speech, spoke about different aspects of the life of this prominent literary figure of the ECO region, saying: “Tajik poet, Tursunzoda, belongs to the whole world and in his message he addressed all nations.”

Nizomiddin Zohidi, Tajik Ambassador to Iran, also reminded of Tursunzoda’s works, which镜in peace in the world, and emphasized: “The people of Afghanistan are very interested in his thoughts and poems and this poet in Tajik literature won the title of the Star of the East.”

Dr. Faleeha Kazemi, Head of the Department of Persian Language and Literature at Lahore Women’s University in Pakistan, named Tursunzoda as one of the most famous geniuses of the East along with Rudaki, Jami, Ali-Shir Nava’i, Sadardin Ayni, and Abdulqasem Lahouti and emphasized: “Tursunzoda’s name is remembered not only as a prominent poet but also as a herald of peace and friendship.”

According to the ECO Cultural Institute, the book “Archeology of Iron Age: The Early Civilizations of Afghanistan” written by Prof. Mohammad Rasooll Bawary has been published in 316 pages by the ECO Cultural Institute.

According to the ECO Cultural Institute, in order to introduce the cultural and artistic heritage of the member countries, ECO Cultural Institute has published the book “Archeology of Iron Age (The Early Civilizations of Afghanistan)” written by Prof. Mohammad Rasooll Bawary. Professor of Archeology at Kabul University and former Deputy Minister of Culture and Arts of Afghanistan.

After an introduction by Sarvar Bakhti, president of ECO Cultural Institute, the book provides the readers with an overview on Afghanistan historical periods as well as new information to archaeologists and researchers in eight chapters.

According to the ECO Cultural Institute, “most Russian tourists will not be able to spend their holidays in Turkey in April and May due to the suspension of flights from Russia, have not changed their destination and are waiting for other tours”, said Maya Lomidze, President of the Union of Russian Tourist Agencies.

Speaking at a meeting of the Russian Federation Council on the country’s tourism sector, Lomidze said that “we have conducted research agencies, the existing table shows that about 15% of Russian tourists prefer domestic tourism centers and destinations of 18% to 20% of them are from Cuba. The remaining 60% are waiting to go to Turkey”.

Lomidze noted that the Russians had bought 500,000 tours in Turkey in April and May, and that the current load was 50,000 to 60,000 in addition to destinations inside Russia.

Speaking on April 12, Russian Deputy Prime Minister Tatiana Golikova said that regular and charter flights between Turkey and Russia would be limited from April 15 to June 1.

**Turkey: Inevitable Destination of Russian Tourists**

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“Archeology of Iron Age” offers valuable information about early civilizations of Afghanistan and new archeological discoveries and influential fusion in the history of the region while introducing archaeological topics about Afghanistan as areas requiring further study.

To order the book contact +982127673246

**ECA Releasing Archeology of Iron Age: The Early Civilizations of Afghanistan**

**President Ghani Expresses Condolences to Turkmenistan President**

President Ashraf Ghani sends his condolences to the President of Turkmenistan on the death of his father.

According to the ECO Cultural Institute, President Ghani sends his condolences to the President of Turkmenistan on the death of his father.

**Letter and orators in creating nations’ identities and promoting the world, especially in Asia and Africa.”**

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**Hungarian Film Fest Screens Iranian Short Films**

Iranian short film ‘Fire-Lever’ is on screen at the 35th edition of the Mediawave on the Road Online Film Festival in Hungary.

According to the ECO Cultural Institute, quoting ISNA, Directed by Akbar Rezaee, short film shows that sometimes people make decisions in order to live and survive in difficult conditions that question humanity.

Produced by Mehr-el Moshahde’s, this short film has previously participated in Art in Alive Film Festival in the US.

Alireza Shahrokhi is responsible for the international distribution of the film; and this time it is being screened online at the Hungarian festival due to the restrictions caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

The Mediawave is one of the oldest festivals in Hungary and is underway in the city of Komarom. The event started April 27 and will end on June 9.

**Days of Uzbek Cinema Will Take Place in Dushanbe**

The Days of Uzbek Cinema are being held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan from April 28 to May 1 this year.

According to the ECO Cultural Institute, quoting Fars News Agency in Dushanbe, The Days of Uzbek Cinema are being held in the Republic of Tajikistan from April 28 to May 1. The aim of the Days of Uzbek Cinema in Dushanbe is to promote the development of fruitful cooperation between Tajik and Uzbek filmmakers, as well as friendship and good relations between the brotherly peoples of Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

Tajikistan’s Istiklol Football Team Made History in Riyadh

Tajikistan’s Istiklol team’s incredible comeback, responded to Gomis’s lone goal with four goals to surprise the 2021 Champions League in Riyadh.

According to the ECO Cultural Institute, quoting Varzesh-e Tajikistan’s Islkol, who qualified for the AFC Champions League group stage for the first time, lost to Al-Hilal, creating a huge victory that could be considered the most important victory of this club.

**Kashan to Host First ECO Friendship House**

On Thursday, May 13, 2021 Sarvar Bakhti, president of the ECO Cultural Institute, met officials from the Kashan Cultural Revival Institute to discuss the opening of ECO Friendship House in the city.

According to the ECO Cultural Institute, in the meeting held at Taj Historical House, Sarvar Bakhti, president of the ECO Cultural Institute, Meynam Namaki, head of Kashan Department of Culture and Islamic Guidance, and Mehran Sarmadian, Head of Kashan Cultural Heritage Department examined different aspects of the establishment of Kashan ECO Friendship House.

During his trip to Kashan, the president of the ECO Cultural Institute also visited the tomb of Ahmad Helli to pay homage to the renowned musician.

Sarvar Bakhti also participated in the memorial of “Ahmad Helli” at Taj Historical House accompanied by members of the Board of directors of Kashan Cultural Revival Institute and officials from the Departments of Guidance and Cultural Heritage inaugurated the museum of Maestro Ahmad Helli.

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ECI, Saadi Foundation Organize Intl. Webinar on Persian Language

On the occasion of Persian Language Day, ECO Cultural Institute in corporation with the Saadi Foundation held an international webinar on “Promotion of Persian Language and Literature and Commemoration of Ferdowsi in the ECO Region” on May 15, 2021, with the participation of researchers, professors and literary scholars of ECO member countries.

According to the ECO Cultural Institute, Dr. Gholam-Ali Haddad Adel, Head of the Saadi Foundation and the Academy of Persian Language and Literature, in his opening remarks thanked Mr. Sarwar Bakht, President of the ECO Cultural Institute for his attention to the Persian language and said: “ECO Cultural Institute is a cultural center with the purpose of deepening the relationship between the countries and teaching the Persian language.”

The meeting is Gholamreza Kafi, professor of Persian language and literature at Shiraz University, Dr. Ismat Mammadova, Professor of Oriental Studies at Baku State University, Dr. Ismat Mammadova, Professor of Oriental Studies at Baku State University, following the program, Dr. Gökhan Çetinkaya, a professor at the University of Kirikkale in Turkey, spoke about the spread of the Persian language in Anatolia and its teaching in Turkey, and introduced works written on teaching Persian language. Dr. Nodir Nuriddinov, a professor at the Tashkent State University of Oriental Studies in Uzbekistan, also spoke about the history of teaching Persian language and literature in Uzbekistan and introduced centers and colleges where Persian language is taught, as well as the translations of Shahnameh in Uzbekistan.

Visually Impaired Pakistani Student Wins Scholarship to Oxford

Visually impaired Pakistani student, Khansa Maria, will be pursuing her studies at the University of Oxford. Dr. Zainabii Aghaai, Head of the Center for the Rehabilitation of the Blind at the University of Tehran, said in his opening remarks that this event is specially dedicated to the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. Khansa Maria, the visually impaired student, who has been selected as a scholarship student at the University of Oxford, is an example of the courage of people with disabilities. She has overcome various obstacles in her life and has excelled in her academic pursuits, all while advocating for the rights of people with disabilities and designing accessible environments that can be utilized by individuals with various disabilities.

Turkmenistan President Went for a Bicycle Ride

The President of the Republic of Turkmenistan went on a low-key bicycle ride this morning through the streets of Ashgabat, followed by cabinet members, parliament speakers, military officials, heads of government departments and media reporters.

According to the ECO Cultural Institute, Turkmenistan State Television broadcast images of the President’s presence on a group bicycle ride on the occasion of World Health Day. The images show Turkmen President Gurbanguly Berdymukhamedov cycling in the streets of Ashgabat, the capital, followed by cabinet members, parliament speakers, military officials, heads of government departments and media reporters. He was greeted by many hundreds of people exercising in the morning around the streets.

Moscow Launches Book from Renowned Tajik Author

The book “City of Green Goals” by Tajik writer and journalist Gulshat Shahidi was unveiled at the Iranian Cultural Council in Moscow.

According to the ECO Cultural Institute, quoting the previous reports of the Organization of Islamic Culture and Communication, the unveiling ceremony of the book “City of Green Goals” written by Ms. Gulshat Shahidi, Tajik writer and journalist and winner of the Russian Children’s Book of the Year was held at the Iranian Cultural Council in Moscow. At the ceremony, which was also attended by writers and the Tajik Cultural Association, a representative of the Tajik Embassy in Russia, Qahramon Sulaymoni, Iran’s cultural adviser in Moscow, described the event as a step towards cultural ties between the two nations which have long been together in nature, root and destiny.

He described the publication of the book as a tribute to peace, friendship and brotherhood, and said that during its interconnected story, the author tries to provide an account of the 10-day civil war after the 1991 events. At the same time, what is important in the course of the story is that while the tragedies and sufferings caused by this bitter event are reflected in the book, it is ultimately the peace and return to the motherland that forms the end of the book. Iran’s cultural adviser in Moscow said that writing and addressing the issue of Tajikistan’s civil war was a very important issue that should be on the agenda of the country’s people of culture so that this bitter experience would remain in their minds and not be repeated in the future. He further praised the return to in-person programs after a long period of holding virtual events, and expressed hope that the two nations of Iran and Tajikistan would further cooperate based on their cultural commonalities, which is the most basic component of their identity.