

FIVE YEARS ON – time to rebuild

Shortly before the publication of this issue, Azerbaijan celebrated the fifth anniversary of Victory in the Second Garabagh War. To mark this significant date, a military parade was held in Baku, featuring military units from friendly and allied countries, Turkiye and Pakistan, in the presence of their leaders.

As is known, on November 8, 2020, as a result of a tactically challenging operation, the Azerbaijani army liberated the city of Shusha, the crown jewel of Garabagh, which holds special significance for the people of Azerbaijan. This event brought the war to a close, paving the way for Armenia's defeat and thwarting its long-standing plans to annex Azerbaijani lands. The trilateral statement signed by the leaders of Azerbaijan, Armenia, and the Russian Federation two days later was the legal conclusion of the war.

The liberation of Azerbaijani territories in Garabagh and East Zangezur from nearly 30 years of occupation, as well as the large-scale restoration and improvement work underway in the region, are the subject of an article in this issue of our magazine.

This article is closely linked to an essay dedicated to the tragedy of Azerbaijan's internally displaced persons (IDPs), people displaced by Armenia's military aggression more than three decades ago.

This issue also features materials dedicated to two outstanding representatives of the Azerbaijani people. One is Mirza Gadim Iravani, an artist, portraitist and ornamentalist, the founder of 19th-century Azerbaijani easel painting, whose works largely defined the nature of modern Azerbaijani fine art. The other is Mammad Agha Shahtakhtinski, a public figure, journalist, educator, polyglot, teacher and scholar of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, one of the progressive intellectuals of the modern Azerbaijani Renaissance.

I do hope and am confident that these and other stories from the last issue of the outgoing year will help our readers discover interesting information about Azerbaijan, its history, culture, and and about its present day.

**By Musa MARJANLI,
Editor-in-Chief**