

Into the New Year with fresh achievements

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This is the last edition of “IRS-Heritage” this year. Azerbaijan celebrated the 25th anniversary of independence earlier in the year. We published a story describing the challenges our country was faced with and our achievements over these years. It is therefore no coincidence that this edition opens with an interview of Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov. The article analyzes the developments that have taken place in Azerbaijan in the last 25 years, our foreign policy priorities and objectives for the future. The minister describes Azerbaijan’s successful advancement along the path of independence and its transformation into the leading state of the region.

Another story of this edition is dedicated to the 42nd World Chess Olympiad. 2016 has been a successful year for Azerbaijani sports, as the country played host to its first Formula-1 event and the Chess Olympiad. Azerbaijan won one gold, seven silver and 10 bronze medals in the Rio Olympics, finishing the Games with a staggering total of 18 medals. According to team rankings, Azerbaijan finished in 39th place for the number of gold medals and tied for 14-15th places with New Zealand for the total number of medals won in the Olympics. This is the seventh best indicator in Europe, second among former Soviet republics and the best among Muslim countries. It is also worth mentioning that Azerbaijan will host the Fourth Islamic Solidarity Games in 2017. All this is ample evidence of Azerbaijan’s development and achievements as an independent state.

This year’s last edition, as always, will also familiarize you with the country’s history, ethnography and culture. “IRS-Heritage” looks forward to continuing its mission of informing its audience about Azerbaijan’s abundant cultural and historical heritage.