

THE VICTORIOUS ARMY

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One of the main public holidays in the Azerbaijani calendar, 26 June, the Day of the Armed Forces, fell on the time when this issue of our magazine was being prepared for print. It was on this day in 1918 that the resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic was issued on the formation of a separate Azerbaijani army corps – the first Azerbaijani military unit. For the first time this year, this remarkable holiday was held in a new political and moral-psychological environment brought about by the liberation of Karabakh after more than 27 years of Armenian occupation. This explains why it was celebrated with a special victorious mood.

The first part of an article on the history of the Armed Forces of Azerbaijan, starting with the ADR time in 1918-1920 and ending with the run-up to the second Karabakh war in the fall of 2020, is dedicated to this topic. The article, penned by one of the career officers of the Azerbaijani army, attaches great importance to the military development of Azerbaijan, including the training of personnel in military educational institutions of the USSR and consistent measures to increase the country's defense capability taken after the signing of the armistice in 1994.

Also worthy of attention is an article by the Minister of Culture of Azerbaijan dedicated to the place of Karabakh in Azerbaijani culture and the significance of the liberation of this land for the culture of the Azerbaijani people. The author cites data on outstanding representatives of Azerbaijani literature from Karabakh, ancient traditions of carpet weaving and horse breeding and internationally important archaeological sites of ancient people. A lot of attention is paid to the sites of Christian and Islamic religions in Karabakh. The author extensively dwells upon the topic of barbaric destruction and damage of historical, cultural and religious sites in Karabakh during the period of the Armenian occupation, as well as the government's measures to restore the region.

Other interesting materials of the issue include an article about an extraordinary tanker-museum that has recently opened on the embankment of Baku. Also worth mentioning are the articles about medieval Arab-Muslim sources containing information about Azerbaijan, and about the traditional Azerbaijani female headdress of the kelagayi.

In general, this time too, we have tried to satisfy the inquisitiveness of our readers by publishing a variety of materials about Azerbaijan. Therefore, do stay with us!