

---

The event was attended by prominent intellectuals, MPs, heads of government agencies, education institutions, teachers, pupils and parents.

The participants were welcomed by Education Minister Misir Mardanov. In his speech, the Minister underlined the 89th birth anniversary of great leader Heydar Aliyev has broadly celebrated in every part of Azerbaijan, including overseas countries. The Minister noted that about 700,000 pupils took part in the competition jointly organized by the Ministry of Education, New Azerbaijan Party, Heydar Aliyev Foundation, Ministry of Communication and Information Technologies and Azerbaijan Trade Union Confederation. Noting it was held in 3 levels (school, district (city) and republican (final)) Mr. Mardanov highly praised the interest of pupils in this knowledge competition and estimated that as a vivid expression of respect for the memory of Great Leader. According to him, 5 pupils were awarded the first, 8 - the second and 13 - the third places. Moreover, consolation prizes were awarded to 54 contestants as well. The Minister expressed his appreciation to all organizers and thanked all those who contributed to the knowledge competition.

Noting the competition was also held under the same rules in Nakhchivan, the Minister gave information on the publication of book entitled "Heydar Aliyev in eyes of pupils" that includes essays of winners. According to him, for the first time pupils from Astrakhan region of Russia have participated in the competition as well. At the end, the Minister congratulated distinguished pupils and wished them every success.

Next, attendees have watched a film devoted to the life and activity of national leader Heydar Aliyev.

Deputy chairman of New Azerbaijan Party Ali Ahmadov, Chair of Azerbaijan Trade Union Confederation Sattar Mehbaliev, Minister of Communication and Information Technologies Ali Abbasov, representative of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation Ilgar Mustafayev and Deputy Director of school No. 11 of Astrakhan Tatyana Klenkova have talked about the importance of competition. It was noted that the study of rich heritage and ideas of Great Leader by younger generation plays a great role in the possession by them positive spiritual qualities.

At the end, the winners were awarded special diplomas, prizes and gifts.