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Firudin Gurbanov, Deputy Minister of Education, the heads of out-of-school educational institutions and the representatives of the sports community attended the ceremony.

At the ceremony, Firudin Gurbanov, Deputy Minister of Education, provided detailed information about the zonal competitions. F. Gurbanov said that the Ministry of Education holds the zonal competitions, covering all regions of the country, in order to promote 14 kinds of sports, included in the program of the first European Games, among schoolchildren, to direct pupils to a healthy lifestyle and to increase the role of physical education and sports in the patriotic upbringing of the pupils. The zonal competitions, held in 14 kinds of sports, included in the program of the Baku 2015 First European Olympic Games, will continue until the end of May. More than 6 thousand students are expected to participate in competitions. Deputy Minister mentioned that such massive sporting events had been held till now in more than 10 regions within the framework of the zonal competitions, started on April 21, and he also highly appreciated the activity of schoolchildren.

The deputy minister noted that such a massive sporting event, covering the whole country, is held among schoolchildren for the first time. These competitions not only encourage pupils in sports, but also create favorable conditions for the expansion of relations among pupils and the holding of sports tournaments on a regular basis.

Competition started after the official ceremony.

It should be noted that 12 teams, participated in the zonal competition, consist of 4 boys and 4 girls born in 2001 and younger. In accordance with the rules of the International Table Tennis Federation, about 100 tennis players compete in the competition.

The zonal tennis competition, started in Baku, will be continued from May 1 to 3 in Salyan, from May 5 to 7 in Ganja, from May 13 to 15 in Shirvan, from May 17 to 19 in Sumgait, from May 21 to 23 in Sheki.

The winners will be awarded with diplomas and valuable gifts by the Ministry of Education.