

**SHINING PEARL OF
AZERBAIJAN**

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Shusha holds the cultural importance for not only Azerbaijan but also for the entire world

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Preface

Bakhtiyar Salmanov

This journal is primarily intended to support the preservation of Shusha's cultural and historical heritage as the cradle of Azerbaijan's music, poetry, and culture. The project is occasionally an excellent opportunity for our nation to shed light on the role of Shusha in the South Caucasus alongside Azerbaijan.

Inji Rustamova

This journal will increase the awareness level among the international community living in Azerbaijan, considering the lack of English literature regarding Shusha and its cultural heritage. It will help the audience to clearly understand the realities of Karabakh, including its history and culture.

Ali Mammadov

We all are inspired to see the cultural capital of our country in a much more prosperous way, especially as of 2022 because it is the declaration of the "Year of Shusha". As the city of Shusha, the cradle of the culture of Azerbaijan, founded in 1752 by Karabakh ruler Panahali khan, this year marks the 270th anniversary of our glorious history.



Scan me to See
"Cıdır Düzü"

Role of Shusha in History

History lives in the Modernity
A Note from the Contemporary World

Shusha is home to several museums such as the Shusha Museum of History, the house museum of Azerbaijani composer Uzeyir Hajibeyov, the house museum of the Azerbaijani singer Bulbul, and the Shusha Carpet Museum. The Azerbaijan State Museum of History of Karabakh was founded in Shusha in 1991.



SHUSHA NATIVE
"KHARIBULBUL"



Scan me to Watch the
"Kharibulbul" Music Festival
Shusha, 2021

Role of Shusha in Culture

"THERE ARE A FEW CITIES IN THE WORLD WHERE EVERY SINGLE STONE, EVERY STREET, IN SHORT, THE WHOLE AMBIANCE IS SATURATED WITH MUSIC. AMONG THEM, WE CAN ONLY NAME A VERY FEW OF THEM; VIENNA IN AUSTRIA, NAPLES IN ITALY, AND SHUSHA IN AZERBAIJAN" © SAFAROVA.

Cradle of
Azerbaijani
Music

Shusha is often considered the cradle of Azerbaijan's music and poetry and one of the leading centres of the Azerbaijani culture, having been declared the cultural capital of Azerbaijan in January 2021. The city is particularly renowned for its traditional Azerbaijani genre of vocal and instrumental arts called "mugham". For the Azerbaijanis, Shusha is the "conservatoire of the Caucasus". Khurshidbanu Natavan, Azerbaijan's most famous woman poet, composer Uzeyir Hajibeyov, opera singer Bulbul and one of Azerbaijan's first twentieth-century novelists, Yusif Vezir Chemenzeminli, were born here. Molla Panah Vagif, a prominent Azerbaijani poet and vizier of the Karabakh khanate, lived and died in Shusha. In his memory, Vagif Poetry Days were held in Shusha annually since 1982.





Scan me to get to know Vagif

Special Edition for
the Prominent
People of Karabakh

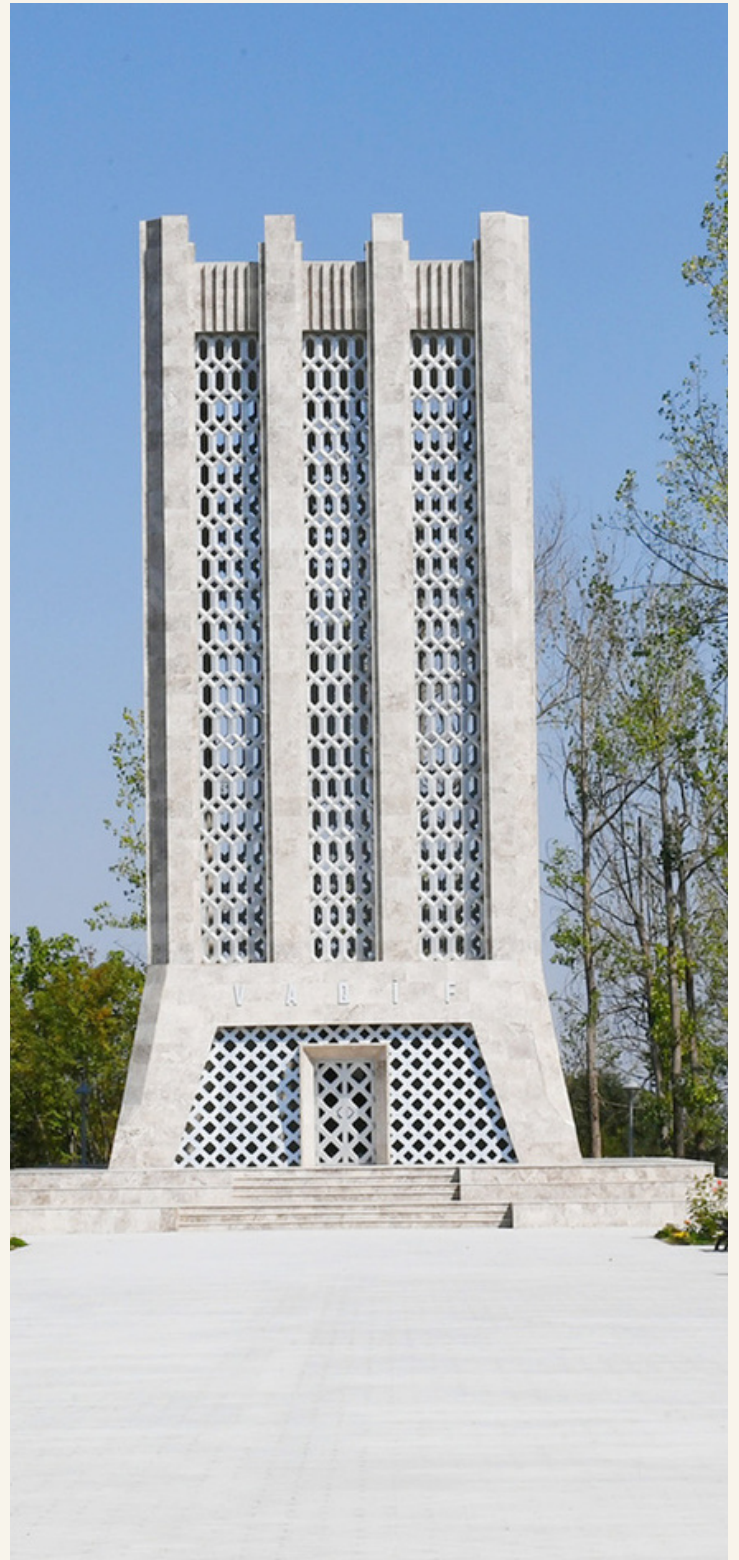
Vagif Mausoleum

"For long, how long my love and I were parted!"



MOLLA PANAH VAGIF (1717-1797)

Molla Panah, better known by his pen-name Vagif was an 18th-century Azerbaijani poet, the founder of the realism genre in the Azerbaijani poetry and also a prominent statesman and diplomat, vizier – the minister of foreign affairs in the Karabakh khanate





Scan me to get to know Natavan

Special Edition for
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People of Karabakh

Khurshidbanu Natavan (1832-1897)

*Beloved, how could you break the oath to me you swore?
Beloved, am I today not the same as I was before?
You seek new company, love, with other women you meet,
Poor Natavan, your lot was unfortunate from the start.*



Natavan was born on 15 May 1832 in Shusha as a daughter of Mehdiqulu Khan who gave her his mother's name. Khurshudbanu was only child of the family, and at the same time last heir of Karabakh khanates for that reason she was called "Durru yekta" (Sole Pearl) in the palace , "Daughter of Khan" among people.

In XIX century children of elite class were taught arabic and farsi alongside with their mother tongue, she also mastered these languages. Khurshudbanu Natavan was personality with blistreing capacity and foremost ideals. One of the main grounds contributed to the creation of this phenomenon was her origins. Natavan was originally from both Javanshir and Ziyadoglu Gajar's dynastis. She was outstanding identity of her time not only in Azerbaijan, she was properous for her nobelty and generocity. Moreover, she assisted the poor and constructed waterpipe.



Scan me to listen Uzeyir's Work of Anthem

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Composer of the National Anthem of Azerbaijan



Uzeyir bey Abdilhuseyn oglu Hajibeyov - renowned worldwide composer, musicologist scholar, publicist, playwright, teacher and social figure and the father of modern Azerbaijan professional music and national opera, Academic of Academy of Sciences of Azerbaijan (1945), professor (1940), Chairman of the Union of Azerbaijani Composers (1938-1948), rector of Baku Academy of Music (1928-1929,1939-1948), Director of Azerbaijan Art Institute of Academy of Sciences (1945-1948). He was born in a family with rich musical-traditions of Shusha influenced that influenced him exclusively. His first teacher was his uncle, professional expert of Azerbaijan music Agalar bey Aliverdibeyov.



While he is the most known for composing the National Anthem of Azerbaijan, his major works also include the opera of "Leyli ve Mejnun" staged on January 12, 1908 in the theatre of Haji Zeynalabdin Tagiyev in Baku, which is regarded as the foundation of the first opera not only in Azerbaijan but also in all Eastern world. Hajibeyov was also outstanding musicologist scholar. He is founder of modern Azerbaijan scientific music art and had many articles, researches about music. Musical comedy "Arshin mal alan" ("The Cloth Peddler") is translated into English, German, Chinese, Arabic, Persian, Polish, Ukrainian, Belarusian, Georgian.

**Uzeyir
Hajibeyov**
(1885-1948)



Scan me to get to know
Uzeyir Hajibeyli



Scan me to get to know Bulbul

Special Edition for
the Prominent
People of Karabakh

Murtuza Mammadov

(1897-1961)



Bulbul while playing the role of Asgar in the "Arshin Mal Alan" (The Cloth Peddler) Opera of Uzeyir Hajibeyov.

Mammadov Murtuza Mashadi Rza oglu (Bulbul) Azerbaijani opera singer, professional singer of tesnifs, researcher of folk music, founder of Azerbaijan professional vocal art. The name Bulbul was given to him by people for having extremely fascinating voice. Bulbul was born on June 22, 1897 near Shusha, currently it is the south part of Khankendi – Khanbagi. He had started theatrical activity since 1916. Bulbul was vocalist of Azerbaijan State Academic Opera and Ballet Theatre since 1920. In the first years of his activity, he performed in operas of Uzeyir Hajibeyov such as "Leyli and Mejnun" (Ibn Salam), "Asli and Kerem" (Kerem), and Zulfugar Hajibeyov's opera called Ashig Garib (Garib).

He graduated from Baku Music Academy in 1927. To continue his education he went to Milan. He graduated Milan Academy in 1931. Later he returned to Azerbaijan and taught lessons in Azerbaijan Music Academy. In 1938, he was granted with the name of National Artist of USSR. He became professor in 1940. Bulbul was laureate of USSR State Prize. He was also elected deputy of USSR Supreme Soviet.

BULBUL
of the
Azerbaijani Stage

Scan me to get to
know Bulbu



YUKHARI & ASHAGHI GOVHAR AGHA MOSQUES

The Yukhari Govhar Agha and Ashagi Govhar Agha mosques have known as Shusha city's Juma mosques, which have two hundred meters distance between each other. The main aim of the Govhar Agha for building these two mosques next to each other was creating worshipping conditions for people from two different sects of Islam.. The name of the Ashaghi Govhar Agha in the Azerbaijani language referring to the location of the Mosque. Thus, the city of Shusha consisted of 17 mahallas that were divided into upper (yukhari) and lower (ashaghi) mahallas. Ashaghi Govhar Agha Mosque is located in the lower (ashaghi) part of the city; therefore the Mosque was named as it is. The same goes with Yukhari Govher Agha Mosque.

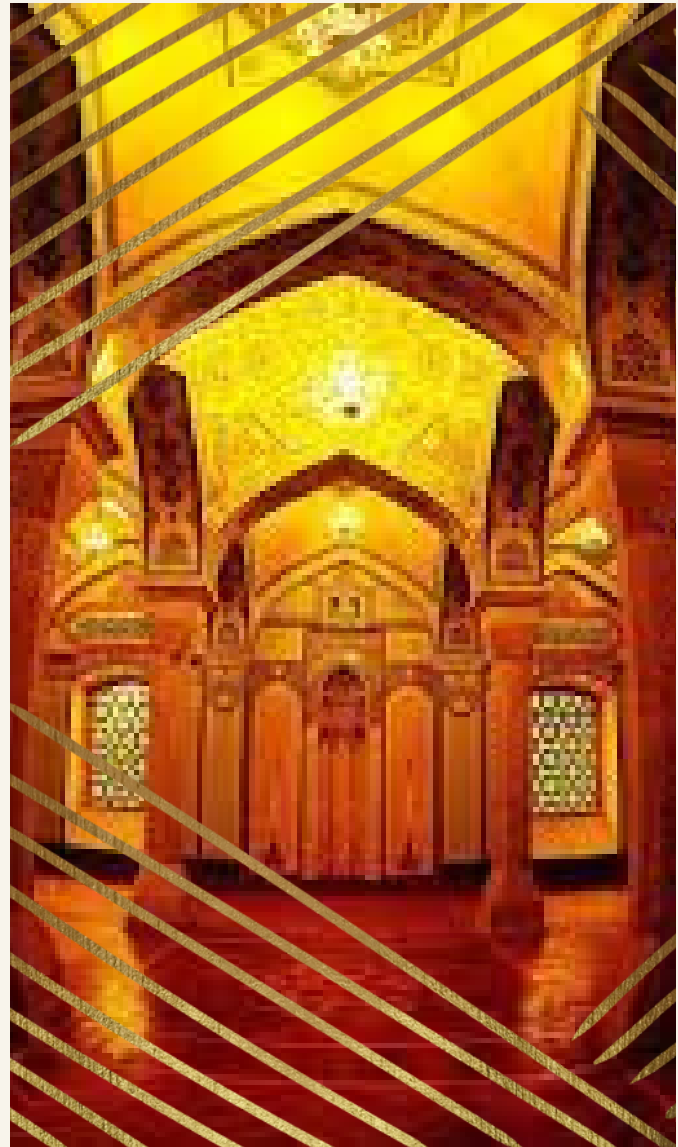
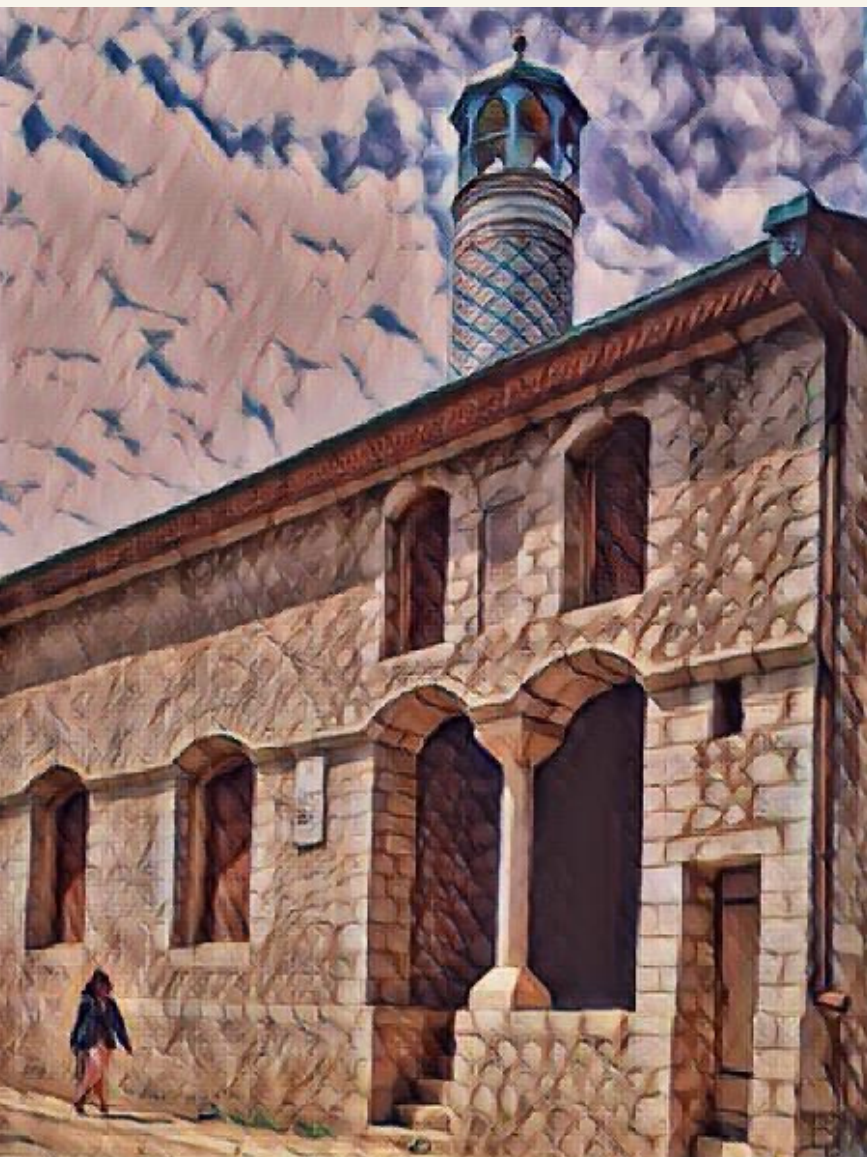


Scan me to See the
Spiritual Face of Shusha



Saatli Mosque

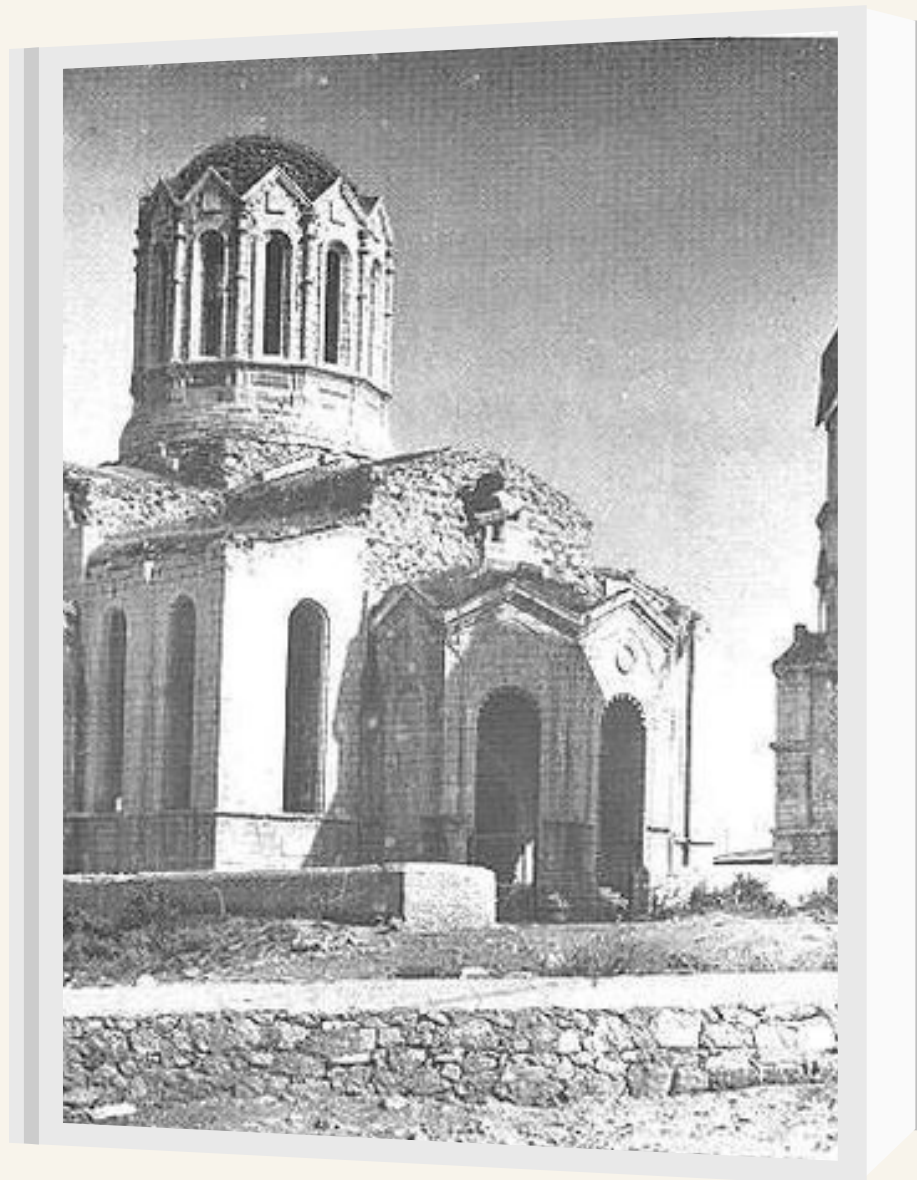
Saatli Mosque was built in 1883 and one of the final master pieces of prominent Azerbaijani architect Karbalayi Safikhan Karabakhi. The mosque and its minarets follow the design of earlier mosques of Shusha, Yukhari Govhar Agha Mosque and Ashaghi Govhar Agha Mosque. The mosque has a three-naved prayer hall and brick minaret with especially patterned decoration specific to architecture of Karabakh.



Saatli Mosque is also located in Shusha, Azerbaijan. It was under control of Armenian forces since the Capture of Shusha on May 8, 1992, until the city's recapture by Azerbaijan on 8 November 2020.

Gazanchi Church

Azerbaijan is a country of rich cultural and spiritual heritage and traditions of tolerance and multiculturalism.



The Gazanchi Church in the liberated city of Shusha is one of the buildings to be restored as an example of the Christian heritage of Azerbaijan. It's being renovated as other historical, cultural as well as other religious monuments in the liberated Karabakh region of Azerbaijan.

The Role of Shusha in the International Arena



Shusha Declared “Cultural Capital of Turkic World”

Azerbaijan’s Shusha city was declared the “Cultural Capital of the Turkic World for 2023”. The announcement was made at an extraordinary ministerial meeting of the International Organization of Turkic Culture, known as TURKSOY, in the Turkish city of Bursa.

Shusha also hosted a conference dedicated to the 30th anniversary of the establishment of relations between the United Nations and Azerbaijan. High-level delegations from both sides attended the meeting to discuss the development of mutual relations, as well as the liberated territories of Azerbaijan.

“Karabakh” Carpets

There are 33 compositions of Karabakh carpets. According to the traits of local sheep wool Karabakh carpets have long tight and mild pile. Karabakh carpets are distinguished for their colourfulness and bright colours. They are divided into 4 groups: with medallion, without medallion, carpets for Namaz and with a plot. These carpets are produced in the towns Malibeyli, Muradkhanli, Dashbulag, Jabrayil, Horadiz in Karabakh in mountainous part of Karabakh.





Carpet "Chalabi"



In first quarter of XX century hunting theme of carpets faded away completely and it was replaced with description of different animals as a composition. Influence of "Shadda" carpets on fleecy carpets is explained by this way. Ancient flat carpets called "Shadda" s compositions are designed in the way of horizontal, primary symmetric principle and figures of one-type person and animals are repeated paralelly. Carpet-weavers began to use this motive instead of hunting themes.

Scan me to See the Spiritual Face
of Carpet "Chalabi"






"BUYNUZ" CARPET

In Central Asia and Middle East also Buynuz carpets belong to the type of Karabakh carpets. They are produced in carpet-weaving points in Karabakh. Before Karabakh carpet masters called "Buynuz" carpets as "Horadiz". In Azerbaijan some animals such as sheep, ox, and goat were considered holy. Before characterizing farming, output, then totemism later related to astronomy horn meant different symbols and ideas. Bull is the symbol of power and courage as well as it symbolized "space forces", God of water and farming. In the middle composition of the carpet consists of horn drawings. The middle part of these carpets creates horizontal row by accepted rules, which consists of similar elements, ornaments. In one hand assymetric structure of horns makes carpet more vivid, on the other hand creates opportunity to weave carpet how you want.





Malibeyli carpets belong to Shusha group of Karabakh carpets, it took its name from the village Malibeyli situated in 15 kilometers from north part of Shusha. Male dwellers of this village were engaged in stock-raising, husbandry, female settlers in carpet-weaving.



"Malibeyli" Carpet

The mentioned carpet was woven not only in Malibeyli, but also other carpet-weaving factories of Karabakh. That village is famous for production of carpet outputs such as sack, saddle-bag, and saddle-carpet and so on. These carpets were famous all over Karabakh.

Shusha



The fortress was surrounded by dense forests on all sides an impassable barrier by the enemy. Poet Molla Panah
The fortress, built by Panahali khan for defensive aim, the Shusha lowland.

Castle



and ended in ravines in some parts, which was considered Vagif also supervised the construction of Shush fortress. was built in an inaccessible and even besieged place in



About the Authors

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Bakhtiyar Salmanov is a senior International Relations student at ADA University as an Islamic Development Bank International Fellow. He has also completed his Erasmus+ exchange programme at the Humboldt University of Berlin in Germany, having deepened his expertise in political science. Interested in academic research and public policy, he is the author of peer-reviewed articles and advisory papers by think tanks.

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