

ADAlılar

ADA School Magazine

HOMELAND

By Inji Achak

**FEBRUARY
2022**

THE WISPERING DANDELION

By Humay Sadig

HEART

Reza Deghati

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AZERBAIJAN**



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Photographer Aydan Aghamaliyeva (11 A1)
2nd place winner of ADA school photo competition

COVER PAGE

Kamran Samadzada (10AA1) and Irana Isgandarli (10AB1)

PHOTO BY

Fatima Khubyarova (11A2)



EDITOR'S NOTE

I remember the time when I was fifteen, glossy magazines were a rarity. Some people brought them from abroad, some bought on a black market. I was always impressed by bright and high-quality pictures that showed beautiful and happy faces (mostly foreigners), expensive cars, or scarce goods which you could hardly have seen in your life. Publishing by school students their own a magazine was something out of fantasy. We could only dream of it. The best thing that we could have done was to create was a wall newspaper. We simply took a piece of Whatman paper, and one of us who had a better handwriting, wrote on it. We also added some drawings, made by colored pencils.

Time has passed, and everything has changed now. Publishing a school magazine is no longer a dream. ADA school students have been publishing their own magazine, ADAIilar, since 2019, right after the school was founded.

And here we are with our fourth edition! With new, dedicated, inquiring, and creative team, interesting stories, poems, wonderful interviews, photographs, and many other things ADAIilar wanted to share with you.

I would like to express my gratitude to heads of divisions of the editorial board and their teams, to everyone who contributed to this issue of ADAIilar School Magazine. I am also grateful to ADA School's English instructor Ms. Regsana Kerimova for her help with editing and proofreading. I have to thank tens of students for their support.

Samir Javadov

Editor-in-Chief
ADAIilar School Magazine

Rifah Zeynalov
Head of Journalists Division



Dear reader,
You are holding in your hands the fourth issue of our beloved ADALilar magazine. This edition is special because we have expanded the scope of our magazine by including a variety of entertaining and informative articles that will suit the interests of every reader. In addition, after a continuous period of pandemics, most of the activities covered in this issue were once again held at our second home, the beloved ADA School campus. Leafing through this magazine, you will find insightful interviews with prominent representatives from various areas of specialization, memorable stories about our native land of Karabakh and its innovations, the activities of the School Student Council, book and movie reviews, and other important events and campaigns that took place over the past year.

Journalists Division

- Khadija Ahmadova (11C1)
- Adil Alizada (10AA2)
- Maryam Kalimulina (11B2)
- Nazrin Guluzada (10AA6)
- Rinat Nasirov (11C4)
- Gular Jabrayilova (11C4)
- Nazrin Huseynli (11A2)
- Farhad Abbasov (10AA3)

Gunel Huseynova
Head of Writers Division



Dear reader,
It is a big honour to present you the 4th edition of ADALilar magazine. I know that you have been waiting for this release! In this edition you will be able to find a big variety of stories about unique parts of our Motherland, original stories, interviews with successful people and many other works done by our hardworking team. I hope you will highly rate the work of every single person who put a lot of effort into creating this magazine. Enjoy reading!

Writers Division

- Fatima Seyidova (11C4)
- Inji Achak (10AA1)
- Esmira Sadigzada (11D1)
- Fatima Huseynova (10AB2)
- Sumeyra Karayaka (10AB2)
- Farida Movsumova (10AA3)
- Ruhlan Taghizada (10AA2)
- Fatma Hajiyeva (11A1)
- Ikram Hasanli (10AA1)
- Ofeliya Mammadli (10AA6)
- Isgandar Jafarli (10AA2)

Translators Division

- Nuray Azimova (10AA4)
- Rahim Abdullayev (10AA1)

Aylin Aliyeva
Head of Photographers Division



Dear readers,
The fourth edition of ADALilar Magazine is full of various photos from different events, organized by ADA School, as well as exciting interviews with well-known individuals, etc. The photographer's team was able to capture the success and all the achievements of ADA School students. This edition displays the brightest moments from student life in ADA School. Already from the cover page of our magazine, it is crystal clear that all photos in the ADALilar magazine carry deep meaning, consequently, particular attention should be paid to them. Despite the tough pandemic period, the photographers team provided the magazine with the most memorable and quality photos. I sincerely wish you to get the most pleasant emotions while flipping through the fourth edition of ADALilar Magazine!

Photographers Division

- Sona Afandizada (10AA3)
- Sanur Mammadova (10AA3)
- Fatima Khubyarova (11A2)
- Laman Gasimova (10AA1)

Nurel Ismayilova
Head of Social Media Division



Dear Reader,
Please, accept my warm greetings. In this short passage, I would like to share my experience being selected as the Head of Social Media Division. Social media has become an integral part of our lives. Working hard in ADALilar Magazine has helped many students to set the foundation for most modern occupations at school. Sharing joy around our warm community, encouraging viewers to take part in numerous events and discover a new side of themselves, motivate participants and winners to step onto new grounds of success has been our main goal. I hope you will enjoy reading new edition of ADALilar Magazine!

Social Media Division

- Gultakin Mustafayeva (10AA5) (YouTube)
- Zuleykha Baghirova (11B1) (Facebook)
- Zivar Huseynzada (10AB3) (LinkedIn)
- Riad Alizada (10AA2) (Instagram)
- Nuray Mammadova (TikTok)

Web site Division

- www.adalilarmagazine.com
- Nihad Aliyev (11C3) (web developer)
- Vasif Kasamanski (11A1) (content manager)
- Zuleykha Baghirova (11B1) (content manager)

WE ARE
BACK



Leyla Abdullayeva: «We restored historic justice and ensured international law»



Nazrin Huseynli, 11A2

Nazrin Huseynli (11A2): Today we will be interviewing one of the diplomats who played a significant role in conveying our country's ideas to the world. This was extremely a necessary task and it paid off in the 44 days that lead to our glorious army's huge victory. After those 44 days we were able to get our homelands back from the cruel Armenian occupation. Let's welcome Mrs. Leyla Abdullayeva. We would like to thank you for taking your time and being here with us. We may begin with the first question:

N.H.: In your opinion, what can be done to address challenges faced by people from different cultural backgrounds working together? Have you ever been in a similar scenario and how did you handle it?

international organization, where I had an opportunity to work with colleagues from all around the world. I always enjoyed working in an international atmosphere and never faced challenges in building good relationships. I think in order to work with people from different cultural groups, you need to build relationships based on respect, trust, and understanding. As citizens of a country where multiculturalism is a manner of life, we are probably better prepared to face such situations.

N.H.: As we all know, during the Second Karabakh War, you played a crucial role in defending our country's ideals and policies. How do you approach foreign media to advocate our country's values?

L.A.: Working with foreign media is important for



L.A.: As a young diplomat I attended many trainings and courses, where people from different countries, representing different cultures came together. In addition, my first diplomatic assignment was to an

bringing the position of Azerbaijan, realities in the country and the region to the attention of the international community. That was extremely crucial



who are willing to pursue a promising diplomatic career.

L.A.: A diplomat is a person who represents his/her country abroad; certainly, the official representative needs to be knowledgeable about his country, including its history, culture, traditions, etc. The diplomat should have good communication skills because creating sustainable friendly relations is important in diplomacy. The diplomat should love his/her country, I think patriotism is a key in diplomacy.

N.H.: *I think that our country's younger generation needs to know about our country's history in the areas where our forebears once lived. Could you kindly tell us about the books that you feel will tell us everything there is to know about Karabakh, our ancient homeland?*

L.A.: There are many publications on the Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, including its history, culture, prominent personalities from this region, and others. Many publications, including those written by foreign authors, are also dedicated to the former Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict, the root causes of the conflict, and its legal aspects. I think getting knowledge on the history of the Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, as well as being aware of the reasons for the decades-long hostilities between Armenia and Azerbaijan, especially in a post-conflict period, is very important. If we want to prevent the reoccurrence of a new war, look ahead to normalizing the relations, and start thinking about future cooperation we need to take lessons from the past. So, I absolutely encourage our youth to read books on the historic Karabakh region of Azerbaijan. By the way, there are a lot of web pages that provide a wide range of information on the Karabakh region of Azerbaijan.

N.H.: *We were all quite active in voicing our views to the international community during the Second Karabakh War. What do you think our young people should do in order to be able to speak up efficiently in international communities?*

L.A.: Indeed, our youth was an active participant of the information war of last year. We need to speak louder, based on the facts, principles of international law, and to do our utmost to bring the realities of our region to the attention of the international community. It's also true that possessing these qualities does not guarantee that you will be heard, because unfortunately double standards are applied in international relations. But for me, one thing is clear that justice always prevails, as it was the case with the ending of the illegal occupation of the territories of Azerbaijan by Armenia. We restored historic justice and ensured international law. Now it's time for us, for all Azerbaijani youth to be even more active to strive for a peaceful and prosperous future for Azerbaijan and the entire region.

N.H.: *As you are aware, many students at ADA School aspire to enter the field of international relations. I think that getting advice from a professional like you, who has had a lot of success in this field, is worth the gold. What skills should students who desire to study international relations obtain?*

L.A.: Success is not something you attain without putting in an effort. I think any student who desires to study international relations needs, first of all, to define his/her goals for the future and put a lot of effort into achieving these goals. If the goal is to become a good diplomat, then a good education, knowledge, communication, and foreign language skills, a curiosity to learn more, demonstrating great integrity and dedication to promoting their country's interests, and being passionate about international cooperation are crucial.

N.H.: *Finally, do you have anything you want to say to our students who are striving to be the greatest diplomats for our beautiful country in the future?*

L.A.: I have already shared my opinion on the main characteristics that a good diplomat should possess. I can only repeat that loving Azerbaijan is important to be a worthy representative of our country. I wish you and other ADA students all the best in their future activities and I am sure that ADA University will train many future brilliant diplomats that will contribute to further strengthening of the role of Azerbaijan within international platforms.

during the 44-day Patriotic War. Being quick, acting first, telling the truth, being credible, and showing respect are important values while working with foreign media in a crisis.

N.H.: *In the sphere of politics, changes happen every day, if not every hour. What methods or techniques do you implement to keep track of these events in real-time?*

L.A.: We are living in a digital world. And this has certainly facilitated the reach to the news. In our case, the diplomatic missions of Azerbaijan play a significant role in keeping us informed on the latest developments around the world.

N.H.: *What qualities and personality characteristics do you think future diplomats must possess? I believe that your guidance would be extremely beneficial to those of us in the younger generation*

ON THE OTHER SIDE OF PEACE



Ofeliya Mammadli, 10AA6

The armed conflict that took place on September 27th, 2020 in response to the military aggression of Armenia against our country will always remain in our hearts as the onset of both a tragic and glorious war named the Patriotic war. During the 44-day counter-attack operations, Azerbaijani forces liberated over 300 settlements, including cities of Jabrayil, Fuzuli, Zangilan, Gubadli, and Shusha, from nearly 30-year-long illegal Armenian occupation. It brought to all Azerbaijani people a long-deserved justice and a huge relief that not a single area of our great land is occupied now.

Our lands, which we dreamed of returning for almost 30 years, were liberated from occupation at the cost of the blood and lives of our Shehids (Martyrs). During the Patriotic War, 2,783 servicemen of our Armed Forces died in combat sacrificing themselves so that we and our future generations could live at peace without worrying about any aggressive Armenian acts towards our territory and people. We will never forget them and the sacrifice they made. Whenever we will visit Shusha or other liberated cities, we should remember that all the magnificence of mountains, the liveliness of rivers, singing of birds, prosperous buds of Khari Bulbul (*Ophrys caucasica*), and clear blue sky were given a chance to flourish and flatter our eyes by their beauty only due to the fearlessness and selflessness of our soldiers.

To commemorate the memory of our fallen heroes, the government organized several special events. At noon on September 27, a minute of silence was announced throughout Azerbaijan in memory of those killed in the Second Karabakh war. Prayers were read in mosques, churches, and synagogues, and many city buildings were illuminated with the colors of the national flag. On this day, all Azerbaijani people

marked the 1st anniversary of the end of this dreadful war and expressed their gratitude and obedience to our soldiers.

Another meaningful event has been celebrated recently. The liberation of Shusha, the pearl of Karabakh, dear to every Azerbaijani, on November 8, 2020, played a decisive role in the outcome of the war, leading to the defeat of Armenia's political and military leadership and, as a result, the end of the Patriotic War. Therefore, President Ilham Aliyev signed the decree that announced the day of the liberation of Shusha as Victory Day. On this important day, we commemorate, with deep respect and appreciation, all our martyrs who gave their lives for the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan.

In Baku, the events were marked starting on the morning of November 8th with a march by thousands of soldiers and civilians from downtown Baku to the new Military Trophies Park, featuring Armenian military hardware captured during the war along with controversial depictions of Armenian soldiers. In the evening the sky was covered with bright and colorful fireworks depicting a wonderful pattern.

Nevertheless, with all the efforts and dedication that were made to organize all these significant celebrations, we realize the immeasurable debt we owe to our Martyrs and soldiers, and it is beyond our means to repay it in full. Our people will always remember at what cost these great lands were returned, remember those who have served and those who continue to serve our great Homeland. The Azerbaijani nation will always pray, honor, and remember the brave souls that we have lost and understand the debt of protecting our Homeland no matter what.

Ofeliya Mammadli, 10AA6



Artwork:
Aisha Gambarli, 10AA6

HEART



Mr. Reza Deghati is one of the most famous photographers in the World. He is a photojournalist who has worked all over the world, even for National Geographic. His assignments have taken him to over a hundred countries as a witness to humanity's conflicts and catastrophes. His work is featured in the international media (National Geographic, Time Magazine, Stern, Newsweek, El País, Paris Match, Geo...), as well as a series of books, exhibitions and documentaries. Our columnist Fatma Hajiyeva (11A1) met with Mr. Deaghati and talked to him about some interesting topics.



Fatma Hajiyeva, 11A1

Fatma: Welcome to our school Dear Mr. Reza, thank you for taking your time with us. It's a very great experience to meet you face to face here.

Mr. Reza: I am very grateful for being part of this great magazine. Thank you for inviting me!

Fatma: So, let's move on to our very first question. Each of us dreams about a future profession in our childhoods. What was your dream profession back in your childhood then?

Mr. Reza: When I was 6-7-year-old, my dream was to become a black American jazz singer. Later, I was looking for professions that I could express myself precisely. What I like, what I see, what things I get emotions from. This was the very big reason, that I started learning photography from the age of 13 years old.

Fatma: Do you remember the stage of taking your first photograph machine?

Mr. Reza: Yes, of course! Let me explain a little more about it. When I was 7-8 years old, I have incredible passion inside of me, those 2 things were giving me deep emotions. First

For me, art has a solution for a lot of social problems. If you put h and e before art, this is the main solution. Because you need to put your heart on finding any solution.

was a beauty. When I was looking at fantastic clouds, beautiful flowers or just a person, even listening to a favorite singer on the radio, my heart was beating very fast. I was wanting to show all beauties, that I was looking at, to all people. The second thing that gives me the same emotions was social injustice. When I was seeing a beggar, a little boy who had no shoes on the street, I was trying to create the awareness of all people, that Why doesn't this boy have any shoes? . The only answer that I got was when you will grow up, you will understand why . But it wasn't enough for me.

Fatma: Is there any childhood memory, that you would experience again?

Mr. Reza: I think, I am still the same child, I haven't changed much. I am sharing the same soul as 19-year-old Reza. He was also trying to make people aware, now I am still doing the same job. When I was talking to people, they didn't take care a lot. So, I thought, maybe I am not able to express myself clearly. I said, maybe the image would have a better expression and I could show it to everybody in the World. There was another problem at those ages. At home, we were speaking in the Azerbaijani language, but at school, we have to speak in the Persian language. If we didn't speak, we would be punished and beaten by teachers. But photography has not any languages,

art has not had any languages. Now, about 56 years I am a professional photographer. But it wasn't a profession for me when I started as a 13-year-old boy, it was a passion for me, not a hobby. Passion is much deeper than a hobby. And I learned on my own, there were no tutorial videos, YouTube, Internet, classroom, or someone who teaches you. In those years, there were only a few photography studios, that people were going there for having pictures for documents, weddings or just family. I knew, that this is not the exact job I was looking for. That's why I became an architect. Firstly, I studied physics at Tebriz University, then architecture at Tehran University. In 1979, I decided to quit architecture, after 2 years working, then became a photographer. I had no idea, I will find any job or not. After 3 weeks, I got a job in Newsweek , which was one of the top magazines in the World. Everything that I have learned from 13-year-old, I didn't know that those are valuable and appreciated at the international level. When people from Newsweek saw my pictures, they were asking : These are your pictures? , and I said yes, of course . Then, they asked me to work with them and I said Okay, lets go .

Fatma: What is the exact difference between an eye of a photographer and a normal person?

Mr. Reza: You can understand me better than others. Anyone



who went to school, who got an education can write correctly, but only a few people can write a poem. This is exactly the same as photography. You can't explain, thousands of people take pictures and just a few ones become photographers. Actually, one person who hasn't been at school could write amazing poems than millions who have a pen in their hands.

Fatma: Actually, no one can easily see the difference between this photo and pictures that are taken by the phones. I see your point now. Is there anything that in the World you would definitely like to change?

Mr. Reza: A lot. What I have lived in the past 40 years, being in the front line of many wars, seeing the conflicts, seeing the refugees, seeing how the war affected humanity. One thing, that if I could change would be the silence of all weapons. The only acceptable war is what Azerbaijan did recently, by going back and taking their rights, motherlands. But what's happening in a lot of countries, taking others' lands or war for war, these are totally absurd for in the 21st century. Approximately 1/3 whole world's budget goes to war. Imagine all this money if it's put into education, medicine, or art. If humanity could change this, the World would be paradise.

Fatma: You witnessed in Karabakh how many escapes, deaths, lives full of misery. What did you feel after being back in those lands?

Mr. Reza: I think it was 24th or 25th November last year, when I arrived in Aghdam, near the back of a big mosque in the city. 28 years ago, I have seen all those people escaping from Khojaly there. The pictures I have taken, it was an incredible mixture of joy and outrage. Joy, because it has been 28 years and this occupation was really touching my heart. Even I was traveling all around the world and doing a lot of things, I wasn't feeling good. It was not only because I am originally from Azerbaijan, because as a World citizen too. I was outraged for 28 years because the World was silent and didn't want to know about this occupation. This sense of injustice was touching me a lot. What I could do in these 28 years was doing exhibitions, making books, making conferences talking about Karabakh, which was very difficult, especially in Europe and U.S. Because you have a very strong Armenian lobby. And the whole World was getting information only from the Armenian side. When the pen is in the hand of your enemy, you can't do anything.

Fatma: You visited Karabakh during the 1st and 2nd wars in very difficult ways. My question is, haven't you ever been scared of experiencing the dramatic atmosphere of war lively?

Mr. Reza: Have you ever heard that someone died twice? No. We all die once. If I have to stop doing what I love to do, because I am afraid of dying, I wouldn't live the life which I want.

Fatma: For 4 months you have been living together with soldiers in Karabakh. Which memories do you remember from there?

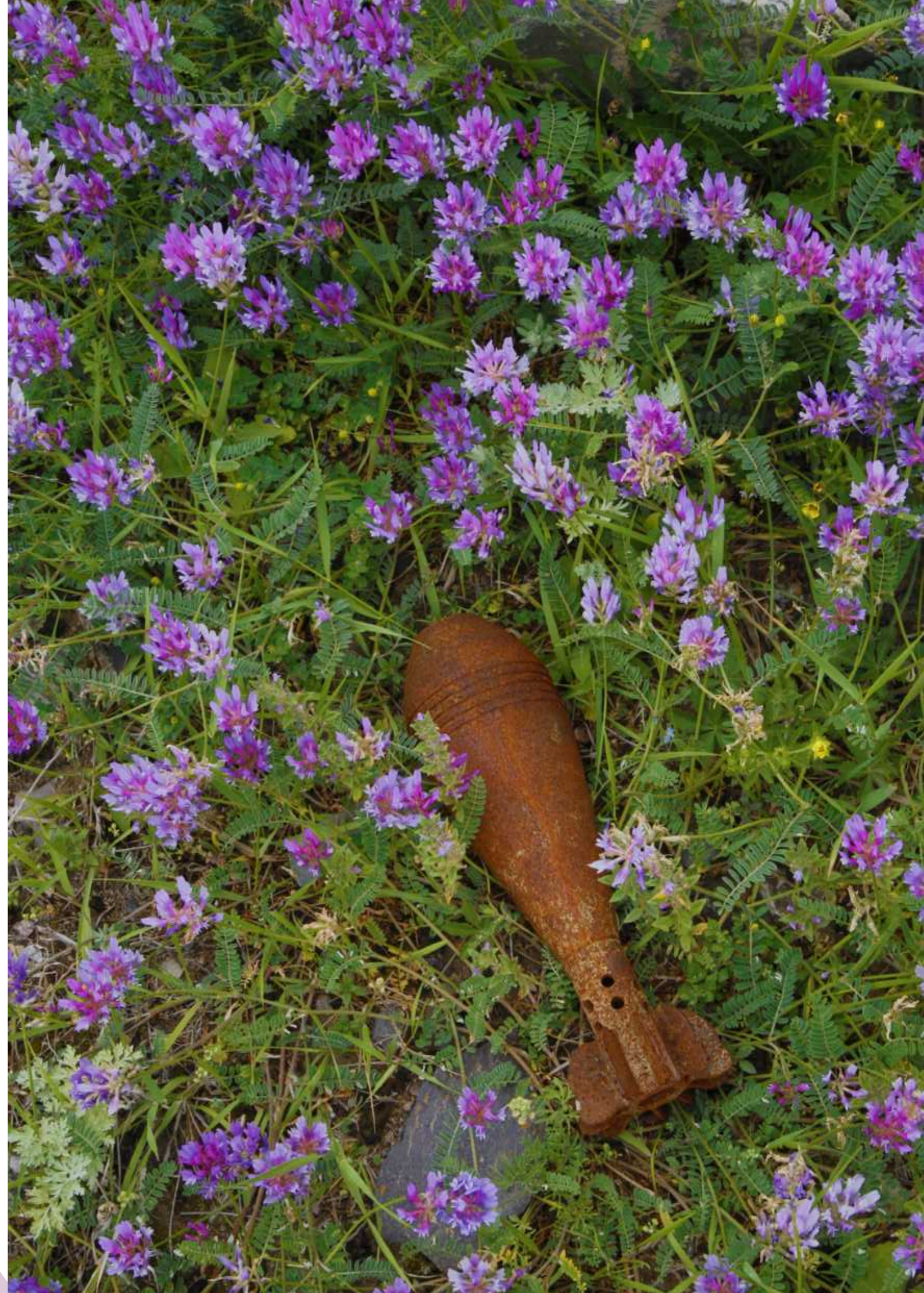
Mr. Reza: In 1992, it has been almost 12 years which I was a professional photographer, and a lot of time I have spent in the Middle East, in Beirut- Lebanon, Kurdistan, Iran- Iraq, Afghanistan wars. I have an understanding of weaponry and military movement, while being in the atmosphere of wars you became an expert on them. It happens without your awareness, even if you are pacifist or anti-war. In 1992, there was no proper weaponry, no military system, no proper clothing, no proper commanding. This was a disaster for me. Sometimes I saw people, who didn't know how to use guns and they were in the front line. On the other side, I saw what Armenians were doing. They were professional shooters, they had very strong snipers. Actually, they shot me 3 times, I even lost one of my hats in Shusha, Jidir plain. But what I remember was the joy and bravery of those people, which they knew, that they will be killed. Because it was obvious, no one can resist that strong Armenian army which they were getting help from the Russian battalion and also energy, food supply, and military information by Iran. Three countries all were attacking one small country that didn't have any proper military and weaponry system. I always said that, whatever happens in history time, justice always finds its own way. It may take time, even some people were saying to me "Reza bey, it's finished, we never get Karabakh back." But I was saying no, I will go to Karabakh again!

Fatma: You have witnessed the important moments of all history time: Iran revolution, Iran-Iraq war, 1st, and 2nd Karabakh wars. How did all these situations influence the way you see this World?

Mr. Reza: I am never impressed by them. I am always against war, besides the Karabakh wars. For most of them, I was disgusted. I was trying to understand, that why millions of people die, why they lose their homes and become refugees. After 40 years, being in all those wars, I got an understanding, why these wars are happening. Those reasons make you angry and disgusted by them. You could be Bill Gates or Elon Musk or whoever, the day that you die, you only take your body with you, nothing else. Then what's the reason to start these wars to gain more lands, economic benefits, or strategic points? You can't imagine, how many people I have seen dying in front of my eyes.

Fatma: Let's switch our view to photography again. Whom from the sphere of photography do you admire the most?

Mr. Reza: Let me go a little bit deeper about it. Photography, even it looks like a new profession, but the mentality that we do is illustrating and showing by pictures of the daily life of humanity. This is not even invented by the camera. You know, in which place do we have the very first traces? In Chauvet cave which is located in South France 43.000 years ago. There were the paintings of the hands, some animals. Also, in Gobustan, Egypt, and so on. From those times till today, we always had people using their existing tools by describing daily life. If I would live 43.000 years ago, I would be painting some pictures



on the caves probably. If it would be 15.000 years ago, I would be in Gobustan busy making those “yalli” figures. If I would live in Egypt 5000 years ago, probably I would be painting the pharaohs daily life on walls. When the writings were invented 4500 years ago, there were very few people learned how to write. Those people were called scribes. Then who started to write poems, was called a writer. My point is, it took a lot of time to separate saying that, this is a journalist, this is a graphic designer, this is a teacher, and so on. Now, everyone has a camera, we call them photographers, but there is so much difference between photography which I am doing, and wedding photography or some catalog. What I am doing is my personal way of expressing myself using photography. One of the photographers that I admired a lot was Henry Cartier-Bresson. Other ones are Eugene Smith, Se Sebastião Salgado etc. The main fact is how to use an image to tell the story. Again, back in Egypt, people were using hieroglyphs 4500 years ago. They are revolutionized as emojis right now. When the alphabet was invented, language became a dividing element

between people. Because a person, who doesn't know Chinese, he/she can't read the text in Chinese or speak. So, we needed to come back and find a universal language, that everybody can understand, which is images. When I made exhibitions in China, Japan, France, Germany, the U.S, etc., people come and I see, that they get the same emotions. When I was 13 years old, I knew that I wanted to talk to everybody, that's why I got this language.

Fatma: Art doesn't need to have any languages to be understandable. In my opinion, it is the main beauty of art.

Mr. Reza: Exactly! For me, art has a solution to a lot of social problems. If you put heart and effort before art, this is the main solution. Because you need to put your heart into finding any solution.

Fatma: Thank you Mr. Reza for this amazing interview. I hope you liked it. See you soon at our school hopefully!

Mr. Reza: Thank you! It was professionally prepared, bravo!



From the left: Fatima Hajiyeva, Reza Deghati, Samir Javadov.



THE WHISPERING DANDELION

By Humay Sadig, IIAI



- "Mom, look here. It's a dandelion," said little Leyla with excitement in her eyes.

- "Take it and make a wish, dear."

- "I want the war to end as soon as possible, and that our heroes return to their homes with victory," with a tear on her cheek whispered the child, whose soldier-father had been missing for several weeks.

The mother gently wiped a tear from her daughter's face, guessing about Leyla's wish.

Months have passed and that dandelion is now doomed forever in the spider web of a dead huge tank, inside of which I am now looking at. Big holes in the rusty metal of killing machine, dried mud from the battlefields on the tank track and its ruined summit to the right a meter from me... Unfortunately, Leyla will never again listen to her father's stories about his childhood in Karabakh. However, his sacrifice will never be forgotten, because now these enormous machines are in Baku not to kill innocent civilians, but to show the boundless bravery of our soldiers.

For nearly thirty years, aggressive cowards have built defense systems of ten or more barriers in territories they never owned. Standing here I could picture how Armenian soldiers were waiting for our fearless soldiers to pass through deep anti-tank ditches, instantly killing minefields, wooden obstacles to stop the iron power of Azerbaijanis, metal hedgehogs, wires and fences. These "obstacles" were nothing for our heroes, who, after all these decades, were preparing for a great return. While weak, frightened terrorists hid in tunnels and ate their last stores, the patriots of Azerbaijan spent all their remaining energy on liberating land from which millions of civilians had to forcibly leave. Not to mention children, women, young, and elderly civilians, cruelly killed in front of their families...

Yet, this nightmare of sufferings ended due to the iron willingness of not only soldiers, but also mothers, wives, fathers, siblings, workers, journalists, Azerbaijanis from all over the world and President Ilham Aliyev. Nothing can describe the pride, the feeling in the soul of every Azerbaijani who comes to the «Park of Military Trophies». Yes, when you look at all these killing machines and weapons, you feel a shiver all over your body, imagining all the battlefields and how much death they caused. But then you imagine how many lives it could have cost if these "killers" were not stopped. This open-air museum will be a proof and reminder for the whole world about the heroism, unity, and power of Azerbaijan!

Humay Sadig, IIAI



ZƏFƏRƏ APARAN YOL

FATİMA SEYİDOVA IIC4



Onunla iş başında olduğu zaman görüşdük. Həmişəki kimi çox ciddi və tələskənli görünürdü. Hətta mənə, öz nəvəsinə ayırdığı vaxt da məhdud idi. Bilirdim ki, əslən Şuşalı olan babam Hidayət Rüstəmov bu yaxında doğma torpağına, Şuşaya nəyin ki, yenidən qədəm basmağa nail olub, hətta orada gedən mühüm yol tikinti işlərinə də rəhbərlik edir. Uzun illərdən sonra doğma torpaqlara qayıdışı mənə çox maraqlı idi. Körpəliyimdən indiyədək Şuşa haqqında eşitdiyim hekayələr, söhbətlər indi sanki bir gerçəyə çevrilirdi. Bəs indi görəsən, bu qədər zamandan sonra, yenidən o xatirələrlə görüşmək necə bir hiss idi? Ona görə də, bu barədə hisslərini paylaşmağı xahiş etdim.



- «Yanvar ayı idi. Çox həyəcanlı idim. Uzun illər həsrəti ilə yaşadığım doğma elimə, obama yola düşürdüm. Bu günü necə də həsrətlə, səbirsizliklə gözləmişdim. Nəhayət, vaxt-vədə yetişdi, biz yola düşdük. Bizi ilk qarşılayan Füzuli oldu. Şəhər yerlə-yeksan edilmişdi. Bu mənzərəyə baxmaq çox ağrılı idi. Nə qədər vəhşi olasan ki, bir şəhəri belə bir xarabalığa çevirəsən... Bəli, bu yalnız erməniyə aid ola bilən bir xislətdir. Ürək ağrısıyla viran qalmış kəndlərimizə ayaq basdıq. İlk öncə Sığnaq kəndi bizi qarşıladı. Mənfur qonşularımızın məskən saldığı torpaq, adından da görüldüyü kimi, özlərinə

sığınacaq seçdikləri məkan. Bir az irəlidə Böyük Tağlar kəndi öz əsrarəngiz mənzərəsi ilə bizi valeh elədi. Sonra isə məşhur Daşaltı kəndinə çatdıq. Burada evlərin, demək olar ki, əksəriyyəti salamat idi. Budur, artıq Şuşanın bir addımlığındayam. Daşaltıdan qayanın üstündə ilk olaraq Şuşanın həmin teleqülləsi görsənirdi, sonra da həmin Üçmıx təpəsi və həmin Cıdır düzü... Sürücü maşını saxladı: "Müəllim, düşün biraz nəfəs alın", - dedi.»

Şuşa ilə illər sonra ilk qarşılaşması barədə mənə danışarkən Hidayət baba o ana geri döndü sanki. Mən də sanki o ana şahidlik etdim, Şuşanı yaxından gördüm. Onun üçün Şuşa illərlə görmədiyi doğması, əzizi idi. Hidayət baba gözlərindən süzülən yaşları silərək hekayəsinə davam etdi:

- «Ağlıma da gəlməzdi ki, belə tez çataram Şuşaya. İlk qədəm qoyanda şəhər mənə sanki çox kiçilmiş gəlirdi. Nəinki şəhər, hətta boya-başa çatdığım evimiz də, ətraf da çox kiçilmişdi.»

Bu əslində təbiidir, Şuşa yarası illər uzandıqca həsrət yükü ilə yüklənərək daha da ağırlaşarkən Şuşanı da böyütmüşdü şuşalıların gözündə. Neçə-neçə şuşalı doğma-əziz Şuşasına qovuşmadan onun illər ötdükə ağırlaşan və böyüyən həsrət yükünün altında əzilərək məhv olmuşdu.

- «Bu çox ağır bir hiss idi. Evimiz uçulub dağılmışdı... Evimizin qarşısında durub çox şükür etdim... Hiss edəndə ki, mən öz torpağımızdayam, evimizdəyəm... bax bu, həyatımda yaşadığım ən böyük zəfər hissi idi!»

Maraq hissim getdikcə daha da böyüyürdü.



Suallarına cavab tapmaq istəyirdim. Görəsən, uzun illər sonra evinə ayaq basdıqda hansı hissləri keçirmişdi? Daha nələr təsirləndirmişdi Hidayət babanı? Bu suallardan sonra dərin düşüncəyə daldı və davam etdi:

- «Bu hissləri nə deyərək, nə də yazaraq ifadə etmək olmaz. Şuşanın hər daşı tarixdir. Məni təsirləndirən bir çox məqam var idi. Onlardan biri də, böyüyüb boya-başa çatdığım evimizin divarlarındakı rəsmlər idi. Bu ev əslində Məşədi Qaraya aid olub. Məşədi Qara rəhmətə getdikdən sonra bu ev bir müddət uşaq bağçası kimi fəaliyyət göstərmiş, sonra da atamgil çoxuşaqlı ailə olduğuna görə o zamankı hökumət evi atamgilə verib. Məşədi Qara tacir olub, ancaq övladı olmayıb. O vaxt Şuşanı gəzməyə Vereşagin adlı bir rus rəssamı gəlir. O, Şuşada bir neçə imkanlı insanların evində rəsmlər çəkir və Məşədi Qara da onu öz evinin divarlarında rəsmlər çəkməyə dəvət edir. Məşədi Qaranın övladı olmadığına görə rəsmdə başı kəsik - barsız ağacları çəkməyini istəyir. Maraqlısı budur ki, 100-150 il yaşı olan rəsmlər, 30 il qarın, yağışın altında qalmağına baxmayaraq silinməyib, rəngi belə solmayıb. Ümumiyyətlə, orada gördüyüm hər daş, hər qaya, hər bulaq, hər meydan mənə sonsuz xatirələr və hisslər yaşadırdı...»

Bilirdim ki, Zəfər yolunun çəkilişində də Hidayət babanın böyük əməyi var. Ancaq bu haqda heç vaxt ətraflı danışmamışdıq. Bu səbəbdən də, istədim bir az da Zəfər yolu haqqında danışaq.

- «Zəfər yolu ordumuzun Şuşanı azad edərkən istifadə etdiyi yoldur. Bu yol əvvəl Füzuliyə kimi və Füzulidən isə Böyük Tağlara kimi idi. Böyük Tağlardan Şuşaya kimi yol olmayıb. Bizim qəhrəman ordumuz meşəni qıra-qıra yol açıb Şuşaya. Bu

çox ağlagəlməyən bir işdir. Əvvəlki yol sadəcə Şuşakənddən Topxana meşəsinin ətəyinə və oradan da Daşaltına at yolu, piyada yolu olub. Ancaq Füzuli tərəfdən yol olmayıb. Onu qəhrəman Azərbaycan əsgəri 3 metr enində - 1 maşın keçə biləcək qədər, bayaq da qeyd etdiyim kimi, meşəni yara-yara çəkib. Və bizə də Cənab Prezident tərəfindən göstəriş oldu ki, ordu necə gedibsə, siz də həmin yolla Şuşaya yol çəkməlisiniz. Biz də o yolu çəkdik və əvvəl adına Əhmədbəyli-Füzuli-Şuşa yolu dedik, sonra Cənab Prezidentimiz bildirdi ki, o yolun adı Zəfər Yolu olacaqdır! Bu, yəqin ki, bütün xalqımızın könlündən keçən bir ad idi. Yol 101 kilometrdir, eni 2 maşın keçəcək qədər 7 metr asfaltdır. Çox rahat Əhmədbəyildən Şuşaya saat yarım, iki saatlıq yoldur.»

Bu söhbət mənim yaddaşımda böyük iz buraxacaq. Müsahibim dediyi kimi bəzən sözlərlə ifadə olunmayan hisslər olur. Mən o hisslərin, o ifadələrin şahidi oldum. Hidayət baba uşaqlıqdan çox sevdiyim, həmişə sözüne güvəndiyim və dərin sayğı duyduğum insanlardan biridir. Onun Zəfər Yolunun çəkilişində iştirakı mənim üçün böyük fəxr mənbəyidir. Şəhidlərimizin mübarək qanları ilə suvarılmış bu həsrət yolunu, gələcəyə inam yolunu, Zəfər Yolunu getməyi, ata-babalarımızın gəzdirdiyi o çəmənləri gəzməyi, o qayalara, o daşlara toxunmağı, onları hiss etməyi bütün azərbaycanlılar kimi mən də böyük səbirsizliklə gözləyirəm. Allah şəhidlərimizə rəhmət eləsin!

Müsahibim: Azərbaycan Avtomobil Yolları Dövlət Agentliyində İdarə Rəisinin Müavini Rüstəmov Hidayət Cahangir oğlu.



FLOURISHING AZERBAIJAN

SHAFAG MEHRALIYEVA: "MANY ADORE MIR JALAL PASHAYEV AS THE KING OF SHORT STORIES."



Nazrin Guluzada, 10AA6

Recently, ADA lilar visited "Edibin Evi" and were hosted by Shafag Mehraliyeva, a teacher at ADA University, and executive director of Literary Support Foundation "House of Writers". Our journalist Nazrin Guluzada (10AA6) had an opportunity to talk to Shafag xanim.

Nazrin Guluzada (N.G.): When was the Adibin Evi Literature Support Foundation founded and what is its mission?

Shafag Mehraliyeva (Sh.M.): "Edibin Evi" or "Littérateur House" was originally found in 2017 as a literary space. It hosted a number of great events and short-term academic programs such as "Azerbaijani Culture and Language" courses for expat community members, initiated literary discussions, worked with high-schoolers in Baku to get them interested and engaged with the Azerbaijani literature. All of it was hosted in our beautiful building in IcheriSheher – Old City. This is the first residential address in Baku of the

renowned writer Mir Jalal. Being born on the Iranian side of Azerbaijan Mir Jalal, as fate had it, moved with his family across the Araz river to Ganja to get educated. Through highs and lows of life he eventually became a teacher and writer, also making his significant mark on Azerbaijani literature as a literary critic and scholar. Although, Mir Jalal is mostly associated with his famous novel "Manifesto of a Young Man", many adore him as the king of short stories. Those stories depict a few decades of the life of the Azerbaijani society and are full of characters taken from the same life and presented to the reader in a satirical manner. They are funny and honest at the same time, each giving a great message of the importance of values. In 2021, the family of Mir Jalal decided to expand the activities of "Edibin Evi" turning it into a Literature Support Foundation. In a sense our mission didn't change much- it is still advocating the importance of reading, particularly Azerbaijani literature, and emphasizing the importance of books in the digital age when screens may be more attractive than pages.



(N.G.) We know that the members of the Board of Trustees of the Foundation are the head of the department of Baku State University Adiba Pashayeva, the professor of that university Tahsin Mutallimov and the rector of ADA University Hafiz Pashayev. You were appointed Executive Director of the Foundation by the decision of the Council. Can you tell us about your activity in the Writer's house?

(Sh.M.) Frankly, the pandemic

has slowed down our pace, but we quickly adapted to our socially distanced life mode. Usually, busy House is mostly quiet these days as we care about the public health safety of our friends and followers above everything. So, since June we started building more online content that will support our mission. One of such projects that seemed to have caught the audience attention is "Ədibin Evidən hekayələr"- "Stories from the Littérateur House", where we invite famous actors, directors, and generally, intellectuals to read

a short story by an Azerbaijani writer on camera. But, they are do not simply read it, they act it out in a style of a one-man theater. Working on this project has been quite an entertaining experience for me. Imagine, you are not a big fan of books or have no patience or simply time to read. You can just tune in to the link and watch the story being read to you. You can enjoy it by yourself, with your friends or even in the classroom and turn it into a discussion subject after. Broadcasted over social media on the Facebook



Photos by Sona Afandzadə (10AA3)



Shafag Mehraliyeva and Nazrin Guluzada (10AA6)

page of ASAN Radio, it keeps accumulating audience even today all across the country. I invite your readers to check the stories out on our YouTube channel.

(N.G.) ADA University has initiated different projects related with education, culture, literature, etc. in Azerbaijan. What is the role of ADA University in this project?

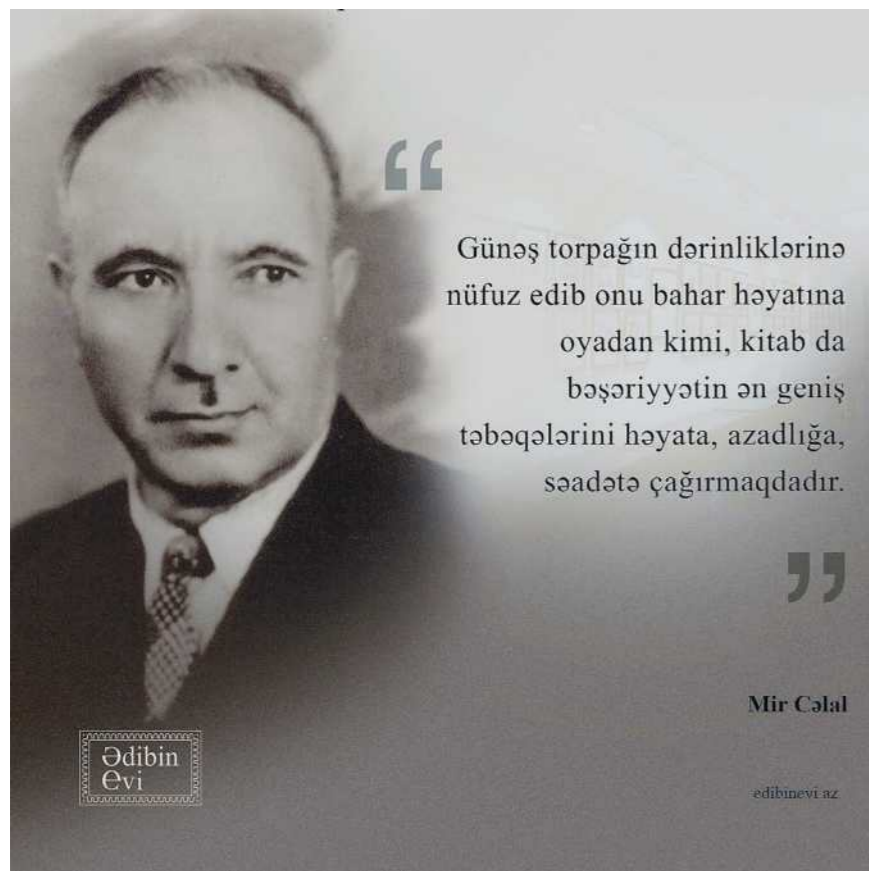
(Sh.M.) Simply put, the idea of reviving "Ədibin Evi" as part of the heritage of Mir Jalal belongs to his elder son, a renowned scientist Arif Pashayev. The historic building in Icheri Sheher was restored with a lot of care and love to our Old City's history. After the reconstruction

project was done, the younger son of the writer who you must know well- Rector of ADA University Hafiz Pashayev took on the job of filling it with the content. As you rightly pointed out in your question, ADA never lacks great content be it in education, culture, or literature. And considering how many bookworms we have around this campus, getting "Ədibin Evi" going in terms of literature events was not difficult.

(N.G.) On 8th November we celebrated the Great Victory Day of the 44-day Patriotic War. We won the war on a battle field, but on the media and information field it continues. How do you assess the role of the media

during and after the 44-day war?

(Sh.M.) Well, how long will you allow me to talk? (laughing). This is quite a big topic that is the theme for studying, discussions, and even training at ADA University. The short answer would be the role is "extremely important". The essence of media is to give people the right information to make the right decisions. But during war times access to the information may be limited due to many reasons. So, the job of media becomes so much harder. However, their mission remains the same. Our 2nd war on the battlefield lasted for only 44 days, but our informational war has been going on for the past 30 years and is



not over yet. However, just like on the battlefield, in the informational war we used the right strategies and took the right measures to gain an advantage in media coverage. We changed our truth, hence we changed our story covered by the world media.

(N.G.) Do you think that everything should always be presented as it is in the media, or should there be some kind of censorship?

(Sh.M.) That is a great question. A journalist in his profession always deals with difficult choices- what is ethical, what is not? How far do I go in uncovering all the details? Will this story serve the public or hurt the public? I think, if a journalist understands his/her mission well, which, as I pointed out in my previous answers, is serving the public to help it make the right decisions, being its watchdog, and caring about its literacy and enlightenment, he/she will make the right choice between telling the truth and exercising self-censorship in doing that.

(N.G.) You went to the liberated territories during the April war, but did you visit our lands after the war?

(Sh.M.) Yes, indeed. I visited liberated parts of Jabrayil after the short war in 2016. And of course, having my family roots hailing

from Aghdam, I could not wait to see our liberated territories after almost 30 years of separation. I got to visit liberated Aghdam in March of 2021 and my long-awaited dream trip to Shusha happened in June this year. I was overwhelmed with emotions on both of those trips. But also extremely happy and hopeful for the upcoming future that all of us will build there by putting our destroyed by the Armenian occupation Homeland back together. Unfortunately, I could not find a single building standing in Aghdam as it was turned into a "Hiroshima of Caucasus" by the barbaric actions of the enemy. And I could not gain access to the street where the house of my family used to be as Aghdam was filled with landmines during my trip. Our entire delegation was being very cautious in moving around. It was devastating to realize that my family members who were waiting for this day the most, including my grandmother, uncles, aunts, and my own father didn't get to live long enough to see liberated Qarabagh. But, I was happy that from now on our children and grandchildren will be able to live in peace and prosperity there, just like in the rest of the regions in Azerbaijan.

(N.G.) What should be done for the development of the media in Azerbaijan?

(Sh.M.) ADA University is answering this question by newly launched Bachelor's degree in Communication and Digital Media. It is a new academic program with great prospects. We are going to build it up to raise a new generation of professionals in the media field in the country.

(N.G.) Do you think that information technologies are used enough in Azerbaijan at the right times and places?

(Sh.M.) I think information technologies is a limitless world of opportunities. And certainly, not explored enough yet. But our School of IT and Engineering is training those professionals who, I hope, will keep uncovering those opportunities on the national level. Technology is sprinkled into every aspect of our lives these days. As much as we love to see it make our communication easy through social media, we must also try to incorporate technology more into other spheres in our lives, including medicine, social services, security, education. The sky is a limit here.

(N.G.) We know that you are a big fan of Azerbaijani pianist Chingiz Sadykhov. Can you share your most interesting memory about him?

(Sh.M.) Yes, during my times as a journalist in the States, I got to meet Maestro Sadykhov and become friends with their family. Chingiz muellim and his lovely spouse Jeyran khanim were a great couple. Even today, years after Maestro passed away, at my every trip to California, I visit Jeyran khanim and we remember fondly Maestro and his fascinating life. Visiting their house in San Francisco and feeling the warmth of their hospitality was a precious chance to "feel at home away from home". We always had great conversations about Azerbaijani music, culture and of course, Maestro shared with us his endless memories from music tours and working with the biggest stars of the Azerbaijani musical stage like Rashid Behbudov, Muslum Magomayev and others. All of our meetings had to have live music in his performance. He adored his Homeland and missed his hometown Shusha a lot. I am sure his soul is resting in peace these days knowing that his lovely Shusha is free now.

(N.G.) We have a journalists division in ADAlilar school magazine, which I represent. As journalists, we are taking our very first steps. What would you recommend to those who want to become a professional journalist?

(Sh.M.) I would recommend staying curious all the time and consider every member of ADA community as a story waiting to be told. As they say, everyone is an expert in something. We just need to find out in what. I hope they will keep uncovering with their work the unique diversity and talent represented at ADA community

(N.G.) Can ADA school students come and visit the Writer's house ?

(Sh.M.) Absolutely yes. I am sure the visit will turn into another great story to be told in your paper. But just like any professional journalist, you must come prepared, having researched the life of Mir Jalal and read a few of his short stories.

(N.G.) Thank you!

Nazrin Guluzada, 10AA6



HOMELAND

Flowers grow from your magical ground,
I only see heaven whenever I look around,
Mesmerizing forests, picturesque views,
A historical land of wonder, it is the truth,
When I breathe in the air, I forget the pain,
When I wake up to your sky, nothing feels the same,
My sweet motherland, your holy name
Is forever on my lips, loving you to the bits.

Azerbaijan - a land of heroes,
Azerbaijan - a land of healers,
Land of warriors, land of laborers.
Land of brave sons, graceful daughters.
Land of thoughtful mothers, protective fathers.
Land of the everlasting fire and the liberating wind.
The place where all our dreams begin.

Dear all, I am proud to say that
My dreamland is my homeland.

Inji Achak, 10AA1



ZANGILAN'S SMART VILLAGES



By Ruhlan Taghizada, 10AA2

2020 WAS A YEAR OF DRAMATIC CHANGES. IN THAT YEAR, OUR COUNTRY LIBERATED
KARABAKH FROM THE ILLEGAL OCCUPATION OF ARMENIA.

We could accomplish it due to the immeasurable courage and selflessness of our soldiers and our army. The end of 2020 was full of mixed emotions. Almost 30 years later, we could finally return to our sacred lands. Long before, this was a dream that we carried in our hearts. But today it has finally become real. Already a year has passed since the day we liberated our lands, and we all understand at what cost. Our brave soldiers will never be forgotten. Now it is our time. We should bring back to Karabakh its unique energy, transform it into the paradise it once was. Even though over the past 30 years, Armenia destroyed every cultural and historical monument, it is our time to restore them. Today we should turn that chapter and begin the new one.

You may wonder: What is the Smart Villages project mainly about? To start with, the Smart Villages project is one of the most innovative and fast-growing projects not only in Azerbaijan but also in the whole world. There are five main points of the Smart Villages concept. The first one is efficiency. Smart villages in Zangilan will have alternative energy systems. In other words, electricity will be generated from water and the sun. Several Hungarian companies have been involved in water resources management. They are also very interested in the Smart villages project. In addition, efficiency will also be ensured with the help of the ecological heating systems in every house, such as smart lighting systems and waste management.

After liberating our lands, the government has launched the reconstruction works there. A lot of new innovative projects have been started in Karabakh. As a result, many foreign companies were involved in those projects. One of the biggest projects is Smart Villages of Zangilan Aghaly-1, Aghaly-2, and Aghaly-3. The foundation stone for the first Smart village was laid by The President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev in April of 2021. The foreign companies from Turkey, Russia, the UK, Pakistan, Italy, France, the Netherlands, and Iran will participate in the construction projects.

The second aspect of Smart Villages is modernization. There are going to be many charging stations for electro-cars, and infrastructure in Aghaly-1, Aghaly-2, and Aghaly-3 villages. The next point is Smart Management. The organizers plan to create a Data and Analyses center, where all gathered information will be retained and processed. Also, Smart Management technology will hWave fast Internet and TV connection. At the same time, with the help of new technologies such as drones, smart agriculture will play an important role in the life of the villages. The fourth element of Smart villages is comfort. By comfort, we mean an opportunity of having everything you need in close proximity. For this, Aghaly-1, Aghaly-2, and Aghaly-3 villages will have cycling routes, rest zones, recreation lakes, distant type medicine, hotel and restaurants

complexes, and smart schools.

The last element is safety. Smart Villages will have traffic cameras and weather sensors that will send all collected information to the data center, and also provide the latest information about weather. Weather sensors will be attached to the light poles as cameras. In addition, Smart Villages will be equipped with emergency buttons on the light poles that will allow every resident of those villages to call an emergency when it is needed.

Considering all the aspects mentioned above, we can say that smart villages are forward-thinking and innovative not only in the agrarian sector but also in a global setting. That project will open doors to new opportunities in every direction of the development of our country. The Smart Villages project is mainly about renewable energy and the automation of every process. Its ultimate goal is to maximize economic development. There are many benefits of Smart Villages, and economic progress is among its priorities. Still, what exactly allows this progress to happen? There are many aspects to that. The first is that the concept of the smart village offers job opportunities for unemployed people. The second point is that a high-quality internet connection will be set in those villages. This in turn allows foreign and local companies to invest in these villages maximizing the economic progress of the areas. All those measures will prevent brain drain and provide developmental prospects for our country.

Talking about the companies who are involved in the restoration of Karabakh, there are several local and foreign companies from the Turkey, Islamic Republic of Iran, Russian Federation, Ukraine, Hungary, United Kingdom, Germany, Italy, Georgia. The companies from these countries are involved in the different fields of restoration process.

For example, foreign companies that work on the road construction in Karabakh are: Aggreko company from United Kingdom, Azar Sabalan Consortium from Iran, Company Black Sea Group LTD and GZA LTD from Georgia, Hepa Hungarian Export Promotion Agency and Daniela Ipari Park KFT from Hungary. There are also several companies that are involved in the energy, mining, construction, and information technology fields of the restoration process. All these companies in cooperation with our local companies are working on the restoration of Karabakh. This cooperation with the foreign companies develops the diplomatic relations between our countries and gives opportunities for future collaborations.

What are the latest news about the Zangilan s Smart Villages Aghaly-1, Aghaly-2 and Aghaly-3? The Deputy Economy Minister of Azerbaijan Elnur Aliyev said that the work on the smart villages project is nearly coming to an end in the Zangilan s Aghaly villages.

I would like to conclude that Smart Villages of Zangilan Aghaly-1, Aghaly-2, and Aghaly-3, is a promising project which ensures a number of developmental prospects for our country. Moreover, it is the beginning of a new chapter in our history and the successful outcome of this chapter is in our hands. Together we can achieve it all; for a sacred memory of our Shehids, we should continue what they started.

Ruhlan Taghizada, 10AA2



President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev lays a foundation of the Aghaly Smart Villages in Zangilan, 26th April 2021





Humay Sadig, 11A1

Nasimi Narimanov:

Karabakh will flourish just like Khari-bulbul!

Interview with Nasimi Narimanov (Advisor to the Chairman of the State Committee for Affairs of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons) by Humay Sadig, 11A1

Humay Sadig: First of all, Nasimi muellim, thank you for taking your time, and it is an honor for us to talk to you about such a topic as "Return to Karabakh". As we know, the liberation of Azerbaijani territories, which were occupied for 30 years by Armenian forces, brought pride and happiness to every home of all Azerbaijanis around the world. The refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) again gained a chance to breathe the air of their homeland and stand on the territories, which were liberated by the heroes of our country. However, unfortunately, we cannot go to Karabakh right now. So, today I would like to discuss those reasons, the development of the return process, and some other questions that people are most interested in.

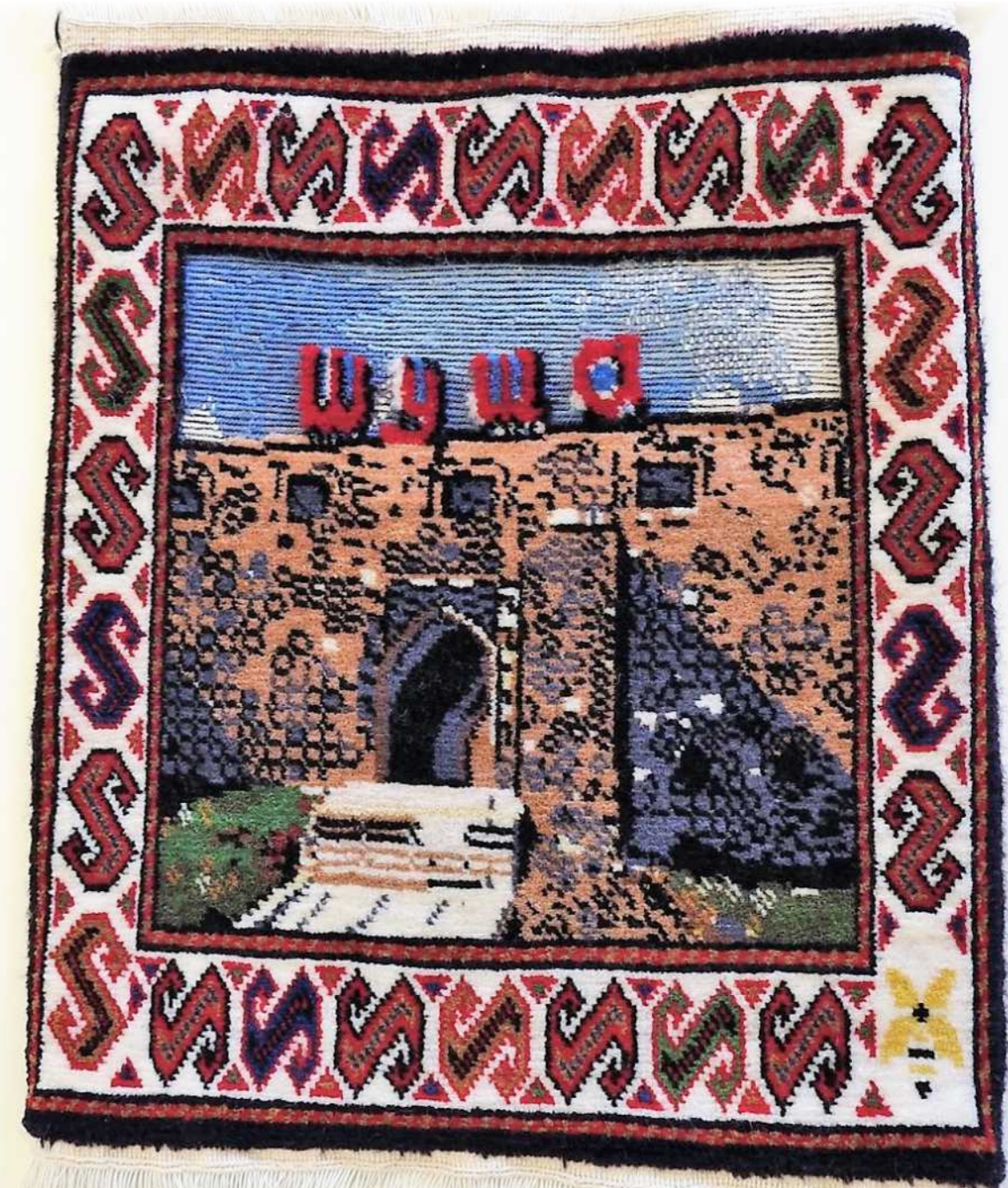
But before we start with the questions, I would ask you to briefly talk about yourself, for example, about education, career, and your duties at your job.

Nasimi Narimanov: Well, my full name is Nasimi Narimanov. I have been with the State Committee for these past three years. Talking about my education, I was graduated from a university located in Virginia, USA. Right now, my position in the committee is the Advisor to the Chairman. We have a very friendly staff here. Mostly, our employees are either IDPs, veterans' families or the martyrs' families.

But myself, I am not from the region of Karabakh that was liberated. I was born in Barda. But my grandpa came from Umutlu, which is part of former Aghdere, now part of Terter.

Humay Sadig: Thank you, Nasimi muellim. Now, I would like to proceed with the questions about the return process. From the point of view of the State Committee for Affairs of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons, when you approximately expect us to return to Karabakh, and which factors affect most the process?

Nasimi Narimanov: To my expectation, the earliest voluntary return can begin within a year. But how long it will last is very hard to answer. The reason



Carpet made by the IDPs in Qobu Park 3 (in the office of the State Committee)

is that right now we are reconstructing Karabakh. It is the toughest challenge to overcome as works are being done on and off the minefields. You take any wrong step further or to the side – you blow up yourself. Having said that, I would like to applaud all those brave workers. Just like our soldiers they have put their life at stake, by being crucial part of reconstructing, rebuilding, and developing Karabakh, even though they are surrounded by mines.

However, since we have enough available funds, it is possible to return to Karabakh soon. I am sure we will make Karabakh great again in a very short period of time.

Humay Sadig: You mentioned the available funds.

So, do you have some help from foreign countries?

Nasimi Narimanov: We are working with some international institutions, organizations since we cannot lay all the burdens on the government. The responsibilities should be shared by the private sectors, IDPs themselves, civil societies, and even international organizations. When it comes to problem, if anyone wants to be a part of the solutions, they should show some commitment and contribution to it.

I believe by the end of this year, we will possibly have some resources available to us, which might be directed to these works for Karabakh.

Humay Sadig: Thank you for clarifications, Nasimi

muellim. Also, I wanted to touch on a topic about the online survey created by the ADA University on the return of IDPs to Karabakh. As far as I know, the survey was closed on April 25th and the number of participants has nearly reached a hundred thousand people, which is a great result. So, as a Committee, how you are going to use the provided information, and do you think that it will be beneficial for the return process?

Nasimi Narimanov: If you cover the population between 10 thousand and 10 million, it is well enough to get a sampling of 400-500 respondents. Since we have this vast amount of detailed information from the ADA survey, I think we have enough data to work on people's social-economic conditions, education, design level of living back in Karabakh. Those things will be taken into the consideration for the IDPs, who are willing and voluntarily go back to their homeland. So, we will definitely use the provided data from the ADA survey.

Humay Sadig: But when the liberated territories will be livable after they will be cleared from the mines, the designs and planning of the cities will be ready, how the committee is planning to enrich and sustain the life of future inhabitants of Karabakh?

Nasimi Narimanov: We have asked a question not to others what they have done for Karabakh, but to ourselves, what we have done and what can we do for Karabakh. As I previously mentioned, we should share the responsibilities, we should take those actions, and be a part of the reconstruction. In that manner, we will help our community, which has been suffering for 30 years because of Armenian aggression and occupation. I believe, another way to attract private sector investment is to give them tax breaks, credit or exemption... Maybe we may try to attract some foreign direct investments from the investors who are interested to come and invest in Karabakh because of provided financial incentives.

As a part of the agreement, we will have the corridor from Zangilan to Nakhichevan as the new part of the Silk Road that can create new opportunities. We think with targeted employment programs IDPs will receive better paying jobs and career. Therefore, having the public and private sectors, civil societies, foreign direct investors involved, we can enrich and sustain the life of IDPs - the past indigenous and future inhabitants of Karabakh.

Humay Sadig: Till now, we talked a lot about the future state of Karabakh, for example, about the possible existence of the future new Silk Road. Moreover, recently President Ilham Aliyev announced the construction of smart villages and smart cities. However, as a representative of the State Committee and active participant of the returning process, how you see Karabakh after a couple of decades for future generations?



Jewelry by N.N.

Nasimi Narimanov: To me actually before IDPs return to Karabakh, there will be enough favorable condition for them. Therefore, Karabakh will flourish just like Khari-bulbul! I believe we have that power, those human and natural resources, to flourish Karabakh. For the future of Karabakh, I do not only see nature and flowers flourishing in there, but I also see the flourishing face of IDPs and blooming business sectors in Karabakh. Therefore, I am very optimistic about what we will achieve in Karabakh.

I have been to the liberated lands myself and I saw that all those Armenians, who lived there illegally, have not done anything worthwhile, meaning building, developing or whatsoever. They were living in the poor condition. So, that gives me now the reason to say that those unauthorized, illegal aliens knew that they were living there temporarily. That is why they did not invest a dime. But we are

investing huge amount of money because we know we are not guests, but landlord of Karabakh.

Therefore, I am guessing a very bright future for Karabakh and Current activities, approach guarantees great future of Karabakh. Moreover, we will not have any challenges or any obstacles in Karabakh because, within the 44-days of war, we saw how our people were dedicated and what we were capable of in terms of solidarity, shared responsibility.

Not only the soldiers were devoted, but also civilians who were like part of the army. They were trying to share even one last slice of bread with the soldiers.

Humay Sadig: To be honest, when you were telling these last sentences, I saw that energy and enthusiasm in your eyes. I think this is amazing that such people work on this topic trying to do their best for IDPs



Khari-BulBul in the office of the State Committee

**«I am
sure we
will make
Karabakh
great
again in a
very short
period of
time.»**

and all Azerbaijanis around the world. I am so glad for such a sincere talk.

If you have some other additional notes, maybe you would like to share them.

Nasimi Narimanov: To myself, I always say that if you want to be a good person, you have to be good to others. This is a part of life's motto. I am thankful to God that I got such an opportunity to work for the people. We will try to achieve what we are able of, and hopefully, we will achieve that by being judged as a good public servants.

Talking about the additional comments on our today's topic, in these coming days, we are planning to do "minefield safety training" for the people in Aghdam, Terter and Fuzuli. Since it is about safety, we would like to give training to the teachers so that they can share this information with their students, who are going to play around the plains, yards, and forests in Karabakh. They should know how to behave if there is a suspicion of being a mine in surrounding area.

One of our last trainings prior to this one was jointly done with Red Cross and our committee was first aid training. I remember that approximately on September 23rd in Aghdam, we finished our first aid training. Later, within 2 or 3 days, the Armenian aggression started, and we gave them an adequate response that they deserved and liberated our lands.

I believe that our actions in Karabakh will be a good paradigm to copy by other countries in the future.

I also think that IDP was not the identity, rather a status, IDPs were always a part of us and just had to forcibly migrate from their homeland as a result of occupation. Even though IDPs' lands, homes, and even graveyards were destroyed, they are so generous, brave enough that they want to go back and will live there again. Maybe their next upcoming generations will see what they have been missing. Because those generations that were not born in Karabakh, which has been always part of Azerbaijan did not know that nature, waterfalls, the sound of the birds, the smell of the flowers they were missing. So, when they will be back, they will be witnessing the saying "If you would like to see heaven, you should come to see Azerbaijan".

We will always know the value of drops of blood, sweat and tear that have been shed for Karabakh.

In my conclusion, I am saying let's make Karabakh great again, and Karabakh will make us greater!

Humay Sadig: Great! Thank you so much! Our magazine appreciates all your words, explanations, and clarifications. It was a pleasure to talk to you!

Humay Sadig, 11A1

EXPLORING AZERBAIJAN



TRANSFORMING FOR SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Khadija Ahmadova, 11C1

For the last 30 years, BP in Azerbaijan has been one of the biggest contributors to the development and growth of the country's economy by providing a substantial new revenue stream for the state of Azerbaijan. As an exemplary corporate citizen, the company has supported a number of capacity-building and educational development projects in the country, and

cooperation with ADA University is among them.

ADAlilar magazine's editorial member Khadija Ahmadova talked to Gary Jones, the president of BP for the Azerbaijan Georgia Turkey (AGT) region, to get his reflections about BP Azerbaijan's plans on clean energy and what skills will be required from candidates to drive the energy transition.



Khadija Ahmadova (11C1) and Gary Jones

Kh.A.: *BP is transitioning to become a net-zero company and I assume Azerbaijan as one of its most important businesses will need to have an important role in this process. How do you see the potential for transitioning into the renewable energy business, for BP in Azerbaijan? Is it realistic for BP Azerbaijan to achieve a Net Zero target and stay economically viable?*

G.J.: I think it's a really good question. Many of our staff are asking the same question. You are right, BP Azerbaijan is a very big piece of business for BP in terms of scale. It's the biggest activity area we have around the world. Obviously, we have two giant world-class fields, ACG and Shahdeniz, where we are exploring, which involve exploration and drilling. In fact, if you look out the window (of Mr. Jones's office), you'll see the Satti jack-up rig is sitting right in the bay here to do the drilling for the second SWAP well. As part of the project, there are lots of activities what we call the traditional oil and gas business, and that will continue.

In terms of the energy transition, we're completely signed up for that. Our CEO, Bernard Looney has been very clear about the energy transition, and we want to be absolutely part of that. But it is a transition, it will mean the transformation of our existing oil and gas business, reducing our hydrocarbon footprint, and thinking about how we can improve the efficiency, and decarbonize that model of business. And then also about the renewables side of the business, for example, solar, offshore wind. For us in Azerbaijan, that is very exciting, because we're blessed with fantastic and high-quality oil and gas reserves. But as you know, since you are from Azerbaijan, we're also blessed with very good wind resources. The wind offshore in the Caspian is very high quality, comparable to some of the big wind projects that we're looking at in the North Sea, in the UK, and off the coast of America. And you may also know that we are very interested in doing our first solar project in Azerbaijan,

in the liberated territories, which we are working with the Ministry of Energy.

As you know, Bernard Looney, our CEO, has laid out a strategy for the company, and I think this region mirrors that strategy. Bernard, in fact, was here about three or four weeks ago, and we met with the President. Mr. Ilham Aliyev, and that's exactly what we talked about: how we build on fantastic past and track record of working together, and then how we help go through the energy transition together. The good news is that the President has been very clear about his aspirations for the country. We've signed a Memorandum of Understanding, which is an alignment between us and the government through the Ministry of Energy on how we can work together on that transition.

Kh.A.: *Yes, I have listened to Mr. Bernard Looney's reflections about Net Zero and I found them both exciting and ambitious. So, BP Azerbaijan's plans perfectly align with the BP Group's goal, which is really impressive.*

Before we dwell on the transformation conversation, can you let us know what has been BP Azerbaijan's biggest challenge during the pandemic? What has been the company's overall response to the challenge?

G.J.: It has been an extraordinary couple of years for everybody on the planet. None of us have lived through a pandemic like this before. The last one was in 1980. And I am, quite frankly, astonished that we have managed to keep the business going through this pandemic. This has been so because of the commitment and professionalism of all of our employees. They have made massive sacrifices in terms of what they have had to go through, to keep reducing the oil and gas in terms of quarantining and testing, and extending rotors. And they have done it because they understood the criticality of keeping

the energy flowing, particularly, of course, when we had the conflict, and it was essential that we kept the oil and gas resources flowing. At that time, that was the role that our staff could primarily play in supporting the country. Although, of course, we did have some boys who were also on the frontline.

So, I think it has been a terrible time for everybody. Many people were touched and more deeply those who have lost their loved ones. And even if they haven't, they've been impacted by the lockdowns and all the measures that we've had to put in place.

I hope that through the vaccination program, which we think is the best way out of this pandemic, we will be able to get back to normal. At bp AGT, 90% of our people offshore and in the office are now vaccinated, and we'll start looking at this booster campaign. It has been a very traumatic period to live through, but it has just shown us the resilience of our people to get through this time.

Kh.A.: I appreciate your thoughts Mr. Jones and it was great to know about BP's effective response to the pandemic. Back to the transformation topic, what do you think are and will be the most demanded skills and capabilities in light of the transformation?

G.J.: The transformation is a very exciting thing for people like yourselves, who are starting to think about university very soon. It's because this is a time of significant change, as well as a time of developing the new skills that we're going to need, which are primarily digital awareness, creative thinking, and agile thinking.

And that is what we're driving now within our company. It's all about how you communicate, how you simplify decision-making. Fundamentally, how do we make sure that everybody in the company understands where we're going. And that's why what Bernard Looney has done is so powerful because he has been so clear about where the company is going. So, when we're trying to make tough decisions, we can just say, where are we headed, and then we can get behind it. What we're trying to do is drive that level of communication to everybody in the company, so that everybody understands their role.

So, I think what really matters is whether it is their first day in the company, or they have been 40 years in the company, the people's opinion and that their input is very highly valued because you understand where the company's going.

Kh.A.: Do you think our current education system requires any transformation to nurture those skills?

G.J.: I have to say, I'm incredibly impressed with the universities that I have visited in Azerbaijan. I have obviously been to ADA, to Baku Higher Oil School, Baku State University, and I've been to many universities here and the standard of the students is I think exceptional. And what I observe is they are really looking at the skill sets and the courses that are needed. So, I see a lot more now automation engineers, being trained at some of the schools. We are looking at digital skills, computer skills, and data analytics, which is a massive one. And of course, ADA is right at the heart of the center that we helped set up nearly four years ago. We have now set up a dual Master's course, at ADA, as well as on computer science and data analytics. I think to understand data, in my generation, you'd perhaps need to spend a lot of your time trying to get the data in the first place, while in your generation, the data will be at your fingertips. There will be lots of artificial intelligence, and your role will be to tell us what we need to do with all this information. Let me give you an example.

When they first started flying airplanes, a pilot had to do everything. He had very few dials or information in his cockpit.

And they were basically making all the decisions. If you look at a jet fighter pilot today, computers are making 99% of the decisions and they're providing the pilot with critical data for when he needs to intervene. If you look at local AZAL planes, now they can take off and land automatically. The pilots, are just on top of all of that AI that's available to them, and that is what everyone's life is going to be like, which is exciting. Human beings have fantastic brains and using those brains properly, I think they'd be coming up with some really exciting outcomes.

Kh.A.: Is BP planning to further cooperate with the Ministry of Education, and with ADA University in the area of educational development?

G.J.: Absolutely. We have been nearly 30 years now in the country and a cornerstone of our whole social investment program is all-around education. In some projects it's working directly with the universities, in some, it's on degrees. As part of some initiatives, we have developed and translated books for universities. But one of the things that I enjoyed most, was when I arrived in Azerbaijan, as we went to visit quite a few farmers along the routes of our pipelines, and we were working with them, to educate them on how they can increase the yields on their farms. The other area was supporting the introduction of beekeeping skills to again, expand the opportunities within the farm.

All in all, education is really where we focus, because if you teach people how to do things, it's far more valuable to them than doing it for them. So, I think that's been at the cornerstone, and I think that will continue, for sure.

Education is one of the powerful areas and if you build and focus on it, and give people the right skills, then you get some fantastic outcomes. And the reality for people like you is, based on what I read, that 80% of the jobs in 2030, this was only nine years away, haven't been invented yet. I would encourage you to realize what you will get going forward – you're going to leave school, go to university, and then graduate. However, the learning experience will go on through your entire life, adapting, building, and continuing to keep up to speed with everything that is happening in the world. I've said it to my team, I'm learning at a faster rate now than I have ever done and I find that very exciting.

Kh.A.: That is very encouraging. I also think that changing the mindsets of people is really important for this transformation. For most of your career, you have been dealing with oil and gas. Was it difficult to face the necessity of the transformation?

G.J.: I think that's a brilliant question. I think the way I look at it is what we fundamentally do as engineers and scientists is solve problems. We solve complex problems. For me, the exciting part of the energy transition is that it is a very complex problem, and how we ensure that we continue to supply energy to the world. Because quite frankly, there are still millions of people around the world that do not have access to simple things like electricity and fresh water and these sorts of things. And that energy demand is going to continue increasing. We managed to maintain that energy demand while we absolutely critically transformed to a much lower carbon future. It is going to be very complex and require all of our skillsets to achieve that. They are mostly technical skillsets, but then there are also behavioral skillsets and how you work together as teams to solve complicated problems.

I think it's about the clarity of where we are going. I have now got two beautiful little granddaughters, and obviously, from my perspective, I want them to have a planet that is going to be safe to live in. So, we are all invested in doing the right thing going forward.

Kh.A.: Mr. Jones, you have been in Azerbaijan for about five





Photos by Sona Afandizada, 10AA3



From the left: Khadija Ahmadova (11C1), Gary Jones, President BP Azerbaijan, Georgia Turkey (AGT) region, Sona Afandizada (10AA3), Samir Javadov, Ethics manager, ADA School

years now. What do you think about Azerbaijan and Azerbaijani people?

G.J.: Well, I love it here and I have been here since 2017, and one of the things I love about the Azerbaijani people is attitudes. You have mentioned mindset which means you've obviously been doing a lot of reading because the mindset is a big part of the transformation. People understand that change is inevitable, so they are getting on board with the change, and your role in it is very important. But the attitude I found in Azerbaijan and across the regions is people's desire to learn, to improve themselves, to get better. The second thing is the hospitality and the friendship that is shown to people when they come here when you go to dinner for instance. Also, the way you're treated in the family home is just fantastic, and it reminded me of what it was like in Wales when I was growing up. I'm Welsh, and I remember when I was a child, it was like that in north Wales, where I come from. In my grandmother's house, there were always people coming in and out the door, socializing, and there was always tea being brewed, and food being made available - it was lovely.

I think the final and exciting thing for the country is that you now have top universities, you have a president and a government that are very ambitious to embrace the transformation of the energy industry, and what that might mean is the diversification of business opportunities in the country. I think it's going to be very exciting times for the country going forward, and you're going to be a big part of it.

Kh.A.: It is very reassuring to hear that coming from you Mr. Jones.

And last but not the least, what would be your top three advice to ADA students?

G.J.: First of all, what I always say to people is to go big on ambition. Think big, don't be constrained by anything, and particularly, if you're going to enter ADA University or any of the top universities here, you are going to be in an incredibly privileged position because you deserve it because you've

worked for it. There should be no barriers to what's possible to you, it's entirely up to you in terms of what is success for you. What I quite often see is people never realize how much they could do, so go big on ambition, don't let people tell you, it's not possible.

Secondly, don't be scared of making mistakes, because we all make mistakes, and we all learn from them. I find that many students are used to getting high marks at everything they do, and that's obviously very good. But in real life, if you only do things where you're sure of succeeding you will miss out on two things. One is growth, your personal growth because it's when you make mistakes, you learn a lot about yourself, and about the consequences of those mistakes. So, making mistakes is actually a very healthy thing to do. And the second point is, if you only keep doing things that you feel comfortable in, you'll never really stretch yourself. Don't be afraid of making mistakes, because trying a few things that you are not sure about will eventually make you successful. It gives you the confidence to do that often, so.

The third thing is that it's all about relationships. However good you are, intellectually, technically, it is how you relate to other people, how you treat, and respect them, because at the end of the day, if you know all the answers but there's no one who wants to listen to you, you're not going to be very successful. You should think about that even now when you're at school. ADAIilar magazine is a great example of that because to produce something like this requires great collaboration, strong teamwork.

I should say I love the picture of your team on the magazine - all those people have roles, working together to produce a first-class publication like your magazine. Well done, it is a brilliant product, and keep up doing a great job!

Kh.A.: Thank you, Mr. Jones, for your time and your valuable insights.

Khadija Ahmadova, 11C1

Meet our experts



Aziza Seyidova

Chief Marketing Officer
PASHA Travel



Ilkin Javadov

Director Industry and
Destination Development
Azerbaijan Tourism Board



Irada Gadirova

General Secretary
Azerbaijan Travel
Bloggers Assosiation

Azerbaijan has a number of recommended unique destinations for tourists to visit; however, not every citizen is aware of those locations either. Besides, it is important to know how not only to spend your free time with pleasure but also to contribute to the economy and domestic travel advancement. There are a lot of options for how to plan a trip properly - by yourself or with an agency.

Our journalists Rifah Zeynalov (11C1) and Maryam Kalimulina (11B2) talked to Ms. Aziza Seyidova, Chief Marketing Officer in PASHA Travel, will tell us about travel perspectives and destinations in Azerbaijan.

Maryam: What is the first thing to **look at in the selection of a tour or a place to visit?**

Aziza Seyidova: Now, with all the digital aspects and everything that is happening with meta- and metaverse on the Internet, for some people, especially the young ones the term «travel agency» is a little bit old-fashioned. However, people who

Our journalist Khadija Ahmadova (11C1) met with Mr. Ilkin Javadov, director of Industry Destination Department of Azerbaijan Tourism Board.

Khadija Ahmadova: Liberation of Karabakh marks a new phase in the history of Azerbaijan. What new opportunities did it create for the Azerbaijan s tourism industry?

Ilkin Javadov: Karabakh, definitely, provided us with great prospects for the development of further tourism destinations. Everyone knows the fact that Karabakh has been well known for its stunning nature, ancient history and valuable culture for centuries.

The Pearl of Karabakh, our «Cultural Capital», our beautiful Shusha is a cradle of Azerbaijani national music and literature, home to monuments such as Shusha Castle and the exquisite Yukhari and Ashaghi Govhar Agha Mosque. Shusha was the birthplace of key figures in Azerbaijan's ... **(Read more on page 57)**

«ADALILAR School Magazine»-nin jurnalistlər şöbəsinin üzvü Fərhad Abbasov (10AA3) tanınmış səyahət blogeri, Azərbaycan Turizm Blogerləri Assosiasiyasının Baş Katibi İradə xanım Qədirova ilə görüşüb və suallarını verib.

Fərhad Abbasov: Bildiyim qədər, Siz müstəqil səyahət blogeri kimi çalışırsınız. Bu fəaliyyət növü son zamanlar Azərbaycanda da geniş vüsət alır. Bəs əsl peşəniz nədir?

İradə Qədirova: Əsl peşəm ixtisasım deyək Tarixçidir. Bakı Dövlət Universitetinin məzunuyam. Demək olar ki, ixtisasım səyahətlərimin istiqamətinə, mahiyyətinə çox təsir edir.

F.A.: Sizi bu peşənin seçimində nə həvələndirdi?

İradə Qədirova: Ən böyük arzum dünyanı gəzib dünya insanların həyat və ənənələrini çəkmək, eyni zamanda arxeoloji qazıntılarda iştirak etmək istəyi idi. Bu iki istək mənə Tarix ixtisasını seçməyə sövq etdi.

... **(davamı 62-ci səhifədə)**

come to our agency are here for an experience, and when you enter the travel agency, your journey starts. We have clients, who come and say: «I don't know where I want to go, I don't when I want to go, and I don't know what my budget is, but send me somewhere nice», and I think this is what the travel agency exists for. Because you come for the advice and inspiration. When you search on the internet by yourself and try to do a booking which is also fine, you can get lots of inspiration. Although that, there are people who are afraid, and to whom I'd like to share the experience, and whom I want to help. The first thing is when you enter the travel agency, you do not need to buy anything here, you just come for inspiration. We tell that people about different countries, what is happening there, what is the best part to travel to, where is the nice time to visit, for instance, if there are any festivals, and what is visa requirements. Especially, when the COVID19 situation has affected us a lot, and I think people do need professional advice, so answering your question - come, get inspired, and return for your travel experience.

Rifah: Dear Aziza xanim, according to our research you have accomplished quite a lot in your professional career. How did you choose tourism as your area of specialization? Would you recommend this field to a new generation of graduates?

Aziza Seyidova: I've been in travel only for 6 years now, which is not a very long time for this sphere. I had very interesting tricks that my life played with me - I am changing jobs every 5 years, I've been changing them, this is my job cycle, and usually, and in all of them I had one job, which is PR and Communication. That again proves that if a person wants a change and is not afraid of change, for me it always was a strive to go and try something new, all the time. My daughter is now in her third year of study, and she studies cyber security. When she told me first, that she wants to go in that direction, I was surprised and said: « Seriously?! What is that?

That is something I want to do». For me, cyber security is something in a parallel universe - there is nothing I know about it. She enjoys it, and she loves it, so I said: « Well, whatever you need - we will support you». The same for me, communication is the key. I like talking to people, I like meeting new people, and I switched to a travel agency from Arts and Culture. It was not a huge move because travel is an art, it is a culture in some aspects. The thing I suggest to young people is not to be afraid to try something new all the time. If this is an unknown area for you - don't be afraid! There always be people who will support you, and it is also a great opportunity to gain new skills, new memories, a new community that will surround you, and your contacts will be growing. Today you're a student or you're an editor in a newspaper - aim big, go for something completely different, move around the world. I think, flexibility these days is the key. So my advice for the younger generation is not to be afraid to take risks.

Maryam: Is it important to plan a trip with a specialized agency? What are the advantages and disadvantages of seeking the assistance of a traveling agency?

Aziza Seyidova: I have to say that is important because I am in the travel business and I can see why it is crucial. Different people around the world approach whole travel



Photos by Nazrin Huseynli (11A2)



planning in different ways. If we take, for example, Germans or Austrians - they plan ahead. Today they already know what they will do this summer or next year in winter, but for Azerbaijan, it is the last minute's travel planning. They sit together in a company, they are having fun, and then someone says: "Let's go to Turkey tomorrow", and it happens. I'll tell you one example I had in my experience. We had a summer charter to Montenegro. It was a weekly charter, which was leaving on Thursday at about 9 am in morning. What we did for this charter as it was a new product, and it needed a promotion: the day before Thursday evening we took the list of all passengers, and our designer quickly looked through it and typed names on special labels. Then, they were sent to a printing house, so in the morning we were having the chocolate bars with wishes and passengers' names. The idea was to give chocolate to travelers after their check-ins. It created a massive boom in Instagram, that was the whole idea. I had a colleague at that time, he was from Austria, it was 5 pm, and he asked: «So, do we have a full flight?», I replied: "Not yet. People are still booking". This is how last-minute our market is. For Austrian it was out of this world: "What?! But that travel is tomorrow", I told him to wait till 6 pm. I think he didn't sleep that night because of this. I love spontaneous things, this concerns travel, and every other aspect of my life. When you are planning this trip, you're getting a bit out of your trip, it is the best experience you will have, but sometimes you might not get a place in any place you are looking for. If you plan to visit, for example, a festival - planning will guarantee your participation there. Travel is about the experience, so it has to be planned to secure yourself, but sometimes a spontaneous trip is as entertaining as a planned one. If you are planning a trip yourself, it can save you money, because the price of a ticket could be very high on some days or very cheap on others. Therefore, you need to know those nuances. A professional travel agent will help you with that and also will help you to plan your budget. When you plan there will be more time to investigate that area, to be at the right place, and to make your own experience more pleasing.



Rifah: Apart from traveling, do you have any other hobbies? If yes what are they?

Aziza Seyidova: Fibonacci is one of my hobbies, this is where I and my friends get together. Recently, because we were restricted to have face-to-face social activities, meeting with close friends has become one of my hobbies. I am also a member of some clubs around the city such as the book club, culture club where different people come to meetings for some specific events, we watch movies or go to exhibitions, we discuss a lot of things. I think social activities are something I've missed a lot because of the pandemic situation. After lockdown, I am more towards meeting and seeing people.

Maryam: In insider tips, you mentioned that it is worth to at least trying to see Azerbaijan through the eyes of local Azerbaijanis. What is the difference between local and outsider's views?

Aziza Seyidova: It might take me some

time to answer this question. When the pandemic hit, and borders were closed, not much income was coming from outgoing tourism. We gathered together with colleagues and started thinking of how to cut our losses and introduce new ways of generating revenues. We were asking ourselves what to do now? The answer was domestic tourism, which is mostly for local citizens. Domestic tourism was never a part of the PASHA Travel portfolio because we didn't see a lot of revenue generation from it. We started to explore: «What do we do?». We tried to apply our existed products to local tourism and none of them applied to this. For outgoing tourists, we had tours to Old City, Yanardag but for me, as a local, it would not be interesting. We sat and brainstormed the products that used to be head of our sales. Then we came to entrances tours in Baku houses or gastro tours in Lankaran, which were masterpieces. Local didn't even think of such beautiful places to visit in Baku what can be said regarding staircases tours. In Lankaran, we

found a local farmer who was cooking delicious lavangi, she has a beautiful citrus valley. So we did a day-long tour, where you spend your day as a local farmer - you cook, you pick oranges, you drink samovar tea. We concluded that these are great products. Before selling new products to the masses, we always offer them to our limited group of clients and staff to see all the potential minuses. If you look at the country through the eyes of locals you will start loving this country just like local people do. People who tried these tours were astonished and said that they were frightened that the tour was just a waste of money, we were looking at tourism more from the pleasing side when everyone tiptoes around the tourist but it changed. Tourists like it! This is very interactive, more as people missed this.

Rifah: Do you think that locals might underestimate the abundance of nature? If so, why do you think this happens? Do you see it as a problem?

Aziza Seyidova: I think it is a nature of a person to underestimate what he or she already has. We start valuing things when we lose them. I had a few conversations with foreigners who said that we are lucky to live in such a place as Azerbaijan. We have the Caspian Sea, and then it will take two hours to reach the mountains, we can ski. Such a variety of products could be offered. When I was traveling abroad, people were asking: «Where are you from? Azerbi-Where?», because they didn't know where is this even place. After Azerbaijan has been put on the tourist map, which happened after Eurovision, I could feel that more people became aware of our country. They started saying: «Azerbai-Wow! We saw you on TV, it is very beautiful!». Now, when you tell people about Azerbaijan and show photos, a lot of people recognize it because there is a lot of work was done by the government to promote tourism and to ease the VISA procedures, and share the heritage of UNESCO. Over the last 2 years, people have been traveling a lot inside the country, and they were exploring it, I think it is the best thing COVID19 gave us - to spend more time in the country.

Maryam: What attracts foreign tourists in Azerbaijan? What do they prefer to visit the most - capital and its sights or out-of-town tours?

Aziza Seyidova: It is different for every market - each has its preferences. For instance, the

Russian market is in love with gastro tours. The Asian market is more into cultural heritage, they are interested in seeing UNESCO sights and silk road in Sheki. Arabs are in love with greenery - Gabala and Guba are their favorite spots. It varies from different markets, and this is what we try to understand before we present our product for each market. We are researching preferences specifically for that country as travel packages.

Rifah: *How do you see the main aspects of future travel? Will it be easier with each year to travel or there will be some difficulties?*

We can see the revival of travel - the travel industry is the most flexible sector because it changes with the situation. It sells the experience. I don't think there will be any problems. There will be options for new concepts as virtual reality travel - you can be in the center of Rome or Paris if you don't want to waste time on a plane. However, I still hope that there will be people who would like to have real experience. We already have some applications for online travel, and I think pandemic is a really good time to relook all notions of tourism, so stay tuned.

Maryam: *How to interest locals to travel more within the country and to invest more in domestic tourism?*

Aziza Seyidova: We should create more and more different experiences in cities. We are now working very closely with the Azerbaijan Tourism Board on a new concept of slow food travel. It is in its final stages now in Azerbaijan. Briefly, this concept is about unique food in each region and city that cannot be found in other parts of the world. As a consequence of the usage of "fast" products, these are disappearing. We want to revamp and produce more of this with help of bringing back old recipes. We are working with local farmers and supporting them to bring more groups from both - locals and international. In my opinion, we should create more of these experiences for locals. We should introduce people to something they are not familiar with. The key is to keep surprising people.

Rifah: *Today with great pride we can say that Karabakh is Azerbaijan. So I think we must ask questions related to this topic. Does Pasha Travel have any plans for trips to Karabakh, if yes could you please tell us about them a little bit?*

Aziza Seyidova: Not now because it has to be cleared from all the mines and danger. In the future, we definitely will be looking forward to making it a product for tourists, but here we depend a lot on the government. I really cannot wait to go there! Some tourist agents have already been sent to Karabakh to explore the situation there and to understand the product, but we need infrastructure to make it applicable. It is dangerous there now. Once the parliament says go - we are ready!

Maryam: *We have over 500 students at ADA school, aged 15-16. Do you think Pasha Travel can organize special travel arrangements for our students, or maybe we could collaborate on some kind of campaign together?*

Aziza Seyidova: Absolutely! We will be delighted to collaborate. We have had a wonderful experience with ADA University. Every year we hire one or two of your interns who help us in our chaos, and the quality of candidates is very impressive. Very soon you will be having more and more products from PASHA Travel.

Rifah: *What you would like to wish to the students of ADA School?*

Aziza Seyidova: I would like to wish you to be flexible, do what you want to do, not what is expected from you, and do not be afraid of risk and new things throughout your life. It is very difficult to understand what he or she wants to do at the age of 16-17. Do not be afraid to change something that does not bring you happiness!

PASHA Travel is a friendly and supporting agency. It promotes its values by extending its partners network. It is the most influential and reliable traveling bureau in the country. An excellent example of professionalism and work ethics.



From the left: Nazrin Huseynli (11A2), Maryam Kalimulina (11B2), Aziza Seyidova, Rifah Zeynalov (11C1)

Ilkin Javadov:

«Our beautiful Shusha is a cradle of Azerbaijani national music and literature»



(beginning at the page 52) ... cultural history such as the composer Uzeyir Hajibeyli and the poetess Khurshidbanu Natavan, daughter of the last Karabakh khan.

Beautiful nature, favorable landscape, and rich mineral waters of Kalbajar will also contribute to the development of the tourism sector of Karabakh. There are deposits of mineral waters with a great healing effect, such as Istisu. Mineral waters of Istisu are distinguished by their favorable gas and chemical composition, high temperature, and large natural reserves. In the 80s of the last century, a large resort functioned at the Istisu spring. Also, there were sanatoriums that annually received more than 50 thousand people undergoing

treatment or having a rest. Restoring the work of the sanatoriums will increase both domestic and foreign tourist interest in these places and will turn Kalbajar into one of the wellness destinations of Azerbaijan.

Currently reconstruction works are underway in the region, including infrastructure development and restoration of sites of invaluable historical and cultural heritage for Azerbaijan.

It is also worth noting the construction of three airports in this region. One of them was already opened by the Mr. President and was granted an international status, which means it is fully ready to receive international flights. Meanwhile, in addition to the Fuzuli International Airport, two air harbors are currently being built in

Zangilan and Lachin regions. The rise of the civil aviation infrastructure in the liberated Azerbaijani lands came as part of the state-run programs rolled out post-war. Should also note the development of the tourism infrastructure in the Karabakh including first of all, the construction of new hotels. "Khari Bulbul" and "Garabagh" hotels were already inaugurated after renovation and ready to welcome guests and tourists. It is obvious that such a wealth of culture, nature and history will become a huge resource for the tourism industry and will attract the interest of foreign and mostly local tourists, the dream of most of whom for the last 30 years was to visit this region of our republic.

Kh.A.: *With the start of the pandemic the world has gone digital. What about application of technological innovations in the tourism industry. How has the pandemic impacted tourism businesses consideration of technology in the country?*

I.J.: Certainly, the trend of digitalization in the era of the pandemic has influenced all areas of our lives and the tourism industry is not an exception. In a moment of global collapse and lockdown, we were left find innovative ways out of this situation. As a result, industry has discovered the huge potential of digital resources that we had not previously used, which were not previously involved in our work.



We conducted lots of webinars, both with our industry representatives and with our international partners.

In particular, it is worth noting the webinars and trainings conducted by our Tourism Training and Certification Center on various topics with the involvement of foreign trainers, by the way, online trainings and webinars made up the majority compared to the traditional type of their conduct.

Also, there were held numerous B2B meetings with involvement of our domestic industry representatives and our international partners. Such meetings had a very positive impact on maintaining contacts with industry representatives during the pandemic, and also had a positive impact on cooperation between our organisation and our foreign partners.

We also started to conduct fam trips in an online format, in order to familiarise our partners with innovations in tourism, in order to get acquainted with a particular destination and tourism products.

Kh.A.: *Are there any projects for improvement of infrastructure and services, and attraction of investors to support development of tourism in regions?*

I.J.: Yes, actually, last year we started such project. On 1 July 2021 the Regional Innovative Tourism Product (RITM) programme was launched, to support tourism startups in the regions, as well as to attract investment in regional tourism.

It was noted at the presentation that RITM, as a regional entrepreneurship programme, will work to stimulate innovative startups by attracting investors and IT professionals in the field of tourism, developing the entrepreneurial potential of the local population, as well as supporting small and medium entrepreneurs in tourism.

The startup program contributed to improving the quality of services in our regions, increasing the number and range of tourism products, as well as the development of sustainable tourism.

The development of regional tourism is one of the main factors that will increase employment and create new tourism-oriented businesses.

Out of more than 270 applications submitted under 8 different clusters from 4 regions within the program, 28 project ideas were selected for the incubation stage and involved in trainings in Guba, Sheki, Ganja and Lankaran.

The RITM programme was co-sponsored by the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ), the Azerbaijan Small and Medium Business Development Agency (SMBDA) and the international audit company PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC).

On February 1, 2022 the winners of the first three places from the finalists of the Regional Innovative Tourism Product (RITM) startup program were awarded at an online event.

Thus, the winner of the 1st place was the project «VOID» with the idea of electronic music festival in Sheki region, the winner of the 2nd place was the project «Window» with the idea of VR tracking of Goygol and other tourist areas, and the winner of the 3rd place was «Mobile craft workshop» with the idea of promoting craftsmanship in mobile form.

Considering the success of the project, implementation of the second edition of RITM is also planned for this year.

Kh.A.: *Do you consider new initiatives to promote Azerbaijan's tourism potential abroad?*

I.J.: We are constantly developing certain innovations to promote the tourism potential of our country abroad.

In accordance with our strategy, since the end of 2018,



official tourism representative offices of Azerbaijan were launched in 6 countries. Representative offices opened in Germany, UAE, Saudi Arabia, China, India and Russia promote Azerbaijan's tourism potential in the country and region where they operate. Should note that this year it is planned to open of the official tourism office of Azerbaijan in Tel Aviv which will further strengthen relations with Israel and promote tourism potential of our country.

We also cooperate with many online travel platforms and conduct marketing campaigns with them. Among such platforms with which we periodically cooperate, we should note such as "Aviasales" – famous Russian travel platform; the world-famous "Expedia" platform, which allows you to book tickets, hotels, tour packages and tours online; "Wego" platform, which acts as a meta-search engine; "Travelask.ru", one of the largest travel platforms in Russia; "Skyscanner" platform, which provides affordable air tickets, hotels and car rental and others.

To promote the tourism potential of the Republic of Azerbaijan abroad, we also participate in numerous international tourism exhibitions. To participate in international exhibitions, we attract industry representatives, such as hotels and DMC's.

Are there any plans for the

development of education opportunities in the field of tourism in Azerbaijan?

Certainly, we pay special attention to the developments and conduction of various trainings in the field of tourism. According to this Tourism Training & Certification Center was established in summer 2020. Tourism Training & Certification Center (TTCC) is a platform for learning, knowledge and experience sharing among tourism industry professionals.

TTCC aims to contribute to closing the skill gap in the industry of tourism professionals by providing them with up to date and relevant learning experience.

The main goals of our Tourism Training & Certification Center are to become an accredited institution and operate according to international standards, grow a generation of hospitality professionals ready to meet the guest demands of the 21st century and make learning more accessible to the tourism industry in Azerbaijan. To date, there are 36 trainers in our database and 524 participants took part in our trainings.

Also, I would like to mention the continuous development of the Azerbaijan Tourism and Management University (ATMU), which is the only specialised tourism university in the country. Many industry-related professionals are

contributing to the university as lecturers to ensure the practical knowledge is gained by the students. ATMU is also the first university in South Caucasus, which has earned UNWTO "TedQual" certification.

Kh.A.: What about new projects for promotion of gastronomic tourism, health tourism and winter tourism in Azerbaijan?

I.J.: Speaking about gastronomy, we should note the Slow Food project.

"Community-based Value Chain Enhancement in the Greater Caucasus Mountains Area" is an EU-funded project coordinated by Slow Food in partnership with the Azerbaijan Tourism Board.

The project valorizes local gastronomy and cultural heritage, aiming to foster economic regeneration and the well-being of rural communities in Azerbaijan, and promotes a development model that combines agrobiodiversity maintenance, economic development, and poverty reduction as mutually supportive objectives that can be achieved by the sound management and productive use of agrobiodiversity resources.

The pilot project area includes five districts, part of the Shaki-Zagatala and Daghlig-Shirvan economic regions: Shamakhi, Ismayilli, Gabala, Sheki and Gakh.

In longer term it will positively influence the state of natural resources and social environment,

decrease levels of unemployment and out-migration as well as strengthen resilience of the territories.

Regarding the health tourism, I would like to mention about Naftalan and the infrastructure developed there last year. Touristic wayfinding signs across the city, bike lines and velobikes rental station, velotaxi, brand new tourism information centre and many other projects have been settled in the major health-tourism destination of Azerbaijan.

There is also a recent opening of a ski resort - Agbulag Ski Resort in the Shahbuz region, in Azerbaijan's Autonomous Republic of Nakhchivan. The overall length of the slopes is 1,580m while the width varies between 18 and 30m. There are also kids' and entertainment parks, an artificial lake and a 980m-long cable car with 59 four-person cabins that can carry over a thousand people per hour.

Shahdag and Tufandag are also developing on a yearly basis, adding

new slopes and activities. This year in particular, 2590 meters long roller-coaster and swings on the mountain edge were launched in resorts.

Kh.A.: In your view, what does the future of tourism industry in Azerbaijan look like?

I.J.: Our priority areas for further development are sustainable development, community-based tourism and involvement of all industry players. Successful tourism development focuses also on customer experiences. To meet their needs, desires and expectations, developing attractive destinations and creating and/or optimising touristic products and activities are essential. Regarding the creation of attractive destinations, it is fundamental to encourage regional governments to cooperate in developing tourism plans using coordinated, efficient and sustainable planning processes. Also, the fast-changing technological shifts in the tourism industry from

booking facilities to marketing tools and the tourist experience need to be considered in order to play a role in the highly competitive global tourism market. Just as information and travel technology have progressed very fast in recent years, so have traveler needs and expectations risen to new frontiers. Technology trends in the travel industry are complex: they involve content aggregation, new distribution channels and standards, user engagement and convenience, intelligent agents, mobile payment, etc.

All in all, I think there is a huge potential for successful development of the tourism infrastructure and the quality improvement of the provided services, considering the fascinating cultural and natural resources in line with the evolving professionals working in the industry. Given the strategic approach and planning, these factors should lead Azerbaijan to become an emerging travel destination in the nearest future.



Khadija Ahmadova (11C1) and Ilkin Javadov

Fərhad Abbasov: Niyə məhz səyahət blogeri kimi fəaliyyətə göstərməyə qərar verdiniz?

İradə Qədirova: Əslində blogger anlayışı müasir bir anlayışdır. Bəzən olur mahiyyətinə varmayan insan da özünə blogger deyir. Ona görə bu kütləvi kaos şəraitində özümə blogger deməkdən çəkinirəm. Səyahətlərimi sosial şəbəkələrdə təfərrüatları ilə yazmağa başladığımdan və fotolar paylaşmağa başladığımdan sonra dedilər siz səyahət blogerisiniz. Dedim yaxşı) necə məsləhətdir.

F.A.: Siz səyahətlərə başlayandan sonra, siz və həyatınız necə dəyişib?

İ.Q.: Belə bir misal var ki, heç kim səyahətdən əvvəlki kimi qayıtmır. Bu, çox doğru bir fikirdir. Hər səyahət bizi bu və ya digər dərəcədə dəyişir - çətinliyi, təcrübəsi və öyrətdikləri ilə. Həm mən çox komfortlu səyahət tərəfdarı deyiləm deyə, hər səyahətim hansısa bir məktəbdir mənim üçün.

F.A.: Bildiyim kimi Siz həm Azərbaycan daxili, həm də xarici ölkələrə tez-tez səfərlər edirsiniz. Neçə xarici ölkələrə və hansı Azərbaycan regionlarına səfər etmişiniz?

İ.Q.: Say məsələsi də bu gün trend olan məsələlərdən biridir. Çox zaman xaricə yollanan səyahətçilər sadəcə say artırmağın tərəfdarı kimi çıxış edir. Mən say siyasətinin tərəfdarı deyiləm. Olub ki, eyni ölkədə üç, başqasında səkkiz dəfə olmuşam. Ona görə portfoliomda məsələn 30-40 ölkə yox, daha dərin təcrübələr yatır. Azərbaycanın isə demək olar ki, hər yerində olmuşam. Bir işğaldan azad edilmiş rayonlarımız qalıb ki, onlardan da Şuşa, Cəbrayıl, Füzuli və Ağdamda olmuşam.

F.A.: Bu günə qədər səfər etdiyiniz məkanlardan hansı Sizin daha çox xoşunuza gəldi? Həm Azərbaycan həm də xarici ölkə.

İ.Q.: Azərbaycanda çoxdur əlbəttə, bir yeri başqasından üstün tutmaqdan çəkinərəm ki, heç bir bölgə inciməsin. Son bir ildə amma Astara ürəyimi fəth edib. Xaricdə isə Mardin şəhəri.

F.A.: Ən yadda qalan və yaxud ən ekstremal hansı səfəriniz olub? Xahiş edirəm bu barədə danışardınız.

İ.Q.: Yollarda ümumən çox hadisə baş verir. Bu, biz səfəri nə qədər planlasaq da bizdən asılı olmur. Ən yadda qalan, xoş olmasa da, yəqin ki Astaradan, son səfərimdən qayıdanda yol qəzasına düşməyimiz oldu. Maşın durduğu yerdə qəza yaşadı və o qəzadan sağ çıxmaq mənim üçün möcüzə kimi bir şey oldu.

F.A.: Səfər üçün qərar verdiyinizdə hansı meyarlara əsaslanırsınız?

İ.Q.: Xarici səfərlərimdə ölkə və ya şəhər sayını artırmağı deyil, bir ölkəni daha yaxşı tədqiq edib öyrənməyin tərəfdarı olduğum üçün, ilk növbədə, seçim zamanı tarixinə, mədəniyyətinə, yola necə nə cür çıxacağıma və büdcəmə mərkəzləşirəm. Daxili səfərlərimdə isə hər zaman daha çox təbiət xarakterli səfərlərə çıxmağa üstünlük vermişəm, içində təbiət, dağ və dağ yerlərin insanları olsun. Hazırda isə kənd qadınları ilə bağlı layihə işlədiyimdən, əsas meyar layihəmi işləyə biləcəyim yerin təyin edilməsidir.

F.A.: Əgər Sizə desələr ki, səyahətə özünə yalnız üç

əşya götürə bilərsiniz, bu hansı əşyalar olar?

İ.Q.: Telefon, şarj aparatı və içi lazımı əşyalarla dolu olan rüzkak (gülür).

F.A.: Səyahət etdiyiniz yerlərdə əsasən hansı çətinliklərlə üzləşirsiniz?

İ.Q.: Rastlaşdığım durumu çətinlik adlandırmaqdan çəkinirəm. Çünki yeni yer yeni mühit deməkdir. Və bu yenilik əlbəttə çətinlik demək deyil.

F.A.: Dünyanın istənilən ölkəsinə köçüb və orada daimi yaşamaq imkanınız olsaydı, hansı ölkəni seçərdiniz?

İ.Q.: Bu ölkənin axtarışındayam.

F.A.: Ən çox hansı mətbəxi bəyənersiniz? Ən sevimli yeməyiniz hansıdır?

İ.Q.: Hələ ki, ən çox öz mətbəximizi daha çox bəyənim. Ələlxüsus da kartof qızartmasını.

F.A.: Sizcə Azərbaycanda ən qonaqpərvər region hansıdır?

İ.Q.: Bu siyahı genişdir. (gülür)

F.A.: Öz təcrübənizə əsasən hansı ölkəyə səfər etməyi məsləhət görürdünüz?

İ.Q.: Bu siyahı da genişdir. Həm hələ də öz siyahım tam deyil. Deyə biləcəyim tək tövsiyə o olar ki, arzu və daxili çağırışınız hara çağırırsa, ora mütləq səyahət edin.



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Gwen Burchell:

«I know that I am a strong person»



Adil Alizada, 10AA2



Hello, dear reader! I am Adil Alizada from ADA School, class 10AA2. Our guest today is Gwendolyn Burchell MBE (*Member of the Order of the British Empire - a British honour given to a person by the Queen for a particular achievement*), a philanthropist, the founder, and the head of UAFA (*United Aid For Azerbaijan*), and «Enjoy Chocolate», a chocolate company aimed at raising funds for children with disabilities, among other things.

Adil Alizada: Good afternoon, dear Gwen, thank you for doing this interview with us.

Gwen Burchell: Good afternoon. You are welcome.

A.A.: My first question to you is a **tough one. How are you doing?**

G.B.: (chuckles) All things considered, very well, thank you.

A.A.: **Let us get to the next question. As many may (and should) know, you are the founder of United Aid For Azerbaijan. You have done and keep doing so much for our country but why Azerbaijan? What is the reason you chose us over any other country?**

G.B.: These days I actually think Azerbaijan chose me. I came here when I was not much older than you on an adventure. I've been traveling, I've heard a lot about Azerbaijan, I thought I'd come to see the country

for myself. And as soon as I got off the airplane, I knew I was where I should be – It was just a deep feeling. I spent a few months here, getting to know the country, traveling around, and understanding what I could contribute. I was young, I did not have a lot of skills or experience, but I had energy. Energy and enthusiasm. You know, back then Azerbaijan was in a really tricky situation – obviously, breakup with the Soviet Union, the subsequent war with Armenia – so it was a really desperate place back then. And I like to help, so it went from there.

A.A.: **Yeah, a journey.**

G.B.: Absolutely.



A.A.: Another question that our readers may find interesting is how did it all start? As far as I have researched, you did not have a lot of resources and support at the very beginning of your journey with UAFA, yet you

driving force for everybody. For some people it's about making a lot of money and buying expensive stuff – I mean, everybody has different motivations. For me, I know that I am a strong person, and if I can use that strength to help other people,

each night and think “Yeah, I’ve done something today.”

A.A.: That’s an interesting point. And as a follow-up question, what, in your opinion, is the secret to success, and what has led you to such success?

“I don’t define success in terms of money or possessions.”

never gave up and look at where you are now! What was your main motivation?

G.B.: The main motivation is the fact that we are all connected in life. We are all here to make the world a better place, to leave something behind when we die. That’s a

then I feel comfortable with myself. Some people say it’s altruism. I don’t believe in altruism; I think everybody is inherently selfish. I am being selfish because it makes me feel good to be able to use my strength to help other people. So, it’s pure selfishness, really. Just being able to go to bed

G.B.: I think with success you are never a step far away from failure, but with every failure, you are learning something, so every failure is also a success. I don’t define success in terms of money or possessions. I suppose success is when you create an objective – and

you achieve it. As the days go by, your objectives grow, so for us, for UAFA, when we first started this, we were walking into a children’s institution and seeing hundreds of children with disabilities lying in bed in terrible conditions and wanting to change that situation, to make sure that never happens to a child again. That takes years to achieve because why that child ends up in

racking, of course, because it’s ‘The Queen’, you know. My biggest regret is that I didn’t write down what we talked about afterward. She asked a lot of questions, actually. That’s why she is the queen; she’s so well-prepared, she listens and talks and is interested. That’s a memory that would never leave me, never leave my parents, they were so proud. I am really glad I had the opportunity.

one of those amazing games that’s just so much fun. But tennis does terrible things to your knees. That’s why most tennis players don’t have a long career. So, I haven’t been able to play for quite a while now after my knees got hurt.

A.A.: Oh...

G.B.: Yeah, you’re young now, look after your knees. (laughs)

“Being interested is always the first step to learning anything.”

that situation is a systemic issue, it’s an attitude issue, it’s a result of so many different things; there are so many variables you have to address and work on. And that’s what we do. Each little step of success takes us to the next stage... and we just keep going.

A.A.: As you may have already noticed, I did a lot of research prior to the interview. I have found the official UAFA Azerbaijan YouTube channel and watched a lot of videos there. So, my next question to you is: How was it like meeting and talking to the queen of England?

G.B.: Oh...(smiles) Very nerve-

As well, for Azerbaijan, you’ve got to think: I got that award for my work in Azerbaijan, so when I was introduced as “Gwen Burchell MBE, Services for Special Education in Azerbaijan”, it was kind of cool to hear the country being mentioned in Buckingham Palace to the Queen. I think it was a great experience.

A.A.: My research has also led me to some interesting facts about you. For example, as far as I know, you are a tennis player. How long have you been playing it?

G.B.: I have played since my school days, I wouldn’t call myself a tennis player on any level, but I love it. It’s

A.A.: (laughs) I actually get it, because I used to take tennis classes.

G.B.: Oh, it’s just the best game in the world.

A.A.: Yes. So, when I started my research for this interview, I felt like not enough people here know about the amazing things that you and United Aid For Azerbaijan have done and keep doing. Do you believe that more people should know about your organization?

G.B.: It’s not a belief, really. If people are interested, they are going to find out. Being interested is always the first step to learning anything. You



found out because you got interested. You are sharing it with other people, some will be interested, some will not. I think those people who really want to support the development of life in Azerbaijan are the people who were interested and found out about us.

A.A.: I wish more people got interested.

G.B.: Well, that's why we do these types of interviews. To raise awareness and ask more people to get involved. We all survive by helping each other.

A.A.: True. Other than UAFA you are the head of another company, Enjoy Chocolate. The ENJOY Chocolate range was developed with the aim of helping to raise funds for UAFA's work with children with disabilities. During its first two years, ENJOY generated approximately 50,000AZN in sales. So, my question to you is: How did it all begin? Who came up with this brilliant idea and was it hard to bring it to life?

G.B.: Quite a few years ago I understood that the typical model of raising funds through grants for an NGO is coming to an end. Grant funding creates dependency. So, any NGO that continues to raise its funds just through grants becomes dependent on those grants. What I wanted to do was to shift more to the social enterprise approach of sustainability. I tried different ideas. And then I remember one summer I was sitting and thinking «What are people in Azerbaijan like? They love sweets.» And it came from there. Combining what people like with something new. And I noticed that there weren't any chocolates using Azerbaijani flavors. You know, Reyhan, Sumakh, Tarkhun. Azerbaijan has such an amazing quality of natural products; the flavors are fantastic. Then I sat down with a couple of ladies who are very good cooks. We discussed it and the three of us started to create different ideas and flavoring. We built up our range, our expertise and it just grew from there. People love these chocolates. They are of really good quality, on a level with Swiss or Belgian chocolate. We managed to open a shop last year. We hope that the business will start to take off – maybe even go abroad, take the flavors of Azerbaijan to other countries.



A.A.: I have actually seen the website and it looks very professional and high quality.

G.B.: Yes, these are high-quality chocolates, they are not amateur. You have to come to the shop.

A.A.: Yes, definitely. And my final question to you. What are your future plans? How do you see your companies five years from now? What are some goals that you strive to achieve in the nearest future?

G.B.: Well, our aim has always been to stop the situation where children with disabilities are excluded from society. Every child is a child first. Every child has not just rights but a human desire to be part of life. It doesn't matter if you have a disability or no disability, you still have this humanity, this desire to socialize, to be educated, to learn things. We work very closely with the state, with the Ministries and relevant State bodies, bringing our skills, our expertise to help them build a new system that moves away from exclusion to inclusion. Our main goal over the next five years is to realize more system development, attitude change, skills, and expertise across the country to help these kids develop to their full potential.

A.A.: That's actually very heartwarming.

G.B.: (smiles)

A.A.: So, that's about it for today. Thank you for tuning in and thank you for spending your time and doing this interview with us!

G.B.: Thanks for your interest. Good questions as well, I enjoyed answering them. And good luck with your magazine!



360-DEGREE CREATIVITY OF



DIRIJOR FUAD İBRAHİMOV:

«Pilot olmaq arzum hələ
də içimdə coşub-daşır»



Fatma Hacıyeva, 11A1



Nazrin Guluzada, 10AA6

Bu dəfə "Adalılar" jurnalının qonağı, Azərbaycan Simfonik Orkestrinin baş dirijoru, Münhen Yeni Filarmoniyasının baş dirijoru və Azərbaycan Dövlət Kamera Orkestrinin dirijoru, əməkdar artist Fuad İbrahimovdur. Jurnalın redaksiya üzvləri Fatma Hacıyeva (11A1) və Nazrin Quluzadə (10AA6) qonağı salamladılar:

«Xoş gəlmisiniz, Fuad Bəy, biz sizi məktəbimizdə görməyimizə çox şad olduq. İstəyirsiniz, vaxt itirmədən suallarımıza keçid alaq.»

Fuad İbrahimov: Mən də sizi salamlayıram, çox sağolun dəvətinizə görə. Axır ki, bu görüş baş tutdu.

Fatma Hacıyeva: Sizcə, anadan olduğunuz şəhərin bu gün əməkdar artist olmanızda böyük bir rolu var mı?

Fuad İbrahimov: Bəli, var. Mən bu haqda dafələrlə fikirləşmişəm, görəsən, Şuşada anadan olmasaydım, mən hələ də özüm olardım, ya

yox? Əminliklə cavab verə bilərəm ki, yox. Mən başqa bir insan olardım, musiqi sahəsində bu qədər nailiyyətlərim olmazdı, bəlkə də. Niyə məhz Şuşadan olan insanların mədəniyyətə bu dərəcə bağlılığı möhkəmdir, hələ də cavabını tapa bilmirəm. Bəlkə, suyundan, havasından, yerləşdiyi yüksəklikdən və ya göylərə daha yaxın olmağındandır, bilmirəm, amma mütləq ki, inkaredilməz bir bağlılıq var.

Nazrin Quluzadə: Köln Ali Musiqi məktəbinin həyatınızdakı rolu nədən ibarətdir?

Fuad İbrahimov: Məncə, insanın böyüməsində yalnız məktəbin rolu yox, dünyagörüşünün də rolu çox vacibdir. Kölnə təhsil aldığı ərafədə, ətrafda gördüklərim məni daha çox bilikliyə gətirdi. O da, bəlkə, mənim hər bir sahəyə həddindən artıq marağım olmağından gəlir, amma, ümumiyyətlə, Almaniyanın dünyagörüşünə təsiri çox böyük olub. Bildiyiniz kimi, Almaniyanın musiqi tarixi çox zəngindir. Ona görə, ora daha yaxın olmaqla musiqi

biliyinin artırılması paralel olaraq baş tutur.

Fatma Hacıyeva: Orkestrə rəhbərlik çox çətindir və bu zaman nələrə qarşılaşırsınız?

Fuad İbrahimov: Həddindən artıq çox. Bilirsiniz, orkestrdəki insanlar bilikli və bir çoxları mənədən yaşca böyükdürlər. Dirijor fərqli ölkələrdə, fərqli orkestrlərlə işləyir, bu o deməkdir ki, fərqli mentalitetlər və ənənələrlə üzləşir. Ona görə istər-istəməz çətinliklər baş verir. Önəmli olan bəstəkarın bəstələdiyi musiqini çalışsən olduğu kimi dinləyicilərə çatdırasan. Bəs olduğu kimi necə olur, bir sual işarəsi yaranır. Məsələn, Beethoven nə mənlə, nə də mənədən daha yaşlı insanlarla ünsiyyətdə olmayıb. Biz bunları sadəcə kitablardan oxuya bilərdik, ya da söhbətlərdən eşidə bilərdik ki, onun yazdığı musiqilər zamanı nələr baş verib, hansı hava şəraitində və ya əhval-ruhiyyədə yazıb. Bunların hamısını öyrəndikdən sonra bir fikrə gəlirsən və bu fikri orkestrlə yüksək səviyyədə hazırlamaq üçün dil tapmırsan. Bilirsiniz, hər bir

insan fərqli əhval-ruhiyyədə ola bilər və orkestr 80-100 nəfər, hətta ondan da çox insanlardan ibarətdir. Onlarla düzgün ünsiyyət qurmaq çətinliklərdən biridir. Ümumiyyətlə, belə bir fikir var ki, dirijor 10 dəqiqə ərzində ya özünü orkestrə inandırır, ya da udur. Uduzanda da, ilk növbədə, musiqi böyük zədə alır.

Nəzrin Quluzadə: Sizi bu yolda ən çox dəstəkləyən kim olub?

Fuad İbrahimov: Heydər Əliyev fondu. Mənim həyatımda bu mötəbər fond olmasaydı, bəlkə də, mən burda olub sizinlə söhbət edə bilməzdim və yaxud söhbətimiz tam fərqli olardı. Ən azından, bu nailiyyətlərdən mən danışa bilməzdim. Bildiyiniz kimi, mən bir çoxları kimi 1992-ci ildə Şuşadan məcburi köçkün oldum. Hər şeyimizi itirib Bakıya gəldik. O vaxt mənim xaricdə təhsil almağım, nəinki qeyri-mümkün idi, heç xeyallarımıza belə gətirə bilmirdik. 90-cı illər çox çətin zamanlar idi, o vaxt bu imkan heç yox idi, amma bu gün xaricdə oxumaq üçün çox şərait var. Ona görə, Mehriban xanım və Heydər Əliyev fondu həyatımda çox böyük rol oynadı. Bu gün sevinərək deyirəm ki, yaxşı ki Bakıda və çalışsın bütün biliklərimi gənc nəsil ilə bölüşüm.

Fatma Hacıyeva: Bu günə qədər sayısız-hesabsız konsertlərdə, festivallarda çıxış etmişiniz. Onların arasında sizi ən çox həyəcanlandıran hansı oldu?

Fuad İbrahimov: Məncə, bu sualın cavabını artıq özünüz bilirsiniz. Əlbəttə ki, "Xarı Bülbül" festivalı. Bu festival baş verməsəydi, mən bu suala çox çətinliklə cavab verərdim. Haqiqətən, çox festivallarda, konsertlərdə, ölkələrdə olmuşam, bəlkə, azı yarım saat fikirləşib cavab verərdim sizə. Amma belə çox sadə cavabdır, "Xarı Bülbül" festivalı. Mən o qədər həyəcanlıydım ki, indi o haqda danışanda belə sasim titrəyir. Fikrət Əmirovun "Azərbaycan Kapriççosu"nu dəfələrlə ifa etmişdim, amma o səhnəyə çıxmamışdan öncə belə özümü sakitləşdirə bilmirdim. Həyəcanıma baxmayaraq festival çox möhtəşəm oldu.

Nəzrin Quluzadə: Əgər dirijor olmasaydınız, pilot olardınız mı?

Fuad İbrahimov: Bəli, 100%. Hətta 2012-ci ildə düşünürdüm ki, musiqi sahəsindən ayrılıb, aviasiyaya üz tutum. Yəni istəyim o sahə üçün həddindən artıq çoxdur ki, bu fikir hər zaman məni müşayiət edir. Düzdür, musiqini heç bir zaman buraxmaram, amma pilot olmaq arzum hələ də

içimdə coşub-daşır.

Fatma Hacıyeva: Belə bir söz var ki, "Musiqi ağılayanda sanki bütün bəşəriyyət və təbiət də onunla bərabər ağlayır". Sizcə, hal-hazırda Azərbaycan musiqisi hansı hissləri keçirir?

Fuad İbrahimov: Ölkəmizdə 4 fəslin 4-ü, gözəl kulinariyamız, dağlarımız, düzənliklerimiz - hər şey var, düzdür? Bunların hər biri musiqimizdə də öz əksini tapıb. Musiqimiz hər bir hissi yaşadır insana. Mən bunu xaricdə də gördüm, bilirsiniz, Almaniya insanları daha çox təmkinli olurlar, öz emosiyalarını çox açıq ifadə etmirlər. Amma bizim musiqi orada səslənəndə, haqiqətən, tam fərqli bir alqış səsi eşidilir səhnədən, konsertdən sonra tam fərqli sözlər deyilir. Bunların hamısı onu göstərir ki, bizim musiqimiz insanlara dərin hisslər yaşadır. Sadəcə, Fikrət Əmirovun "Azərbaycan Kapriççosu"da, demək olar ki, bizim bütün tariximiz var. Həm sevinc, həm kədər, həm döyüş, həm də şənlik... Təsəvvür edin, nə qədər möhtəşəm bir hissdır bu.

Nəzrin Guluzadə: Şuşada frak geyinib konsert vermək arzunuz idi və bunu gerçəkləşdirdiniz. Həmin anlarda ən çox nə hiss etdiniz?

Fuad İbrahimov: Belə bir hiss var ki, sanki insan sevincdən keyiyir. Mən bu hissi yaşayırdım o anda.

Sanki göyün 7-ci qatındaydım açığı desəm.

Fatma Hacıyeva: Sözlən musiqiyə hər zaman ehtiyacı var, bəs musiqinin nəyə ehtiyacı var?

Fuad İbrahimov: Musiqinin səmimiyyəti, peşəkərliyi, biliyə ehtiyacı var. Bunlar həddindən artıq vacibdir. İnsanın daxili dünyası musiqini ya yaxşı edə bilər, ya da korlaya bilər. Ona görə musiqi üçün daima inkişaf etmək lazımdır.

Nəzrin Quluzadə: Sizin növbəti planlarınız nədən ibarətdir?

Fuad İbrahimov: Gələcəkdə zəngin musiqi mədəniyyətimizi daha yüksək yerlərə qaldıra bilmək. Üzümü gənc nəsle tutub demək istəyirəm ki, bizim musiqimizi 2-ci plana qoymasınlar. Klassik musiqimiz, teatrımız, filmlərimiz - bunların hamısı bizi yüksək tutan məqamlardır. İstəməzdim ki, bizi sadə musiqilər dünyaya tanıtın gələcəkdə. İnşallah çoxlu konsertlərimiz Qarabağda baş tutsun, dünya şöhrətli musiqiçilər gəlib o gözəl guşələri görsünlər.

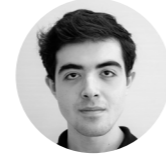
Fatma Hacıyeva və Nəzrin Quluzadə: Çox sağ olun, dəyərli vaxtınızı bizə ayırdığınız üçün. Ümidvarıq ki, Sizi məktəbimizdə bir daha görəcəyik.

Fuad İbrahimov: Təşəkkür edirəm, çox xoşdur mənim üçün. Mən də ümid edirəm bu söhbətimiz oxucular üçün gözəl başlanğıc olacaq ki, musiqimizi sevsinlər, diqqət yetirsinlər və konsertlərə tez-tez gəlsinlər. Çox istərdim ki, bizdə bu mədəniyyət yenidən yaransın. Bunların heç bir ziyanı ola bilməz, ən pisi sizi yuxu apara bilər konsert vaxtı, hansı ki həmin vaxt belə musiqi beyninizə işləməyə və öz əksini tapmağa davam edəcək, nəinki telefon və ya digər lazımsız şeylər.



From the left: Nazrin Guluzada (10AA6), Fuad İbrahimov, Fatma Hacıyeva (11A1), Samir Javadov

Gunel Anar qızı: «Həyatınızı çərçivələrə sığdırmayın».



Rifah Zeynalov, 11C1



Gular Jabrayilova, 11C4



“ADAlılar” jurnalının növbəti maraqlı müsahibələrindən biri də Bakı Kitab Mərkəzinin direktoru, Azərbaycan Yazıçılar Birliyinin üzvü, yazıçı-publisist Günel xanım Rzayeva ilə oldu. Müsahibənin məqsədini bildikdə Günel xanım təklifimizi müsbət qarşıladı. Jurnalın bu addımı atmaqda amalinin gənc nəslin motivasiya və inkişafı ilə bağlılığı onu xüsusilə sevindirdi. Buna görə də o öz uğur hekayəsini bizlərlə bölüşməyə razılıq verdi. Düşünürük ki, Günel xanımla olan bu müsahibə oxucuların, xüsusilə də biz gənclərin marağına səbəb olacaq. Onunla olan müsahibəmizin mətnini sizlərə təqdim edirik.

Rifah Zeynalov: Salam, Günel xanım. İlk öncə, onu qeyd edim ki, bizimlə öz uğur hekayənizi paylaşmağa razılıq verdiyiniz üçün sizə çox minnətdarıq. Suallarımız daha çox sizin təşkilatçılığınız ilə yenidən fəaliyyətə başlayan və gəncləri mütaliyəyə çağıran Bakı Kitab Mərkəzi, onu yaradılma ideyası və məqsədi ilə bağlı olacaq. Bakı Kitab Mərkəzinin konsepsiyası adi kitab mağazalarından fərqlidir. Burada gənclər rahat şəkildə əyləşərək istədikləri kitabı oxuya bilər, kafedə istirahət edə bilər, kitab haqqında müzakirələr apara bilərlər. Mərkəzin bu cür konsepsiyaya uyğun fəaliyyət göstərməsini sizmi təklif etmişiniz?

Günel Rzayeva: Əslində, mərkəzimizdə bir çox şeylərin vəhdəti var. Hər şey ideya olaraq bir nəfərə məxsusdur desək, yanlış olar. Bilirsiniz ki, mərkəzin yaradılmasının ideyası Heydər Əliyev Fonduna məxsusdur, Mehriban xanım Əliyevanın təşəbbüsü ilə yaradılıb. Bu mərkəzin konsepti, dizaynı yerli şirkət və dizaynerlərin istehsalıdır. Burada xaricdən gətirilən çox az əşya vardır. Elə mərkəzin inşasından başlayaraq hər detal gələcəkdə müştərilərin rahatlığına uyğun düşünüldü, məsələn zonaları ələ bölək ki, hamıya rahat olsun. Uşaqlar üçün ikinci mərtəbədə daha təhlükəsiz guşə yaradılıb, hər tərəfi qapalı, balacalar üçün yərə döşəkcələr qoyulub. Həmçinin gənclər üçün də ikinci mərtəbədə çox sakit, rahat oxu guşəsi vardır ki, şagird və tələbələr pəncərə



önündə əyləşərək kitab oxuya, imtahana hazırlaşa bilərlər. İkinci mərtəbə daha çox elm, tədris və tədbirlərin həyata keçirilməsi üçün nəzərdə tutulub.

Birinci mərtəbə isə prezentasiyaların təqdimi üçün nəzərdə tutulub. Bütün kitablar açıq rəflərdədir, bu o deməkdir ki, siz istədiyiniz kitabı rəfdən götürürsünüz, rahatlıqla ondan yararlanırsınız. Burada həm də kafe fəaliyyət göstərir. Suvənir dükanı, dəftərxana guşəsi, geniş çeşiddə hədiyyəlik kitablar təqdim olunur. Yəni demək istədiyim odur ki, biz guşələr haqqında düşünərkən, ilk növbədə, insanların rahatlığını nəzərə aldığımız və mən özüm də bu prosesdə iştirak edirdim, ona görə də iş əsnasında insanları müşahidə edirdim.

İkinci mərtəbədə sakit zonada görmə qabiliyyəti zəif olan insanlar üçün xüsusi avadanlıqla təchiz olunmuş guşə nəzərdə tutulub. Bu guşə təcrid olunmuş guşədir ki, həmin insanlar rahat şəkildə otura-raq oxu fəaliyyəti ilə məşğul ola bilsinlər. Bunlar hamısı əvvəldən düşünülmüşdür.

Gülər Cəbrayilova - Mən də bu mərkəzdə tez-tez oluram və zövq alıram. Əslində, mərkəz bütün yaş qrupları üçün əlverişlidir. Mənə isə elə gəlir ki, şəhərin mərkəzində olduğu üçün buraya daha çox gənc nəsil gəlir. İkinci sualım isə budur ki, sizcə, bu mərkəzə daha çox gənclər, yoxsa yaşlılar üz tutur?

Günel Rzayeva - Bəli, mən çox məmnunam ki, bizim mərkəzə daha çox gənclər gəlir. Onlar üçün mərkəzimiz maraqlıdır, rahatdır, ümumiyyətlə, məkanı çox xoşlayırlar. Elə siz özünüz də gəncsiniz və qeyd etdiyiniz ki, buraya həvəslə gəlirsiniz. Yəqin ki, buranın özünəməxsus aura və atmosferi var ki, hər yaşda insanları cəlb edir, amma biz çox sevindiririk ki, xüsusi ilə də mərkəz gəncləri özünə cəlb edə bilər. Demək olar ki, Bakıda ikinci bir belə məkan yoxdur. Burada həm kitab satışı var, həm də insanlar tamamilə ödənişsiz şəkildə kitabların böyük qismini burada oxuya bilər. Zaman məhdudiyəti yoxdur, insanlar istədikləri qədər dars hazırlaya bilər, oxu fəaliyyəti ilə məşğul ola bilər, dostları ilə burada görüşüb vaxt keçirə bilər. Biz bu şəraiti yaratmışıq. Hətta görəndə ki, biri kitab oxumağa deyil də, dost-tanışı ilə vaxt keçirməyə gəlir biz bundan narahat olmuruz. O ki qaldı mərkəzə yerləşməyi məsələsinə, əlbəttə, mərkəzə yerləşməyi böyük bir avantajdır, fürsətdir. Elə bir



yerdedir ki, hamı bu ərazini tanıyır, bütün yollar buradan keçir. Bilməyənlərə isə təbii ki, ünvanı izah edirik. Elə sizin jurnal üçün də bir daha qeyd etmək istəyirəm ki, mərkəzimiz Sahil metrosunun yaxınlığında yerləşir, Malakan bağının yanındadır. Artıq mərkəz çox insanın sevimli yerinə çevrilib.

Rifah Zeynalov - Bakı Kitab Mərkəzi hər zaman müxtəlif qonaqlarla fərqli tədbirlər həyata keçirir. Soruşmaq istəyirəm ki, ən uğurlu və yaddaqalan tədbir hansı olmuşdur?

Günəl Rzayeva - Bu suala cavab vermək çox çətindir. Mərkəzdə indiyə qədər müxtəlif səpkilərdə 200-dən çox tədbir keçirilib. Onlardan birini seçmək düzgün olmaz. Bundan əlavə, bir sıra layihələrimiz də var. Məsələn uşaqlar üçün «Oxu saati». Bu layihədə bir çox tanınmış şəxslər də iştirak edib, uşaqlara fərqli kitablar oxuyublar. Hətta pandemiya zamanı biz bunu onlayn şəkildə həyata keçirmişik. Bizim gənclər üçün də maraqlı layihələrimiz var. Bu layihənin adı «Yüksəl»dir. Biz bir ilə yaxın bu layihəni həyata keçirdik, sadəcə olaraq pandemiya ilə bağlı son mərhələsi hələ qalıb. Gənclər üçün mühazirələr hazırlayırdıq, bu mühazirələri müxtəlif sənət sahibləri aparırdılar və bizim auditoriya sırf tələbələrəndən ibarət idi. Bu mühazirələrdən sonra isə gənclərə təmənnaşız şəkildə həmin sahələrə aid kitablar paylanırdı. Məqsədimiz isə həmin sahəyə marağı daha da artırmaq idi. Biz həmin layihə dövründə 5000-dən çox kitab paylamış olduq. Bundan əlavə, bizdə tez-tez «Avtoqraf saatları» olur ki, tanınmış müəlliflər mərkəzə gələrək öz kitablarını imzalayıb oxucuları ilə görüşürlər. Belə tədbir və layihələrimiz olduqca çoxdur.

Rifah Zeynalov - Çox sağ olun. Heç düşünürdünüz ki, Bakı Kitab Mərkəzinin yaradılmasında Heydər Əliyev Fondu ilə işləyəcəksiniz?

Günəl Rzayeva - İlk olaraq qeyd etmək istəyirəm ki, Heydər Əliyev Fondu Bakı Kitab Mərkəzinin təsisçisidir. Şübhəsiz ki, biz ilk gündən Heydər Əliyev Fondu ilə əməkdaşlıq edirik. İstənilən tədbir və layihə onların və bilavasitə iştirakı ilə, ya da köməyi ilə həyata keçirilir. Bizim qonaqların bir çoxu həm də Heydər Əliyev Mərkəzinin qonaqlarıdır. Məsələn məşhur «Rammstein» qrupunun solisti Till Lindemann bir neçə il bundan əvvəl kitab yazmışdı və o, kitabın təqdimatı üçün buraya gəlmişdi. Heydər Əliyev Mərkəzinin səyi nəticəsində Azərbaycana gəlmişdi. Heydər Əliyev Fondu və Mərkəzi ilə birlikdə layihə, iş birliklərimiz çox olur.

Gülər Cəbraylova - Pandemiya şəraitində şəhərimizin sosial-mədəni həyatı iflic olmuşdur. Yəqin ki, bu vəziyyət kitab mərkəzinə də təsirsiz keçmədi. Bu ağır şəraitdə aktiv qalmağı necə bacardınız?

Günəl Rzayeva - Bildiyiniz kimi, pandemiya şəraiti bir çox sahələrə zərbə vurdu. Biz də həmin sət qapanmalar dövründə iri ticarət mərkəzi olduğumuz üçün qapanmaya getməli olduq. Buna baxmayaraq, biz onlayn şəkildə ara vermədən fəaliyyət göstərmişik. Sifarişləri qəbul etmişik, ünvanlara çatdırmışıq. Ümumi statistika olaraq satış aşağı düşsə də, fəaliyyət olaraq işə gəlirdi, gələcək layihələr üzərində işləyirdik. Böyük həcmdə ziyan çəkdiyimizi deyə bilmərəm. Əlbəttə ki, buna görə mən bizi yaddan çıxarmayan daimi müştərilərimizə təşəkkür edirəm. Bizim üçün narahatlıq keçirirdilər, diqqət göstərirdilər. Bunların hamısı biza stimül verirdi və biz ruhdan düşmürdük.

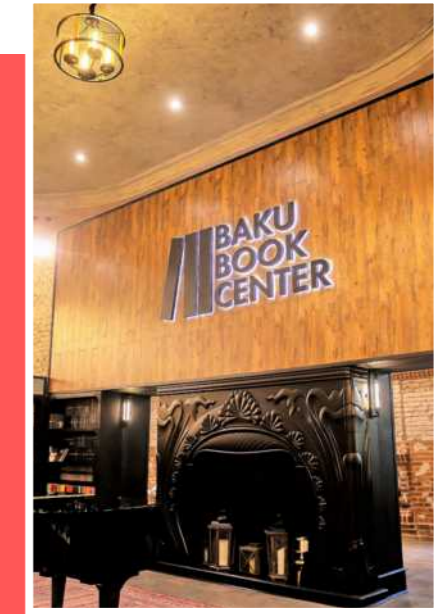
Rifah Zeynalov - Yadıma gəlir ki, siz pandemiya dövründə Elmira xanımla birlikdə «Esse

müsabiqəsi» həyata keçirmişdiniz. Gələcək haqqında sizin də fikirlərinizi eşitmək istərdik. Bəs siz düşünürsünüz ki, həyat koronavirusdan sonra dəyişəcək, yoxsa yox?

Günəl Rzayeva - Həyat artıq dəyişib. Həyatımızın hər bir sahəsinə koronavirus təsir edib və çox təəssüf ki, biz artıq onu bir fakt kimi qəbul edirik ki, biz əvvəlki kimi yaşamırıq. Vizual şəkildə geydiyimiz maskalar, aramızda saxladığımız məsafə, istiqanlı xalq olaraq görüşəndə qucaqlaşib öpüşürdük, ancaq indi hamımızın bir ehtiyatı var. Səbəb ancaq qorxu deyil, artıq bu bir vərdəstdir. Sosial vərdəşlərimiz dəyişir. Əlbəttə ki, əsas dəyişim bizim beyinlərimizdədir. Bilirik ki, həyat əvvəlki kimi olmayacaq. Elə ən böyük zərərli də iqtisadiyata vurdu. Onun da bərpası zaman alacaq. Esse ilə bağlı isə onu demək istəyirəm ki, vətənpərvərlik, virus və s. mövzularda esse müsabiqələrimiz olub. Düşünürəm ki, uşaqların, gənclərin intellektual inkişafında essenin rolu əvəzsizdir.

Gülər Cəbraylova - Çox sağ olun cavablandırıdığınız üçün. Belə bir fikir var ki, Qarabağla bağlı həqiqətləri dünyaya ətraflı çatdırma bilmirik. Sizcə, buna səbəb və ya maneə nədir?

Günəl Rzayeva - Hal-hazırda mən bu fikirlə tam razılaşa bilmirəm. Çünki biz müharibədə qalib gəldik. Bir məsəl var rus dilində «Qalibləri mühakimə etmərlər». Bu vəziyyətdə biz qaliblik və haqlılıq. İstənilən halda biz öz səsimizi dünyaya çatdırma bildik. Nə qədər bizim əleyhimizə işlər görülsə də, nəticədə biz hər iki cəbhədə qalib gəldik. 30 il ərzində biz informasiya müharibəsində zəif idik. Ermənistan lobbisi olduqca güclüdür. Bizim isə bu sahədə fəaliyyətimiz yenidir. Müharibə dünya azərbaycanlılarını birləşdirmiş



oldu. Bu təqdirəlayiq bir haldır.

Rifah Zeynalov - Bakı Kitab Mərkəzindəki rəhbərlik sizin işinizin yalnız bir hissəsidir, siz müxtəlif sosial-mədəni, ədəbi layihələrdə həm təşəbbüskar, həm də aktiv iştirakçı rolundasınız. Yaxın gələcəkdə hansı layihələri həyata keçirmək istərdiniz?

Günəl Rzayeva - Bəli, belə qiymətləndirdiyiniz üçün təşəkkür edirəm. Şəxsi layihələrim olduqca çoxdur. Qarabağla bağlı layihələrim vardır, «Qarabağ hekayələri» silsiləsinin müəllifiyəm, bir çox xarici dillərə tərcümə edib, təqdimatlarını keçirmişik. Bundan başqa da, mən televiziya da çalışmışam, 3 jurnalın baş redaktoru olmuşam, müxtəlif dövlət strukturlarında çalışmışam, Mədəniyyət nazirliyində Diasporlarla İş üzrə Dövlət Komitəsində geniş fəaliyyətim olub. Elə indi də Bakı Kitab Mərkəzi olaraq «Cənnətim Qarabağ» adlı teatr tamaşası üzərində işləyirik. Bu tamaşada uşaqlar iştirak edəcək. Mərkəzin nəzdində də «Oyan» adlı uşaq teatru var. Ancaq məlum vəziyyətə görə hələ ki fəaliyyəti dayandırılıb. Elə həmin uşaqlar bizim yeni tamaşamızda da yer alacaqlar. Məşqlərin sonuna yaxınlaşırıq. Karantin bitən kimi biz o tamaşanı geniş auditoriyamıza təqdim edəcəyik.

Rifah Zeynalov - İnanıram ki, uğurlu olacaq. Siz qeyd etdiniz ki, fərqli jurnallarda baş redaktor kimi çalışmışınız. ADA məktəbinin şagirdləri olaraq biz də qeyri-peşəkar olsa da, ilk addımlarımızı atmağa çalışırıq. Bizim dərc etdiyimiz «ADAlılar jurnalını görmüsünüz, bu jurnal siza necə bir təəssürat bağışlayır?

Günəl Rzayeva - Əvvəla, mən sizi təbrik edirəm. Çox yaxşı təəssürat bağışladı. İki nömrəsi ilə tanış olmuşam. İkinci nömrəsi birincidən fərqli olaraq daha rəngarəngdir. Artıq hiss olunur ki, siz xeyli irəliləmişiniz. Bizim məktəb dövrümüzə belə bir fürsət yox idi ki, bu səviyyədə və keyfiyyətdə jurnallar nəşr etdirək. Məktəbimizin divar qəzeti olardı, rəsm qabiliyyətim olduğu üçün mənə tapşırırdılar ki, qəzetin tərtibatını edim. Bu çox maraqlı işdir. Məndə hər zaman jurnal işinə böyük



maraq olub. Siz bu jurnal üzərində işləyərək özünüzdə hansı sahəyə maraqlı olduğunuzu da aşkarlayacaqsınız. Məsələn, ya dizayn etmək, ya müsahibə almaq, ya da yazmaq. Belə bir jurnalın yüksək səviyyəli təhsil ocağında yaranması çox gözəl həldir. Sizə müvəffəqiyyətlər arzu edirəm.

Gülər Cəbraylova - Biz sizin «Ağ» adlı kitabınızı oxuduq, çox maraqlıdır bu zaman siz kiminlə işləyirsiniz?

Günəl Rzayeva - Həmin o kitabla mənim 6 hekayəm daxildir. Bu hekayələr iki dildə yazılıb. Sonra isə müxtəlif dillərə tərcümə olunub, o cümlədən də ingilis dilinə. Həmin kitabda məndən başqa tanınmış şairə Leyla Bəyimovə də poemaları yer alıb. Biz burada həmmüəllif deyilik, çünki ayrı-ayrı əsərlərdir. Amma bu əsərlər bir kitabda toplanılıb. Biz Leyla xanımın rəfiqəyik, birlikdə 2019-cu ildə bu işi həyata keçirdik. Qarabağ mövzusu olduqca aktualdır. Həmin kitabın Çexiyada, İngiltərədə, İsveçdə, İsrail və Rusiyada təqdimatını keçirdik. Daha sonra isə mart ayında pandemiya ilə əlaqədar sərhədlər bağlandı, sentyabr ayında müharibə başladı və bu səbəblərdən kitabın təqdimatı dayandırıldı.

Gülər Cəbraylova - Təşəkkür edirəm. Heç düşünmüşdünüz ki, ilk kitabınız bu qədər diqqət cəlb edər?

Günəl Rzayeva - Yox, qətiyyənlə düşünməmişəm. Yazanda da məqsədim ancaq öz fikirlərimi ifadə etmək idi. İlk öncə internetdə paylaşmışdım. Çünki, həmin dövrdə yazıçı olmaqla bağlı fikrim yox idi. Sadəcə olaraq özüm üçün yazmışdım və paylaşmışdım. Nə zaman ki, başqaları maraqlı göstərməyə başladı, mən də valideynlərimlə, yaxın ətrafımla paylaşmışdım, onların da diqqətini çəkdi və kitab kimi çap etmək qərarına gəldim.

Rifah Zeynalov - Böyük bir yazıçı olacağınızı hiss edirdiniz?

Günəl Rzayeva - Yox, hətta bu gün də mən özümü böyük yazıçı kimi hiss etmirəm. Böyük yazıçı adlandırmaqdan da çəkinirəm. Yazıçı Mirzə Fətəli Axundovdur, Cəlil Məmmədquluzadədir və s. Nəhəng yazıçılarımla onlardır. Mən öz fikirlərimi ədəbi şəkildə çatdırmağı sevməyə başladım.

Gülər Cəbraylova - Bir sıra festivallarda özünüzü bilirək. Bu festivallar Azərbaycanın gənc yazarlarına Avropanın ədəbi məkanında öz sözlərini deyə bilməsi üçün şərait yaradır?



Rifah Zeynalov (11C1), Günəl Rzayeva qızı, Gülər Cəbraylova (11C4)

Günəl Rzayeva - Festivallar olduqca önəmlidir. İnsanların bir araya gəlməsi, eyni maraqlı olan insanların ünsiyyətində olması və gələcəkdə birgə fəaliyyətlərinə fürsət yaratmasıdır. Son olaraq Azərbaycanda keçirilən «Lift» festivalı bir çox ədəbiyyatçıları bir araya gətirdi. Həmçinin mən də festival heyətinin üzvlərindən biri idim. Mərkəzdə də festivalın bir neçə tədbirini keçirdik. Festival, müsabiqə, konfrans və s. insanların ünsiyyət bayramıdır. Təcrübələri bölüşmək üçün fürsətdir.

Rifah Zeynalov - Ümid edirik ki, belə tədbirlər tez-tez həyata keçirilsin. Digər bir sualımız budur ki, biri ilə kitab üzərində işləmək istərdinizmi?

Günəl Rzayeva - Çətin sualdır. Mənim bir neçə dəfə belə cəhdim olub, ancaq alınmayıb. Bərabər işləyəcəyiniz insan sizi o qədər yaxşı tanımalı, duymalı və anlamalıdır ki, siz bir-birinizi tamamlayasınız. Mənə elə gəlir ki, hansı məqamda ki, sən öz hissini ya da düşüncəni ifadə etməkdə çətinlik çəkirsən, həmin zaman yoldaşın araya girməlidir. Əgər insan hiss edərsə ki, bu yaradıcılıq prosesində özü hər şeyi salis ifadə edə bilər bu zaman ehtiyac qalmır. Hələ ki mən inanmıram ki, kiminləsə işləmək barədə fikirləşmə.

Gülər Cəbraylova - Aydırdır. Gənc yazıçılara 3 tövsiyə hansılar olardı?

Günəl Rzayeva - Çoxlu oxumaq, oxumaq və oxumaq.

Rifah Zeynalov - Hər kəsin bir gənclik arzusu olur. Bəzən bu arzular gerçəkləşir, bəzən isə arzu olaraq da qalır. Sizin gənclik arzunuz var idisə onu gerçəkləşdirə bildinizmi?

Günəl Rzayeva - Qəribədir ki, mənim konkret bir arzum olmayıb. Bilirsiniz həyat bir tərəfdən qısdır, digər tərəfdən də uzundur. Yeni başlıq nütqeyi-nəzərindən baxanda insan ömrü çox qısdır. Amma insanın özü üçün həyat o qədər fürsətlər yaradır ki, düşünürsən ki, həyat bu fürsətlərdən istifadə etmək üçün yetəri qədər uzundur. Mənə həmişə özümü müxtəlif sahələrdə sınamaq maraqlı olub. Təbii ki, mənə yaxın sahələri nəzərdə tuturam. «Şərqsünaslıq» fakültəsində «Türkojoloji» bölümündə oxumuşam. Amma şərqsünas olmamışam. Musiqi məktəbində oxumuşam, ancaq musiqiçi də olmamışam. Rəsm çəkməyi xoşlayıram, rəssam olmamışam. Modelyerliklə maraqlanmışam, çünki zövqlə geyinmək, dəblə bağlı sahə xoşuma gəlir, ancaq bəzi səbəblərdən o sahə üzrə də getməmişəm. Jurnalistika, yazıçılıq sahələri ilə bağlı düşünürdüm, qismətində onlar var imiş. İndi də yenə ədəbiyyat sahəsidir ki, Bakı Kitab Mərkəzinin direktoruyam. Çox da məmnunam. Sadaladığım sahələrin hamısı mənə həyatda kömək edir. Həm musiqi, həm yaradıcı ruhum, həm şərqsünaslıq biliyim bunlara daxildir. Ona görə də insan intellektual cəhətdən nə qədər çox özünü inkişaf etdirsə, o qədər bəhrəsini görəcək. Bir sahəyə qapanmaq, mənə, düzgün deyil.

Gülər Cəbraylova - Hər kəsin uşaqlıq qorxuları olur. Kimsə qaranlıqdan, kimsə itdən, kimsə təklidən. Bəs sizin uşaqlıq qorxunuz nə olub?

Günəl Rzayeva - Yox, mənim qorxum olmayıb. Yeganə yeniyetməlik vaxtında başıma bir iş gəlmişdi, yeni-yeni velosiped sürməyi öyrənirdim. Bir gün bağda velosipedlə üzəşəşi gəldirdim, çox qorxdum ki, özümü itirib velosipedi dayandıra bilməyəcəm. Qorxdum və özümü yerə atdım. Demək olar ki, çoxlu zədə aldım və elə həmin hadisədən

sonra velosipeddən qorxmamağa başladım. Çünki pis xatirə ilə yaddaşımda qaldı. Baxmayaraq ki, idmanla məşğul olmağı çox sevirdim.

Rifah Zeynalov - Qızlarınız sizin yaşınızda olsa idi, onlara nə kimi tövsiyələriniz olardı?

Günəl Rzayeva - Bilin ki, bu yaşlar ən gözəl yaşlardır. Həyat çox maraqlıdır. Hər şey qabaqdadır. Siz özünüz həyatınızın lokomotivisiniz. Taleyinizi siz özünüz həll edirsiniz. Bu taleyi həll etmək üçün isə ilk növbədə, siz dünyagörüşünüzü inkişaf etdirməlisiniz. Bunun üçün çoxlu kitablar oxumaq, keyfiyyətli filmlərə baxmaq, gözəl musiqilərə dinləmək lazımdır. Bacardığınız qədər səyahət edin, fərqli mədəniyyətlərlə tanış olun ki, ruhən zənginləşəsiniz. Madam ki, siz də belə gözəl təhsil ocağında oxuyursunuz fürsətləri əldən verməyin. Həyatınızı çərçivələrə sığdırmayın.

Gülər Cəbraylova - Siz bu misalları sadaladınız, elə mən də həmişə istəyirəm ki, vaxt ayrılıb ədəbi filmlərə baxım, ancaq çatdırma bilmirəm. Sizcə, bununla bağlı nə etmək olar?

Günəl Rzayeva - Əslində, bir tərəfdən belə

qrafikinizin olmağı yaxşıdır, lazımsız fikirlərə vaxt qalmır. Ancaq sizin tətilinizdir. Müasir dövrimizdə hər şey alçatandır. Texnologiya inkişaf edib. Çalışın bu vasitələri dəyərləndirin.

Rifah Zeynalov - Yazıçı ailəsində dünyaya göz açmasaydınız, ya da yazıçı olmasaydınız, hansı peşəni seçərdiniz?

Günəl Rzayeva - Məncə, bununla əlaqəli bir şey yoxdur. Əgər mən yazmağı bacarmasaydım və insanların diqqətini çəkməsəydim yazmazdım. Ən böyük tənqidçim elə mənəm. Əgər mənim atam yazıçıdır, mən də yazım fikri ilə yazsam, bu heç kimə maraqlı olmayacaq. Birinci növbədə, yazdıqlarım mənə maraqlı olmalıdır. Mənə maraqlıdırsa başqalarına da maraqlı gələcək və oxunacaq. Yaşa dolduqca fikirləşirəm ki, yazıçı olmasaydım, həkim olmaq istərdim. Son bu dünyada olan vəziyyət mənə bu fikrə itələyir. Bu vəziyyəti araşdırıb başa düşmək istərdim. Məsələn, elə bu son müzakirələr «Peyvənd edək, ya yox?» «Araşdırmaq istərdim. Ümumiyyətlə, fikirləşirəm ki, həkimlik çox layiqli və gözəl peşədir.

Gülər Cəbraylova - Vaxt çox tez keçdi. Sonuncu sualımız isə belədir ki, gələcəkdə ADA məktəbi sizin mərkəzinizlə birlikdə layihə həyata keçirə bilermi?

Günəl Rzayeva - Bəli, olar. Çox istəyirdim ki, elə ADA məktəbi ilə də birgə işlərimiz olsun. Siz bizim istəklə ziyarətçilərimizsiniz. Gəlin, hər zaman buradan yararlanın və bura ilə bağlı fikirləriniz olsa, bizimlə paylaşın, dəstəkləyirik.

Rifah Zeynalov - Hər şey üçün çox sağ olun. Sizinlə müsahibə çox maraqlı idi.

Günəl Rzayeva - Mənim üçün də çox maraqlı idi. Bu yaşda gənclərlə çoxdan ünsiyyətdə olmamışam. Mən özüm də jurnalistəm, bir çox müsahibələrdə iştirak etmişəm. Bəzən elə olur ki, peşəkar jurnalistlər gəlir nə danışacağıni bilmir, ancaq söhbət əsnasında suallar verirlər. Müsahibəyə hazırlığınız və suallar üzərində işiniz təqdirəlayidir. Təşəkkürlər.

DADASH MAMMADOV:

«The future rests in the hands of the youth!»



Maryam Kalimulina, 11B2

This is a place where creativity, innovations, and traditions inextricably intertwine and coexist in harmony. Established in 2006, Independent Art Platform unites keen art lovers with rich imagination and boundless creativity. The main goal of this platform is to bring Azerbaijani culture, art, and traditions to the masses. Over the years, a number of foreign ambassadors from Latvia, Ukraine, and other post-soviet countries have been involved in this project. The organization is open to newcomers and is eager to familiarize everyone with its captivating expositions and interesting history.

Our journalist Maryam Kalimulina (11B2) talked to Mr. Dadash Mammadov, the director of “Arts Council of Azerbaijan”.

Maryam Kalimulina: How did the idea of opening such an establishment come to your mind? Was it hard to start, and how much pressure did you feel at the early stages?

Dadash Mammadov: After returning from my studies in Germany and experiencing its atmosphere, I wanted to recreate something similar in Azerbaijan because there was nothing even close to that. Emerging artists faced many problems due to the limited number of art galleries and a lack of connections. So, I had a choice: either to fly back to Germany or to build a platform here. Art Council is an NGO, meaning that it is more about exchanging ideas rather than making profits. Since 2006, we have hosted a large number of events and contributed to many art fields as workshops. Of course, there were difficulties, but we managed to overcome them, and we are still one of the proactive organizations in Baku. The Art Council includes not only painters or photographers but also dancers, carpenters, and artisans. We are recognized by state institutions, cooperate with diplomatic services and media.

M.K.: What aims did the gallery set when it was created? How many of them are accomplished, and which aims are still in the process of realization?

D.M.: The main aim was to solve the problem of something that does not exist - the young artists' issue [?]. It was pretty tough for emerging artists to demonstrate their works without any connections. When you want to exhibit your artwork, but you are not being taken seriously due to the lack

of experience or recognition: “Who are you? We do not know you, and we are not interested in working with you”. Most galleries are interested in seasoned professionals, which is understandable. So, we have found talented artists and created a project named “stART.” Amateurs, emerging artists - all were brought together by this initiative. Every year we conduct about 4-5 events.

M.K.: How does the process of organizing an exhibition

(planning, search for artists and their creations, and other stages) take place?

D.M.: As I am an artist myself, it is not a problem for me to find other artists; for musicians and theatre performers there are different teams that have mentors. Each of them is assigned a certain task and is in charge of different aspects of its implementation. Exhibitions are mostly held on the 1st floor of the Art Council, and now they are more



Photos by Sona Afandizada, ADA School, 10AA3

private than they used to be because of the COVID-19 restrictions.

M.K.: What are the purposes of cultural evenings held by the Art Council? Can you explain what they are and what is your target audience?

D.M.: Regarding the cultural evenings, I can say that they are held very frequently. The musicians' format of the evening depends on its theme - European music or music from movies can be performed there. As for the decorative-applied art - it is always about different kinds of ideas. We are trying to support creativity and artistry in general.

M.K.: Do exhibitions always meet the expectations? If not, how do you cope with disappointment?

D.M.: Indeed, by creating new expositions, we constantly improve our skills, which is happening only with a frequency. If we do something wrong, we always try to learn from our mistakes. As I recall our 15-year experience, we have miscalculated rarely if ever. However, it is hard to tell if we even have expectations for our exhibitions.

M.K.: Whose idea was to initiate the ArtFest Nizami project? Who were the participants? Was there any selection process for the photographers who took part in the photo exposition? If so, whom did you select? What were the main selection criteria?

D.M.: Mister President announced a "Year of Nizami" and gave the directive to organize a number of events, preferably abroad. So, we launched "ArtFest Nizami" campaign and initiated a workshop for photographers. They selected models - celebrities, poets, and actresses. This was made in order to make the fest more public-oriented and guide the audience's eye. At the same time, we also had a video-shooting for each of the beauties [?]. A big team worked on its creation; each month there was a new video for another beauty. Here we are promoting Nizami's creation. In collaboration with the multiplication studio and Hungarian consulate, we have shoot animated films screening based on works of Gancevi. Another thing regarding the seven beauties photo exposition. Each of them had to create a project related to publicizing Nizami Gancevi's art in their field. Each of them had a unique concept.

M.K.: What does this exhibition mean for you?

D.M.: First of all, I admire Nizami Gancevi and his masterpieces,



and so did my father. He was the greatest poet, and I would like to raise awareness and enlighten local population and foreign audience about him and his creations. Money was never a primary goal, so we did not focus on the financial aspects when organizing the fest. Our goal was to make something significant for our country: a great and, what is more important, a worthwhile project. For instance, we initiated another campaign with a concept named "Su Park" in Qala, where councils from different countries were planting trees. That project was aimed at educating children to use water more responsibly and not to waste it. As you know, there was a problem with the drinking water. We also printed comics with drawings

and accessible for understanding language in English, Georgian, and Azerbaijani and then handed them out to kids that visited the project.

M.K.: Who has a chance to exhibit their artworks in your art platform?

D.M.: The selection process is based on specific conception and is conducted by mentors, who are experienced and knowledgeable professionals in each field of art. For instance, there was a photo exhibition from France, but the photographer was an Azeri woman, so we organized it with great relish. There is also a possibility of showcasing your artwork on a competitive basis, during which we also select amazing artists. The main criteria are charm and creativity. Another way is when

a more experienced and professional artists notice and promote someone's work.

M.K.: How did the situation for art change during COVID19?

D.M.: We did not stop working and kept doing it in the same vein. We are still conducting events but on a smaller scale as there is a restriction on the number of people allowed to be gathered in one place. As for the impact that the pandemic has had on art, there is undoubtedly a significant difference between looking at a painting in real life in all its texture and watching its broadcasted version through screen.

M.K.: What does the future hold for art in Azerbaijan?

D.M.: The future of art here is



promising and is embodied in young musicians, painters, and photographers. It is also vital to reconcile creativity and education because many inventions stem from on these two sources. "The most essential and valuable resource is creativity. Be creative, do not stop yourselves from creating; share your ideas. The future rests in the hands of the youth!"

An independent organization with more than 15 years of history, Arts Council of Azerbaijan is an excellent example of a sustainable cultural association. It aims to promote national items of culture in other countries and, therefore, helps establish international cultural relations.



Love for Reading

BRINGING TOGETHER BOOK ENTHUSIASTS OF ADA SCHOOL



It is a common fact that the art of words shapes a personality by influencing the thoughts and feelings of people and revealing to them the aesthetic world in all its beauty. It enriches us with knowledge about the intricacies of human relations, cultivates the civility of a new generation, and affirms universal human values, among other things. Inspired by this idea, the ADA School Department of Foreign Languages, within the framework of the curriculum for the RFL program, organized an event, «Love for Reading,» which united students who are passionate about books.

A special guest of the event was a well-known blogger and an entrepreneur Ms. Narmina Hasanli - a podcast host and a founder of a popular book club in Baku, "Books and Beyond". Ms. Hasanli spoke about her passion for books and the creation of podcasts about them.





The second guest of the meeting was Ms. Nigar Maharramova, a co-author of podcasts about books and a columnist of the Nargis magazine, who spoke about the history of the creation of the podcast "Karabakh is my soul."

Participants of the event discussed their literary preferences, comparing and emphasizing the relevance of both Russian classical and modern literature.

After the discussion, the students proceeded to the practical part of the event. It included several interactive activities such as guessing the quote from the literary work, writing a text for the internal podcast about favorite games, and other

tasks aimed at enhancing the students' worldview and building teamwork skills.

ADA students do not only love reading but also try to engage with the reading material at a deeper level, exchange their literary experiences, find like-minded people, and even reveal their writing talents.

It was the first literary event after long-term restrictions associated with the pandemic. Due to this, only 15 students could participate in person, while 20 students joined online.

We hope that such interesting events involving professional writers, publicists, literary scholars, and philologists will be informative for all students.

BOOK REVIEW

By Gunel Huseynova,
ADA School, 10AA2



Michael Ende «The Neverending Story» (1979). Goodreads rating: 4.15/5

A lonely boy with a very beautiful name, Bastian Balthazar Bux, steals a book from a shop and runs to his school. His relationships with classmates are strained because he prefers to find solace in books rather than interacting with them. His mother is dead and his father doesn't pay any attention to him. Boys at school bully him because of his excessive weight and the ability to tell incredible stories. Therefore, Bastian decides to go to the empty attic and immerse himself in a story about a fantasy country, where the queen is almost dead and only a child of Adam and Eve can save her.

At first, Bastian just observes the development of the plot of the endless story and then he becomes a part of it himself and as a result, incredible adventures await us.

The storyline is very enlightening and captivating. As a fantasy fan myself, I can say that the book includes a variety of well-known fairytales, epic stories, and myths. One can discover references to «The Chronicles of Narnia», «The Lord of Rings», and Scandinavian and Greek mythology. The author's affectionate attitude to books warms the soul and reminisces of something familiar. Reading enthusiasts will certainly find it particularly appealing. I was completely enchanted by this work. Indulge yourselves and read this endless story, it will not leave you indifferent whether you are a bookworm or just a casual reader.



Andrzej Sapkowski *Witcher: the last wish* (1993). Goodreads rating: 4.12/5.



Illustration by Leyla Latifzada, IOAA4

It is a captivating dark fantasy, with no distinct boundaries of black and white - just the shades of gray! The world of *The Witcher* resembles typical Middle Ages, where many legends and all sorts of fantastic creatures come to life. This world is multifaceted and very similar to ours - despite the occurrence of the extraordinary creatures, there are political intrigues, the cruelty of rulers, and racial hostility that are common in the real world too. More importantly, Sapkowski does not make Geralt, that very witcher, an ideal knight in shining armor, which I find particularly appealing as it goes against the hero cliches. Yes, the witcher slays monsters and saves people. However, as a rule, he is motivated not by virtue, but by a simple desire to earn his living. He was created to kill the monsters, and in this he has no equal. I recommend this book and the rest of the series to everyone, without exception. Especially if you plan to watch the eponymous series on Netflix (and yes, the book is way better).

Hector Malot «*Without a family*» (1838). Goodreads rating: 4.37/5



Illustration by Leyla Latifzada, IOAA4

French writer Hector Malo (1830-1907) authored about 60 novels for the adult audience, but it was the novel «*Without a Family*», addressed to young readers, that made him famous all over the world. The book captivates its readers from the first lines. The plot is straightforward, but the characters and their behaviors, without exception, make you think deeper about seemingly simple human relationships. Together with the main characters of the book, you experience the situations in which the author of the book places his characters. It is like an emotional rollercoaster: now a lump in your throat, then tears of bitterness triggered by the experiences and injustice in the life of the main characters, followed by the tears of happiness and immense joy that fill you up when the characters skillfully overcome the adversities.

The storyline starts with the peasant Barberen finding a baby on a street in Paris. The boy is dressed in expensive clothes. Hoping that the child's parents will appear and probably reward him generously, the commoner takes the baby to his family. But years pass, the boy's parents do not show up, and Barberen sells the child to a wandering entertainer.

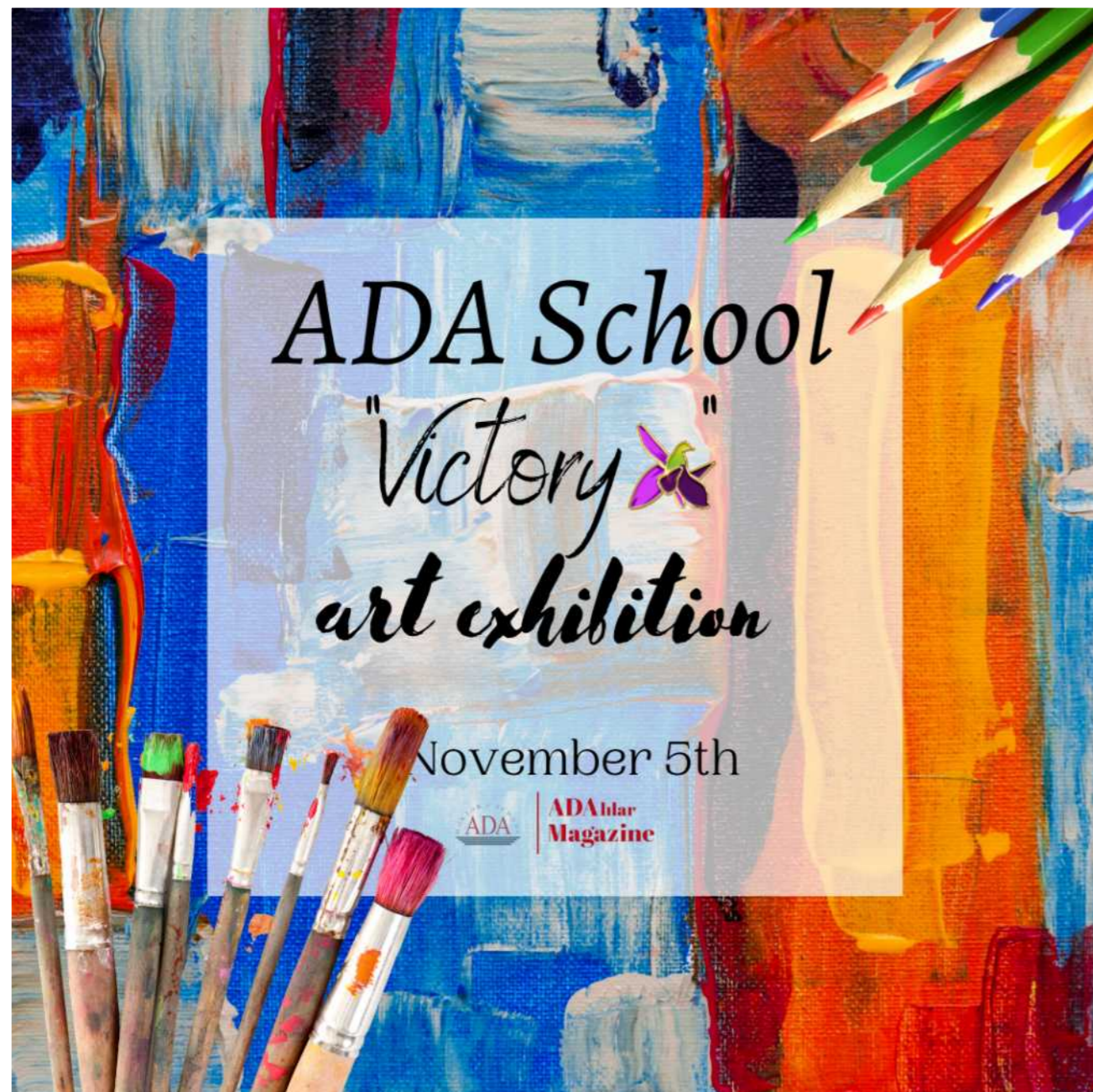
Traveling with a troop of a singer Vitali and his dogs

becomes a real school of life for a 12-year-old Remi. He has to go through some painful experiences: deprivation, bitter lessons of cruelty, indifference, deceptions, intrigues, risky encounters, and terrible secrets. Vitali teaches the boy to read and write, play musical instruments, and act. The animals in the story are on a par with human characters - the monkey Prankster, the poodle Kapi, and the dogs Dolce and Zerbino were written by the author with great affection. Moreover, the conclusion of the story is incredibly compelling.

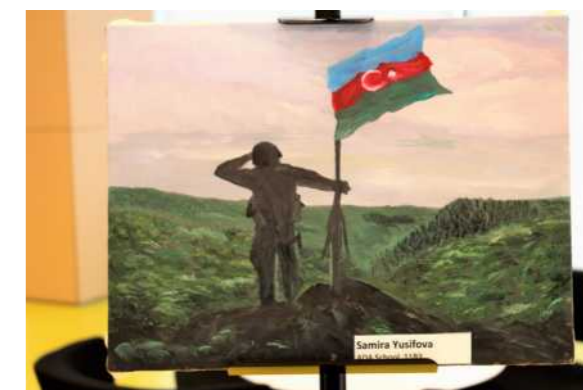
In France, the novel has long become a classic. The book has withstood 12 film adaptations and was awarded the prize of the French Academy. The reason for this success is the unique combination of romance and realism of descriptions, idealization, and subtle psychological elaboration of characters. You will never forget the mysterious gray-haired Vitali, the tender mother Barberen, and the cruel Garofoli.

Today, this story evokes the same warm response as it did 140 years ago. One of its main messages: even if you are in need, your soul is free! The book teaches love, kindness, compassion, nobility, and respect for life. It teaches you to understand people, be grateful, and not to get desperate.

ADA SCHOOL ART EXHIBITION DEDICATED TO “ZƏFƏR GÜNÜ”



School Art Exhibition is an excellent way for students to express their thoughts and feelings through drawing. This exhibition was held on 1st December and dedicated to the great victory day, where our talented scholars from both grades 10 and 11 reflected their emotions associated with the 44-days patriotic war.





Zuleykha Ibrahimova, ADA School, 11B3



Elvira Ibadullayeva, ADA School, 11A2



Samira Yusifova, ADA School, 11B3



Suel Heybatova, ADA School, 11C2



Humay Sadig, ADA School, 11A1



Nazrin Huseynli, ADA School, 11A2



Nazanin Mammadova, ADA School, 10AA1



Ayset Mammadova, ADA School, 10CB1



Nasiba Rustamli, ADA School, 10CB1



Hajar Novruzzada, ADA School, 10BA1



MOVIE REVIEW

By Farida Mousumova, 10AA3

What is common among *Squid games*, *Hunger Games*, *Battle Royale*, and the *Alice in Borderland*? In general, all of them are either about ordinary people who try to survive in the face of difficulties, or the confrontation between the poor and the rich, or just the dangerous games that desperate people have to play on their paths to freedom. All these themes have always been intriguing to teenage and adult audiences alike. Therefore, the unifying theme for this issue's movie reviews is a revolution. Get comfortable and enjoy our collection of must-watch movies and TV series on this theme.

1. Squid game (2021 -)

This is probably the most talked-about TV series of the outgoing year. The sensational South Korean TV series has gained millions of fans around the world, it is discussed on social networks and dissected in the media, and white slip-on and green suits, like those of its heroes, are on-demand in retail stores. The phenomenon of the popularity of the series about death games seems to have itself become a mystery that must be solved to survive. The series immediately went viral: TikTok users began to build theories about the secret meanings in the plot and play «Sugar honeycomb» and «Red light Greenlight.» In brief, the *Squid Game* tells the story of people who, due to financial difficulties and a heap of debts, agreed to risk their own lives to win the main prize: 45.6 billion won (approximately 65 million manats). In the process, they face many obstacles, make friends and enemies, and most importantly, try to survive. If that was not enough to persuade you to check this series, the scores on Rotten Tomatoes and IMDb would certainly do: 94% and 7.5-9.3 respectively.



Illustration by Nazanin Mammadova, 10AA1

2. The Hunger Games (2012)

Having been released almost ten years ago, *The Hunger Games* managed to gain worldwide popularity. The main difference between *The Hunger Games* and the *Squid Games* is that in the former, people are sent to deadly competitions by force, and not by their will. The state of Panem, formed on the North American continent after a series of natural disasters, is divided into twelve districts and the capital, the Capitol. There were once thirteen districts, but after a big uprising, brutally suppressed by the authorities, District 13 was destroyed. In punishment for the mutiny, the Capitol instituted the annual Hunger Games, which are televised nationwide. Each district is obliged to send a boy and a girl to the Games. 24 tribune participants kill each other in the Arena. The only surviving winner, the Capitol provides a well-fed and comfortable life. The lot to participate in the 74th games falls to young Katniss Everdeen, and Pete Mellark, who is secretly in love with her, and now, to survive, they will have to kill each other. The movie critics gave the following scores to the first part: 84 % (Rotten tomatoes) and 7.3 (IMDb). There are three more parts to watch if you haven't yet.



Illustration by Nazanin Mammadova, 10AA1

3. Battle Royale (2000)

This time the plot of the movie takes us to Japan gripped by the economic crisis. Due to this, the country turned into a totalitarian state. The juvenile insurrection is on the rise, so to combat it, the authorities come up with the so-called "educational" project titled «Battle Royale»: schoolchildren are taken to a desert island, put on metal collars around their necks, and given three days to kill each other. In the end, there should be only one winner (sort of the last man standing), who will be released. If the rule is violated, collars of all the survivors will explode. By the way, this movie tops Quentin Tarantino's list of the 20 best films that have been shot since 1992. As for the opinions of critics, Rotten Tomatoes gave the movie 88%, while the IMDb – 7.6.



Illustration by Nazanin Mammadova, IOAAI

4. Alice in Borderland (2020 -)

Yet another Japanese series, this time released by Netflix. The fans of Japanese manga will certainly find these series particularly appealing. The main character of this mystery thriller, Rehei Arisu, still does not know what he wants to devote himself to. He spends most of his time playing computer games, due to which he constantly quarrels with his father. During one of the fights, Arisu leaves home, meets with friends, and together they cause an accident. The guys try to hide from the police, and when they finally return to the city, Tokyo seems absolutely different from the one they left. Main characters are forced to play a game, the type and the complexity of which are determined by a card from the deck. After surviving the first game, the participants receive "visas", which are extended the longer they compete. Once the visa expires, the players are executed with red laser beams. The title is actually a pun for Alice's Adventures in Wonderland and Arisu is close to the name Alice. There has been quite a discrepancy in the scores on Rotten Tomatoes, where the critics gave the movie 71%, while the audience- 91%. The IMDb awarded a score of 7.6 to this thriller.

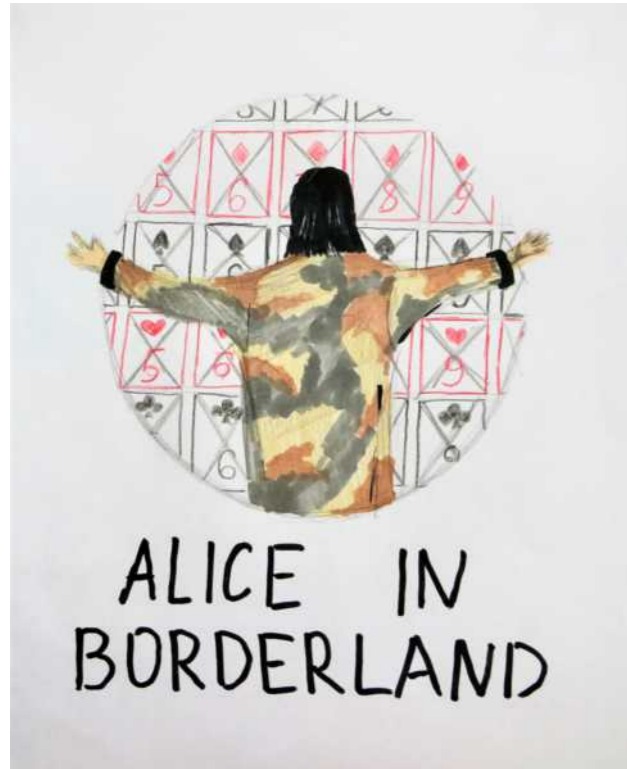


Illustration by Nazanin Mammadova, IOAAI

5. The Last Transition (the 1970s)

Last but not least. Fifty years ago, the history movie «The Last Transition» was released, which was considered a notable achievement of national cinematography due to its embodiment of our spiritual values. Even though half a century has passed since its first release, the movie is still watched with great interest by a local audience. The prototypes of the script characters are real heroes of the beginning of the last century. The author draws attention to the problems that arose in the first decade of Soviet power during the construction of the collective farms, the class struggle, as well as the contradictions during the period of renewal of economic and socio-political relations. Although it has little in common with the previously mentioned movies, it is a celebration of the human spirit and its resistance in the face of the adversary.



Illustration by Nazanin Mammadova, IOAAI

FASTER HIGHER STRONGER



From left to right: Sayaddin Nasirov (11B4), Murad Muradov (11D), Ali Nasirli (11C2), Elbayaydin Jamili (11C2), Rinat Nasirov (11C4), Murad Asgarli (11C3), (bottom) Tair Mammadov (11C1), (top) Nihad Garayev (11C5), Yashar Huseynov (11C1), Turan Jafarli (11D), Ikram Hamidli (school graduate)

ADA Royals is the official soccer team representing ADA School at different tournaments and sport events. The team was established in 2021, and after the elections between the players, the fully prepared team captained by Elbay Aydin Jamili was created. The main goal for that time was to join the Sunday Schools League (SSL Tournament) to represent our school there. After registering the team, ADA Royals have begun the intensive trainings for increasing the team spirit and thinking of a team tactics. We met with some players and talked about their views on the team.

ADA ROYALS

**Elbayaydin Jamili, TIC2
(Captain of the team ADA ROYALS)**

How do you prepare for your games?

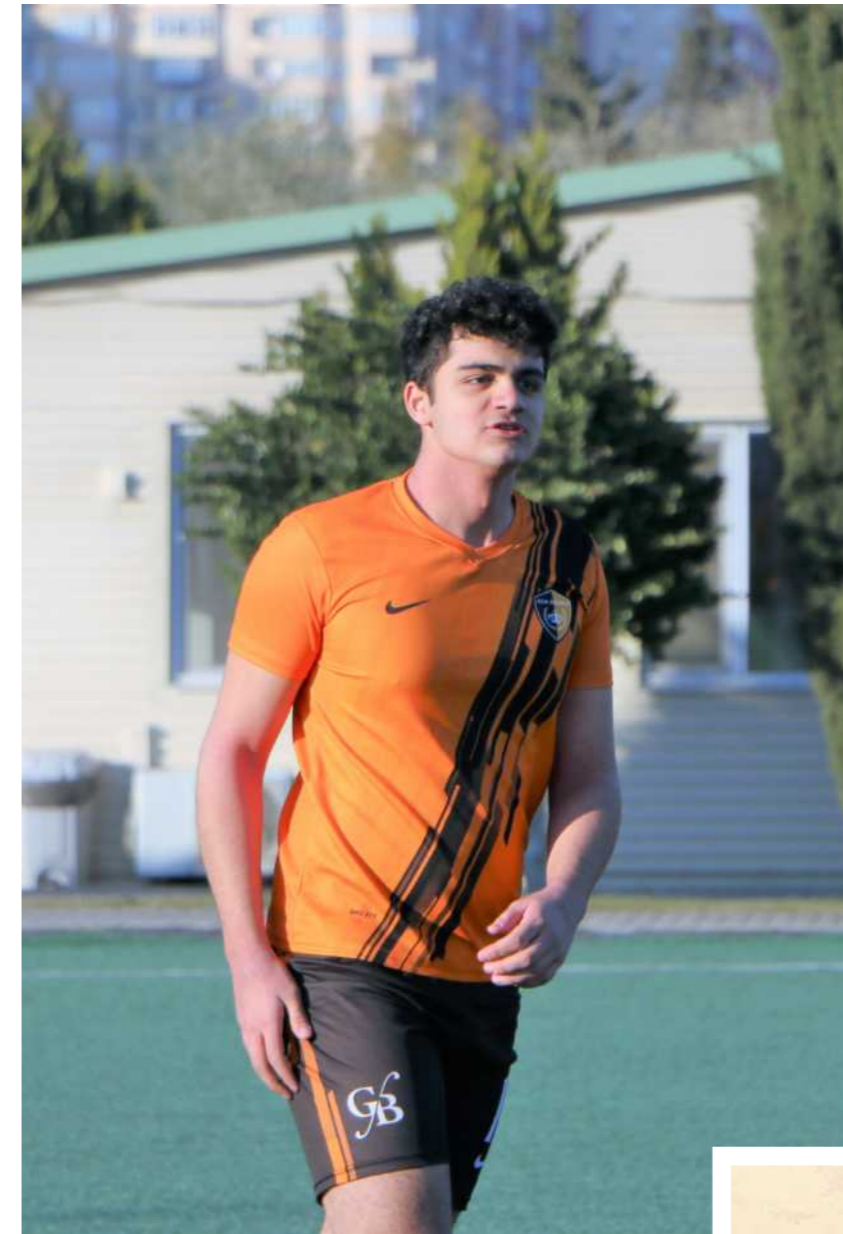
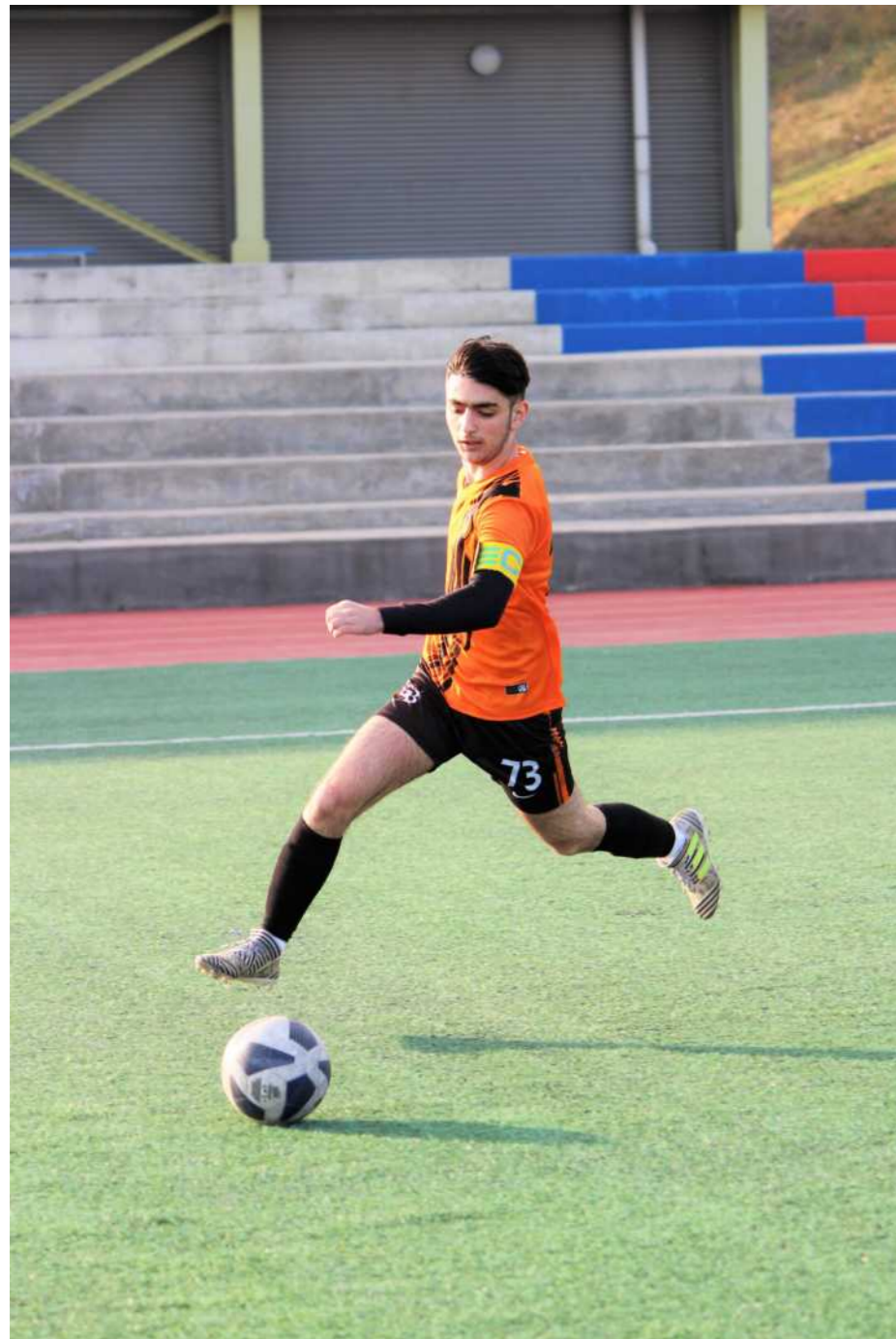
E.J.: We start the preparations to the following games right after our previous matches. We discuss our mistakes, so we don't repeat them in the future. During the week, we analyze our opponent's tactics and come up with our own strategies. In a group chat, we discuss everyone's roles and responsibilities. Lastly, before the kickoff, we have a small team talk to revise our plans and get into the winning mindset.

Can you name three specific aspects that you need to improve in your game?

E.J.: Firstly, I believe we should improve our team chemistry. It has been good for the first half of the season, but there is still room for improvement. Then, we should try to get more shots off as our attacking performance has been below our expectations. Finally, I think we can improve our game tactically. We can prepare more diverse set of tactics for different situations.

What is the biggest secret of your team's success?

E.J.: I believe the biggest secret of our success is team spirit. We are always connected and ready to help each other when things get tough. This has been proven in two matches this season where we completed a comeback, one of them being from 3-0 down.



Rinat Nasirov, TIC4

How do you rate your chances of becoming champions of the Sunday School League?

R.N.: Basically, we have a strong team, and our coach Mr. Saleh doesn't want us to become upset. But things can happen. Unfortunately, we faced a loss in our last game, but we fought till the last minute of the game. I hope that in the upcoming matches we will be in the best fit and smash it again. Let's go Royals!

Could you name the 3 strongest teams that you think are favorites of this tournament?

R.N.: Honestly, all teams are quite strong, and it is difficult to name only three of them. In my opinion, TISA, EAS, and OXBRIDGE are really good teams, they know each other really well, and we've had very intense games against them. Late victory goal of Murad Asgarli vs OXBRIDGE was sensational for all of us.

What are the main challenges encountered by your team?

R.N.: I can recall few challenges such as public reaction to our team. Honestly speaking, some people were against our team for participating in SSL, but now they are supporting us. We managed to turn haters into our fans.

Tair Mammadov, TIC1

What are your goals for this season?

T.M.: The goal of our team is, of course, to take one of the top places among other schools. We know that this will be challenging, and we need to work hard for this purpose. However, we believe that with good preparation and high team spirit we can do it.

What is the competitive advantage of your team?

T.M.: We are united and help each other in everything. The main thing is mutual support and understanding. Yes, there may be misunderstandings sometimes, but we always try to understand each other and move towards the main goal.

What's the best piece of advice you've ever been given?

T.M.: We get motivational advice from our family, friends, and school. They encourage us when we lose or win. The main thing is that we know they are always with us. One of the tips: "Do your best, and you'll see the rest."



ADA COMMUNITY



The 15th step on the road to **SUCCESS**

By Esmira Sadigzada, 11D



Have you ever wondered how ADA University has become the prosperous academic institution it is now? When we look at our cutting-edge campuses, we might wonder what challenging paths it took to turn it into a world-class educational institution. We call it «a planet within a planet» because, from the moment we enter ADA School premises, we feel as if we are on another planet. This makes it hard for us to leave the campus when classes are over. No one would have thought that this once neglected and overgrown woodland would be transformed into an educational institution such as ADA University. That refined woodland now adorns our state-of-the-art campuses and makes them even more appealing. Nevertheless, behind this beauty and success are the hard work, sacrifice, and persistence of its founders and the ADA community altogether.



Speech of NATO Secretary General in old ADA office

The Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy was established by the decree of President Ilham Aliyev dated March 6, 2006. The founding rector of the academy is Ambassador



First dual degree program with MSM partners

Hafiz Pashayev, former Deputy Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan and Ambassador of Azerbaijan to the United States. Under his thorough supervision, the institution has been constantly developing for the past 15 years and has made a name for itself in the world. It was at this time that the Academy began to take its first steps on the path to success. In fact, it was initially created to train new generations of diplomats. Therefore, it was originally established under the Ministry of Foreign



Visit of Rector Pashayev to Saudi Arabia

Affairs under the name of the Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy. However, from the very beginning, the ultimate goal was to turn this educational institution into a full-fledged university.

The first master's program in International Affairs and Diplomacy was launched in 2009 allowing young people to become professionals in this field. Since



Signing of agreement with MSM

2011, undergraduate programs have been introduced as well, which in turn accelerated the transition of the Diplomatic academy into the university model. And since 2014, ADA has been operating as a university, offering

several study programs in the areas of international affairs, public administration, business, economic, informational technologies, law, media, and others. As the number of students has been constantly growing, the University is taking the next steps to success driven by innovation and development. Later that year, second-degree programs were introduced jointly with recognized foreign universities allowing students to experience a learning environment of a foreign institution.

The university has a favorable atmosphere reflecting both multiculturalism and our national values. Most foreign students think that when they enter the ADA University campuses, they happen to be in a completely different country; as if the values of the Azerbaijani people have not lost their essence. Due to this, they feel at home here, not at all like strangers. ADA University becomes a second home to everyone who studies or works here.

The educational success of ADA University has led to the opening of the ADA School for 10 and 11 graders in 2019. ADA School graduates are now thriving ADA University students. The school ensures a smooth transition to the university environment and gives students a chance to be more successful in the future.

Over the past 15 years, more than 15 innovations have been successfully introduced at ADA University. As the university grew, the number of academic partners increased to 98 local and foreign institutions. ADA University, which currently conducts exchange programs with 85 universities around the world, has been committed to constant improvement and progress. Among a few recent examples is a plan to create a technopark and innovation center at the Italian-Azerbaijani University and ADA University in the near future. As a result of all these efforts, new majors are opened at the university. Needless to say that the world's leading universities want to foster academic relationships and implement joint projects with the university. Just 15 years ago no one could have imagined that an educational institution like ADA University would be established today, and would make such a significant contribution to our country's prosperity.

Over the years, the ADA University, which brings together more than 2,500 students from 46 countries on 4 continents and graduates in 120 countries, has trained high-level professionals in the training of young diplomats in our country, as well as in other fields. The name of our university, which has played a significant role in spreading the truth about Azerbaijan in the international arena, will always be recognized, and our students will represent our country with honor in every corner of the world.

As an ADA School family, we would like to express sincere gratitude to our dear Rector, Ambassador Hafiz Pashayev, who played an invaluable role in the establishment of our school and has always worked hard for the prosperity of the ADA community. We also congratulate the university administration, faculty, students, and alumni on the anniversary of ADA University. We wish them success in all their future endeavors.

We believe that ADA University and School will continue to be a success in the years to come!

Special for the 15th anniversary of ADA University.



First ADA office space inside MFA building



Diplomatic training with Paul Goble



Construction of ADA Library



New campus of ADA University



GREETINGS

from the Managing team of ADA
School Student Council
2021-22



Dear students,

As the President of the ADA School Student Council of 2021-2022 and a member of the ADAİlar Magazine Editorial Board, I would like to extend to you my heartfelt greetings.

It is a great honor for me to fill these positions in our big ADA community as I believe that each student should make their fair share of contribution to our beloved second home - our ADA family.

This is a special year because after almost two years of pandemic-related restrictions, people can finally gather together and participate in various activities in real life. Indeed, most of the school events are now held on campus, which I am sure, students find particularly appealing.

On the following pages, you will see some of the events conducted by the ADA Students Council (StuCo). However, this is just a beginning. We have one more semester ahead and we can assure our ADA Family that we will do our best to offer you the most informative and entertaining events.

Stay tuned to hear and read more from us!

Rifah Zeynalov
President of ADA StuCo



Dear readers,

Please accept my heartfelt greetings on behalf of the whole ADA School Community!

As you may know, I am Nurel Ismayilova, Vice President of the 2020-2021 ADA School Student Council. It is an honor for me to be able to represent our school in a number of events and campaigns.

We all have one subtle goal - to make the school experience outstanding for every member of our school. I strongly believe that me and my fellow colleagues will be able to accomplish this goal.

We can achieve this objective if we strive together!

Nurel Ismayilova
Vice President of ADA StuCo



Dear all,

I am Riad Alizada - a Vice-President of Student Council.

Being a part of ADA Family is indeed a very honorable feeling, being a Vice-President of ADA StuCo is even more gratifying.

Due to the pandemic in our country, we are currently having virtual classes mixed with face-to-face sessions on campus. Even in this environment, we are doing our best to serve you and effectively realize all our ideas and projects. For this year we have new updates such as Talent Federation, new roles in Student Council, and other important changes. They will guide you in many different projects. We promise to make you remember this year as one of the most productive and fulfilling years ever.

Stay tuned!

Riad Alizada
Vice President of ADA StuCo



STUDENT COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

Last year was life-changing for all Azerbaijanis because we had the Second Karabakh War. As a result, we returned our beloved Karabakh, but we lost many heroes. On the occasion of the Victory Day on November 8th, StuCo honored the memory of our fallen heroes by visiting the Martyrs' Alley of Honor.



12th of December is the Honor Day of the National Leader of Azerbaijan Heydar Aliyev. On this day, Student Council visited the memorial of Heydar Aliyev, the person who made a lot of for Azerbaijan!



On the occasion of a Memorial Day of National Leader Heydar Aliyev, StuCo initiated an essay competition. We would like to thank all participants and congratulate the winners of the competition!



Essay Competition

Dedicated to the Memorial Day of National Leader Heydar Aliyev.

DATE:
11-17 December

AWARDS:
Certificates for first 3 places

REQUIREMENTS:

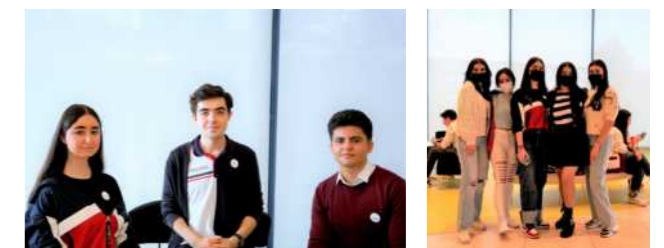
- Essay needs to be submitted through the application form provided to you via *email*



It is already such a strong state that no country can stand in front of it because the foundation of politics begins with Heydar Aliyev but does not end!

- writes one of the winners of essay competition

On December 10th, ADA StuCo initiated an ADA School Spirit Day for our students and teachers. The goal of the day was to wear clothes with the colors of the ADA Logo: red, white and blue. We made great memories and photos from that day.





The Winter Charity Fair was more than just an event. There was a special aura that everyone could feel and enjoy the atmosphere of the upcoming New Year. To this end, the ADA Student Council, in collaboration with the ADA University Undergraduate Student Government, organized the Winter Charity Fair in which students were selling hand-made decorations and home-cooked treats. All collected money was donated to the families of Martyrs!



ONE PHRASE SURVEY



Inji Achak (10AA1)

Our 10AA1 student Inji Achak conducted a survey among ADA school students. She asked to continue a phrase starting with «ADA School is...» Here is some best phrases:

... a fascinating place for pushing out the boundaries of knowledge. (Nazrin Alakbarova, 10AA3)

... a high-level educational institution with cutting-edge technology, fascinating nature, and smiling teachers welcoming us every day. (Ali Aliyev, 10BB1)

... a place, where staff and teachers are friends to you on breaks, but instructors at lessons. (Rza Sadigzade, 10AA5)

... a place where I can feel happy in the atmosphere of learning and friendship. (Riad Rustamov, 11C2)

... a good opportunity to gain knowledge, make friends, find your place in this world, and open your way to a brighter future. (Farida Movsumova, 10AA3)

... a place, where you can feel the atmosphere of friendship, improve communication skills and learn new things every day. (Ayan Aliyeva, 11B1)

... key to my successful future. (Kenan Huseynov, 10AA1)

... where I can be myself and don't have to be afraid of discrimination. (Aydan Aghazada, 11A2)

... where people get to express themselves freely, show their talents, and study interactively. (Rahim Abdullayev, 10AA1)

... creativity and innovation. (Gular Jabrayilova, 11C4)

JOURNEY THROUGH HISTORY

Informal learning is a way of exploration for ADA School students. ADA School students paid a visit to the National Museum of the History of Azerbaijan to learn more about our past.



ADA School students re-explore beautiful Baku.

The 11th grade students of ADA School paid a visit to museums in the frame of the project about the role of oil boom and oil magnates in the history of Azerbaijan. The well-known historian Fuad Akhundov provided a deep insight into the life of famous Baku magnates while visiting the Museum of the History of Azerbaijan, where Azerbaijani philanthropist Haji Zeynalabdin Tagiyev lived. Additionally, students visited Ashurbekov's mansion, Mukhtarov's Palace, the house wherein oil baron Shamsi Assadullayev lived.



STREAM OF THOUGHTS



Dostluğun iki üzü

«İnsan – göydə Ay kimidir, görünməyən tərəfi var...»

Bəxtiyar Vahabzadə



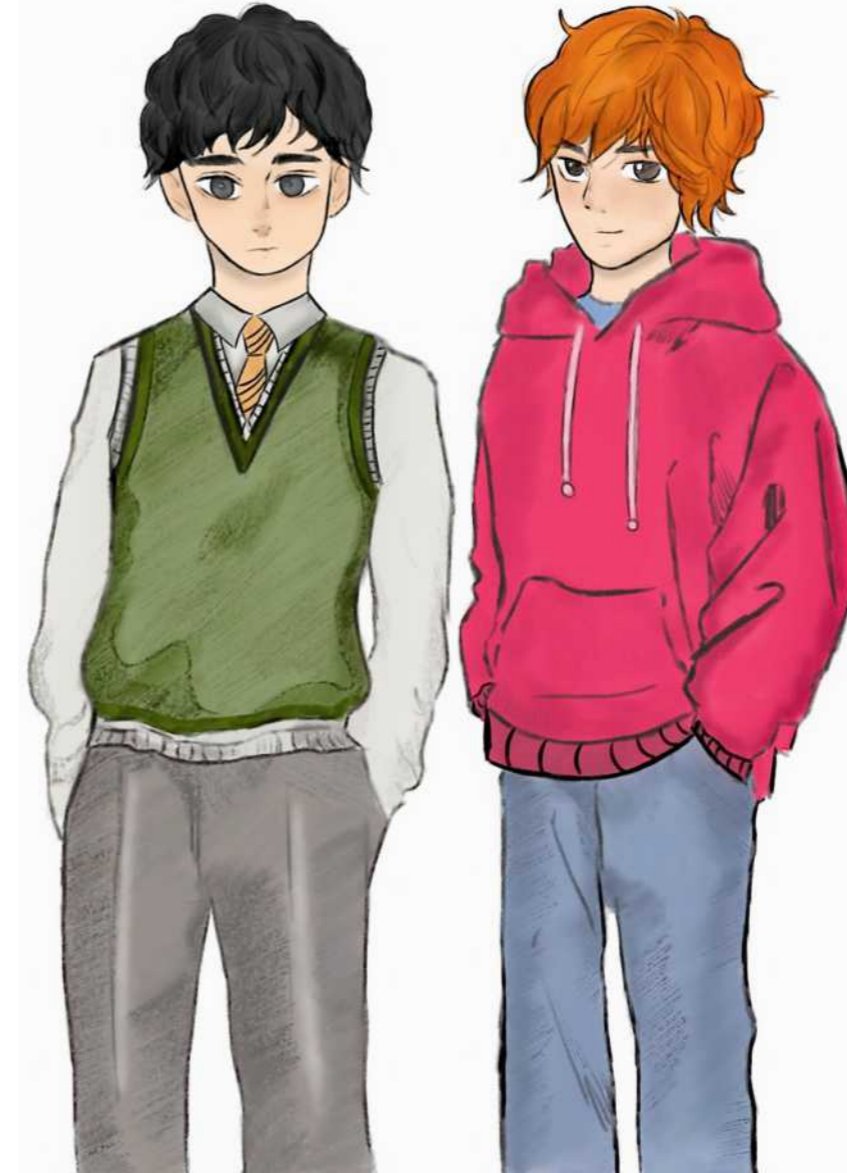
İkrəm Həsənlı (10AA1)

Ziya həmyaşıdları kimi uşaqlıqdan bütün arzularına çatmaq istəyirdi. Gör o vaxtdan neçə il keçib... Düz 10 il bundan əvvəl öz ilk nailiyyətini əldə etmiş, 240 nömrəli məktəbə daxil olmuşdu. Doğrudur, ilk illərdə o qədər yaxşı oxumasa da, özünə xeyli dost qazanmışdı. Bəlkə də, bu onun ən böyük nailiyyəti idi. O, 3-cü sinifdə oxuyarkən fənlərlə maraqlanmağı özünə hədəf seçir. O, 3-cü sinifdən özünə söz verir ki, fənlərlə daha yaxından maraqlanacaq. Soruşsanız ki, axı niyə qiymətlərini yaxşılaşdırmağı deyil, məhz fənlərlə maraqlanmağı qarşısına məqsəd qoymuşdu?! Bunun səbəbi çox sadədir: Ziya heç vaxt maraqlanmadığı fənni oxumağı sevməzdi. Bəlkə də, o, sinif yoldaşları arasında "Dərs qurdu" adını buna görə qazanmışdı. Ziyanın bu seçimi çox uğurlu oldu, çünki həmin ildən nəinki yaxşı oxumağa başladı, həm də ilk dəfə "əlaçı" adını da qazandı. O bu stimulu sinifdən sinifə qorumağa çalışır, 7 il ərzində "əlaçı" adını saxlayaraq rekord göstəricilərinə görə adını məktəbin tarixi səhifələrinə həkk etdirir. Siniflərin birində, səhv etmərsə, 5-ci sinifdə Ziya kitablar ilə maraqlanmağa başladı. Kitabları dostları ilə müzakirə etmək onun üçün ən gözəl hissələrdən biri idi. Bəzən kitabın məzmunu üzərində mübahisələri yaransa da, axırda hamı bir-biri ilə razılaşırdı. Ziya kitabı özü alanda və ya kimsə tərəfindən ona hədiyyə ediləndə uşaq

kimi sevinərdi. Hətta bəzən nənəsi onu kitablara pul verib evi onlarla "doldurduğu" üçün danlayardı. Beləliklə, Ziya daha bir ad qazandı: "Kitab qurdu". Günlərin bir günü məktəb redaksiyasına daxil olmaq üçün şagirdlər arasında müsabiqə keçirilir və Ziya özünü sınaq üçün redaksiyaya yazıçı kimi müraciət edir. Yazdığı yazıları redaksiyaya göndərir, nəticədə, onlar məktəb jurnalının səhifələrində çap olunur. Ziya üçün bu böyük xoşbəxtlik idi. Düşünə bilərsiniz ki, məşhurlaşdığı üçün. Sərgüzəştlərini yazıya alır, redaksiyaya göndərir və nəticədə onlar məktəb jurnalının səhifələrində çap olunurdu. Amma xeyr, sevincinin səbəbi yeni dostlar qazanması idi. O hər zaman inanırdı ki, dostları onu dar gündə qoymazlar...

Beləliklə, həmin hadisələrdən müəyyən vaxt ötür və 9-cu sinif şagirdi Ziya valideynləri ilə məsləhətləşdikdən sonra məktəbini dəyişməyə qərar verir. Doğrudur, bu addımı atmaq ona çox çətin gəlirdi, çünki xeyli dostunu itirəcəkdi. Sonra ağılına gəldi ki, axı məktəbi dəyişsə də, dostları onu unutmayacaqlar. Ziya xəbər tutdu ki, Eldəniz adlı sinif yoldaşı da həmin məktəbə qəbul olmaq istəyirdi. O, Eldəniz ilə hər zaman isti münasibətdə olmuşdur. Halbuki bəzən aralarında mübahisələr olurdu. Amma həmin mübahisələr onların dostluğuna təsir edə bilməzdi. Buna görə də Ziya üçün yeni məktəbdə Eldəniz ilə oxumaq ikiqat sevincli bir xəbər oldu.

Yeni məktəbə daxil olmaq üçün onlar 9-cu sinif buraxılış imtahanından və "Doupolingos" adlı ingilis dili imtahanından uğurlu nəticə əldə etməli idilər. Ziya dərslərini eyni tempə oxumağa davam edirdi. Bəzi sinif yoldaşları ilə danışarkən kiminsə "Boş vaxtım yoxdur" deməsi onu həmişə düşünməyə vadar edirdi. Axı dərslərini etdikdən sonra onun həm kitab oxumağa, həm də əyləncəyə vaxtı qalırdı. Dostlarından biri "Boş vaxtım yoxdur" ifadəsini işlətdiyi zaman Ziyanın üzündəki təəccübü görən dostları ondan soruşdular: "Axı necə olur ki, sən bu qədər işləri yerinə yetirməyə vaxtın qalır?!" Ziyanın cavabı isə çox sadə idi: "Hər bir işi zamanında görmək lazımdır. Atalarımız əbəs yerə deməyiblər ki, əldən qalan əlli il qalar". Maraqlısı budur ki, dostları həmin gündən etibarən hər işi zamanında yerinə yetirməyə başladılar və onların da Ziya kimi xeyli boş vaxtı qalırdı. Beləliklə, vaxt ötür, zamanı yetişəndə Ziya və dostları 9-cu sinif imtahanlarını uğurla verirlər. Bu hələ yolun yarısı idi, çünki onları hələ



İngilis dili səviyyəsini yoxlayan imtahan gözləyirdi. Həmin imtahanı onlar 15 gün ərzində verə bildilər. Nəticələr isə son tarixdən sonra məlum olacaqdı. Ziya çox düşünmədən həmin imtahanı ilk gün verdi. Halbuki Eldəniz imtahanı son tarixə yaxın günlərin birində verməyi planlaşdırırdı. İmtahan günü gəlib çatır, Eldəniz Ziyadan cavabları göndərməyi xahiş edir. Amma Ziya bu təklifi rədd edir, çünki onun düşüncələrinə görə Eldənizin qarşısına qoyduğu məqsədi reallaşdırmaq yolunda atdığı bu addım yanlış idi. Bu hərəkəti ilə o nəinki ətrafındakıları, həmçinin özünü də aldatmış olur. Bu hadisəyə görə Eldəniz və Ziyanın münasibətləri əvvəlki kimi olmur, çünki Ziyanın nəticəsi Eldənizdən daha yüksək idi. İmtahanın nəticələri məlum olandan sonra oğlanların valideynləri yeni məktəbə sorğu göndərirlər.

Günlərin bir günü, Ziyanın elektron ünvanına yeni məktub gəldi. O, məktubun əvvəlini oxuyanda öz sevinc hissini gizlədə bilmədi. Valideynləri soruşdular, axı nə olub?! Ziya xəbər verdi ki, yeni məktəbə qəbul olub! Amma təəsüf ki, hələ hansı sinifə düşdüyü tam məlum deyildi. Həmin gün o özünü çox xoşbəxt hiss edirdi. Yalan olmasın, ən azı yarım saat Eldəniz ilə danışmaq bu xəbəri müzakirə etdilər. Həmin hissi yalnız yaşayanlar bilərlər...

Günlər keçir, məktəb başlayır. İlk dərs günü onlar məktəbə birgə gəlirlər. Amma bir yerdə ayrılmalı olurlar. Onlar fərqli siniflərə qəbul olmuşdular, çünki "Doupolingos" imtahanından Ziyanın nəticəsi daha güclü idi. Onlar özlərinə yeni dostlar qazanırdılar. Ziyada olduğu kimi Eldənizin də xeyli yeni dostu olur. Hətta bəzən elə olurdu ki, tənəffüsdə Eldəniz Ziyanı imtahanda ona kömək etmədiyi və daha zəif sinifə düşdüyü üçün salamlamırdı. Fəqət Ziya hər zaman onunla salamlışırdı. Bəzən Ziya sinif yoldaşlarından ayrılıb bütün tənəffüsü dostunu axtarmışa sərf edirdi. Tapmayanda sinifə məyus halda qayıdırdı...

TWO SIDES OF A FRIENDSHIP



Ikram Hasanli (10AA1)

«Humans are like the Moon in the sky – each has a side that can't be seen...»

Bakhtiyar Vahabzadeh

Like his peers, Ziya wanted to realize his dreams ever since he was a child. Many years have passed since then. Exactly ten years ago, he had his first achievement when he was admitted to School Number 240. Although he didn't study very well in the first years, he befriended many students there. Perhaps, this was his biggest accomplishment. In the third grade, he set a goal to become more engaged in school subjects. If you ask why he aimed at becoming more involved in his studies instead of trying to get better grades, there was a very simple reason: Ziya never liked to study a subject he wasn't fond of. Perhaps, that's why he earned the nickname of a nerd among his classmates. Ziya's determination led him to the academic success and eventually earned him the title of an "Exemplary Student" for the first time. He tried to maintain this stimulus for years and his name got written in the history of the school as he had a record of being the "Exemplary Student" seven years in a row.

In the fifth grade, if my memory serves me well, Ziya became fond of books. Discussing books with his friends was one of the most enjoyable activities for him.

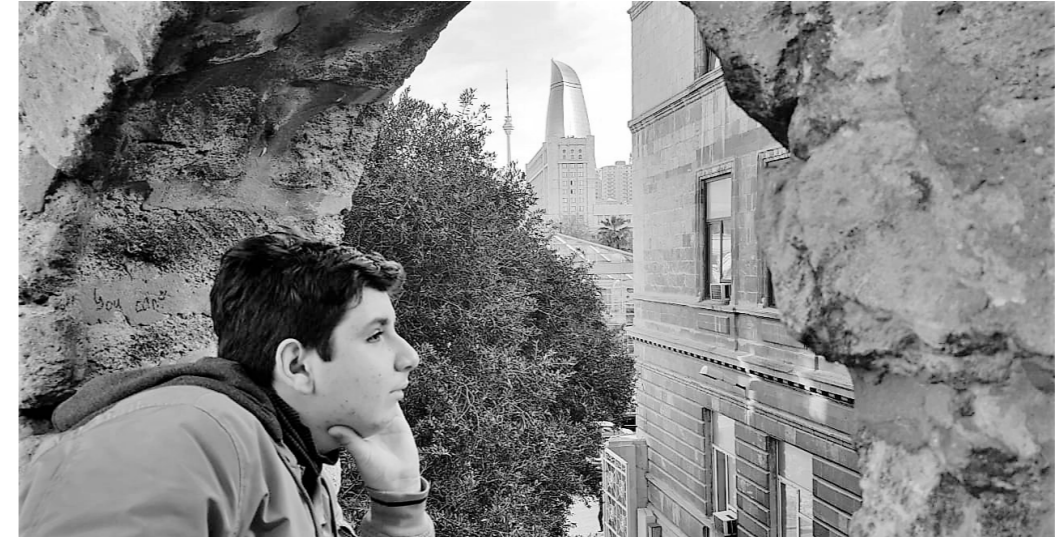
Günlərin birində Ziya məktəbə gələrkən görür ki, giriş kartını evdə unudub. Mühafizəçiyə də bilmir necə izah etsin ki, məktəbin şagirdidir. Uzaqda Eldənizi görür. Onunla salamlayıb izah etmək istəyir ki, onun bu məktəbdə oxuduğunu təsdiqləsin. Fəqət dostu ona fikir verməyib yoluna davam edir. Ziya Eldənizin bu cür hərəkət etdiyini görüb birinci təəccüblənir, sonra kədərlənir. Mühafizəçi bu hadisəni görüb Ziyanı ona söylədiyi sinifə aparır. Ziyanın fikri hələ də dostunun, daha doğrusu dostu hesab etdiyi Eldənizin hərəkətində idi. Mühafizəçi sinifə Ziya ilə daxil olur, şagirdlərdən onun bu sinifdə oxuyub-oxumadığını soruşur. Sinifdə hamı bildirir ki, bəli, Ziya onların sinif yoldaşdır. Mühafizəçi cavab alandan sonra dərhal Ziya ilə sinif otağını tərk edir və soruşur: "Yaxşı, dostun sənə qarşı niyə o hərəkəti etdi?! Narahat olma, edilən hərəkəti mən məktəb rəhbərliyinə bildirəcəm və lazımı işlər görəcəm". Ziyanın fikri həmin an Eldənizin etdiyi hərəkətdə idi. Bu sükut az çəkmir ki, Ziya bəhanə uydurur: "Narahat olmayın, sadəcə keçən həftə Eldəniz ilə dalaşmışam. Mənim günahımdır". Mühafizəçi bu sözləri eşidəndən sonra Ziya ilə sağollaşaraq öz yerinə geri dönür. Ziya dəhlizdə fikirli halda həmin hərəkəti hələ də analiz etməkdə idi... Bir neçə saniyə sonra Eldəniz dərsə az qalmış yaxındakı sinif otağından çıxıb görür ki, Ziya məyus halda dəhlizdə oturub. İlk növbədə fikir verməsə də, vicdanı imkan vermir. Deyir: "Ziya, bayaq baş verən hadisəni unut, böyük bir səhv etmişəm və qəbul edirəm ki, köçürmək ancaq və ancaq mənə ziyan vurardı. Axı niyə sən bu vaxt dəhlizdə oturmusan? Dərsin başlanmasına bir dəqiqədən az vaxt qalıb!" Bu zaman Eldəniz heç vaxt unutmayacağı bir cavabı eşidir: "Eldəniz, mən bu gün artıq həyatımın ən böyük dərşini almışam..."

Ikram Hasanli, 10AA1

Even though they sometimes argued over the content of the book, in the end, everyone would reach a consensus. When Ziya bought a book himself or someone gave it to him as a gift, he would rejoice like a child. His grandmother sometimes scolded him for spending money on and cluttering up their house with books. Thus, Ziya earned another nickname: "Bookworm".

One day, the school held a contest among students for the School Editorial Board. So Ziya decided to apply as a writer to test his skills. He wrote a story about his adventures, sent it to the Editorial Board, and got published in the school journal. Ziya was over the moon. One may think that it was because he became popular. However, the main reason for his happiness was making new friends. He always believed that his friends would never leave him in hardship.

Thus, a certain amount of time passed after those events, and the 9th-grade student Ziya decided to change his school after consulting with his parents. Indeed, it seemed hard for him to make such a decision, as he would lose many of his friends. Then a thought came



to his mind that even if he switched schools, his friends would still contact him. Ziya learned that one of his classmates named Eldaniz also wanted to be accepted to the same school as he was. He had always been in a close relationship with Eldaniz, even though sometimes they argued a lot. But those arguments couldn't impact their friendship. Therefore, a possibility of studying together with Eldaniz in a new school was even more exciting news for Ziya.

To be able to enter the new school, they needed to get good results from the graduation exam of 9th grade and an exam called "Doupolingos" which tests students' level of English language. Ziya continued his studies with the same persistence as before. Sometimes, it made him think a lot when his friends said, "I don't have any free time". After all, he had time for both reading and entertainment after finishing his homework. When his friends saw the shock on his face, they asked, "But how do you have so much time to finish all of your work?!". Ziya's answer was very simple: "You must do everything on time. Our ancestors haven't said it for no reason that the postponed work remains for 50 years". It's interesting that after that day, Ziya's friends started doing everything on time like him and had plenty of free time left. Thus, sometime later Ziya and his friends pass the graduation exam successfully. However, this was only half of the road because the English language exam was still awaiting them. It was possible to take that exam within fifteen days. The results were going to be released only after the final date. Without thinking much, Ziya took the exam on the first day, although Eldaniz was planning to take the exam on one of the later dates. As the exam day approached, Eldaniz asked Ziya to send him the answers to the exam. But Ziya rejected the request, as he thought that the way that Eldaniz was taking to accomplish his goal was wrong and unethical. He would not only fool the people around him, but also himself by cheating. Because of that incident, the relations between the two were damaged. The situation got even worse after it became known that Ziya got a higher score than Eldaniz on the exam. After the release of the exam results, both boys' parents sent applications to the new school.

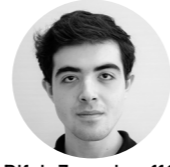
One day, Ziya received a new e-mail. He couldn't hide his joy when he read the first lines of the e-mail. His parents asked him what had happened, and Ziya told them that he got accepted to the new school! However, it was not yet known which group he was accepted in. He felt so happy that day. He discussed the news with Eldaniz for at least half an hour on the phone. Only the ones who experienced it would know the feeling.

Days passed by, and the academic year started. They went to school together on the first day. However, they had to get separated later that day. It turned out that they ended up in different groups as Ziya's "Doupolingos" score was higher. Nevertheless, they both made new friends. Just like Ziya, Eldaniz also befriended many students. There were times when Eldaniz wouldn't even greet Ziya at recess because he got accepted into a lower-level group, whereas Ziya would always say "hi" to him. Sometimes Ziya was leaving his classmates to spend his time looking for his friend during recess. And when he could not find him, he would go back to class looking sad.

Once, when Ziya was coming to school, he noticed that he had left his student's ID card at home. He didn't know how to explain to the security guard, that he was a student there. He saw Eldaniz from afar. Ziya greeted him and wanted to ask him to verify that he was a student in this school too. However, his friend didn't pay attention to him and continued walking. Ziya, seeing Eldaniz behave this way, got surprised at first, but then got very sad. The security guard saw that and took Ziya to the class he claimed that he was studying in. Ziya was still thinking about his friend's, or more correctly, the person whom he considered a friend, Eldaniz's behavior. The security guard entered the class with Ziya and asked the students whether Ziya studied in this class or not. Everyone in the class let him know that indeed, Ziya was their classmate. After receiving their answers, the security guard immediately left the classroom with Ziya and asked him: "Alright, why did your friend do that to you?! Don't worry, I will let the school administration know about what happened and the necessary actions will be taken". Ziya was thinking about what Eldaniz had done at that time. The silence lasted long until Ziya came up with an excuse: "It's fine, it's just that I argued with Eldaniz last week. It's my fault". After hearing this, the security guard said goodbye to Ziya and went back to his place. Ziya was still analyzing Eldaniz's behavior in the hall. A few seconds later, Eldaniz exited a classroom nearby and saw that Ziya was sitting in the hall looking sad. Even though Eldaniz had ignored him before, he felt bad later. He approached Ziya and said: "Ziya, forget about what happened earlier, and I acknowledge that cheating would only harm me. Why are you sitting in the hall? There's less than a minute for your lessons to start!" Eldaniz received an answer that he would never forget: "Eldaniz, today I have learned the biggest lesson of my life..."

Ikram Hasanli, 10AA1

THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION THROUGH THE EYES OF AN ENGLISH RESEARCHER



Rifah Zeynalov, 11C1

Interview with Oliver Myers, Policy Advisor and Researcher

One of the important and controversial topics of modern society is education. Education has many branches and can be different around the world. However, as one of the countries with the highest level of education, we chose England and conducted a study for one of the educational researchers, Oliver Myers. Mr. Oliver is a policy adviser and researcher in the field of education. His main job is as a researcher at the Times Education Commission. Our students collected questions about the future of education, and we asked Mr. Oliver these questions. Below you can find Mr. Oliver's impressive answers.

Rifah Zeynalov: As I researched you worked in different jobs, such as writer, editor, researcher and etc. And we have the question to you, why did you choose educational side of life? Is it work of your dream?

Oliver Myers: Education is something I've cared about for a long time. I remember when I was a student a friend of mine showed me a Royal Society of Arts lecture by (the now-late) Sir Ken Robinson about how our education system had been designed in the nineteenth century and the world had changed. As you rightly say, I've worked in a few different jobs now, and I did not know when I was a teenager this is where I would be in my late-20s, but working with Anthony Seldon and Rachel Sylvester, and all the commissioners, is a real dream; there's nowhere I'd rather be.

R.Z.: You said that you have worked as a researcher in the Book the Impossible Office by Anthony Seldon, so did you like the period of research? And what do you think would you like to write books like this in future?

O.M.: Yes, it was hugely enjoyable. I specialized in Medieval History when I studied at university so it was a great opportunity to really get my teeth into a period of history I had less formal training in. The book engages a lot with changes in time across political history, which is something I am incredibly interested in. I would like to write a book one day - probably on a different subject, Anthony has done an exceptional job on this subject.

R.Z.: University of Leeds, the university that you graduated, is one of the outstanding universities of England, but we would like to ask you, what is the specific thing in this university, that you liked and chose exactly this university?

O.M.: Leeds is a fantastic university - I was there for four years overall and had such a great experience. I chose Leeds because it has a fantastic History department (especially Medieval) so I knew I would gain a good education, but I also fell in love with the city. There's so much going on, and as much as the academic side of things matters, I wanted to go somewhere where I could have a good balance and be involved with arts and culture alongside my degree.

R.Z.: So, you had a great magister education and you have a great experience in sphere of education,

but we would like to ask you some questions not about past, about future, as one of the popular novelist of England, John Galsworthy said, If you do not think about the future, you cannot have one. So what do you think in general about the future of education?

O.M.: That's a great quote, and completely right, you have to think about the future. The future of education is so important - one of the most important parts of education is preparing for the future. I don't have a crystal ball, so it's impossible to make specific predictions, but the world is changing at a rapid pace, the implications of AI and tech will drastically change the job market and workforce, and alongside that we have to think about the environment. One of the changes in education, that's already started to happen in some places, certainly accelerated due to the pandemic, is looking at education less as something defined by just a building or an academic institution, and as something more holistic in the community, and less as something that ends for most people at a certain age.

R.Z.: What do you think, how will the values of education change in the future? Will education be loved by everyone or not?

O.M.: I certainly hope so! If societies try more to instill values around mental health and wellbeing, and the role of schools and education in communities, they give people a good reason to love them. And as the economy changes, more people, certainly more adults, will have to learn to love education, (as many already do). I was talking to Anthony recently and he made the point that after leaving school, you should still keep learning and developing across your lifetime. So if you want to still be learning from the world, your colleagues, your friends, as you grow, then you have to embrace education.

R.Z.: As we can see and hear from everywhere in future robots will replace most of jobs and professions. But what about education, schools, and universities. Could robots replace all teachers?

O.M.: It's a funny idea, but I think teachers are the things you cannot replace with technology. There are some amazing innovations going on around the world with digitized learning techniques, and new and versatile ways of engaging content and material, but great teachers are still necessary to innovate these and deliver them. Great teachers inspire kids, I don't think you can ever replace that.

R.Z.: Even if robots will not replace teachers, what is your opinion about future industry and technologies of education, will we have another educational program?

O.M.: As I touched on there are some amazing innovations going on around the world of education, and even before the pandemic, just basic advancements like digitizing libraries and archives, makes content and learning so much more accessible for people within countries and around the globe. You could look at digitizing superstar lecturers in a similar way also (just look at how popular

TED Talks are). I would usually argue that making things more accessible to more people is a good thing, and technology is the best way to do that for learning resources. I think there will be innovations we cannot even imagine with AI too - some people think with the way learning is structured and timetabled or scheduled for individuals, or perhaps with new kinds of assessment, but it's early days.

R.Z.: So of course, we can discuss all points of future of education, but I would like to emphasize the education during period of Covid-19. Which feeling do you have about this and how did pandemic period affect education?

O.M.: It's been a really difficult year for everyone, but especially so for young people. Whichever stage of education you find yourself in, whether you're 7 years old and isolated from your friends or not able to access books, or if you're nineteen and can't make the most of university, it's been so challenging across the board. I think so many people, teachers also but especially the young students, have found incredible resilience and as societies we've found solutions and workarounds to get through it. It's good that children are back at school now though, for their mental health and social development as much as their grades. Fingers crossed we keep moving on a positive trajectory.

R.Z.: Also I would like to mention that for example, students from Azerbaijan, who entered universities abroad during the pandemic, while remaining in their state received an online education. Do you like this way of education? What are the negative sides of this way?

O.M.: I think there are benefits to online learning that some institutions had in some ways before the pandemic even, so more places being able to catch up there could be good. Lectures and resources being available remotely allows people across the globe to have a better range of materials to draw from, and as I mentioned, the digitization for library resources and archives has been ongoing for some time now. And it's not just remote learning that helps international students, but it's essential if we're to make education accessible for people with specific learning requirements and needs, or disabilities, so I really hope some of the strides that have been made there are retained. Of course there's negative side effects for students being isolated in the pandemic, but hopefully we can retain



the advantages of digitized learning alongside returning to classrooms and seminar rooms soon.

R.Z.: But what about the period after Covid-19. What do you think will we continue to study online or we will return totally to our usually day at school without mask?

O.M.: I can't speak for mask-wearing, that's really down to the science around the virus. I hope the vaccines work and the limitations and restrictions imposed on our lives, especially our social lives, come away. As for returning totally - I actually hope things don't go back to exactly the way they were. The pandemic has shown a lot of the problems in the systems we had in place before, where these infrastructures couldn't cope with the shock, or stagnancy, it caused, and it showed up most in the areas where we have the most inequality or deprivation, especially in education. So I actually hope we take a moment to think, and yes we all need to heal and see our friends and hug our families, but this is also the best chance we will have in a generation to look at things that weren't working before the pandemic and make changes - not only in case there's another pandemic one day, but to make our society work better for the people, especially young people, it hasn't been working so well for.

R.Z.: Finally, what would you like to wish ADA Family students in the field of education?

O.M.: I would wish them the very best of luck with their futures and fantastic success in what they do. I would also wish that, wherever possible, you take the time to enjoy your education. Learning can be really fun - not just academically, it's how we develop and grow as people, build relationships, get better jobs, find our passion projects, and much besides - it's worth pausing now and again to enjoy the journey.

DON'T WAIT BUT WORK FOR IT



Sumeyra Karayaka, 10AB2

It was a busy Monday. I had just dropped off kids at school and was now on my way to work. Like any other typical Monday, there was a traffic jam. But this time it was extremely intense. The traffic was so long and bothersome that I had to stop the car and start it again when the road was going to be cleared. I was annoyed by it but there wasn't any other option, so I just did it. I looked around to see what other people were doing while waiting for the traffic to normalize. Everybody was staring at their phones, texting someone, or just scrolling on social media. It wasn't something that I appreciated and wanted to do myself as well. So I decided just to observe people outside, most of the time it was quite entertaining.

The weather was rainy and chilly. Regardless of that, some people were going to their destination points in public transport and some were even walking. I could see that people walking were affected by the cold, as they were literally shaking. On the other hand, people inside the public transport were uncomfortable being pressed to each other. It was a very disturbing scene to observe. While looking at these people and how they were struggling, for a moment I realized how lucky I was to have my car. Inside me, there was the feeling of pride, luckiness, and at the same time sadness about those who couldn't afford it. Just the moment these thoughts were crossing my mind, a jewelry store on the corner of the street which was right beside my car caught my attention. From my observation, I could notice that Mondays weren't busy in the jewelry store. Or maybe it was just like other days, there were fewer customers and a quiet atmosphere inside. There was gold and silver jewelry placed inside the display window of the store. Not the silver, but the gold jewelry really caught my attention.

As I was staring at the display window of the store, I saw a small kid approaching the window and staring at the jewelry inside. He didn't have shoes on, and his clothes weren't really in a good condition - they were all ripped and dirty. He just had this small piece of bread in his hand. It was visible that there wasn't anything he could rely on, no parents or any other guardian. It was only him and the bread in his small hands that was keeping him sustained. He took a bite from his bread and continued to stare at the gold jewelry inside as if he was trying to figure out what it was. He was really small and slim, and I assume he was approximately 5 or 6 years old. From his appearance, his eyes stood out so distinctively. They were as blue as the hazy sky on a snowy day. He was such a small, cute kid. I believe if it wasn't for the clothes and the poor conditions that he lived under, he would be considered a child of some royalty.

After thoroughly analyzing the gold jewelry, he put his small and dirty hands on the window as if he was trying to touch the gold and murmured the words: «So pretty». His face looked very familiar to me. I was trying to figure out where I had seen that face before. While I was staring at the scene that was taking place in front of me, suddenly, my body caught this warm, murky feeling where my heart was aching. I just went into deep thoughts. This scenario was somewhat familiar to me as if I had experienced something similar. I was trying to remember every important event of my life and trying to search for the connection between this kid staring at the gold and my life. While I was looking at the small kid and his desire for gold, I saw my childhood which was probably 20 years ago from today. This scenario was mine before, as I was reminded of my childhood memories. The purest and dreamy years of my life. I got very emotional all of a sudden, and I could sense my eyes getting all teary. With these teary eyes, my vision was now blurry. Almost everything that happened in my childhood now started to cross through my mind like a movie. The more I remembered my experience with the gold and my excessive fantasy dreams as a child, the more I got emotional. It was the feeling of realization that got me carried away. I was either 6 or 7 at that time when I and my family were living in a village very far away from the city

surrounded by a great landscape of mountains. It was a picturesque place to live, we had always felt lucky about it. But I also hate to admit that regardless of its mesmerizing nature and organic sources, the village life wasn't as authentic to me as it was perceived by the local people. All of the natural and organic sources weren't enough for us to spend a life without struggles. To obtain these sources, villagers had to work very hard.

Apart from men and women in families, small children were being shouldered and given the responsibility to work in the farm fields and herd sheep in the mountains which was a very dangerous job. There were so many wild animals that we as children came across while herding sheep. But we never gave up on our job because even if we wanted it wasn't an option for us. For village children like us, the most important goal of our life was to take care of our families. Even though this responsibility was too heavy for our small shoulders, we just kept quiet and dreamed of a better life deep inside. I remember how I and my friends would come together and dream together about a luxurious life in the city. Mostly we would dream of a huge house with many services such as warm water and a TV. I had never watched TV in the village till I was 6 or 7. There were some kids from the neighboring villages who had watched it when they visited their relatives in the city. These kids would always come and talk about how the city was so nice and enchanting. I and my friends would always get jealous of them and beg our parents to take us to the city. But it never happened because even if we went to the city, we didn't have any relatives or even enough money to find a place to stay.

There were so many things I admired about city life and services, so even on my birthday, I dreamed of a better life in the city. Always dreaming and searching for a savior or opportunity that would change my life completely, that's how I was. Little did I know at that time, instead of dreaming I had to do something about my future. Apart from working and helping our family, we also went to school. There was a small school with 4 classrooms inside. It was so small that I even remember some of us sitting on the floor instead of chairs. We could study in this school only till 5th grade, and then afterward we had to go to the nearest town and continue studying there till 8th grade and at the very end, we would go to the city to finish the rest of the school. Of course, all of this was a long journey for our academic life. This was the disadvantage of living in the village, for the academic life you had to change a lot of schools and places. It is also worth noting that not every parent was allowing their child to take this journey. And it was because when the children had to leave the village and go to the nearest town and then to the city to study, the parents were worried about how they were going to provide the conditions for them. The children needed a place to stay, and money to live. And all of these were a huge problem for the parents, they could hardly support the family overall, how were they going to support the child who was studying? Of course, they wanted to do this because it was very important, it was about their child's future. On the other hand, considering their poor financial situation, some were forced to take away this chance from their children.

My parents were unsure about what to do. They couldn't completely say no to this great chance, but at the same time, they were thinking about money and how they could provide me with it. My father told me that he would provide me with money but in less amounts. So this meant that this money was going to be enough for a living somehow but I had to work hard myself too, to make my life better. Most of my friend's parents weren't even able to provide this condition. Except for my best friend Eric's parents who were able to provide him with some conditions. At the beginning of the 5th grade, our lessons weren't really good. We were both struggling. We were so hopeless about studying and achieving something meaningful in life so that's why we just didn't take lessons seriously. Deep inside, we were still hoping and dreaming about the savior that would come and change our lives. Eric was so much



Illustration by Hajar Novruzzada, 10BA1

like me, we were like one mind in two persons. Our opinions, personalities, and even dreams were similar. Like me, Eric was also waiting for the savior that would completely change his life. We would always discuss together the luxury services of the city and how we would use them when fate would bring them to us. Right at that moment, that «savior» had almost found us.

Supposedly it was the same year as the beginning of the 5th grade when a rumor that there was gold underground in the forest area of the village was spread around. Everybody in the village was so excited and happy to hear that. Especially me and Eric, we assumed that this gold was going to change our lives, make all of our dreams real and put an end to our struggles. Without even considering whether it was true or not, the all village people including me and Eric went to that rumored area to search for the gold. We all had digging tools in our hands. When we arrived at the place that allegedly had gold under it, everybody was in a rush to find the gold. I and Eric as kids living in a village started to dream big about our future life. Even without finding the gold, we had dreamed and planned so much further about our lives, instead of thinking about what we would really do if the gold wasn't found. We relied too much on fate and thought that it would save us. Unfortunately, the gold wasn't found despite all the dreams and wishes that we had.

This event had so much impact on my life, it helped me realize how dreams with no effort were just a waste of time. I noticed that I had been wasting my time waiting for some savior to change my future for me. It was only me who could do it and all this time I had been waiting for nothing, literally nothing. I asked myself the question

that I was supposed to ask long before. But I had just woken up from dreams and noticed the seriousness of life. I had been dreaming of a better life with luxury services and great conditions, but wait for a second: What was I doing to achieve it? The answer was nothing. I was doing nothing but just creating a bunch of useless fantasies in my head. I wanted something but didn't fight for it, I thought about the result- which was having a great future but didn't consider the process- how it was going to be achieved? And what did I have to do?

After this important lesson that I was taught, I began to take my academic life more seriously. I wasn't being hopeless and negative anymore. It was a brand new start for me- I became a person who studied hard, created a target and goal to achieve, and strived to change my life for me. Fate wasn't responsible for changing my life, nobody would come out of the blue and change things for me, that was what I realized after that gold event. My future was in my hands. Instead of trying to rescue my poor life by finding gold and dreaming about the future, I seriously had to work for it and earn my own gold in the future. My best friend Eric on the other hand was still on his own dreaming and waiting for a great opportunity to be served to him. Even though I tried to explain to him many times that such a thing wasn't going to happen and he had to put his life together on his own, he didn't take it seriously. So while I was working and studying hard to create change, he was busy playing and treating his life as a joke.

Later on, I left the village and went to the nearest town to study. I was all alone by myself in the town, and even though it felt painful and lonely I had to endure it for a sake of a better future. Eric, on the other hand, stopped studying and didn't

even try to benefit from the conditions that his parents were trying to provide for him. So he just stayed in the village in his usual life- working in the field and helping his family. In the city, I was far away from my parents, and it didn't feel like home. Whenever a problem would occur in school, when I came back home there was no one that I could talk to, or get advice from. After finishing school in the town, I moved to the city. The place that I have been dreaming of all along.

The city was so huge, mesmerizing, and yet scary and confusing for a small village kid like me. It felt like the moment I would make a mistake, the city would devour me with its darkness. Even though I admired the city with all it had to offer, I couldn't benefit from it. My living conditions in the city weren't horrible but they weren't what I dreamed of either. I lived in a one-room apartment, and there was no bed in the room. As a student, I had many part-time jobs after school to support myself financially. Every day I would work extremely hard, return home very tired and pan out on the floor which was my bed. Also, let me add that, I was bullied by my classmates for talking with an accent, and they always saw me as a peasant. City children were too hard to figure out and socialize with. They weren't any similar to my friends in the village. I felt very lonely in the city even though I wasn't alone, I was surrounded by many people. But the thing was that none of these people felt genuine, sympathetic, and welcoming. It always felt like I didn't belong there beside them. All of these things happening to me in the city were very stressful and overwhelming. Sometimes I felt so pressured by this large city and thought of going back to the village. But when I thought about it carefully, I knew that it would be a huge mistake.



Illustration by Hajar Novruzzada, 10BA1

What was I going to do if I returned to my old life? Was I going to live my life purposelessly, waiting for my fate to pity me? The right choice was to stay in the city and fight against the difficulties to chase my dreams.

The things around me that created difficulties weren't stronger than my hard-working mentality- that's what I said to myself for motivation. After successfully completing my education in the city, I was able to apply to a prestigious medical university and become a doctor. And when it comes to the gold... Hopefully, I was able to earn decent money as a doctor and could buy the gold that I searched for underground years ago. I was very proud of myself for never giving up and setting up a goal for myself.

Anyways back to today, looking at this small kid staring at the gold reminded me of my life. I wondered how Eric was doing? I hadn't contacted him for years since I left the village. The kid was still there staring at the display window. I was worried since he wasn't dressed appropriately for the cold weather. But then I saw something that I couldn't believe. A man whose clothes were ripped and with an appearance that looked messy approached the small kid. He looked like a beggar. I was waiting for him to turn his back so that I could see his face and when he did, I was shocked... It was Eric... and he told the small kid: «Son, we have to go.» I felt so sorry for Eric and his small child who were living in such impoverished conditions. But then I was reminded by the fact that Eric had done this to himself. Instead of benefiting from what life has offered to him, he chose to rely on his fate and it didn't

change his life, and even made it worse...

Suddenly, I heard the cars behind me beeping, I turned my face around and noticed that the traffic had already cleared up. I started the car and continued my way. On the road, I thought about how I made the right decision in the past and changed my life. I had done something that my future self didn't regret. And it was the opposite for my best friend Eric. I was thinking about how much he was regretting his childhood mistake. If only he could turn back time, would happiness be with him now? For a moment, I realized how much I have really grown not only physically but morally.

The gold that I wanted to become my savior was now just a gift bought by me. And to think of it, gold has actually changed my life... Not in the way I wanted but in the way it had to be. It taught me that dreams are of course significant but too many dreams with no effort made for them to be achieved is just a waste of time. We have to be careful that while we dream, we show effort to make them real and actualize the fantasies behind it, that's when the dreams will no longer be dreams but achievements of a hard-working mentality. And dreams that are followed by effort and hard work are always healthy and inspirational because they give us an outcome, a chance for improvement, and self-determination. On the other hand, with fantasy dreams that have no effort behind them, we will just end up like Eric... Don't forget that good things come to those who work for it, not to those who wait for it...



Aydan Aghamaliyeva, 11A1

EATING DISORDERS MORE THAN JUST FOOD

"I felt empty, so I ate. Then I felt guilty, so I got rid of it.", "When I start eating, I can't stop it.", "I feel guilty after every time I eat", "I go to gym twice a day to burn every single thing I eat", "People always lie to me by saying I am thin, but I know that's not true". These are the basic phrases of people with eating disorders, which affect millions of people all around the world and usually begin during the adolescence. Self-image, food, and body weight start becoming the source of anxiety for people, and their continuous thinking about these create many difficulties in their lives.

Food is a source of sustenance, pleasure, and comfort. Nothing can be more pleasing than a delicious dinner after a hardworking day, right? However, not everyone has that kind of relationship with food. Some people have a more damaging association with it. Eating disorders are serious mental health issues, which indicate an unhealthy relationship of an individual with food. These disorders can be caused by genes or by psychological and emotional factors (another mental illness, negative body image, trauma, stress, perfectionism, impulsivity, etc.).

You may think now, I am just a teenager, why should I care about some eating disorders? Let me explain you. Teenage years are most vulnerable years for mental health issues. Challenges of student life, which put pressure and cause stress to underlying mental health issues, create "perfect" conditions for these disorders. Eating disorders develop when students try to control stressful conditions by food restriction, over-exercise, and unhealthy focus on body weight. Eating disorders in students are serious, and can be life-threatening in some cases. The National Eating Disorders Association (NEDA) estimates that between 10 and 20% of women and 4 to 10% of men in college suffer from an eating disorder, and these rates increase day by day. It also indicates that four of ten students have either experienced an eating disorder themselves or know someone who has. (Eating disorders in college The Emily Program, 2021.)

Eating disorders are usually secretive and it's pretty hard to recognize if a person has an eating disorder. Survey done by Self Magazine in partnership with the University of North Carolina states that three out of four of women experience unhealthy associations, feelings or behaviors related to food or their bodies. "What we found most surprising was the unexpectedly high number of women who engage in unhealthy purging activities," said a nutrition professor. "More than 31 percent of women reported that in an attempt to lose weight they had induced vomiting or had taken diet pills. Among these women, more than half engaged in purging activities at least a few times a week and many did so every day". As we can observe, eating habits that they thought were normal (banishing carbohydrates, skipping meals, extreme dieting, purging activities) can actually be counted as symptoms of disordered eating. (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2008. Three out of four American women have disordered eating, survey suggests. ScienceDaily)

Eating disorder isn't only about eating. Many people with eating disorders experience what they call "a voice". They say that voice makes them feel 'not good enough', pushing them to restrict (limit eating), binge (eat excessively) or purge (get rid of food). For instance, if they go to the gym for an hour this voice will tell them that they should have been working out more. Or if they eat a slice of cake, it will tell them that shouldn't have eaten it. (Eating disorders (young people). Eating disorders and thought patterns, 2018.)

Eating disorders have the highest mortality rate of any mental illness, with nearly 1 person dying every hour, anorexia is the 3rd most common chronic illness among adolescents after asthma and obesity (Eating disorder facts & eating disorder statistics. Eating Recovery Center, 2020), global eating disorder statistics increased from 3.4% to 7.8% (The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition, 2019) and still society brands eating disorders a topic that should be kept under wraps. Being honest, can you name an eating disorder that isn't anorexia? Probably not. But it's not your fault – it's society's for burying the information that needs to be revealed. That's the reason why spreading awareness is important. If you are a person, who experiences any of the symptoms, don't stay silent, seek for help. If you notice the kind of suspicious behavior of your friend, your relative, try your best to help. As sooner someone gets help, the better are the chances of recovery.

We all need to educate ourselves on important issues like this. If we don't, then who will?

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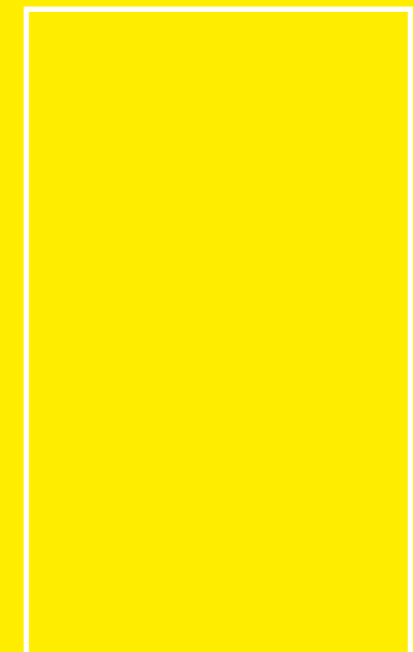
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Illustration by Nazanin Mammadova, 10AA1

GOING GLOBAL



ENDANGERED ANIMALS IN AZERBAIJAN



Isgandar Jafarli, 10AA2

The case of Caspian Seals

Caspian Seals, also called Pusca Caspia belong to the kingdom of Animalia, phylum of Chordata, class of Mammalia, order of Pinnipedia, and family of Phocidae to which even lions and polar bears belong. They are the smallest known type of seals that are unique to the Caspian Sea. While adult Seals can weigh between 30-50 kilograms, their pups are usually born weighing 3-4 kilograms. Their diet mainly consists of Kilkus (Clupeonella); however, they also consume sculpins, gobies, herring, carp, smelt, and crustaceans.

In October of 2008, the status of the Caspian seals in The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) was modified from vulnerable to endangered. Their population is decreasing by 3% each year. There was a Caspian Seal Conservation Action Plan (CSCAP) planned for 2007 by all five Caspian countries including Azerbaijan, but the plan yet needs to be implemented in practice.

Like every other inhabitant of this planet, they play a crucial role in the food chain as they consume different fish, squids, and shrimps. The distortion of the food chain can cause the extinction of other animals too. Surprisingly, as their excrements are rich in nutrients, they also maintain the integrity of the marine ecosystem, especially for smaller sea fish.

The disappearance of this animal species might have side effects like starting the chain of mass extinction of Caspian animals. The Caspian Sea being landlocked proves that they were one of the oldest inhabitants of the area that indicates their vital role there. Moreover, one of the main features of Caspian Seals is the ability to keep the seawater clean and not over salted.

The main reasons for the endangerment of the Caspian Seals are associated with human activities such as hunting, using their fat for manufacturing products, and contaminating the sea. Another reason is the lack of regularities that would protect this species from the hot climate that they face due to Global Warming. For the first time in history, in

2018 the Caspian Seals started to move to the shores of Iran during the summer. That was not supposed to happen. The reason for such a phenomenon was mainly the heat of the sea that was impossible for them to tolerate and reach the other side, Russia.

Before the gloomy days reached the Caspian seals, their density had been remaining around 2.5 Seals/km² of the Caspian Sea. Nevertheless, with the arrival of the 20th century, 90% of the Caspian Seals died out meaning that their number is now 10 times lower than it was 200 years ago.

This raises a question of what can be done to prevent their extinction both on the individual and corporate level. As an individual citizen, the possible actions include ceasing any use of plastic and using mainly public transport as it has less impact on the environment than cars and trucks. We should also protest against zoos that keep the seals as pets and do not feed them properly.

Large corporations and local businesses can collaborate and hold events like promotion of healthy ocean ideology among the citizens, request the cat owners to keep their pets indoors, and permit fishing only when seals are not present in the vicinity. The latter is due to them having the risk of getting caught inside the fishing net or being hit by a harpoon. Altogether these measures could positively contribute to the mitigation of the situation.

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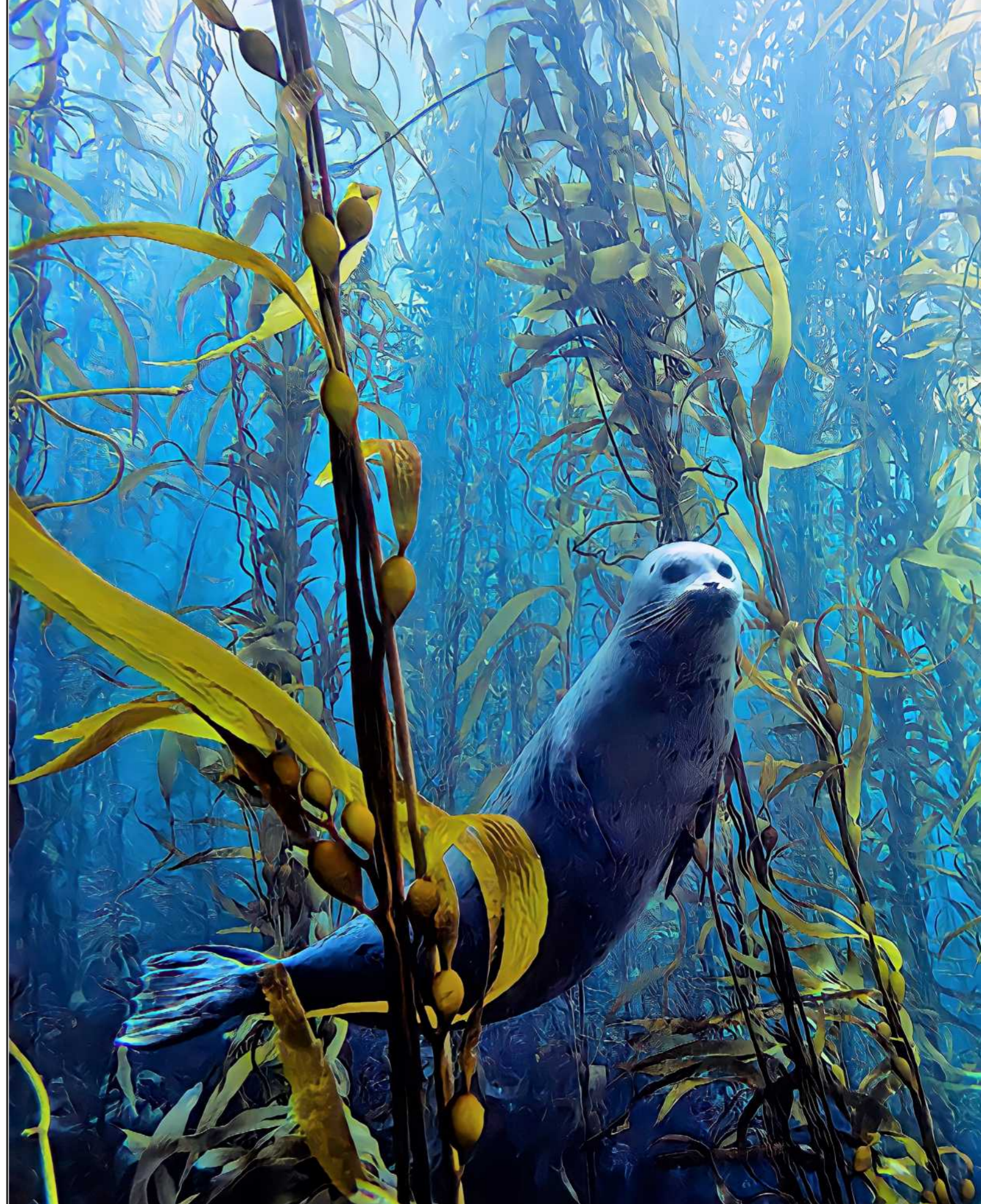


Photo by Kyle McBurnie



Fatima Huseynova, 10AB2

Burning Life

Once upon a time, there was a 6-year old girl who lived in Australia. She was named after her grandmother Melisa. Melisa had a perfect childhood; her lovely parents were caring and thoughtful. She had blond hair and blue eyes. Her favorite toy was a bunny named Sky. She named it like that because it was blue just like the sky. Whenever Melissa was scared she was always looking at the sky, that is why, when Melisa was afraid of something, she was hugging Sky. Melisa's family wasn't rich but they weren't poor either. They had everything that they needed: she was going to her private school, had friends, so everything seemed perfect. Melisa had her birthday in June and every year her parents tried to make it the best in order to make her happy. But one year her birthday did not go according to the plan.

Her mom Jane and her dad Mike had the best idea ever. They were getting ready for her birthday party, when suddenly everything started to cover in ash and dust. Everything was

grey and Jane and Mike did not get what happened at first, they looked at the window and saw a huge fire. They realized that the forests are burning. They remembered that Melisa went outside with her toy Sky, so they ran out screaming her name. Melisa was nowhere to be found; it was too hot and really hard to breathe. Melisa was scared, she hugged her toy Sky and tried to find her house; everything was covered with ash. Suddenly she heard her name and started to walk in the direction from which the screams were coming. She found her house but it did not look like her house at all because it was all grey covered in ash. As soon as she opened the door, her mother hugged her and could not let her go, thanking God for her safe return. Melisa could not understand what happened, she asked her parents about it, but no one could explain her anything. Some hours later, the rescue workers knocked at the door and asked the family to leave the house. Melisa and her parents sat in the helicopter and a few hours later they landed on another side of Australia.

Melisa was so scared that she could not stop hugging Sky. Her mother told her not worry and keep Sky closer. As soon as they landed, her parents and Melisa got separated and ended up in different camps. She was crying because she didn't want to be alone. Melisa looked around and realized that everyone was scared, she noticed a TV so she ran up to it and saw something very disturbing: her motherland was on fire. The lady in the news started to talk about it saying that the reason for this fire was global warming. Melisa was shocked she did not understand what global warming was, but she could see the result of it. Then some old man approached her and asked her what she was doing there. Melisa told him about what happened to her and her family and asked him about global warming, the old man laughed and started explaining it to Melisa. She realized that humanity was a problem and if not for the pollution caused by them, she could have had her perfect birthday party and people would not die and she would be with her parents.



Illustration by Deniz Zeynalova, 11C3



Nijat Guliyev, 11B2 is awarded a **SILVER MEDAL** in the Eagles category in the **Teeneagle Online English Language Competition**

On the back cover: **Rasul Talishinskiy, 10AA3**, participant of the 2nd Round Exam of **International Online STEM Olympiad**

