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First, participants visited the Alley of Honours to lay a wreath at the tomb of Azerbaijan's national leader Heydar Aliyev, and they also put flowers at the grave of the prominent ophthalmologist, an academician Zarifa Aliyeva. Afterwards, they visited the Alley of Martyrs to pay their tribute to those who gave their lives for the Azerbaijan's independence and territory integrity, and put carnations at their grave.

Education Minister, Misir Mardanov, in its opening address said that in every part of the Azerbaijan celebrating the 87th birthday anniversary of national leader Heydar Aliyev, the architect and constructor of the modern state of Azerbaijan, author of the education strategy and big friend of children, pupils and youth. He gave wide information on the essay contest dedicated to the 87th birthday anniversary of national leader Heydar Aliyev to participants. The Minister noted more than 600 pupils of secondary schools and vocational lyceums participated in the knowledge contest in the nomination of "Thinking of the great leader Heydar Aliyev", which was held in 3 stages (school, district (city), and republican), as well as 5 participants had won the first, 5 of them the second and 11 the third place, and 56 pupils were awarded by the Honorary Diploma of the Ministry of Education.

Misir Mardanov underlined that pupils in their essays sincerely expressed their thoughts and feelings about the great leader, as well as deep respect and endless esteem. He also stressed that publishing a book under the name of "Heydar Aliyev through school children's eyes", which consisted of essays of the 7th and 8th grades pupils, dedicated to the honorable life, bright political and rich state activity of national leader Heydar Aliyev, and giving them to the winners and their schools became a tradition. Ten winners of the essay contest held in Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic were added to the book as well, the Minister said.

He talked about some aspects of the development path of the education system initiated by the founder of national education strategy Heydar Aliyev, and has today successfully continued, by the President Ilham Aliyev. Having enumerated main reasons of the dynamic development of education in the last years, the Minister at the end thanked everyone, who supported this contest.

Deputy Chairman of the New Azerbaijan Party, MP Ali Ahmadov has highly estimated holding the contest, and said that learning by the young generation the rich heritage and ideas of Heydar Aliyev will positively affect their state thinking and formed views. He underlined that the winners of the first, second and third places despite entering any universities will be received a monthly scholarship from the New Azerbaijan Party, and wished success to the winners.

Chairman of the Azerbaijan Trade Unions Confederation, MP Sattar Mehbaliyev noted the care of the great leader to the education and teachers, and this issue to be at the centre of attention of the President Ilham Aliyev all the time. He wished to winners all the best, and informed that they will be awarded by cash prizes.

Anar Alakbarov, Executive Director of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation expressed congratulations and best wishes to participants. He talked about projects carried out by the President of Heydar Aliyev Foundation, Mrs. Mehriban Aliyeva in the education field. He emphasized the importance of the contest and informed that 21 winners of the contest will be sent to the Kingdom of Belgium, France and Germany by the order of Mrs. M. Aliyeva.

Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Communication and Information Technologies, Elmir Valizade congratulated the contest winners and wished them success.

Afterwards, the 21 winners of the first, second and third places, and 56 pupils, who were awarded by the Honorary Diploma have been invited to the stage. The winners of the first, second and third places were awarded by laptops, diploma recipients by souvenirs.