

# Azerbaijanis to mark death anniversary of leader

The Peninsula

**A**zerbaijanis will mark the death anniversary of their national leader Heydar Aliyev (pictured) tomorrow.

On December 12, 2003 the founder of contemporary Azerbaijan, President Heydar Aliyev passed away. He was a great historical leader and phenomenal political figure dedicated his life to the development and prosperity of his country and people, said a statement issued by the Embassy of Azerbaijan.

Heydar Aliyev was born on May 10, 1923 in Nakhchivan, historical city of Azerbaijan. Working since that time in the security bodies, in 1967 he held the post of chairman of the Committee of State Security in Azerbaijan, and was conferred the rank of lieutenant general.

In July, 1969, being elected as the First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan, Heydar Aliyev became the head of Azerbaijan.

In December 1982, he was elected a member of Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party

of the Soviet Union, and appointed to the post of the First Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers of the USSR, and became one of the leaders of the Soviet Union.

In October 1987, Heydar Aliyev, protesting against the policy pursued by Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and personally the Secretary General Michael Gorbachev, resigned from his position.

After the tragedy committed on January 20 1990 in Baku by the soviet troops, the next day Heydar Aliyev visited the Azerbaijani Representation in Moscow making a statement demanded the punishment of the organisers of the crime committed against the people of Azerbaijan on January 20.

In July 1990, Heydar Aliyev returned to Azerbaijan, at first he lived in Baku, then in Nakhchivan, and on the same year he was elected deputy to the Parliament of Azerbaijan. In 1991-1993, he held the post of Chairman of the Parliament of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic and Deputy Chairman of the Parliament of the Republic of Azerbaijan.



Heydar Aliyev

After the collapse of the Soviet Union and beginning of Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan, an extreme tension and political crises occurred in the country and Azerbaijan faced the threat of civil war and loss of independence. In such a difficult time the people of Azerbaijan invited Heydar

Aliyev to Baku to retake the power and lead the country. On June 15, 1993, Heydar Aliyev was elected Chairman of the Parliament of Azerbaijan. On October 3, 1993 and On October 11, 1998 Heydar Aliyev was elected President of the Republic of Azerbaijan twice.

More than 30 years of

Azerbaijan's recent history, revival of political, economic and cultural life are connected to Heydar Aliyev. As a result of Heydar Aliyev's far-sighted domestic and foreign policy and intensive activities Azerbaijan has started to play the role of a reliable bridge between the East and the West and become one of the most dynamic economies in the world.

The construction of a modern, democratic, law-governed and secular state, the development of civil society, the return to the national and spiritual values, and the development of science, education and culture in Azerbaijan are forever linked with the name of Heydar Aliyev. Today the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev, the worthy successor of the National Leader is successfully continuing the immortal ideas and political course founded by great leader Heydar Aliyev.

Today Heydar Aliyev lives in the memories and hearts of all Azerbaijanis. He will remain with Azerbaijani people eternally through his ideas and the works he accomplished for the prosperity and future of Azerbaijan.