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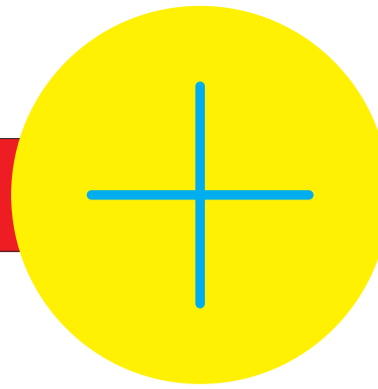
## University of Sulaimani, significant in Persian language expansion in Iraq



IRNA - Persian Language Teaching Department at the University of Sulaimani has played a leading role in expansion of Persian language in Iraq since eight years ago, said Iran's cultural attaché in Iraq's Sulaymaniyah.

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# Naharkhoran: A massive forest garden in Golestan Province



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The city of Gorgan, the capital of the northeastern province of Golestan, is home to huge awe-inspiring forests including the world-famous Naharkhoran. Enjoy the concentration of lakes and waterfalls around the city. You can also hike and climb through its remarkable rural nature and explore the historic sites. Being a massive forest garden, Naharkhoran is near a village by the same name, 10 kilometers from Ziarat village, and eight kilometers from Gorgan. A national forest, Naharkhoran is a part of ancient Hyrcanian forests, which date back to the Jurassic Period, about 170 million years ago. This forest is one of the main tourism attractions in northern Iran. In the past, pilgrims of the Holy Shrine of Imam Reza (PBUH) passed through

this forest and they had lunch on the slopes of the mountains in southern Gorgan. It is for this reason that this site is called Naharkhoran (a place for lunch) visitiran.ir wrote. Naharkhoran Forest, full of broad-leaved trees, is bounded by the Caspian Sea from the Republic of Azerbaijan to Gorgan Province. These Hyrcanian forests cover an area of two million hectares. As the geological structure of this forest has several layers, its height ranges from 400 to 900 meters above sea level. This forest garden covers 300 hectares of land, the central district of which is 168 hectares. In every corner of Naharkhoran Forest there are high lands, valleys, drainage basins, ridges, and springs. Gurgling in the highlands of this forest is a well-known spring

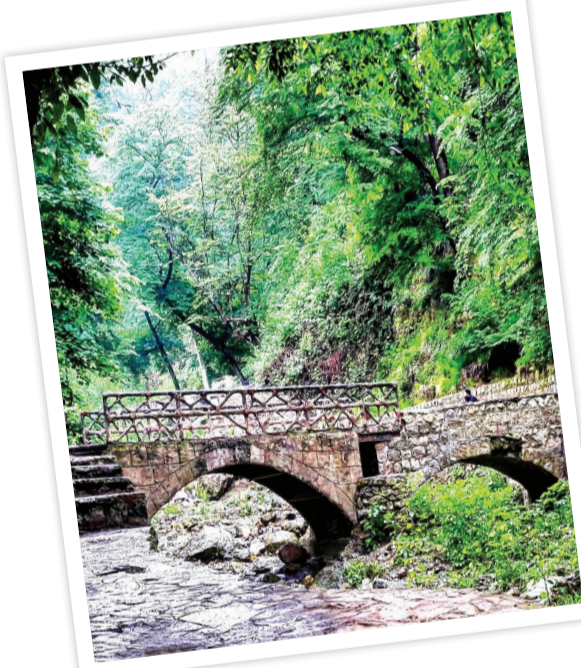
known as Sefid Cheshmeh. Naharkhoran has only one river, Ziarat, which is 40 kilometers long, and its source is Qarah Su Basin. Inside Naharkhoran Forest, there is a road which reaches a panoramic view. This view opens toward the mountains throughout the forest. There live some animals such as boars, jackals, bats, mice, weasels, squirrels, eagles, falcons, doves, woodpeckers, wagtails, accentors, lizards, starlings, crows, and finches. The vegetation in Naharkhoran includes different plants like oak, velvet maple, parrotia, European hornbeam, lindens, sweet cherries, date-plums, raspberry bushes, ruscus, common medlar, pine, common hawthorn, cypress, magnolia, buxus, privet, weeping willows, common ivy, and leucantheum.



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Naharkhoran is one of the nicest spots in the country. There are plenty of hiking trails through a dense forest which are easy to find. Although Naharkhoran Forest can be a bit crowded during the Norouz holidays (Iranian

New Year) and in the summer, especially on Fridays and public holidays, you may have the whole area to yourself the rest of the time. There are accommodation facilities for a longer and safer stay in the forest.



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## Iran Leader's book on French colonialism unveiled in Beirut

MEHR - The book entitled 'French Colonialism in the Words of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution' was unveiled during a ceremony attended by a group of cultural and media figures in Beirut, Lebanon. Referring to the importance of the words and analysis of Ayatollah Khamenei regarding colonialism and its future, a number of prominent media and cultural figures considered the book very important in promoting his ideas among the people. The book is actually a collection

of the destructive role of French colonialism in the statements and meetings of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, which was compiled in Arabic by Karim Shanikar, and translated by Yasser Al-Khairu. The book is very important for clarifying the position of Ayatollah Khamenei regarding colonialism in general and French colonialism in particular, and the beginning of a new path, said a Lebanese political researcher, Bilal al-Laquis. He noted that Ayatollah Khamenei, in his remarks, always emphasizes

presenting a real image of the enemy to the people and the next generations. The preparation of this book shows that Ayatollah Khamenei has a revolutionary spirit in analyzing regional and global affairs, as well as tact and realism, the combination of which will help the people overcome problems, Al-Laquis added. Jamal Wakim, a university professor, also said that the book is aimed at raising the level of awareness about the new French colonialism and the losses of France's colonialism in the past.



MEHR