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Doha Int'l Book Fair opens with Iran in attendance

The 32nd edition of the Doha International Book Fair (DIBF) commenced on Monday, featuring the participation of Iran and extending a warm invitation to book enthusiasts until June 21. Iran's House of Books and Literature, in its seventh presence at this exhibition, represents our country's publishing industry with a booth covering an area of 36 square meters.

Margun, land of lakes and waterfalls



Iranica Desk

The city of Margun in the southwestern province of Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad Province is a place of residence for nomads whose charming way of life, alongside their interaction with nature, has created a unique tourism magnet in the region. This beautiful city is bordered by Lordegan in Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari Province from the north, Boyer-Ahmad from the south, Kohgiluyeh from the west, and Dena from the east. Amazing natural caves and lakes of the region along with its flowing rivers and roaring waterfalls have helped highlight the ecotourism values of the region. With mild weather in the summer and moderate snowfall in the winter, Margun is among the most popular tourist destinations of Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad Province, having four seasons.

Maorzard Lake

Maorzard Lake is known as the most important tourism magnet of Margun. The lake is home to various types of fish, frogs, water snakes, eels, turtles, crabs, and water birds such as kingfishers, ducks, and geese. It is known as a wonderful place for bird watching. Maorzard Lake, which has been registered on Iran's National Heritage List, reflects freshness and vitality of nature like a mirror.

The lands surrounding the lake are covered with oak and hawthorn forests and yellow flowers, mountain trees and green agricultural fields, as if an earthy heaven has opened its door to guests.

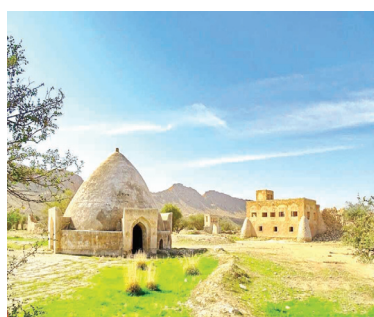
Shahniz Waterfall

Shahniz Waterfall is in a pristine area with pleasant natural landscapes, which is blessed with countless attractions in all seasons. The flight of birds over the waterfall, with a height of 18 meters, is a manifestation of the beauties of nature. This waterfall is accessible through the road linking Margun to Cheshmeh Goli village. The diversity of the climate and the Zagros Mountains are reasons why most of the cities in Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad Province have a four-season climate. So that at a distance of less than 10 kilometers you can enter the cold, snow-covered region from the lush tropical region. The province has 500 drinking and mineral springs, 20 large and small rivers, more than 40 permanent and seasonal waterfalls, and dozens of forest parks, natural lakes, large and small dams, vast plains, impressive forests, and protected areas, with many species of animals. Beautiful gardens, towering mountains with lush slopes, as well as the aroma of plants in the plains and mountains are only a small part of the attractions of this land.

Sibeh archeological site in Bastak

Iranica Desk

A less known archeological site, called 'Sibeh' by the locals, is located in Kukherd village of Bastak, in the southern province of Hormuzgan. The region hosts numerous monuments and petroglyphs dating back from the prehistoric to the early Islamic era, as well as Dogonbadan (Two Domes) Tomb, built from 1732 to 1738 CE, and an ancient bathhouse. The ancient city of Sibeh, on which a number of new houses have been built, lies southwest of Kukherd. A seasonal river flows in the middle part of the site. Archeological studies carried out in the region show that this area may have been used as a settlement in the pre-Islamic era, especially during the Sassanid period. The name of Kukherd, located on a famous ancient trade route has been mentioned in travelogues written by tourists, especially those dating back to the Safavid era. Thanks to its strategic geographical location, suitable climatic conditions and rich water resources, Kukherd has always been of interest in various eras. The ancient monuments and artifacts discovered in the area date back from the prehistoric era to the contemporary era. Kukherd, the name of which has been mentioned in a book entitled, "Cambridge History of Iran," is situated on an important road linking Bastak to Bandar Lengeh. Historical documents show that the old name of Kukherd was Sibeh, literally meaning a city with walls and battlements. Bastak, which has been on the route of caravans and merchants since ancient times, is known as "The City of Caravanserais". It is the birthplace of a number of great regional characters.



Ancient monuments of Kukherd
netnazar.com



Dogonbadan
fa.tripyar.com



Ancient bathhouse of Kukherd
fa.tripyar.com

Five Iranian dossiers closer to global registration

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's Deputy Tourism Minister, Maryam Jalali, announced ongoing endeavors to register five dossiers of Iranian handicrafts on the prestigious UNESCO World Heritage List. During a visit to Astara on Monday, Jalali revealed that four cases related to artifacts from Rasht in Gilan Province, Dashti in Bushehr, Dezful in Khuzestan, and Kashan in Isfahan have already undergone review. Additionally, the necessary documentation for the Vardasht region in Isfahan province has been completed, though it is yet to be submitted, IRNA wrote. Jalali emphasized the utmost dedication to generating export incentives for handicrafts, stating, "Our primary aim is to create financial and export incentives for the handicraft sector, while simultaneously attracting significant investment to this domain." She further explained that such investments would yield substantial returns and added value, as the target customers for Iranian handicrafts extend beyond national borders. Highlighting the world's genuine appreciation for the authenticity of Iranian art and the global demand for it, Jalali stressed the need



to formulate plans that connect this art to the literature of development. She also drew attention to Iran Craft Week, reminding that June 10 is World Handicrafts Day. According to the implemented agenda, each day of this week has been assigned a specific theme and slogan. Jalali expressed, "We have made considerable efforts to demonstrate that handicrafts can foster cultural interac-

tions between countries, cities, and people." She went on to add that every Iranian household has the potential to be a handicraft workshop. Consequently, joint planning was carried out in collaboration with Saad Hani Al-Qaddumi, the President of the World Crafts Council. As part of this effort, a visit was organized from Ardebil's Anbaran to the Anbaran neighborhood in Astara,

which has been designated as the national city of gelim (a type of flat-woven carpet). This showcased the pivotal role that handicrafts can play in cultural, social, economic, and political domains. Jalali further remarked that Anbaran represents culture, art, history, taste, and historical intelligence, particularly emphasizing the invaluable role of women and their contributions to the family.