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Hir village rests atop the heights of Alborz Mountain

Iranica Desk

The scenic village of Hir is situated in the western part of Alamut Castle. Located approximately 65 kilometers north of Qazvin, the capital city of Qazvin Province, this charming village rests peacefully along the banks of the Ninehrud River. Hir is known for its chilly climate and rugged landscape, making it a perfect destination for nature enthusiasts and avid trekkers.

This picturesque village rests atop the heights of the Alborz Mountains, nestled below a number of magnificent cliffs. Atop these cliffs, visitors can bask in the breathtaking surroundings.

The local community primarily converses in the Tati language, with a distinct Deylami dialect. The village is the largest producer of cornelian cherries (known as *zoqal akhteh* in Persian), and its cornelian cherries are considered some of the best in the country. Every year, during the harvest season, the locals in this picturesque village, with its delightful climate, come together to celebrate and express their gratitude with local customs in a festival known as the "Cornelian Cherry Festival". The festivities include traditional music, folklore, and games unique to the area.

Every year, during late summer,

the villagers gather to harvest their crops before spreading them on the rooftops, which adds a unique and vibrant touch to the village. According to locals, an impressive amount of over 200 tons of cornelian cherries are produced annually and subsequently distributed across the country.

Hir village is famously referred to as "Blueberry Village." Each year, numerous tourists from cities like Tehran, Karaj, Mashhad, Isfahan, and Shiraz, as well as countries like Germany, Austria, and Australia, flock to Hir village to partake in this celebration. However, surprisingly, a considerable number of people,

including many from Qazvin, are unaware of this captivating village. It is important to note that in recent years, the village's reputation has significantly grown, making it more desirable for tourists. As a result, it now attracts a larger number of visitors.

Vagel is a boiling spring of the village with useful and extremely light and unique water. Vagel spring is the source of Ninehrud, a roaring river with cool and refreshing water. And it is also known as the healing river.

The main agricultural products of Hir are cornelian cherries, hazelnuts, walnuts, hawthorn, and rhubarb. The hazelnuts and

walnuts from this region are renowned as some of the finest garden products in the country due to their oily nature and delicious taste. Within the village, there exists a thousand-year-old walnut tree, which holds an esteemed position among all the walnut trees. According to the village elders, this tree used to produce an impressive yield of over 200,000 walnuts annually in the past.

In the charming vicinity of the Ninehrud River, you will find two fish farms offering an abundance of fresh fish for purchase. Additionally, you have the opportunity to relish the experience of preparing and cooking your fish over

ariverside bonfire. There exists a strong bond between the residents of the Eshkevarat region in Gilan and the locals of Hir and Viar villages in the western part of Alamut. This enduring relationship has had a profound impact on several aspects, including the dialect of the people in this region and the exchange of goods and services. Furthermore, due to this connection, the inhabitants of Eshkevarat have the convenient option of traveling to the central parts of Iran by passing through these villages. Consequently, Hir village has flourished to become one of the largest villages in western Alamut.

Discovery of human remains in ancient Iranian cave



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Based on studies of deposits in Shoperi Cave in Rostamkola City of Behshahr County, archaeologists have discovered the oldest residents in Mazandaran Province. Belonging to the Paleolithic period, they have estimated the remains in this cave to be over 100,000 years old.

This research indicates that the inhabitants in eastern Mazandaran had relations with east and northeastern regions of Iran, in addition to the southern parts of Central Asia.

Head of the Archaeology Department, Hossein Ramezani-

pour, said, "As the second chapter of Shoperi Cave's layers' investigation came to an end, we discovered four meters of ancient deposits inside the cave in Mazandaran Province. We estimate these pieces to date back to 100,000 years ago."

"These remains include stone handcrafts and animal fossils hunted by people from the Paleolithic period," he added. According to Ramezani, located in eastern Mazandaran Province, this historical heritage is known as one of the biggest caves in Mazandaran, initially discovered in 2020.

Due to the importance of this site, with a permit from the

Research Institute of Cultural Heritage and Tourism, determining the area immediately took place in 2021, and it was registered on the country's Cultural Heritage List, with the number 33696.

With permission from the Research Institute of Cultural Heritage, the caves' layers were investigated by the Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Department of Mazandaran in 2022 and 2023.

The head of the archaeology department said, "Some of these remains include patterned pottery like *Chakmakhmaq* stone materials. Moreover, traces of butchery with stone tools have been found on animal fossils inside the cave.

The 7000-year-old remains discovered in this cave prove the connection of southeastern Mazandaran with eastern and northeastern regions of Iran and the southern part of Central Asia," he added, pointing out some of the ice age animals such as horses and enormous bears found in the deposits.

He said that the results of the layer investigation proves that the human race lasted in the Ice Age for a long time, and there are signs of high tolerance in southeastern Caspian Sea during bad weather.

Whether Neanderthals lived in this region in the Paleolithic period is a crucial question.

Shahriyar pinnacle of modern Persian poetry



Compiled by
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Seyyed Mohammad-Hossein Behjat Tabrizi, better known by his pseudonym Shahriyar, was born in Tabriz, Iran, in 1906. He displayed his poetic talent early in life, composing his first poem at the tender age of four. In 1921, he made his way to Tehran, where he enrolled in medical school. Soon afterward, he found that his heart was not in it, and he decided to drop out. During this time, he fell in love with a beautiful young woman but experienced heartbreak when his affections went unreciprocated. This emotional crisis led him to turn to lyricism as his sole refuge.

Shahriyar is one of the greatest and most talented modern poets of Iran and his poetry is a crowning glory in current Persian literature. His charismatic poem has a strong influence on the feelings of enthusiastic readers as if the seraphim of heaven gently croon a lullaby. In contemporary Persian literature, his name shines as the epitome of a dignified poet because he has added many treasured literary works to Iran's august literature that actually is a source of dignity for the Persian language. Shahriyar represents the cream of the modern Persian literature crop and Iran's classical literature has reached the maximum level in his poetical works.

His verse takes diverse forms, including lyrics, quatrains, couplets, odes, ghazals and elegies. Shahriyar's poetic talent looks very similar to a wavy and turbulent sea that has not a constant limitation. He invented new coinages and entered new expressions via his poetry in the Persian language and could reflect multifarious aspects of social life in his ghazal.

Some of his juicy poems from figures of speech point of view are very excellent.

Shahriyar is a poet who views poetry

as a powerful platform for conveying profound and enlightening ideas. He shares numerous moral and educational insights through various poetic forms. His intended audience for these teachings and concepts encompasses all of humanity across history, rather than being directed toward a specific individual or group. His poetry reflects signs of the societal conditions of his time that infuse his poems with a fresh and distinct hue.

Also, he was a very capable musician who mingled poems with music masterly and created many melodious lyrics.

On September 18, 1988, he died in a hospital in Tehran. His body was later taken to Tabriz, where he was laid to rest in the Tombs of Poets. In Iran, the day of his death is commemorated as the "National Day of Poetry."

