

## Iranian philosopher Mojtahedi dies at 93



IRNA – Karim Mojtahedi, a distinguished Iranian philosophy professor, died at the age of 93.

Born in 1930 in Tabriz, northwest Iran, Mojtahedi devoted his entire life to academic pursuits.

Having earned his doctorate in philosophy from France's Sorbonne University, Mojtahedi returned to Iran at the age of 34.

In recognition of his contributions, he was inducted into the Iranian Science and Culture Hall of Fame in 2001. In 2010, he was honored with UNESCO's Avicenna Gold Medal and later recognized as a Distinguished Professor by Iran's National Elites Foundation.

Over his six-decade-long academic journey, Mojtahedi authored more than 20 books on philosophy, including titles such as 'Hegel's Thoughts,' 'Descartes and His Philosophy,' 'Philosophy of History,' and 'Kant's Critical Philosophy'.

He will be laid to rest at the Artists' Section of Behesht-e Zahra Cemetery in the southern part of metropolitan Tehran on Tuesday.

Several cultural officials and literary figures expressed their condolences over the death of the philosopher. Among them are Iran's Culture and Islamic Guidance Minister Mohammad-Mehdi Esmaeili, CEO of Iran's Book and Literature House Ali Ramezani, and Head of Institute for Humanities and Cultural Studies Musa Najafi.

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# Newly discovered inscribed brick may reveal Elamite water supply system in Western Iran



Archaeologists discovered a brick inscribed with Akkadian script, marking the Elamite water supply system, alongside some intricately patterned bricks in Iran's Dehloran Valley. This discovery sheds light on the political and economic significance of the ancient site of Garan, located on the western border of Elamite civilization. According to ISNA, the findings were reported during a specialized session titled "Representation of Dehloran Valley's Perspective; Based on the Discoveries of Garan Mound," organized by the Institute of Archaeology, arkeonews.net reported. Tappeh Garan (locally pronounced Gharran) is a large mound in the Dehloran

plain, about three kilometers east of the Dawairij River and 2.8 km north/northwestern of Tappeh Musiyani. Researchers believe that the written objects found at Garan consist of Akkadian scripts and geometric patterns thought to illustrate the outlines of an agricultural scheme. Frank Hole, Kent Flannery, James Neely, and Henry Wright conducted historic archaeological work in the Dehloran plain in southwest Iran nearly 50 years ago. In 2016 and 2019, the area was resurveyed to determine whether agricultural and increased irrigation activities had destroyed any archaeological sites. During the surface sur-

vey on Garan Mound two inscribed objects were found. The inscriptions yield some information on the economic and political importance of Tappeh Garan in the Old Elamite Period.

"Garan, situated in the Dehloran Valley within the modern province of Ilam and on the southwestern plateau of Iran, covers an area of 17 hectares. It features a prominent cone-shaped elevation in the south of the site, surrounded by several irregular mounds to the east, north, and west of the main prominence," said Mohsen Zeinivand, an archaeologist involved in the excavation.

Zeinivand highlighted the exceptional importance of Garan in archaeological studies of the region due to its organized human habitation sequence from the late ancient periods to the end of the historical era. It transformed into the largest settlement in the second millennium BC until the late Achaemenid period, holding extraordinary significance in the archaeology of the area, the archaeologist said.

Regarding recent examinations of the site, Zeinivand explained: "Surface surveys identified numerous broken bricks with possible inscriptions. Although the inscriptions on these brick fragments were not easily decipherable due to weathering and erosion, one sample revealed partially readable words such as 'ruler,' 'son,' and 'his lord,' suggesting Akkadian language."

According to Zeinivand, the lines on the patterned bricks represent four distinct features: a river, a mountain, a dam or embankment, and irrigation channels.

In conclusion, the archaeologist emphasized that the Akkadian-inscribed brick, coupled with the patterned ones, likely offers insights into the political and economic

significance of Garan on the western borders of ancient Elam.

The name Elam was given to the region by others – the Akkadians and Sumerians of Mesopotamia – and is thought to be their version of what the Elamites called themselves – Haltami (or Haltamti) – meaning "those of the high country." 'Elam,' therefore, is usually translated to mean "highlands" or "high country" as it comprised settlements on the Iranian Plateau that stretched from the southern plains to the elevations of the Zagros Mountains.

Susa was formerly the capital of the Elamite Empire and later an administrative capital of the king of Achaemenid, Darius I and his successors of 522 BC. Throughout the late prehistoric periods, Elam was closely tied culturally to Mesopotamia. Later, perhaps because of domination by the Akkadian dynasty (c. 2334-c. 2154 BC), the Elamites adopted the Sumerian-Akkadian cuneiform script.



## Iran leads global fight against drug trafficking



By Sadeq Dehqan  
Staff writer

The Islamic Republic of Iran has emerged as a dedicated force in the forefront of the global fight against drug trafficking, bearing the highest financial and human costs in this relentless battle.

According to Major General Younes Abdi, head of the Center for Foreign Nationals Affairs, the country's commitment to combatting the drug trade has incurred substantial expenses and losses on it.

In an exclusive interview with Iran Daily, Abdi said that since Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution, over 3,800 individuals from all walks of life, including the military, law enforcement, intelligence, and the general public, have lost their lives

combating drug smugglers, predominantly to those trafficking narcotics from Afghanistan into Iran and onward to other countries. Among these martyrs, 3,017 are affiliated with the Law Enforcement Command of the Islamic Republic of Iran, while the rest come from diverse backgrounds, including Basij volunteer force members, the Ministry of Intelligence, and other armed forces, Abdi added. Iran finds itself in a challenging position due to its proximity to Afghanistan, the largest producer of narcotics globally, he noted. Afghanistan has been recognized as the leading producer of opium poppy since 1992, with a significant surge in production following the 2001 military intervention by the US and NATO. Reports by the United Nations Office on Drugs and

Crime (UNODC) indicate that opium cultivation reached its peak between 2004 and 2007, surpassing even the coca cultivation for cocaine in South America. In 2007, 92% of non-medical opiate users globally were supplied by Afghanistan, with a total value exceeding \$4 billion.

According to UNODC, despite the reduction in opium poppy cultivation in

Afghanistan in 2023, the country remains a major producer of heroin and crystal meth, much of which is smuggled out, he said. Abdi explained that conflicts, the ongoing state of insecurity, the destruction of Afghanistan's economic infrastructure, and the lack of reconstruction and economic development in the country contribute to its constant status as a pri-

mary global producer of narcotics.

The cheapest and shortest transit route for drug trafficking from Afghanistan to Europe goes through the neighboring country, Iran. Consequently, traffickers consistently attempt to exploit Iran as the first stop along this route to access Western and Euro-

pean markets, despite facing strong resistance from Iran's anti-drug trafficking agents at the borders, he reiterated.

Annually, approximately 35% to 40% of drugs produced in Afghanistan, intended for transit to other countries, enter Iran, he said. With nearly 900 kilometers of shared border, Iran consistently faces challenges in combating drug traffickers, leading to the loss of hundreds of Iranian forces in the battle against narcotics.

Abdi emphasized that the core issue for Iran in its fight against drug trafficking is the steady production of narcotics in Afghanistan. Despite efforts, the primary transit route for these drugs continues to pass through Iran. Abdi noted that the eastern

provinces of Iran, particularly Sistan and Baluchistan, witness the highest confrontations between Iranian forces and drug traffickers. As a result, the majority of Iranian martyrs are from this province, with 1,816 individuals sacrificing their lives in the struggle against narcotics. Other eastern provinces, such as Khorasan Razavi, South Khorasan, and Kerman also bear a significant share of martyrs, he added. Plus, the western province of West Azarbaijan, which serves as a common gateway for drug exit to Europe, reports a substantial number of martyrs.

Abdi stressed the need for international cooperation and support in controlling opium production in Afghanistan, urging the global community to recognize and appreciate Iran's sacrifices in combating drug trafficking.

