

Sarkozy says France is keeping A-bomb for Iran

IranTimes:Paris announced a cut in France's nuclear arsenal last month, but said most of the weapons will be kept as "life-insurance" against new threats from Iran. In a defense policy speech to mark the launch of a new generation nuclear submarine named "The Terrible," French President Nicholas Sarkozy said, "Countries in Asia and the Middle East are rapidly developing ballistic capacities. I am thinking in particular of Iran," warning that Tehran was "increasing the range of its missiles while serious suspicions weigh on its nuclear program." Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Mohammad-Ali Hossain dismissed Sarkozy's comments about Iran. Hossain said, "Iran has always been a bastion of peace and stability in the region and its foreign policy is fully consistent with international law." "France will not lower its guard," Sarkozy said, describing French nuclear deterrence as "the life insurance of the nation." Speaking to an audience of defense officials and dock workers, Sarkozy said, "I have decided on a new disarmament measure: for the airborne component, the number of nuclear weapons, of missiles and of aircraft will be reduced by one third." But its submarine-based missile arsenal will remain untouched. Sarkozy said the reduction would leave France with less than 300 nuclear warheads, half the number it had during the Cold



Nicholas Sarkozy and his new wife Carla Bruni

War. In its 2008 status report, the Federation of American Scientists—which calculates the number of atomic weapons—estimates that France currently has 348 strategic nuclear weapons, China 193, Britain 160, Russia 3,239, and the United States 3,575.

White House lays out Haft Seen table for first time



IranTimesFor the first time in history, the White House last month held an official Now Ruz reception with about 40 Iranian-American invitees looking on at the first Haft Seen table ever set up in the White House. The afternoon tea was hosted by Laura Bush in the State Dining Room last month. The White House did not release the list of attendees, but the Iran Times learned that it included:

- Siamak (Matt) Ghaffari, the U.S. Greco-Roman wrestler and silver medalist in the 1996 Olympics;
- Goli Ameri, the new assistant secretary of state and losing GOP candidate for Congress from Oregon in 2006;
- Masood Khatamee, a medical doctor with a fertility practice in Manhattan;
- Haleh Esfandiari, the director of Middle East programs at Washington's Wilson Center, who spent much of last year in Evin prison;
- Nasser Shirzad, owner of Iranbooks in Maryland and father of a former aide to President Bush on the National Security Council;
- Bijan Kian, previously a professor of finance at California State University at Fullerton, who was named by Bush to the board of directors of

the Export-Import Bank of the United States in 2006;

• Setareh Derakhshesh of VOA's Persian Service and Parichehr Farzam of Radio Farda. The Washington Post reported that ambassadors from the half dozen countries where Now Ruz is celebrated were also invited. No Iranian diplomats were invited, however. With the political focus given to ethnic groups in the United States, the White House marks many holidays, but this was the first year Now Ruz was included. It wasn't known if this will become an annual tradition. The new president in the White House next January will have to decide that. The White House Haft Seen table was set up with the help of Susan Sheybani, an Iranian-American from California who is an assistant to the press secretary at the National Security Council. Sheybani graduated from UCLA in 2001 and moved to Washington where she worked as a staffer for some congressmen before getting a job as an aide in the press office of the Bush 2004 re-election campaign. She was hired by spokesman Terry Holt, who knew her from when they had both worked for then GOP House Majority Leader Dick Armey. Sheybani made some news during the campaign when she was transferring a call to the campaign spokesman and said the reporter's question was about American workers dissatisfied with low-paying jobs. She was overheard commenting to a colleague: "Why don't they get new jobs if they're unhappy—or go on a Prozac?" That comment was publicized—some portraying it as an official comment—and then cited by many Democrats as an example of GOP callousness. But that didn't stop her from moving to the White House staff with her boss after the elections.

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Use it,....

trap. They don't bother practicing their skills because they know they won't ever become the champions they so admire. Admire those who have achieved excellence, but don't model yourself after them. Realize your limitations, and remind yourself that the goal is to keep your abilities alive, not to conquer the world.

Be kind to yourself

Attitude plays a big role in how well you perform and whether you stick to your practice regimen. A positive outlook fuels your determination to keep your capacities sharp, while negativity kills motivation.

Be generous and accepting towards yourself particularly if you are trying to retain or regain competence in an area where you were once highly skilled.

Accept the role of a student, even if your endeavor is something at which you once excelled.

Don't match you performance against memories of younger self at the peak of your powers, at a time when lots of practice had honed

your skills.

Be a kindly, patient teacher or coach to yourself, the kind who throws the ball to a kid a thousand times before the child learns to catch it properly. Summon up thoughts of past mentors. Enlist patient, supportive companions who will encourage you.

Important: Keep bad coaches and negative role models out of the picture. Listen for that nasty self-critical inner voice, we will have one, and silence it. Avoid "friends" who will sap your confidence.

Practice people skills

The abilities you need to get along with others, communicating, working as part of a team, compromising, making helpful judgments instead of destructive criticisms, also need practice to stay sharp. If you work at home, as increasing numbers of people do today, you may lack the day-to-day interaction that maintains these parts of your personality.

Solitude is important as well. People who are constantly surrounded by others, mothers who have young children, anyone who works in a busy office and comes home to a lively house, can lose the capacity for quiet and reflection.

CA doc charged with speeding death

A young Iranian-American doctor in California faces three felony counts for allegedly acting to speed the death of a brain damaged patient in order to save other lives by securing the dying man's organs. Prosecutors have now charged the surgeon, 34-year-old Dr. Hootan C. Roozrokh, with administering excessive and improper doses of drugs in attempts to accelerate the death of Ruben Navarro. Two years ago, Navarro, 25, a disabled and brain damaged man, was admitted to the operating room of a San Luis Obispo, California, hospital. At age nine, Navarro was diagnosed with a neurological disorder and by his early 20s, Navarro's mental and physical condition had significantly deteriorated and he was placed in an assisted-care facility. By most accounts, when Navarro arrived at the hospital, he was already near death. But doctors hoped they might save other lives by securing his organs. Law enforcement officials, however, said Navarro's case has gone from potentially life-saving to criminal. A preliminary hearing began last month with Roozrokh facing felony counts including dependent adult abuse, mingling a harmful substance, and prescribing a controlled substance without medical purpose. If convicted on all three counts, Roozrokh could face eight years in prison. Roozrokh has pleaded not guilty. The question the defense will raise is whether Roozrokh, who studied at Stanford University's School of Medicine through a transplant fellowship program, was hastily pursuing organs or had misunderstandings about an organ harvesting technique known as "donation after cardiac death." David Fleming, the executive director of Donate Life America, told The New York Times about 18 people die each day in America waiting for organ transplants. That has created a tremendous demand for organ donors, and over the years strict protocols governing organ harvesting have been established. Transplanting organs from patients whose hearts had stopped—cardiac-death donations—began to decrease in the early 1970s after medical breakthroughs and changes in the legal definition of death made donations from those declared brain dead more efficient. In brain-death donations, the donor is legally dead, but the organs are kept viable by machines. In cardiac-death donations, the patient's ventilator is removed and the heart is left to stop. Most protocols require a five-minute lapse before the patient is declared dead, after which transplant teams are allowed in the room of the potential donor. Several days after Navarro was hospitalized at the Sierra Vista Medical Center in San Luis Obispo, the decision was made to remove his ventilator. According to the complaint, Roozrokh ordered excessive doses of morphine and Ativan, both of which are used to



comfort dying patients. The complaint went on to state that Roozrokh introduced Betadine, a topical antiseptic, into Navarro's system; Betadine, the complaint said, is "a harmful substance that may cause death if ingested." According to the coroner, Navarro died eight hours later of what he called natural causes. In the end, however, because Navarro's death came slowly, his organs had deteriorated and were rendered unusable. Roozrokh's lawyer, M. Gerald Schwartzbach, told The New York Times that Roozrokh, who moved to Wisconsin from Iran when he was a young child, did "nothing that adversely affected the quality or length" of Navarro's life. In January 2006, Navarro's mother received a call that her son had been found unconscious, in cardiac and respiratory arrest, but that he had been revived and transported to a local hospital. Several days later, Mrs. Navarro said a doctor at the hospital told her Navarro would not recover and that he would be taken off life support. Mrs. Navarro said she received a call from the California Transplant Donor Network and agreed to donate her son's organs, saying she did not want him "to suffer too long." On February 3, a transplant team arrived at the hospital. According to a police interview with Jennifer Endsley, a nurse, the transplant team, including Roozrokh, stayed in the room during the removal of the ventilator and gave orders for medication, violating donation protocol. Endsley also said Roozrokh asked an intensive care nurse to administer more "candy"—drugs—when Navarro did not die immediately after his ventilator was removed. Navarro's mother has filed a civil suit against Roozrokh, the donor network and other doctors in the operating room, and has settled a lawsuit against the hospital.

Free market fuel on sale Price is \$1.66 per gallon



IranTimes:The government last month put gasoline on sale in unlimited quantities at four times the price of rationed gasoline. The Majlis has called for such sales ever since it authorized rationing a year ago, but the Ahmadi-nejad Administration balked and refused. It argued that such sales would only fuel inflation. Economists, however, said that non-rationed gasoline would be sold anyway—either by the government- or by a black market—and would fuel inflation either way. The Majlis told the government to sell unrationed gasoline at cost. Officials last year said they were paying between \$2 and \$2.25 per gallon to import gasoline. Since then gasoline prices have jumped. But Tehran is selling the unrationed gasoline for the equivalent of \$1.66 a gallon. No one has said how that price was

calculated. But it is well below the black market price. The government may be selling at a losing price in an effort to quell the black market—and to lessen the impact on inflation. The Majlis wanted a permanent program of free-market fuel sales, but the government has billed this as a temporary program only for Now Ruz, a major driving season in Iran. Sales began last month, March 19, and will continue for a month. Some officials have, however, suggested they view this as an experiment and may continue it after the one-month time frame. Rationing began last June. Drivers are allotted 120 liters per month at 1,000 rials per liter. That is just over a gallon a day at 41.5 cents per gallon. The unrationed gasoline goes for four times as much—4,000 rials per liter or \$1.66 per gallon.