

Author discusses his gripping success story

Operation Revival

Mohammad Hokmabadi, renowned author of 'Operation Revival' and 'Barred from Leaving' recently spoke about his latest work and the current state of publishing in Iran. Hokmabadi, whose works often center on the martyrs aims to convey moral and useful points to his readers.

The author expressed initial disappointment with the publishing industry's focus on industrial cities like Tehran and Isfahan, leaving smaller cities like Sabzevar overlooked. However, his exploration led him to the Jemco factory, an electric motor factory located in the deserts of Sabzevar, IBNA reported.

Hokmabadi described the factory as a symbol of a failed past, burdened with a massive amount of debt and struggling to maintain its 800 employees. The factory's dire conditions led to threats of electricity cut-offs and the potential sale of its land.

However, the appointment of a



IBNA

new, young CEO brought about significant changes. Despite initial skepticism and a lack of trust, the new CEO managed to revive the factory, overcoming challenges such as the country's economic situation, a depressed workforce, an embargo on electric motor parts, and the factory's tarnished reputation.

Hokmabadi's book 'Operation Revival' details the CEO's journey in

reviving the factory, which went from a debt of 600 billion tomans in 2017 to an income of 500 billion tomans in 2022. The factory's success has led to contracts with domestic and foreign factories and has even helped solve problems of citizens, such as the water supply problem in the cities of Khuzestan and Hamadan.

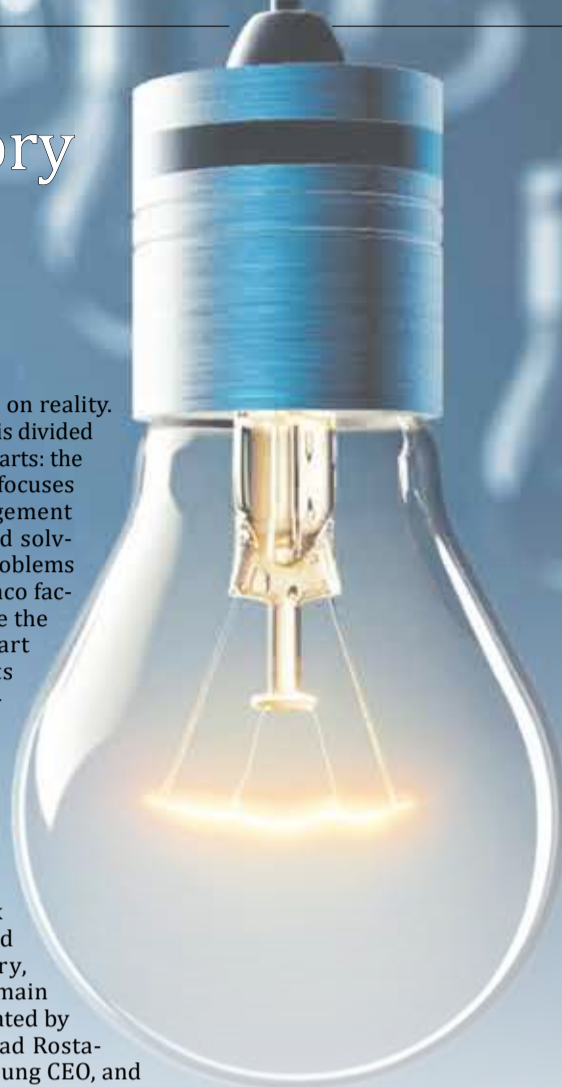
Hokmabadi also revealed plans for future works centered on Sabzevar. He noted that the book 'Operation Revival', which has already reached its fourth edition within two months, is a testament to the city's growth and resilience.

An official with Iran University of Science and Technology has praised Hokmabadi's work, expressing regret that many young elites are wasting their time in academia when they could be contributing to the country's progress in factories.

Hokmabadi emphasized that all events and narrations in his book

are based on reality.

The book is divided into two parts: the first part focuses on management affairs and solving the problems of the Jemco factory, while the second part highlights the honors and successes the factory achieved after its revival. The book is narrated as a story, with the main part narrated by Mohammad Rostami, the young CEO, and the other half by Jemco engineers.



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Six decades in news business



By Sadeq Dehqan

Staff writer

Certainly, this form of journalism, which involves the discovery and expression of facts, comes with risks.

Indeed, the expression of certain topics is not favored by certain individuals and groups, leading to numerous challenges for the reporter. I personally have encountered such difficulties. For instance, prior to the Revolution, I was banned and subsequently detained in Evin Prison. This occurred during Jamshid Amouzegar's tenure as prime minister, following the dismissal of Amir-Abbas Hoveyda in 1977. The incident unfolded when, upon retirement, high-ranking officials were appointed to various positions by the Shah. As an example, a military commander assumed the role of head of physical education. Unfortunately, some individuals abused their positions. I uncovered and exposed the corruption committed by one of such figures. Naturally, this did not sit well with the Shah. Consequently, I was arrested and imprisoned, only to be later released through amnesty.

As someone with a journalistic background both before and after the Revolution, can you offer a comparison between these two periods, particularly in the realm of investigative journalism?

Prior to the Revolution, the regime had a negative response to the discovery and expression of facts, often resulting in problems, arrests, and imprisonment. However, it was not customary for a journalist to be permanently banned from their work or for an entire newspaper to be shut down. Once the punishment was served, journalists were typically released, as stating facts and addressing people's blights does not

Mohammad Bolouri, a titan of Iranian investigative journalism with over six decades of experience, has witnessed the evolution of Iranian journalism before and after the Revolution, holds a treasure trove of untold stories from this tumultuous era. Today, he enjoys a peaceful retirement, spending time with his son's

family and writing stories for his young grandson. In an exclusive interview with Iran Daily, Bolouri shared his remarkable career journey, cherished memories, and unique insights into the world of investigative journalism. The following is the second and last part of the detailed interview.

equate to conspiracy or subversion. The essence and obligation of this profession require journalists to truthfully convey the facts and societal issues.

Following the Revolution, I did not face imprisonment. Nonetheless, newspaper officials exercised caution, preventing the publication of certain topics, and there were increased scrutiny and audits of work-related matters. Interestingly, prior to the Revolution, newspaper officials did not mind publishing controversial topics, as it boosted newspaper circulation.

As you are aware, the financial situation of a media outlet plays a significant role in influencing the quality of journalism. In your opinion, how do financial issues impact the practice of investigative journalism?

Undertaking a robust investigative report that uncovers the truth and addresses crucial issues requires both financial resources and considerable time investment to yield meaningful results. However, the current state of newspapers has become increasingly challenging, making it difficult for them to cover their basic expenses, let alone prioritize the quality of their work.

Furthermore, journalists nowadays juggle numerous concerns due to low salaries. In the past, the salary earned by a journalist was sufficient to cover their living expenses. Additionally, newspapers enjoyed a strong financial footing, with substantial amounts of money pouring in monthly from advertising. However, the present reality is that newspapers generate significantly less income from advertisements. Previously, the financial situation allowed for newspapers to send their news

staff abroad, and journalists would rotate in taking overseas assignments, fostering motivation within the profession. To illustrate, my initial salary at Keyhan Newspaper in 1957 started at 200 Tomans, an amount that sufficed to cover my expenses at that time.

Mr. Bolouri, delving into the depths of a story requires meticulous research. Didn't your work in this field overlap with the responsibilities of the police and detectives? Where is the boundary between them?

In the early stages of our work, there were no clearly defined boundaries. Our main objective was to uncover the truth. We would engage in extensive investigations, sometimes spanning several days. With the assistance of fellow journalists, we would go undercover from various angles to obtain a comprehensive understanding of the story, and then we would proceed to write about it. The police did not typically intervene unless we highlighted an error on their part, which would then lead to a summons for inquiry.

Essentially, criminal investigators, detectives, and reporters were three categories of individuals simultaneously investigating criminal incidents. At times, our investigative work would intersect with theirs, revealing aspects of their research process. Similarly, our research could also assist them in their investigations. For instance, there was a criminal case in the city of Varamin before the Revolution where a person had committed the murder of eight individuals. I obtained the details of the murders directly from the accused, and through further investigative efforts, we were able to uncover information about the

modus operandi and the burial locations of the victims. We published these details on a daily basis. The investigator requested that I locate the next victim as soon as possible. However, I insisted that we complete our investigation, and he could follow up on information about the victim after it was published in the newspaper.

How were you able to obtain information that the investigator couldn't?

I had a personal encounter with the individual accused of the Varamin murders in the basement of the police department, and our conversation extended for nearly two hours. Utilizing special interviewing techniques and drawing upon my experience in journalism, I skillfully extracted crucial details about the location and method of the killings. By meticulously following up on leads and connecting the dots, we ultimately unraveled the truth behind the case. These skills are acquired through practical experience, rather than something one learns in a classroom or university setting.



Blood donations up 3% in Iran in spring



IRNA

Social Desk

The Iranian Blood Transfusion Organization (IBTO) revealed on Saturday a 3% increase in the number of blood donations during the first three months of the current Iran year (started March 21), compared to the same period last year, according to a statement by the organization's spokesman.

IBTO spokesman Dr. Bashir Haji-Beigi said approximately 600,000 units of blood were donated during the spring season, ISNA reported.

Haji-Beigi pointed out the provinces which experienced growth in blood donations. Lorestan Province emerged as the frontrunner, with a remarkable growth rate exceeding 44%. Golestan Province closely followed with an increase of over 17%, while North Khorasan witnessed a rise of more than 16%. Notably, Tehran Province managed to collect almost 100,000 units of blood from volunteers during the spring period.

Commenting on the continuous blood donation index, he revealed that the index for the first quarter of the year stood at 54%, indicating a slight increase compared to the same period last year.

Furthermore, Haji-Beigi shared the current rankings of provinces with the highest continuous blood donation index. Semnan, Yazd, and Golestan provinces demonstrated remarkable indices surpassing 66%, 63%, and 61%, respectively. Noteworthy is the growth observed in Ilam, North Khorasan, and Khuzestan provinces, signifying commendable efforts to retain blood donors in those regions.

He emphasized that the national index of women's blood donations exceeded 4% during the first three months of this year. Lorestan Province showcased a particularly high index nearing 9%, while North Khorasan reported an index of over 7%. South Khorasan boasted a remarkable index of women's blood donation in the country, reaching nearly 7%.

These findings highlight the ongoing efforts to encourage and facilitate blood donations in Iran, with provinces across the country contributing to the overall increase in the blood supply.