



# Jafar, the generous Kebab seller



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There is a little restaurant called Haj-Hossein Kebab in Namaz Square in Shahr-e-Ray, southern Tehran. If you ever walk past it, you'll come across the restaurant with an eye-catching banner, informing the passers-by of free kebab for pregnant women who cannot afford the delicious meal with its ravishing smell. In addition to poor, pregnant women, the restaurant serves impoverished Afghan migrants. The owner of Haj Hossein Kebab, Jafar Zeynali, has been working in the restaurant for about twenty years. He is really content to donate food to the destitute and believes that his restaurant should do so, since grilling kebab spreads a whole lot of smoke and aroma in the vi-

city. It would come as no shock, then, that any hungry soul in the area would like to taste the specially grilled meat. "So, if they don't have can't afford the food, it would make me feel really miserable," says Jafar. Once a pregnant woman entered Haj-Hossein Kebab and asked for free food. The way she was craving food created a spark in Jafar's mind. He thought that maybe several other pregnant women pass by his shop every day who could not afford to buy a portion of kebab with rice. "So, I decided to install a banner in front of my shop informing everyone that, here, pregnant women who cannot afford it, would be given free food," said the restaurateur. He went on to say, "I know the people who live in Shahr-e-Ray like the back of my hand, and I'm aware

of their living conditions." Every day he thinks about the ways in which he can help the people in the area. "Several needy, hungry people come for free food every single day, and among them are a lot of poor people who are Afghan immigrants living around here. My workers and I are always happy and satisfied to provide them with free food." Jafar was born in Shahr-e-Ray. His family is considered old natives of the city,

and his father was an employee of Chit-e-Ray Company, besides working in the kebab shop. "It was last year when some young people came to have dinner in the restaurant and ordered a lot of food. As they came to pay their bills, they paid more than what they were billed. When I asked what the reason was for their overpaying, they said, 'This is our share to help those in need.'" "I can trust anyone who

comes and claims to be poor or homeless. Everyone is welcome in our restaurant. Most of my friends cannot do the same and they are surprised at how I can trust people so easily." Nevertheless, Jafar believes that anyone who comes to his shop and claims to be poor is not pretending at all. In all probability, poverty and hunger has pushed them to do so. Therefore, no hungry person is re-

jected in Haj-Hossein Kebab. Jafar believes that helping people has affected his life and has brought positive energy to his career and his family. It has even made him hopeful to do things better than before and make more progress in his job. Jafar's wife and children have always been encouraging him to help the needy, and most of his friends have been supporting him.

IRAN DAILY



## West's complicity in using chemical bombs during the Iran-Iraq War



By Syed Ali Hassan  
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The Iran-Iraq War, one of the most devastating conflicts of the 20th century, resulted in the deaths of over one million people. During this war, Saddam Hussein's army violated international law by freely using chemical weapons. In February 1979, after the establishment of a democratic Islamic system of government in Iran under the leadership of Imam

Khomeini, Saddam Hussein launched a full-scale war against Iran, using a long-standing border dispute as a pretext. Meanwhile, Iran was transitioning from a monarchy to an experimental democratic government, bringing to justice those who had committed atrocities during the reign of the Shah of Iran. Unfortunately, the Iranian army was weak, which Saddam Hussein exploited by occupying major cities from 1980 to 1982, marking the first phase of the war. Fueled by encouragement from the United States and

Arab kingdoms, Saddam Hussein escalated his aggression during the second phase of the war when Iranian forces gained an advantage. He resorted to chemical attacks on his own people and targeted urban areas in Iran as well. This phase lasted from May 1982 to the ceasefire in 1988, during which the Iranian army and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps not only liberated Iranian territory but also advanced into Iraqi territories. At the time, international defense observers believed that Iranian forces were

capable of overthrowing Saddam Hussein. However, Iran's increasing military power alarmed Western countries. They supported Saddam Hussein's army by providing prohibited weapons, including the most dangerous chemical weapons. Saddam Hussein's army utilized these chemical weapons against Iraqi Kurds and border cities in Iran, causing severe consequences felt not only in Western countries but also by the international community. Despite the United Nations taking notice, Saddam Hussein continued committing

serious crimes against humanity with no intervention from Germany, the country that supplied him with chemical weapons. The Iraqi dictator employed various chemical agents, particularly mustard gas, which contained Tabun and Sarin. These chemical weapons targeted both Iranian military and civilian targets, leading to devastating consequences. A UN report revealed that Saddam's army used mustard gas on the Iranian city of Sardasht in 1987, resulting in the deaths of more than 100 people and

thousands injured. The long-term health problems caused by exposure to chemical weapons included cancer, respiratory issues, and neurological disorders. Despite the disastrous impact of chemical weapons on the Iranian people and military, the international community, particularly the Western world, continued to encourage Saddam Hussein's hostility towards Iran. This complicity suggests that the United States and European countries share responsibility for these crimes against humanity.



IRNA

### Iran's elderly population projected to double in two decades

Social Desk

On the occasion of the International Day of Older Persons, Iran's Deputy Minister of Health issued a warning about the expected doubling of the elderly population in our country over the next 20 years.

"This increase is happening much faster than what has been observed in many developed countries around the world, where the elderly population took more than a hundred years to double," said Hossein Farshidi, according to ISNA.

The Deputy Minister emphasized the significance of the elderly population in our country, considering them a national treasure that plays a vital role in preserving and passing on our Iranian-Islamic culture and strengthening solidarity between generations.

Farshidi's message conveyed well wishes for their health during the celebration of the International Day and Iran's National Week of Honoring Older Persons.

An increase in life expectancy and a decline in overall fertility rates worldwide during the 20th century have led to a phenomenon known as 'aging population'. Iran has also experienced similar demographic changes, and if the current trend continues, the growth of the aging population will accelerate significantly.

"In the next 20 years, the proportion of elderly people will double, going from 10 percent to 20 percent of the total population," the official warned.

The Ministry of Health takes demographic changes into account when formulating macro-policies.

"One approach to addressing these changes is to focus on maintaining and promoting the youth of the population, aiming for a balanced population structure. This policy has a positive consequence of ensuring an adequate number of young individuals to support and care for the increasing elderly population," Farshidi said.

The health sector's actions concerning the elderly focus on maintaining and improving their physical health, delaying dependency and disability, promoting their psychological well-being, and encouraging their participation in society.

"However, it is important to recognize that optimal health care should begin before birth and continue throughout all stages of life. By aging in a healthy manner, individuals can actively engage with family and society, leading to a higher quality of life," he said.