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Mansoureh Ettehadieh (Nezam-Mafi)
Said Mir Muhammad Sadeq

Newspapers and Journals Reprinted from 1991 to 2001

SINCE THE FIRST REPRINT VOLUME OF THE *Rūznāmeḥ-i Dawlat-i ʿAlīyya* appeared in 1991, a large number of newspapers and journals have been published, mostly on the initiative of Sayyid Farid Qasimi, the head of Iran's National Library and the Archival Center of the Majlis-i Shura-yi Islami. Each volume contains an introduction by the volume editor and, except for *Akhtar*, *Millati*, *Nāleh-yi Millat*, *Dār al-Funūn* and *Junūb*, each series has an index.

Those who have no access to the newspapers of the Nasiri era, Qasimi, ed. *Chakīdeh-yi Maṣbūʿāt-i Īrān* (Tehran: Muṭalaʿat-i Tarikh-i Muʿasir-i Iran, 1999), should be of great value. Qasimi has compiled news and other items of interest from many of the journals and newspapers of the Nasiri era, such as *Urdū-yi Humayūni*, *Dānish*, *ʿIlmī*, *Mirʿat al-Safar va Mishkat al-Ḥazar*, *Millatī*, *Sharaf*, and *Mirriḵh*. The material is arranged alphabetically according to the title of the article with a shortened version of the subject matter. A detailed index makes it a very accessible source of reference.

The newspaper and journals, re-printed since 1991, are, in order of re-publication:

- 1) *Dawlat-i ʿAlīya*, 1370-72/1991-2, 2 vols. (Kitabkhaneh-i Milli).
- 2) *Nāleh-yi Millat*, n.d. about 1370 or 1372/1991 or 1993, (Tabriz, Sazman-i Chap-i Hadi).
- 3) *Junūb*, 1371/1992, (Ali Reza Tangestani).
- 4) *Vaqāʿiʿ-i Itifāqīya*, 1374-5/1995-6, 4 vols. (Kitabkhaneh-i Milli).
- 5) *Dānish* and *Nashriya-i Madrasa-i Mubāraka-i Dār al-Funūn-i Tabrīz*, 1374/1995, published together in one volume) (Markaz-i Gustarish-i Amuzish va Rasaneh-ha).

6) *Īrān*, 1374-78/1995-98, 5 vols. (Kitabkhaneh-i Milli) ISBN 964-446-008-1, 964-446-039-9.

7) *Millatī* or *Millat-i Ṣanī'a-i Īrān*, 1374/1995, (Markaz-i Gustarish-i Amuzish wa Rasaneh-ha).

8) *Anjuman-i Tabrīz*, 1374/1995, 2 vols. (Kitabkhaneh-i Milli).

10) *Majlis*, 1375-77/1996-8, 5 vols. (Kitabkhaneh-i Muzeh, Markaz-i asnad-i Majlis-i Shura-yi Islami).

11) *Tarbiyat*, 1376/1997, 3 vols. (Kitabkhaneh-i Milli).

12) *Shukūfeh Dānish*, 1377/1998 (published in one vol.), (Kitabkhaneh-i Milli), ISBN 964-446-020-0.

12) *Akhtar*, 1378/1999, 2 volumes (Kitabkhaneh-i Milli), ISBN 964-446-034-0, 964-446-041-3.

13) *Al-Ghurā*, *Durrat al-Najaf* and *Najaf*, 1380/2001 (published in one volume), (Mu'assisa-i Tarikh-i Mu'asir).

14) *Īrān-i Sulṭānī* and *Īrān*, 1380/2001 (published in 1 volume), (Kitabkhaneh-i Milli), ISBN 964-446-0590-6.

Newspapers and journals according to the date of their original publication

Vaqā'ī-i Ittifāqīya, *Dawlat-i 'Alīya*, *Millatī*, *Īrān*, and *Īrān-i Sulṭānī* were all published by the government. In 1910, after about sixty years, all official newspapers ceased publication and the government at times participated by supporting a newspaper, which thus became its official organ. The papers *Tarbiyat*, *Anjuman-i Tabrīz*, *Shukūfeh*, *Dānish*, and *Akhtar* were published by private individuals or associations.

Vaqā'ī-i Ittifāqīya (1850–1861)

The first newspaper published in Iran in 1837, *Kāghaz-i Akhbār*, lasted only a short while. Fourteen years later, *Vaqā'ī-i Ittifāqīya* was founded by Mirza Taqi Khan Amir Kabir, the Sadr A'zam of Nasir al-Din Shah as part of his modernization program. Its declared aim was to educate the public and to inform it about home and foreign news. It was used as a vehicle for what the government thought was useful for people to know and for propaganda purposes, with perhaps a vague notion of influencing public opinion. The articles concentrated on news about the shah, his movements and travels, the appointments of high-ranking courtiers to official duties, and news about the provinces. It also contained foreign news in a haphazard fashion, often about royalty, sometimes about sensational events like murders and robberies. These articles were translations from English, French, or Ottoman newspapers. The paper also published articles on scientific advances and discoveries made in Europe.

The same pattern of reporting was followed during the premiership of Mirza Aqa Khan Nuri, the successor of Amir Kabir, though it has been said that the quality of the articles deteriorated. The paper was published under the same name and format until 1861. In all, 474 issues came out.

Dawlat-i ʿAlīya (1861–1871)

In 1861 the name *Vaqāʿiʿ-i Ittifāqīya* was changed to *Rūznāmeḥ-i Dawlat-i ʿAlīya*, and it was put under the directorship of Iʿtizād al-Saltāna, minister of science and the great uncle of the shah. The editor was Sanīʿ al-Mulk, a famous painter who had studied in Italy and who illustrated the paper with lithographs of the shah, his courtiers, and events at court.

Despite the changes brought about in the editorship of the paper, the same pattern of reporting established by *Vaqāʿiʿ-i Ittifāqīya* continued, but the quality of the articles seems to have improved, perhaps due to Sanīʿ al-Mulk's efforts. The *Rūznāmeḥ-i Dawlat-i ʿAlīya* continued to report on the court and events of Tehran, the provinces, and the world. It published news about the shah, his courtiers and his government, the promotion and appointment of officials, and government decrees. It also instructed people on a variety of subjects like the art of letter-writing and the nature and avoidance of contagious diseases. The paper also carried news of the ministries and in particular the ministry of science. It also published news about the Dar al-Funun polytechnic college. Both the ministry and the Dar al-Funun were under the direction of Iʿtizād al-Saltāna. It also paid attention to scientific discoveries and inventions in Europe. In 1870 the name ʿAlīya was changed briefly to Dawlati but the paper resumed its old name in 1871.

Millatī or *Millat-i Ṣanīʿa-i Īrān* (1867–1871)

In 1867, Iʿtizād al-Saltāna began to publish two other journals; one was *ʿIlmīya*, ("Scientific Journal"), which has not been reprinted, and the other was *Millatī*. This journal specialized in the lives of famous Iranian poets. It also invited its readers to write to it and send articles. In all thirty-two issues were published.

In 1871 the policy of the government with regards to the two journals it published and the *Rūznāmeḥ-i ʿAlīya* changed. This coincided with the advent of Mirza Husayn Khan Sipahsalar, minister of justice and then Sadr Aʿzam.

Īrān (1872–1896)

In 1872 all the other official newspapers and journals ceased publication and in their stead a new journal, *Īrān*, was published by Muhammad Hasan Khan Iʿtimād al-Saltāna who had studied at the Dar al-Funun polytechnic college and in Paris. He introduced a number of innovations. For instance, *Īrān* was the first newspaper that actively gathered news and did not limit itself to reports sent by provincial governors. In addition, each issue contained an installment of a serialized novel. Otherwise the model of the previous papers was more or less followed. As the official organ of the government it contained news about the Shah, his travels and his courtiers, as well as reports of ceremonies, decrees, celebrations, festivals, and periods of religious mourning.

Muhammad Hasan Khan died in 1896, a few months before Nasir al-Din Shah. The shah bestowed his title and the editorship of the paper on I^ctimad al-Saltana's nephew, Muhammad Baqir Khan.

***Akhtar* (1876–1896)**

Akhtar was published in Ottoman Turkey by Muhammad Tahir Tabrizi. The first issue appeared on January 13, 1876. In it was an announcement that the newspaper would publish news of political events, trade, science, literature, and other topics of general interest. The paper would also accept articles useful to the public. In addition, *Akhtar* catered to the needs of the merchant community in Istanbul and contained very useful commercial information. It made it its responsibility to describe the woeful conditions in Iran and was particularly critical of the government.

For a time *Akhtar* appeared daily, but later came to be published only twice a week. Some of the contributors to *Akhtar* were Mirza Mahdi Akhtar, Mirza Husayn Isfahani, Mirza Habib Dastan, Mirza Najaf Quli Danish Khu²i.

The Iranian expatriate community greeted the publication of this paper with great enthusiasm. However the Persian government banned its entry into Iran and the post office had special orders to seize it. Foreigners too were asked not to bring it with them. However *Akhtar* was smuggled in anyway, and together with other papers published abroad like *Ṣurāyā*, *Qānūn* and *Ḥabl al-Maīn*, helped to awaken people to conditions in Iran and played an important role in creating the general dissatisfaction that would culminate in the Constitutional Revolution in 1906.

In 1897, after the assassination of Nasir al-Din Shah the previous year, Sultan ^cAbd al-Hamid, who was suspicious of the activities of Iranian dissidents in his territory, banned publication of *Akhtar*.

Dānish

Dānish is the first journal to have been affiliated with a center of higher learning. It was published by ^cAli Quli Khan Mukhbir al-Saltana, the minister of science. Mukhbir al-Saltana was assisted by Muhammad Kazim, professor of chemistry at the Dar al-Funun in Tabriz.

***Nashriya-i Dār al-Funūn-i Tabriz* (1891)**

This journal had no particular name and each issue, appearing monthly, was called simply a "sheet" (*varaqa*). Its articles are helpful in reconstructing the history of this poorly-documented polytechnic in Tabriz. *Dānish* and this journal are reprinted in a single volume.

***Tarbiyat* (1896–1907)**

Launched in 1896 by Zuka' al-Mulk Furughi, *Tarbiyat* was the first daily non-government newspaper of Iran. As mentioned above, after a period of about

sixty years the near monopoly of the government to disseminate information came to an end with the death of Nasir al-Din Shah and I'timad al-Saltana. For a time *Tarbiyat* appeared regularly but there were periods later when it suspended publication for various reasons. Most of the articles of *Tarbiyat* were written by Zuka', who emphasized the intelligence and ability of Iranians. He argued the importance of time and reminded his readers that they should try to achieve things and not feel ashamed of their backwardness.

The paper contained various news of socio-political importance as well as discourses on the economy and world events. Zuka' seldom wrote about royalty or the court but rather covered cultural and educational issues of concern to Iran. Even news about the provinces centered mainly on cultural events. The paper ceased finally to appear in its ninth year, a few months before Zuka's death.

Īrān-i Sulṭānī (1902–1905)

Īrān-i Sulṭānī replaced *Īrān* and was published for three years by Mirza Muhammad Nadim Bashi who had originally been attached to the court of the crown prince in Tabriz.

Īrān (1905–1909)

In 1905, Muhammad Baqir I'timad al-Saltana, nephew of the more famous Muhammad Hasan Khan I'timad al-Saltana, replaced Nadim Bashi and the name of the paper was changed to *Īrān*. No explanation was given for these changes. *Īrān* was published until the bombardment of the Majlis in 1908, when all publications ceased for a time. These two newspapers have been reprinted in one volume.

Majlis (1906–1912)

The owner of this paper was Mirza Mohsen and the director was Sayyid Sadiq Tabataba'i, the son of the famous pro-constitutionalist Ayatullah Tabataba'i. For a time, the editor was Adib al-Mamalik Farahani. It began publication about two months after the opening of the first Majlis and together with *Anjuman-i Tabriz* were the first non-governmental papers to be published immediately after the granting of the constitution in 1906.

Besides miscellaneous news, which can to be found in all the papers of the time, the newspaper *Majlis* published the discussions of the Majlis almost in full. After the shelling of the Majlis in 1908, and the destruction of its library, all copies of the discussions were destroyed. The only remaining source was what the newspaper *Majlis* had published. These were published in a separate volume in 1946 as part of a collection, specializing in the publication of the discussions of each session of the Majlis, entitled *Muzākarāt-i Majlis*.

***Anjuman-i Tabrīz* (1906-1909)**

Rūznāmeḥ-i Anjuman-i Tabrīz was originally named *Rūznāmeḥ-i Majlis-i Milli-yi Tabrīz*, and was to be the organ of the Anjuman, or Society, of Tabriz, which was also called Majlis for a time. But the name was changed to *Rūznāmeḥ-i Anjuman* when it was established definitely that the Anjuman of Tabriz was not a parliament but a Society.

Rūznāmeḥ-i Anjuman specialized in publishing the discussions of the Anjuman and also contained news of events in Azerbaijan. They both played a very crucial role radicalizing the Constitutional Revolution.

***Junūb* (1910)**

Junūb was published by Muhammad Baqir Tangistani. The aim of this paper was said to be the defense of freedom and the development of the Iranians. It published home news and the discussions of the Majlis on political events, particularly emphasizing the conditions of the south and the relationship with the British.

***Nāleh-i Millat* (1909–1910)**

The editorial policy of this newspaper was to give voice to the people who were suffering under the tyranny of officialdom and the powerful, and to publish the deliberations of the Anjuman of Tabriz during the siege of that city. The editor, Mirza Aqa Nāleh-i Millat, wrote most of the articles himself. During the eleven months when the inhabitants of Tabriz were fighting and slowly starving, the paper carried news about the organization of the commission to help the poor, to collect food, organize poor houses and other measures designed to alleviate suffering. It also attacked the shah's officials and courtiers.

The most important contribution of this paper, however, is the information it gives about the conduct of the war, the lives of the people, and the actions of the nationalists in the defense of their city against the forces of the shah. Publication halted when Russian troops entered Tabriz and the editor went into hiding.

Abd al-Husayn Nahid Azari has reprinted the paper and written an introduction which describes and lists the newspapers of Tabriz published during the Constitutional Revolution.

***Shukūfeh* (1912–1916)**

Shukūfeh was the first women's newspaper of Iran and seventy issues were published over a period of four years. Inspired by the Constitutional Revolution and backed by the supplementary fundamental laws which granted freedom of the press and association and advocated the right to education for all, a number of women began to work actively for the advancement of all women. One such person was Maryam Muzayyan al-Saltana, daughter of Mir Sayyid Razi, Ra'is

al-Atibba', an army doctor of the Nasiri era. Muzayyan al-Saltana published *Shukūfeh* for women, opened a school for girls, and also organized an association or *anjuman* to propagate her message for women.

The paper steered clear of politics for fear it might become embroiled with the conservative elements of the time. Thus it claimed to be educational and literary and to work toward the improvement of the education of women and girls. It discussed questions of children's health, home-keeping and childrearing, and accepted articles in line with the paper's general policies. The majority of articles published dealt with family issues—the relationship between husband and wife, and the rearing and education of children. The paper emphasized the religious duties of each as the best way to the improvement of self and family and the abnegation of immoral behavior. It is interesting to note that during its second year the paper became somewhat political, began to criticize Iran's social and economic conditions, and sought to unravel the reasons for its backwardness.

Dānish (1911–1912)

Dānish was the very first women's journal. It was owned by Dr Kahal, and edited by his wife, the daughter of Ya'qub Jadid al-Islam-i Hamadani. *Dānish* claimed to be educational and to treat such matters as home economics and child rearing, which the paper considered useful for young girls and women. It was completely apolitical and did not concern itself at all with affairs of state.

One of the topics often emphasized by the journal was the health of the family, and in particular of the children and as the editor was the wife of a doctor, it often discussed medical questions with great precision. This journal has been reprinted together with *Shukūfeh* in one volume.

Al-Ghurā (1910), *Durrat al-Najaf* (1910), *Najaf* (1910–1912)

These three journals, all of which were published in Najaf, are important sources for the study of the ulama's arguments in defense of the constitution, and they illustrate how events in Iran were echoed in the 'Atabat. They also indicate the way in which the ulama justified their religious conservatism vis-à-vis modern Western culture. Some of the topics discussed in these journals are the necessity of rejecting tyranny and a tyrannical monarchy, the manner of establishing and living in a civil society, and the relationship between religion and civilization. At the same time the journals criticized unfettered liberty and the laxness of the constitutionalists and their imitation of westerners and emphasized the importance of basing civilization on religion. The three journals have been reprinted together in Musa Najafi, ed. *Hawza-i Najaf va falsafa-i tajaddud dar Īrān* (Tehran, 2000).