



‘ALĀ’-AL-SALTĀNA

‘ALĀ’-AL-SALTĀNA, MĪRZĀ MOḤAMMAD-‘ALĪ KHAN, Qajar diplomat and minister (d. 14 Ramaẓān 1336/23 June 1918; [Figure 1](#)). The son of the Iranian consul general in Baghdad, Mīrẓā Ebrāhīm Khan, he was born in that city in 1254/1838. In 1276/1859-60 he became consul general in Bombay, a post he held until 1287/1870-71 (E‘temād-al-saltāna, *Montaẓam-e Nāṣerī*, Tehran, 1298-1300/1881-83, III, pp. 267, 301). In 1288/1871 he was given the title Mo‘īn-al-wezāra and appointed deputy governor of Gīlān by Mīrẓā Sa‘īd Khan, the foreign minister, and in 1296/1877-78 he was consul general in Baghdad (*ibid.*, pp. 320, 357). According to E‘temād-al-saltāna (*Rūz-nāma-ye kāṭerāt*, ed. Ī. Afšār, Tehran, 1345 Š./1966, p. 150) in 1299/1881-82 he became a member of the Maḥles-e Taḥqīq. Sometime later he was appointed consul general in Tiflis, a position he held until 1307/1889, when he entertained Nāṣer-al-dīn Shah on his way back from his third European trip. Displeased with Malkom Khan, the Iranian minister in London, the Shah replaced him with Moḥammad-‘Alī Khan; at this point he received the title ‘Alā’-al-saltāna (*Rūz-nāma-ye kāṭerāt*, p. 674). During the constitutional period he was back in Iran as a member of various cabinets; in Šafar, 1331/January, 1913 he became prime minister, a position he enjoyed for seven months. His sons, who include Mīrẓā Maḥdī Khan Mošīr-al-molk (‘Alā’-al-saltāna II), Ḥosayn ‘Alā’, the well-known statesman, and Dr. Moḥammad ‘Alā’, were all educated in England.



BIBLIOGRAPHY

See also Bāmdād, *Rejal* III, pp. 447-49.