



## AMĀN-E AFGĀN

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**AMĀN-E AFGĀN**, newspaper of Afghanistan during the reign of King Amānallāh (1337-48/1919-29). In 1919 Maḥmūd Ṭarzī turned over the publication of *Serāʾ al-aḵbār* to ‘Abd-al-Hādī Dāvī (for the latter’s political career up to 1973, see L. W. Adamec, *Who’s Who of Afghanistan*, Graz, 1975, pp. 95-96). Following Amānallāh’s accession Dāvī changed the paper’s name to *Amān-e Afġān*—thus reflecting its role as the king’s official organ. The first issue appeared on 30 Asad 1299/2 August 1920; it was published weekly (on the average) and reached a length of twelve pages. *Amān-e Afġān* continued Ṭarzī’s passionate concern for national independence. In publishing general information and selected news, its chief objective was to make the Afghan people conscious of the intrigues of the colonial powers and the need for resistance. It effectively used such inflammatory terms as *ġolām* (page), *asīr* (bondsmen), and *banda* (slave) to describe the situation of Afghanistan. Amānallāh’s officials saw that couriers brought *Amān-e Afġān* to tribal leaders and to villages throughout the country, so that its message might be read out to the largely illiterate masses. Together with the concern for independence went the paper’s emphasis on unity, which was promoted by traditional parables and by slogans such as *bīdār bāšīm* (let us be awake) and *mottaḥed šavīm* (let us become united). In harmony with Amānallāh’s efforts, the paper attempted to win people away from traditional beliefs and attitudes, such as resignation to fate. When Amānallāh was forced to flee the country in 1929, Dāvī also went into exile for a brief period; with the end of the attempt at radical reforms, the official voice of the reformist regime was silenced.



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