



BĀMŠĀD NEWSPAPER

BĀMŠĀD, a Persian newspaper and a news and public affairs magazine published in Tehran 1956-68. Its licensee and chief editor was Esmā'īl Pūrwālī (b. 1301 Š./1922 in Mašhad), a professional journalist whose career began in 1319 Š./1940 and includes stints as the editor of the newspaper *Īrān-e mā* (Tehran, 1943-47), Paris correspondent of National Iranian Radio and Television (1971-76), and editor of the magazine *Rūzgār-e now* currently published in Paris. The weekly *Bāmšād* was brought out in Kordād, 1335 Š./June-July, 1956, as a publication of the newspaper *Īrān-e mā*, but, after three issues a special permission from A. 'Alam, minister of the interior, allowed it to be published as an independent weekly magazine without official license. The license was issued toward the end of that summer; popular for its illustrations and its diverse contents, *Bāmšād* ranged from 72 to 84 pages, measured 12 x 18.5 cm, and cost five rials. In the fall of 1335 Š./1956, an independent newspaper *Bāmšād* began publishing simultaneously with the magazine; it was a four-page, seven-column paper with an average measurement of 32 x 44.5 cm and contained a separate, humor supplement called *Mašhadī Bābā*. In the summer of 1336 Š./1957, the publication of a line from Ḥāfeẓ as a caption to a childhood picture of Moḥammad-Rezā Shah and construed to have a slightly satirical flavor led to the suppression of both the newspaper and the magazine and to Pūrwālī's arrest and imprisonment for 40 days. Though the satire proved to be unintentional, *Bāmšād* magazine remained censored even after Pūrwālī's release from prison. Only the newspaper was allowed to continue publication and at the outset of 1343 Š./1964 was changed to a weekly news magazine of twenty seven-column pages, measuring 29 x 42 cm. This



magazine was at its most popular during the tenure of Prime Minister ‘Alī Amīnī. Its illustrations were seasoned with political cartoons signed by Moḥsen Davallū. It assumed the shape of an Express or Newsweek-style news and public affairs magazine from 8 Ābān 1345 Š./30 October 1966 until 1348 Š./1969, when political and financial constraints forced it to stop publication. During this period, it contained between 48 and 114 three-column pages, measuring 21 x 28.5 cm, and cost ten rials. It was well-illustrated and sported eye-catching Davallū caricatures on the cover; interior caricatures were drawn by Laṭīfī. Well-known contributors to *Bāmšād* included: Ḥasan Arsanjānī, Moḥammad-Rezā ‘Askarī, Parvīz Āzādī, Tūraj Farāzmand, Šā’allāh Nāzerīān, Īraj Nabawī, and Dāryūš Homāyūn. After the revolution of 1979, Pūrwālī published *Bāmšād* in a smaller format, but, after two issues, discontinued publication and emigrated to Paris. In the fall of 1360 Š./1981, he began the Persian magazine *Rūzgār-e now*. Incomplete sets of *Bāmšād* are kept in major libraries of Iran.

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