



## BURBUR, 'ALI

**BURBUR, 'ALI**, 'EẒĀM-al-MOLK (b. Malāyer, 1867; d. Arāk 1922, [Figure 1](#)), administrative and military official under the Qajars. The elder son of Ḥasan Khan Burbur Kordkordi, a personal assistant of Nāṣer-al-Din Shah, the young 'Ali was picked as commander of a three-thousand strong cavalry unit to put down various rebellions in the Lorestān region. Having proved himself a capable commander, he was bestowed with the unique title of 'Eẓām-al-Molk by the shah at an early age. His first non-military appointment was in 1901 as Master of Ceremony in daily audience at Moẓafar-al-Din Shah's court, after which he continued to be conferred with high-ranking civil service positions.

In 1904 'Eẓām-al-Molk became the independent governor (*ḥokmrān-e mostaqel*) of Behbahān, Kohgiluya and Fasā; this coincided with the Fārs governor-generalship of Malek Maṣṣur Mirzā, Šo'ā'-al-Salṭana. 'Eẓām-al-Molk was already an illustrious political figure and corresponded frequently with the statesmen of his time, often signing his correspondence with the first name, 'Ali, which indicated closeness and familiarity. Some of the more frequent interlocutors, mostly the Qajar royal family or tribal leaders, including [Sheikh Kaz'al](#), the paramount chief of the Arab tribes of Khuzestan; 'Abdallāh Khan Qaragozlu; Sardār Akram, son of Moṣṭafā Khan E'temād-al-Salṭana, governor of Khuzestan and a civil official in Shiraz; Gōlām-Ḥosayn Khan Baḳtiāri Šehāb-al-Salṭana; Abu'l-Faṭḥ Mirzā Sālār-al-Dawla, the third son of Moẓaffar-al-Din Shah, who had laid claim to the throne and had gathered forces in Kurdistan and Kermānšāh; Kōsrow Khan Baḳtiāri, Sardār Ẓafar; Sālār Arfa', governor of Yazd and Kerman; Solṭān-Moḥammad Mirzā Sayf-al-Dawla, a prince from the



favorite Isfahani wife of Faṭḥ-'Ali Shah who was installed as governor in 1841 at the age of thirteen and held important later positions; and, Ḥāji Saḥm-al-Molk Amirtumān, whose daughter was the second wife of Abu'l-Faṭḥ Mirzā Mo'ayyed-al-Dawla.

The second assignment of 'Ezām-al-Molk in Fārs as *ḥākem* of Lār and **Jahrom** coincided with hostilities by the nationalist forces (*melliyun*) against the British, the **South Persia Rifles**, headquartered in Shiraz, and their commander Percy Sykes who was a supporter of 'Abd-al-Ḥosayn Mirzā **Farmānfarmā**, appointed governor-general of Fārs in the year 1916 due to the insistence of the British government. There were continuous protests and demonstrations at Masjed-e Now of Shiraz against the meddling of the British in Iranian affairs which culminated in a harsh manifesto by the nationalists. 'Ezām-al-Molk, who kept close ties with both the tribal leaders and the nationalists, was designated to convey their ultimatum to the governor-general. They demanded the immediate dismantling of the British-instigated South Persia Rifles, which they claimed had not been authorized by the Iranian government and which they declared unlawful, and the dismissal of Farmānfarmā as *persona non grata*; they threatened use of force in case of refusal.

Later on, 'Ezām-al-Molk served as a deputy governor of Isfahan. His last appointment, by Aḥmad Shah (q.v.), was as the *nāyeb al-ḥokuma* (vicegerent) of Arāk, where he died from kidney failure at the age of 55; he was buried in Qom. The title of 'Ezām-al-Molk was immediately transferred by a royal decree to his eldest son, Ġolām-'Ali Khan Mo'tamed-al-Solṭān. 'Ali Burbur married three times, to Sakina, Ṭubā (a daughter of Esmā'il Khan Šāmlu), and Baṭul. His first wife gave birth to Nimtāj, and his second wife was the mother of six sons, Ġolām-'Ali Khan, Ġolām-Ḥosayn Khan, Ġolām-Rezā Khan, 'Aliqoli Khan, Emāmqoli Khan, and Esmā'il Khan, and three daughters, Mahlaqā, Aqdas and Faḵr-al-Zamān.



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