



## EŞLĀḤ

**EŞLĀḤḤ**, title of six Persian-language newspapers, three of which deserve notice.

1. A government news weekly published in Kānābād, the capital of the Afghan province of Qaṭaḡan, beginning 29 Dalw 1300 Š./18 February 1921 and ceasing publication shortly after Jadī 1301 Š./January 1923 (Āhang, p. 162, wrongly assumes that this latter date is when it began publication; it is also unlikely that the newspaper *Etteḥād* (q.v.) was its continuation; cf. Jūyā, p. 70). Its publisher was Moḥammad-Nāder Khan (later Nāder Shah), and its editors were Šēr-Aḥmad and later Ḥāfeẓ Fayẓ Moḥammad (Āhang, p. 164). Eşlāḥ was lithographed on a single double-column page measuring 21.5 x 34.5 cm. It was priced 7 pice per issue and 5 Kabul rupees for subscription. No extant copies are known. 2. A weekly paper published in Bombay from 20 Du'l-Ḥejja 1326 to 5 Jomādā I 1329/13 January 1909-4 May 1911 by Moḥammad-Rezā Būšehrī. It carried stories on political news and social reform and mainly covered southern Persia and the Ottoman empire. It was the first Persian newspaper to carry letters to the editor. It was lithographed in *nask* in two-column eight pages measuring 21 x 28 cm., except for no. 2:26-30 when it was typographed in a smaller format. Annual subscription in the first year was 12 *qerāns* in Persia and Afghanistan and 3.5 rupees in India; and 15 *qerāns* and 5 rupees thereafter. Schools and *anjomans* received it free. Copies are available in Tehran University, Majles Library I, and Cambridge University.



A weekly *Eşlāḥ* of news and politics was published in Tehran from 21 Qaws to 3 Saraṭān 1303 Š./21 Dec. 1923-24 June 1924 by the same editor as a continuation of its Bombay namesake. Copies are available in Mellī Library, Tehran University, and Majles Library I.

3. A major Kabul newspaper. Initially the organ of opponents of the government of Bačča-ye Saqqā (q.v.), it was first published in mimeograph on 16 Asad 1308 Š./7 August 1929 in ‘Alī-Ḳayl (Jājī) in the province of Paktiā. At this time it was edited by a committee, but the main work was done by Moḥammad-Nowrūz Khan, later editor of *Nowrūz* and general secretary (*sarmonšī*) of the court. After the fall of the government, it was published in Kabul beginning with no. 10, 4 ‘Aqrab 1308 Š./24 October 1929. At first a weekly, it became semi-weekly on 3 Dalw 1308 Š./22 February 1930. At the beginning of 1310 Š./March 1931 it became a morning daily. Its first editor in Kabul was Ḥasan Salīmī. Among the many later editors, the best known are Borhān-al-Dīn Koškakī, ‘Abd-al-Raḥmān Pežvāk, Moḥammad-Moḥsen Fīrūz, Moḥammad-Qadīr Tarakī, and Sayyed Faqīr ‘Alawī. In 1939 Pashto was added in accordance with government policies encouraging its use. Thereafter the Pashto section occupied 40-70 percent of the paper. From 1 Ṭawr 1333 Š./21 April 1954 *Eşlāḥ* was owned by a corporation controlled by the government. For a short time in early 1973 it was published together with *Anīs* (q.v.) under the title *Eşlāḥ—Anīs*. *Eşlāḥ* ceased publication a month after the coup of Moḥammad Dāwūd Khan (q.v.) in 1352 Š./1973. *Anīs* continued publication, and the newly-founded *Jomhūrīyat* took the place of *Eşlāḥ*.

The format of *Eşlāḥ* changed many times during its forty-four years of publication. In Jājī the first nine numbers were published in four two-column pages, 33 x 51 cm., photocopied and distributed free. During the latter part of World War II paper shortage reduced it to two pages. After 1965 it had six pages and eight on Fridays. In its last years it had eight or twelve pages. Its final format was 41.5 x 57.5 cm. in six columns. Single issues cost 25 to 200 Afghanis. Incomplete runs are found in major libraries in Afghanistan and Persia and in the Library of Congress.



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