



FĀRS NEWSPAPER

FĀRS, name of two newspapers published in Shiraz.

1. A weekly published from 20 Jomādā II through 12 Du'l-qa'da 1289/25 August 1872-12 January 1873. After *Ādarbāyjān* (q.v.), *Fārs* was the second Persian newspaper published in a province. The first three issues, called *al-Fārs*, were in Arabic and Persian, not all in Arabic as has been assumed (Şolhju, p. 238; Kohen, p. 80). The editorial of the first issue asserts that *Fārs* was being published with an authorization by Nāşer-al-Dīn Shah and upon direct orders of Prince Mas'ūd Mīrzā Żell-al-Şolţān. The editor and director was Mīrzā Taqī Khan Kāşānī, Żell-al-Şolţān's private physician. Seven years later Kāşānī published *Farhang* (q.v.) in Isfahan, in whose first issue he blamed an unnamed adversary for the discontinuation of *Fārs* (Şadr Hāşemī, *Jar'ed o majallāt* I, pp. 261-65, IV, pp. 73-74).

In addition to domestic and foreign news, *Fārs* covered scientific, particularly medical, issues, and in spite of being a semi-official paper, published enlightening articles, of which a notable example is "Dar fawā'ed-e 'adālat wa mosāwāt" (no. 15 onward).

Format was four, at times eight, three-column 24 x 37 cm pages, lithographed in *nasta'liq* script at government's printing house (Dār-al-Ṭebā'a-ye kāşşa dar kalwat-e āyena-ye Dār-al-Eyāla). It carried no illustrations but occasionally had advertisements. Annual subscription was 3 tomans. Copies are accessible at the Majles Library, Teheran, and the Department of Oriental Manuscripts and Printed Books, British Library, London.



2. A weekly published from 16 Moḥarram 1335 through 10 Rabīʿ II 1339/12 November 1916-21 December 1920. Although the year of publication is specified in the newspaper, following Şadr Hāšemī (IV, pp. 60-61), some have stated that it began publication in 1331/1912. Its editor was Mīrzā Moḥammad-Naşīr Forşat Şīrāzī (Forşat-al-Dawla, q.v.), the noted poet and scholar (1271-1339/1854-1920). After him the editorship was taken over by Mīrzā Fażl-Allāh Khan Banān, secretary to the British Consulate at Shiraz.

Fārs was a conservative newspaper influenced by governors of the province, particularly the pro-British, land-owning Qawām family. Under Banān, *Fārs* openly reflected British policy in southern Persia. Nevertheless, it made significant, literary and cultural contributions under its first editor. Format was four two-column, lithographed pages of 20 x 32 cm., later 31 x 47.5 cm. It had no illustrations but carried a few advertisements. Annual subscription was 3 tomans. Copies are accessible at the Central Library of the University of Tehran and National Library at Tabrīz.

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