



JĀRČI-E MELLAT

JĀRČI-E MELLAT, a weekly satirical paper published in Tehran with long interruptions between 12 Šawwāl 1328/16 October 1910 and 8 Ƙordād 1307 Š./29 May 1928. It was suspended on numerous occasions, and the two papers, *Jārči-e asrār* (2 Du'l-ḥejja 1329/23 Nov. 1911) and *Jāsus* (22 Rabi' I 1332/18 Feb. 1914; Šadr Hāšemi, II, p. 161), that were published as replacements were immediately banned. In the fourth year, and between the ninth and the twelfth year of publication, the paper appeared twice a week before reverting to once a week publication.

The founder, director, and editor-in-chief of *Jārči-e mellat* was Sayyed Ḥosayn Tajriši (Ebrāhimzāda). From the fourteenth issue in the fourth year of publication (29 Du'l-ḥejja 1332/18 Nov. 1914), the name of 'Ali Ḥosaynzāda (Nedā'i), started to appear on the paper as the license-holder. Ḥosaynzāda had been formerly in charge of distribution of Tehran newspapers and had published in 1911 a similar satirical paper called *Jangal-e mawlā* (Bayāt and Kuhestāni-nežād, eds., p. 398; Šadr Ḥāšemi, II, pp. 172-74). Its managing director in the fifth year was Ḥasan Monšizāda Tabrizi, who had previously worked in the same position for a while for the newspaper *Ḥayāt-e Irān* (Šadr Hāšemi, II, p. 236). In 1917, the paper was incorporated with the establishment of a company (Šerkat-e Ruz-nāma-ye jārči-e mellat) in its name.

Jārči-e mellat was a socio-political newspaper but it also contained serialized fictions and non-fictions. In its early days, it was regarded as being affiliated to the Democrat Party (Ḥezb-e demokrāt), but this was officially denied by the party ("Jārči-e melat," *Irān-e now* 3/1, 24 Rabi' I, 1329/25 March 1911). It



supported Aḥmad Qawām (Qawām-al-Salṭana) for a while during the his premiership, but it was a steadfast partisan of Reżā Khan Sardar-e Sepah (the future Reżā Shah), who, during his own tenure as prime minister, arranged for secret cash payments to the paper (“Nāma-ye ‘Ali Nedā’i,” p. 850). *Jārčī-e mellat*, being a satirical paper, contained texts and cartoons vilifying influential people, which led to its numerous suspensions by the government; it, however, faced no such problems during the reign of Reżā Shah (r. 1925-41). From the tenth year of publication, it turned into a paper featuring various kinds of news.

Up to issue 26 in the fourth year of publication, *Jārčī-e mellat* was lithographed in the pen of the calligrapher Solṭān-al-Kottāb at Mirzā ‘Ali Aşğar/Marvi printing house. Afterwards, one half (pp. 1 and 4) continued to be lithographed in the same print shop and the other half was typeset first in the state’s printing house (Maṭba‘a-ye dawlati) and then at those of Bāqerzāda brothers and Kalimiān. Eventually the whole newspaper was produced completely in typeset at Bāqerzāda brothers printing house and, for brief periods, at those of Nahzat-e šarq (1921) and Ṭehrān (1923). According to a report by the German embassy in Tehran, in the years prior to the coup d’etat of 1921 (q.v.), *Jārčī-e mellat* had a print run of 1,500 (apud Mehrad, p. 73).

The cartoons and sketches that *Jārčī-e mellat* carried were quite popular in those days (‘Ayn-al-Salṭana, p. 3547). They were sometimes in color and in the early years of publication were the work of a certain ‘Ali-Reżā. Starting in its tenth year, when it turned into a solely news-reporting paper, *Jārčī-e mellat* had no illustrations, except for the last few years when it occasionally carried Reżā Shah’s picture.

Jārčī-e mellat was printed in four double-column pages of approximately 22 x 35 cm, but the appearance changed a number of times. Some issues, in particular after year fourteen, had only two pages. The annual subscription rate for Tehran was initially six krans and finally fifty krans in the last year. Incomplete sets of *Jārčī-e mellat* are kept in major Iranian libraries, and outside Persia at Cambridge University Library, Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris, and the Institute of Manuscripts of Academy of Science in Baku.



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