The First Capital of Iranian Empires

About 2800 years ago a group of people from Aryan ( Indo-Iranian ) race settled in Alvand mountain’s foothills and inaugurated the foundation of the first Iranian Empire. “ *Hegmataneh*” ( Old Persian :*Haŋgmatana* ; New Persian : *Hamedan*) meaning : “ *a place for congregation*” or “ *the place of the gathered crowd*” was the capital of the Medes, summer capital of the Achaemenian and the favourite site for the aggregation of the Satrap folks from Achaemenian to Sassanid period. We can say for sure it was the capital of the first Empire of the world that the Hellenic people called it “ *Ecbatana*” . Hegmataneh is among the few big cities of the ancient world, like Athene (in Greece) and Roma (in Italy), that is still lively and vivacious.

Deioces was the first king of the Medes people, who decided that Hegmataneh should be his capital. He bagan constructing his capital after decaliring independence from the Assyrian government. According to Herodotus, he built a city with seven labyrinthine stockade, each painted in a different color. Later, in the reign of Cayxares, the Medes people became the largest empire of the ancient world. From that time on, Hegmataneh remains one of the important capitals of Iran in different periods.

The present city of Hamedan is completely built on the remainings of that ancient city, but some parts of the city which has become known as*“ the Hemataneh precinct”* , located in the northern side of central square, was excavated by the archaeologists in the last three decades and some parts of the ancient city was made available for public exhibitions so that the historical city’s splendor astonishes everyone.