

# Hard times for historic mosque in the heart of Tehran

## Social Desk

Recent Iranian kings, up until the Qajar era, had a person nicknamed Moayyer-bashi, who was highly trusted by the king. One such person was Hassan-Ali-Beyg Bastami, who served under Nader Shah. Due to his excellence, the Bastami family had control over the mint until the end of the Qajar era, and thus became known as the Moayyer ol-Mamalek family.

Aside from their influence, the Moayyer ol-Mamalek family was also known for their generosity in creating endowments. They built various structures like mosques, schools, water reservoirs, drinking fountains, zoorkhaneh (gymnasiums), and bazaars, which still exist today. Notable landmarks such as "Takyeh Dowlat" and "Shams ol-Emareh" were constructed under their supervision – the former upon Nasser al-Din Shah's orders. One of their famous en-

dowments is the Moayyer ol-Mamalek Mosque that used to function as a school as well. If you visit Tehran's Sangelaj neighborhood on Mahdavian Ahadi Street today, you can see its historic brick building.

However, recent news has circulated about its destruction despite being nationally registered and protected by law, Fars news agency reported.

Sadly, this mosque has lost its original purpose. Even during prayer times, either it remains closed or only a small part becomes accessible temporarily through one door. In earlier days, though, it held great importance due to its central location in the city alongside beautiful architecture and spaciousness. Ayatollah Mohammad Taqi Falsafi used to deliver sermons at this mosque for

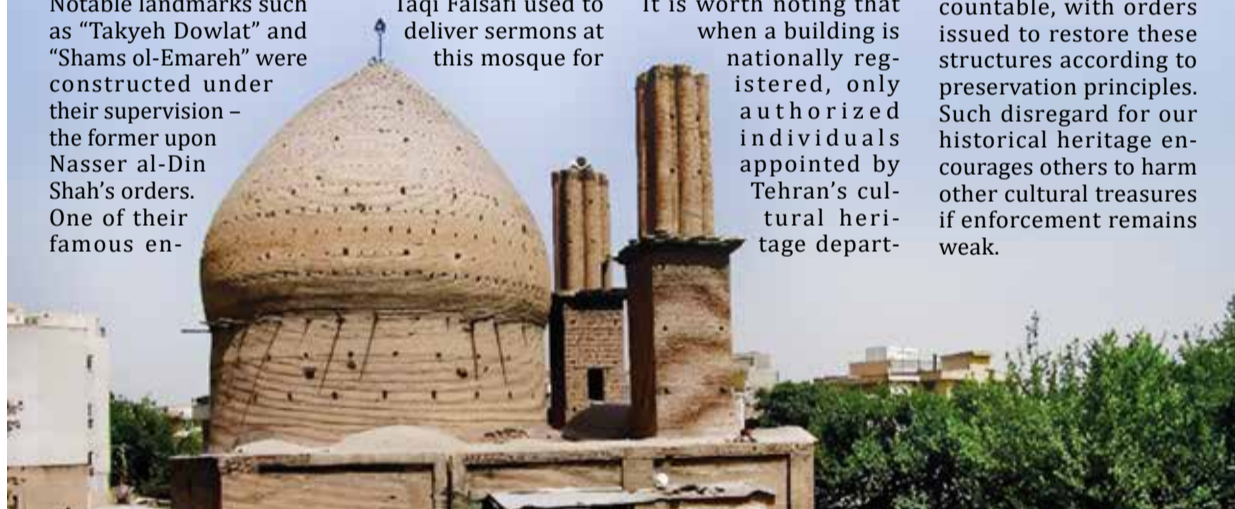
many years when it was one of the busiest places of worship in town. It also served as a gathering place for children who would come for religious education or engage in games during leisure hours—a safe haven appreciated by families. Until recently, grand Muharram ceremonies took place here with extensive distribution of Imam Hussein's (PBUH) votive offerings among locals nearby. Additionally, the water reservoir attached to this mosque provided relief to residents of Sangelaj neighborhood facing water shortages. Sadly, the reservoir has now been abandoned, and many are unaware that a drinking fountain and zoorkhaneh within the mosque complex have been completely destroyed.

It is worth noting that when a building is nationally registered, only authorized individuals appointed by Tehran's cultural heritage depart-



Arcades of Moayyer ol-Mamalek Mosque in downtown Tehran are in poor condition.  
● FARS

ment should be involved in its restoration or reconstruction—never for destruction or change of use. What raises concern is the fact that those responsible for safeguarding the Moayyer ol-Mamalek Mosque have not only damaged its historical value, but also prevented public access at times of prayer. Authorities must address this negligence towards the law. The mere act of opposing will not suffice to halt further demolition. Those responsible for violating regulations regarding national heritage buildings must be held accountable, with orders issued to restore these structures according to preservation principles. Such disregard for our historical heritage encourages others to harm other cultural treasures if enforcement remains weak.



# Half of Tehran residents' complaints are about an irritating phenomenon

## Detrimental effects of noise pollution on our health

### Social Desk

It is no secret that air pollution has turned into Tehran's public enemy number one. It's the talk of the town more than half of the year, especially in recent years, as pollution levels have risen. Yet, another, perhaps equally dangerous kind of pollution gets hardly any attention: noise pollution.

However, yesterday, the head of the urban planning commission in Tehran's City Council highlighted the importance of addressing noise pollution as a major concern for citizens.

During a public meeting, Mehdi Abbasi said that feedback from citizens received through the '137 plus' telephone system over the past year indicated various issues related to urban planning. Among these concerns, residential construction causing noise pollution, hindrances caused by construction activities, and ensuring safety during demolition were most frequently complained about. In fact, 51 percent of all messages received were related to noise pollution, according to ISNA.

To address this issue and respond to citizens' priorities, an order was issued in April 2021 regarding regulations on construction workshops. Abbasi requested that the Tehran Municipality carefully consider and implement the guidelines stated in this announcement. Abbasi further emphasized that by adhering to these regulations and with efforts from the Tehran Municipality, they hope to witness a decrease in complaints regarding noise pollution.

Also, Mehdi Chamran, head of the council, added that while air pollution has been a longstanding concern in Tehran, less attention has been given to noise pollution. In response to this issue

during their fourth term at City Council meetings, it was decided that a maximum limit of 60 decibels should be considered for noise pollution in Tehran; however, this limit was increased to 70 decibels after being submitted for government approval.

In bustling Tehran, in the midst of constant hum and buzz of activity, we often overlook noise pollution, which is a significant threat to our well-being. While it may seem harmless, or even unavoidable, excessive noise can have detrimental effects on both our physical and mental health. To truly appreciate the need for silence in urban environments, let us explore the dangers posed by noise pollution.

Firstly, prolonged exposure to high levels of noise can lead to various health issues. Studies have shown that continuous exposure to loud noises can cause stress, elevate blood pressure, and disrupt sleep patterns. This not only affects our daily lives but also increases the risk of cardiovascular diseases such as heart attacks and strokes. Moreover, persistent exposure to noise pollution has been linked to hearing loss and impaired cognitive function over time.

Furthermore, excessive noise can negatively impact mental well-being. Constant background noise from traffic, construction sites, or even crowded public spaces can increase feelings of irritability and anxiety among individuals trying to find solace within their cityscape. It hampers concentration levels and productivity at work, or while studying—ultimately hindering overall performance.

Noise pollution also interferes with social connections within communities. Excessive sound limits meaningful interactions between neighbors or friends since communica-

tion becomes challenging due to raised voices being drowned out by surrounding clamor. Additionally, recreational activities like enjoying parks or simply relaxing outdoors become less appealing when tranquility is disrupted by an incessant racket.

But what can we do about a problem that seems to be out of our control? To mitigate these risks associated with noise pollution in cities, embracing moments of silence becomes crucial for our well-being.

We can create quiet zones by designating certain areas within cities where peace reigns supreme. This allows individuals seeking respite from relentless commotion a chance to unwind without disturbance. Additionally, authorities can implement stricter regulations regarding permissible decibel levels at construction sites or public events.

Another crucial step that can be taken is promoting green spaces. Increasing the number of parks and gardens within urban areas provides an opportunity to escape the noise-filled concrete jungle and enjoy moments of tranquility surrounded by nature.

And finally, awareness must be raised about the dangers of excessive noise. Educating citizens about the detrimental effects of noise pollution empowers individuals to take responsibility for reducing unnecessary noise in their surroundings.

It is important to remember that silence is not merely the absence of sound; it holds immense value in our lives. By acknowledging the dangers posed by noise pollution and advocating for quieter environments, we can create cities that are more conducive to our overall well-being, where silence becomes a cherished commodity rather than an elusive luxury.



Construction sites are among the sources of noise pollution.  
● shahr.ir

Date: 1402/06/08 - No.: 55/02/14206

INVITATION TO RENEWAL OF ONE STEP INTERNATIONAL TENDER

First Announcement

AGRICULTURAL SUPPORT SERVICES COMPANY



Agricultural Support Services Company, hereinafter will be referred as ASSC, a subsidiary of the Ministry of Jihad-Agriculture of I.R. of Iran, is considering the purchase of  $2 \times 30000 \pm 5\%$  MTS of Granular Mono Ammonium Phosphate **GMAP (11-52)** through renewal of one step international tender.

All of the qualified and interested companies are invited to receive tender documents from **Wednesday** dated **30/8/2023** until **Tuesday** dated **5/9/2023** (5 working days) from our purchasing committee (located at the 9th floor, no. 1, fourth alley, Gandhi St., Tehran, Iran).

The bidders are requested to submit their letters of introduction, along with remittance bill of Iranian Rial 1,200,000 to ASSC's account no. 4001039704005791 with SHEBA no. IR250100004001039704005791 at the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran through payment order of SATNA or PAYA with the 30 character identification code of 358039782263500650000000000006.

The bidders are required to submit their sealed and stamped envelopes containing offers latest on **Monday** dated **9/10/2023** (during official working hours) to our security office, located on the 8th floor. Meanwhile the meeting for the opening of the envelopes will be on **Tuesday** dated **10/10/2023** at 14:00 with the presence of bidders' representatives in our purchasing committee (9th floor, no. 1, fourth alley, Gandhi St., Tehran, Iran).

**1-** The bid bond value should be at **€ 306041** or in equal value of that in any other foreign currencies, except US dollars, based on the Telegraphic Transfer rate of the basic and essential commodities on CBI's ETS website, [www.fxmarketrate.cbi.ir](http://www.fxmarketrate.cbi.ir), on 14/8/2023 for each lot of 30000 MTS  $\pm 5\%$  in bank guarantee.

**2-** The bidders are permitted to submit the bid bond in Iranian Rial. Therefore, the value of bid bond for each lot of 30000 MTS  $\pm 5\%$  will be **IRR 95,771,609,562** which must be only submitted by the bidders.

**3-** After approval of ASSC's Financial Manager, the bidders are permitted to use their previous and definite outstanding claims as the bid bond.

For more information, you may refer to our website [www.assc.ir](http://www.assc.ir), and <http://iets.mporg.ir> or contact us by phone no. 00982188776325.

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