

Rare Coins Bearing Prophet’s Name on Display in Tehran

TEHRAN -- In a remarkable unveiling timed to honor the 1,500th anniversary of the birth of Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon Him), a stunning collection of 63 historic Islamic coins will soon be revealed to the public for the first time.

These coins, each inscribed with the revered name of the Prophet, offer a tangible link to centuries of Islamic history and culture, tracing a journey across time and geography that spans continents and dynasties.

The event, announced by Hamidreza Soleimani, CEO of the Dafineh Museum Group under the Foundation of the Oppressed, is set to take place on Sunday here. It promises to be a rare opportunity to witness these shimmering artifacts, drawn from the extensive treasury of the Foundation’s historical coin collection. After the grand unveiling, the coins will be exhibited for two weeks at the renowned Astan Quds Razavi Museum, inviting visitors to step into a world where art, faith, and history intersect.

Among the treasures are 63 coins—symbolically mirroring the years of the Prophet’s life—crafted in both gold dinars and silver dirhams. Each piece carries a delicate yet powerful inscription



tion of the Prophet’s name, echoing a spiritual and cultural resonance that has transcended eras.

The oldest coins date back to the 7th century CE, while the most recent hail from the Qajar dynasty, illustrating an extraordinary span that includes the Abbasid, Samanid, Aghlabid, Tulunid, Ghaznavid, Ghurid, Seljuk, Ilkhanid, Timurid, Safavid, Afsharid, and Qajar periods.

The geographical reach of these coins is equally vast—found across the Indian subcontinent, Central Asia, Iran, Mesopotamia, the Levant, and North Africa—mapping the spread of Islamic civilization through time and space.

Metro Route Faces Scrutiny Over Potential Risks to Jameh Mosque



TEHRAN -- A sensitive debate is unfolding in this historic city over the proposed route of Metro Line 2, which is planned to pass near the Jāmeḥ Mosque, one of Iran’s most significant architectural treasures and a UNESCO World Heritage site since 2012.

Amir Karamzadeh, the director general of Isfahan’s Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Department, announced on Thursday that a qualified independent consultant will be appointed to review and verify a study conducted by Iran University of Science and Technology.

The study assesses the potential effects of the metro’s construction on the mosque’s structural integrity, particularly concerns about vibrations caused by tunneling in close proximity to the ancient building.

“The data provided by the university will undergo rigorous evaluation,” Karamzadeh said in an interview with the Iranian news agency IRNA.

“We have invited experts from the Ministry of Roads and Urban Development, the Railway Research Center, and international consultants to ensure that this process is thorough and transparent.”

The decision to bring in outside experts comes amid mounting concerns from preservationists and international observers, including UNESCO, which has asked Iran to assess and report on the

possible impacts of the metro line’s route on the mosque’s protected area.

The planned metro tunnel would run about 25 meters underground beneath Imam Ali Square and Alameh Majlesi Street. Some experts suggest that at this depth, archaeological layers are unlikely to be disturbed, and risks to the mosque may be minimal. However, long-term vibrations remain a concern, with potential effects on the centuries-old structure’s stability.

The Jāmeḥ Mosque of Isfahan, dating back over a thousand years, is renowned for its exemplary Islamic architecture, reflecting the artistic and cultural evolution through several Iranian dynasties, including the Seljuks and Safavids. Its preservation is regarded as vital to both Iran’s heritage and the world’s cultural patrimony.

Karamzadeh emphasized that the authorities will follow scientific protocols strictly and will not allow the project to proceed unless it is certain that the mosque will remain unharmed. “If the assessments show any risk, the metro route will be changed,” he said.

The outcome of this review will be closely watched by both local citizens and the international community, as Isfahan seeks to balance the demands of urban development with the preservation of its priceless historical legacy.

Isfahan, Shiraz Lead Iran’s Bid to Attract 15 Million Visitors

TEHRAN -- Isfahan—often called “Half the World” for its breathtaking beauty and rich history—is gearing up for an exciting new chapter in Iran’s tourism story.

With plans to attract 15 million visitors annually as part of the country’s ambitious Seventh Development Plan, Isfahan stands proudly alongside Shiraz as a premier destination for travelers seeking authentic cultural experiences and architectural marvels.

The city’s treasure trove of over 22,000 historic sites—including nearly 2,000 nationally registered monuments and 15 UNESCO-listed gems—makes it a magnet for history lovers and explorers alike.

From the intricate tile work of the iconic Naqsh-e Jahan Square to the graceful arches of Safavid-era mosques, Isfahan’s architectural heritage is a living museum, telling stories from the Buyid, Seljuk, and Safavid periods.

As part of the nationwide push to enhance tourism infrastructure, Isfahan is set to increase its stock of first-class hotels, aiming to welcome visitors with modern comforts that blend seamlessly with the city’s historic charm. The Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts emphasizes private sector involvement and philanthropic partnerships to accelerate this transformation.

But Isfahan’s ambitions go beyond hospitality. Recognizing the urgency

Rahmatun Lil’Alameen Festival to Blend Culture, Faith, Unity

TEHRAN -- Travelers heading to Tehran this September have a unique opportunity to dive deep into the country’s diverse Muslim cultures at the “Rahmatun Lil’Alameen” (Blessings to All) Festival.

Held at the popular Mellat Cineplex Gallery, this vibrant event runs from September 5th to 10th and celebrates the birth of Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon Him) and the spirit of unity among Muslim communities.

The festival features live performances from 13 regional music groups representing Iran’s rich ethnic diversity. From the soulful sounds of southern Khurasan to the energetic rhythms of Kurdish and Azerbaijani folk music, visitors can experience a wide range of traditional music styles performed in authentic local costumes using native instruments.

Beyond music, festival-goers can ex-



plore lively markets set up in traditional black tents, offering regional crafts, local foods, and souvenirs. These booths provide a hands-on cultural experience, showcasing the artistry and culinary heritage of Iran’s many ethnic

groups.

A highlight of the festival takes place on the third evening, with a special ceremony featuring local officials and international diplomats, where a commemorative stamp marking the 1,500th

anniversary of the Prophet’s birth will be unveiled.

Organized by Tehran’s Cultural and Artistic Organization in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the festival is an important celebration of cultural heritage and spiritual reflection, attracting both locals and visitors seeking authentic cultural experiences.

The Mellat Cineplex Gallery is conveniently located on Valiasr Street near Hashemi Rafsanjani Expressway, making it easily accessible for travelers exploring Tehran.

For more details and schedules, interested visitors can contact the Mellat Cultural Center at 22671718.

If your travel plans bring you to Iran this fall, don’t miss the chance to experience the rich tapestry of Iranian Muslim cultures at the “Rahmatun Lil’Alameen” Festival — a perfect blend of tradition, music, and cultural pride.

Tabriz Prepares to Celebrate Shahriar’s Legacy on Global Stage

TEHRAN -- In the luminous dawn of contemporary Iranian poetry, the name Muhammad-Hussein Behjat Tabrizi—known by his pen name Shahriar—shines like a beacon.

More than a century after his birth, Shahriar remains an enduring symbol of love, mysticism, and Iranian identity, immortalized in two languages: Persian and Azerbaijani Turkish.

His work forms a bridge between tradition and modernity, weaving the heartfelt language of the people into the grand tapestry of Persian literature. Scholars place him alongside the towering giants of Persian letters—Ferdowsi, Hafez, Saadi, Khayyam, and Rumi.

But Shahriar is more than a poet; he is a cultural icon, a spiritual treasure whose verses resonate far beyond literary circles, capturing the hearts of ordinary Iranians and Persian speakers worldwide. His poems, such as the celebrated Azerbaijani Turkish “Heydar Babaya Salam,” and his immortal Persian compositions, serve as a vibrant testament to poetry’s power to unite languages, peoples, and generations.

Today, Shahriar’s legacy remains a source of inspiration and reflection. His work transcends geographic borders and acts as a potent tool of cultural diplomacy, showcasing Iranian identity on the global stage and helping to sustain the Persian language’s vitality in the modern world.

In commemoration of the 120th anniversary of Shahriar’s passing, the city of Tabriz—his birthplace—will host the International Shahriar Congress.

This cultural event will gather distinguished guests from both inside and outside Iran, launching a year-long series of programs designed to celebrate and promote the poet’s profound influence.

East Azarbaijan Governor Bahram Sarmast emphasized the importance of national commitment and stable

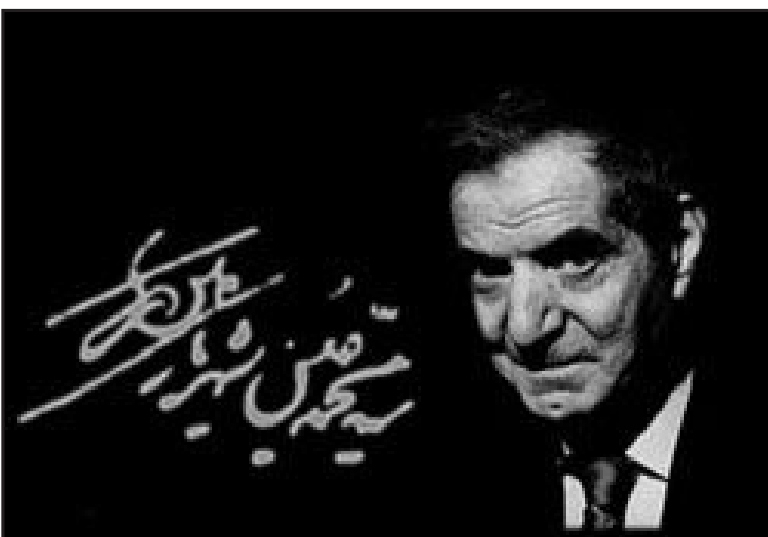
financial support as key pillars for the congress’s success. He also highlighted fruitful dialogues with cultural ministers and media leaders to deepen cultural diplomacy efforts.

Ali-Asghar Shaerdoost, the congress’s secretary-general and a noted scholar, described Shahriar as one of Iran’s richest cultural assets on the international stage.

He portrayed the poet as a figure capable of enhancing Iran’s global standing through the universal language of poetry and literature. National media, particularly the head of Iran’s broadcasting organization, have expressed broad support, recognizing Shahriar as a priceless cultural heritage.

The congress also boasts an impressive academic rigor. Professor Hussein Sadrineya, a renowned Shahriar expert at Tabriz University, noted that only submissions vetted by three scholarly reviewers will be accepted, reflecting the high esteem of Shahriar’s thought in both Iranian and global academic circles. To date, 64 scientific papers from prominent domestic and international scholars have been approved for presentation.

Cultural programs honoring Shahriar are already well underway across East Azarbaijan. Ne’matollah Payan, director of the province’s Culture and Islamic Guidance Department, outlined an ambitious agenda that includes multiple poetry nights, invitations to foreign media, and tributes to regional cultural figures. The confirmed participation of Iran’s Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance adds gravitas to the event.



Sociologist Firouz Rad offers a compelling portrait of Shahriar as a “twofold treasure.” On one hand, his global stature aligns him with Persian literary giants; on the other, his symbolic significance evokes a profound sense of pride wherever his name is spoken.

Rad points out that Shahriar’s poetry not only addresses human social and emotional needs but also delves into deeper layers of life’s meaning and philosophy. His insights harmonize with contemporary sociological theories of human needs, ensuring his work remains timeless.

The congress’s media outreach includes participation from Turkey’s national television network TRT and Anadolu Agency, signaling the event’s growing regional and international resonance.

Invitations extended to Turkey’s Minister of Culture and Tourism and

senior officials further underscore efforts to position Tabriz as a vibrant capital of Turkic-Persian culture and to attract a broad international audience.

Shahriar was a poet who lived in the hearts of both the people and the scholarly elite. His bilingual oeuvre serves as a symbolic link between nations, celebrated not only within Iran but across the globe.

Every year on September 18—the anniversary of his death and Iran’s official National Day of Persian Poetry and Literature, established in 2000—his memory is lovingly revived.

Today, Shahriar continues to shine like a brilliant star in the skies of Persian and Azerbaijani poetry. His verses weave together love, mysticism, humanity, and Iranian identity, creating an eternal treasury not only for Persian literature but for the world’s cultural heritage.

Picture of the Day



The lush green rice paddies of Kalat Naderi, spanning over 1,300 hectares, have transformed the fertile plains and made the county the leading rice producer in Razavi Khurasan Province.

Photo by Mizan Online