

VOLUME 127

RAJAB 29, 1425

SEPTEMBER 14, 2004

## HIGHLIGHTS

### **TARIC INTERNATIONAL BAZAAR AND FOOD FAIR**

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2004

### **TARIC FUND RAISING DINNER**

### **RENAISSANCE TORONTO HOTEL AIRPORT**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2004 -- 6:30 PM

TICKETS - \$100.00

FOR MORE DETAILS CONTACT TARIC 416-245-5675

### **FIRST TARAWEEH (TENTATIVE)**

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15 2004

SALAAAT TARAWEEH WILL FOLLOW

IMMEDIATELY AFTER ISHA SALAH

FOR MORE DETAILS CONTACT TARIC 416-245-5675

### **RAMADAAN STARTS (TENTATIVE)**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16 2004

### **LAILA-TUL-QADR (TENTATIVE)**

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2004

### **EID-UL-FITR (TENTATIVE)**

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2004

## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

*These groups  
have taken upon  
themselves the  
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to be judged by*

The government of Ontario has appointed Ms. Marion Boyd an ex solicitor general of Ontario to review the Ontario Arbitration act and report back to the legislature later this year. This act, which was instituted in 1991, has been successfully used by various faith groups as a mechanism of alternate dispute resolution. Now that a Muslim group has applied to use this

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act several groups have come forward to reject its institution. The use of the term “Shariah” law has raised a red flag as it should. This is not the introduction of “Shariah” into our legal system. It is only civil matters that are covered by the Act and “Muslim Family Law” is a more appropriate title.

The Act says: In this Act, "arbitration agreement" means an agreement by which two or more persons agree to submit to arbitration a dispute that has arisen or may arise between them; ("convention d'arbitrage"). Access to arbitration under this act is voluntary and the results are binding on both parties. Clause 19 of the act says: “(1) In an arbitration, the parties shall be treated equally and fairly. 1991, c. 17, s. 19 (1).” And (2) Each party shall be given an opportunity to present a case and to respond to the other parties' cases. 1991, c. 17, s. 19 (2).”

If the Canadian law under which we are all governed is adequate for all circumstances why introduce the Arbitration Act? The reasons are simple. The courts are overloaded and justice is not swift. Further, the Canadian court system like any other in the world is very expensive and can cost tens of thousands of dollars to access and use the process and the results are often not what the litigants expected. Also, with our multicultural and multireligious mix many disputants may wish to introduce other criteria by which they wish to be judged. Until now, Jews and other religious groups have successfully used the system but now the very same act is being challenged by Muslims who refuse to accept the opportunity to arbitrate under the act.

The Muslim Canadian Congress, a group of 200 Muslims and the Canadian Council for Muslim Women have been very vocal in their condemnation of the introduction of the Muslim Family Law. Their argument is that Muslim women will be coerced into accepting decisions that would be inequitable because of family and societal pressure. These groups have taken upon themselves the fight to prevent others who voluntarily wish to be judged by Islamic rules. They want to tell us that Islamic laws are not applicable in this society and that I am better off spending my money on high priced lawyers utilizing the adversarial system to litigate my civil matters rather than the more amicable and low keyed alternate dispute resolution before an arbitrator. They have lumped all Muslim women as weak and ignorant who needs to be protected from their family and Islam. Who is protecting them now in the existing system?

“Arbitration is not for everyone” said Marion Boyd last week when the Toronto Police Muslim sub-committee met with her to discuss the issue. She is absolutely correct. It is a voluntary process that is there for those who wish to use it. Our reservations were that the law not be referred to as “Shariah” and that the arbitrators be trained and qualified. Further, there should be a register of these qualified arbitrators so that the disputants could chose the appropriate person to arbitrate their case. Finally, we suggested that all parties be given in writing their options and rights and that they voluntarily agree to the process.

As a Muslim I accept the Qur’an as the word of Allah almighty and I accept His rules by which we should govern our lives. The Muslim Canadian Council and the CCMW believe our laws should be man-made and that religion should not be involved in the conduct of our society. That is their affair but they should not deny the rest of us the right to choose if the choice is available.

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### **SOME DIETARY GUIDES FOR RAMADAN**

Following are some useful advice on how to avoid some common problems encountered in Ramadan. If followed, it would enable one to fast comfortably and enjoy fully the spiritual benefits of Ramadan.

During the holy month of Ramadan, our diet should not differ very much from our normal diet and should be as simple as possible. The diet should be such that we maintain our normal weight, neither losing nor gaining. However, if one is over-weight, Ramadan is an ideal time to normalize one's weight.

In view of the long hours of fasting, we should consume slow digesting foods including fiber containing-foods rather than fast-digesting foods; slow digesting foods including fiber containing-foods rather than fast-digesting foods. Slow digesting foods last up to 8 hours, while fast-digesting foods last for only 3 to 4 hours.

Slow-digesting foods are foods that contain grains and seeds like barely, wheat, oats, millet, semolina, beans, lentils, whole meal flour, unpolished rice, etc. (called complex carbohydrates).

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Fast-burning foods are foods that contain sugar, white flour, etc. (called refined carbohydrates).

Fiber-containing foods are bran-containing foods, whole wheat, grains and seeds, vegetables like green beans, peas, sem (papry), marrow, mealies, spinach, and other herbs like methie, the leaves of beetroot (iron-rich), fruit with skin, dried fruit especially dried apricots, figs and prunes, almonds, etc.

The foods eaten should be well balanced, containing foods from each food group, i.e., fruits, vegetables, meat/chicken/fish, bread/cereals and dairy products. Fried foods are unhealthy and should be limited. They cause indigestion, heartburn, and weight problems.

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## MUSLIM WORLD NEWS

By: Br. Kamuludin Ali

### Egypt

It is widely expected that Jamal Mubarak, President Mubarak's son, will succeed his father as president of Egypt. Even though the old government was dismissed and Ahmed Nazif was named the prime minister, most of the ministers who had been dismissed were reappointed. Mubarak has been ruling under a state of emergency for many years.

### Nigeria

When thousands of Muslims fled the town of Yelwa after an attack by Christian tribesmen that killed more than 800, there was hardly any reaction in Europe and America. However, when Muslims attacked Christians in retaliation much more attention was given. Nigeria is a rich country but many Nigerians remain poor because of corruption by officials and foreign oil companies. This corruption contributes to the distrust and competition among Nigerian Muslims and Christians.

### Turkey

Jacques Chirac, the president of France, has stated that Turkey is a predominantly Muslim country and, as such, has no place in the European Union. However, member countries have no hesitation in treating Turkey as a valued trading partner, provided it remains secular and continues to cooperate in the "war against terrorism". In 1999, a law was passed that banned graduates of Shariah schools from professional careers – they could only become religious leaders and not

state officials. Yet, in early 2004, when a bill was introduced to allow Shariah school graduates to go to university and to pursue careers as judges, lawyers etc., Brussels sided with the military and civilian secularists and accused the government of bringing in Islamic fundamentalism.

It would appear that it will be very difficult for Turkey to join the European Union and the government might be better served to establish relations with other Muslim countries.

### United States

The city of Hamtramck, Michigan recently passed an amendment to the noise ordinance to permit a mosque to call the azaan over loudspeakers five times a day. The vote was 55 percent in of favour and 45% against the amendment. The city was once predominantly Polish but there has been a recent influx of residents from Bangladesh and Yemen.

A Muslim army chaplain who was accused of espionage and arrested on suspicion of spying at the prison in Guantanamo Bay has been cleared. He spent 76 days in solitary confinement before all charges against him were dropped. The chaplain has decided to resign from the US military stating that his reputation has been injured and that the US military has never apologized.

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## HADITH

**PRAISE GOD AT ALL TIMES (Al-Tirmidhi, Hadith 537):** The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said: "It is a fine thing when a believer praises and thanks God if good comes to him, and praises God and shows endurance if smitten by affliction."

**THIS LIFE AND THE NEXT (Al-Tirmidhi, Hadith 1327):** The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said: "Among those who will be in the worst position on the Day of Resurrection, will be a man who has squandered his future life at the expense of someone else's worldly interests."

**TEACH GOODNESS (Al-Tirmidhi, Hadith 70):** The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said: "God and His angels, the dwellers of the Heavens and of the Earth, even an ant in its hole and fish (in the depths of the sea), invoke blessings on (a scholar) who teaches people goodness."

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## CHILDREN'S CORNER

### RAMADAN

The Holy Qur'aan is a Message from Allaah (subhaana hu wa ta'alaah) to mankind. It was sent to us from Allaah (subhaana hu wa ta'alaah) through the angel Gabriel to the Prophet Muhammad (sallallaahu a'laihiwa sallam). The first Revelation came to Prophet Muhammad (sallallaahu a'laihiwa sallam) during the Month of Ramadan.

Fasting during the Month of Ramadan is the Fourth Pillar of Islam. By fasting during Ramadan, Allah will reward you for it, on the Day of Judgement.

Ramadan is the month of fasting, prayer, sacrifice and worship. Throughout this month Muslims fasts during the day, they do not eat or drink anything, and must also exercises strict control over his tongue, (no gossiping) eyes, ears (no listening to gossip), thoughts and deeds and does everything possible to seek the pleasure of Allah.

The blessings of Ramadan are not limited to fasting alone, because the performance of all sorts of worship and good deeds during this month is also a source of great Divine favour. The revelation of the Holy Qur'aan commenced during this very month and it is therefore the duty of every Muslim to read and try to understand the meaning of the Holy Qur'aan and thereby gain an insight into the Divine secrets enshrined therein. It brings peace and illumination to the mind and imparts purity to the soul.

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## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Deaths

#### **We are sad to announce the death of:**

Hassan Marouane died in Morocco at age 22 on the 27th. August. He was the brother of Mohamed Marouane.

***'INNAA LILLAHI WA 'INNAA  
'ILAYHI-RAAJI-'UUN'***

***"VERILY FROM ALLAH (ST) WE CAME  
AND TO HIM IS OUR EVENTUAL RETURN"***

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## TARIC ISLAMIC CENTRE CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAM

Sessions are conducted by Shaykh Abu Musa and other qualified teachers at the TARIC Islamic Centre.

### **Arabic Language Classes:**

**Beginners** -- Thursdays 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.

**Intermediate (Level 1)** – Wednesdays 6:00-8:30 pm.

### **Islamic Sunday School (ages 5 and up)**

Sundays 10:00 am - 2:00 p.m.

**Tarbeeyah Islaameeyah** (for teenagers, adults and families) -- Sundays 2:15 – 4:00 p.m.

**Tafseer Class:** Every 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays at 7:00 pm

### ***NEW STUDENTS ALWAYS WELCOMED***

To register or for more information please contact the TARIC Main Office at 416-245-5675 ext. 23

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## TARIC QURAN CLASSES

Learn to read Quran for beginners:

**Sundays:** 4:00 p.m

**Tuesdays:** 6:00 p.m.

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## TARIC SENIORS PROGRAMME

We are looking for Seniors who are interested in joining us for a programme suited to them. For further information please contact either Sis. Raffina at 416-498-8612 or Shaikh Imran at TARIC Islamic Centre 416-245-5675.

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## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Sisters who would like to help with Iftar duties, serving, cleaning-up etc. during Ramadaan, please contact Sis. Raffina Ali at 416-498-8612 or at TARIC Islamic Centre 416-245-5675.

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