

Rabi-ul-Awwal



Rabi-ul-Awwal is the third month of the Islamic calendar. The month is named as the first (Awwal) month of Spring (Rabi), in which it would rain and flower buds would blossom. It was this month in which the Holy Prophet Muhammad , was born and the month in which he departed 63 years later. This is also the month of Hillrat from which the Islamic calendar takes its name.

Illustration: Madina, the city of the Prophet

January 2013





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Rabi-ul-Thani ربيعُ النَّانِيُّ

Rabl-ul-Thani is the fourth month of the Islamic calendar. The month is named as the second (Thani) month of Spring (Rabl), in which fruits would ripen and the crops would be ready for harvest.

Illustration: Desert crops and palm trees in spring, nearing the time of harvest

# February 2013





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Jamadu al-'Ula / Jamadal Awal



Jamadu al-'Ula, the fifth month of the Islamic calendar, is named for the change in season as the first ('Ula) month of winter in which the sources of water got frozen. This was a month of both joy and loss for the Holy Prophet Muhammad prior to Prophethood, as he married Bibi Khatija (R.A) in this month and lost his grandfather Abdul Muttalib in this month.

 $Illustration: A\ caravan\ collecting\ water from\ a\ partially\ frozen\ oas is$ 

### March 2013





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Jamad-al Aakhira



Jamadal Aakhira is the sixth month of the Hijri calander. The word "Jumada" is derived from the word "Jumood" meaning "to freeze". This is the second of the two months in which water used to freeze at the time when these months were named.

Illustration: A river in an Arab winter

April 2013





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Rajab / Rajab-ul-Fard



The lexical definition of Rajab is "to respect". The Arabs regarded the month of Rajab, the seventh month of the Islamic calendar, as one of the sacred months in which they would refrain from trading and fighting. The word 'Fard' means alone, because unlike the other three sacred months for Muslims which are consecutive, this sacred month comes alone. It is generally believed that the event of Me'râj, that is the ascension of the Holy Prophet Muhammad to the heavens, took place on a night in the end of Rajab

Illustration: Al-Aqsa Mosque, Jerusalem - the place from where the journey of Me'raj began

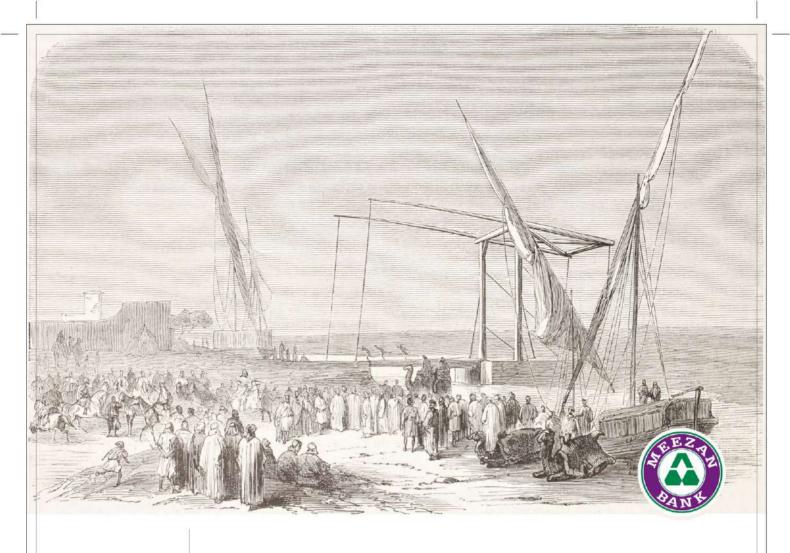
May 2013





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Sha'ban شکعبان Shaban is the eight month of the Islamic calendar. The Arabic word 'Sha` ban' is derived from the word 'tash` aba', which means to divide into groups and disperse into different directions. Traditionally the Arabs would leave their land and travel in this month. This is the month in which the Ka'aba was established as Qibla for the Muslims

 $Illustration: A rabs \ setting \ out \ to \ travel \ as \ was \ their \ tradition \ in \ the \ month \ of \ Sha'ban$ 

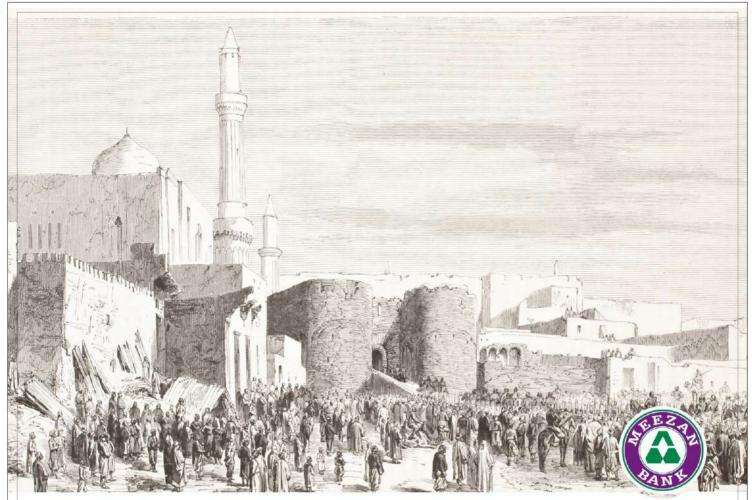
#### June 2013

رَجَبُ / شَعَبْان ١٣٣٨



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Ramadan تمظان

The name Ramadan, the ninth month of the islamic calender is derived from the word 'Ar-ramda' which refers to extreme heat as the month used to coincide with the climate of extreme heat in the Arab Peninsula. Allah was ordered Muslims to fast in this month and has gifted them with the night of Shab-e-Qadr.

"The month of Ramadan is the one in which the Quran was revealed as guidance for mankind, and as clear signs that show the right way and distinguish between right and wrong. So those of you who witness the month shall fast in It..."

(Verse 185: Surah Al-Rangan)

Illustration: Muslims heading towards the city mosque for Prayers

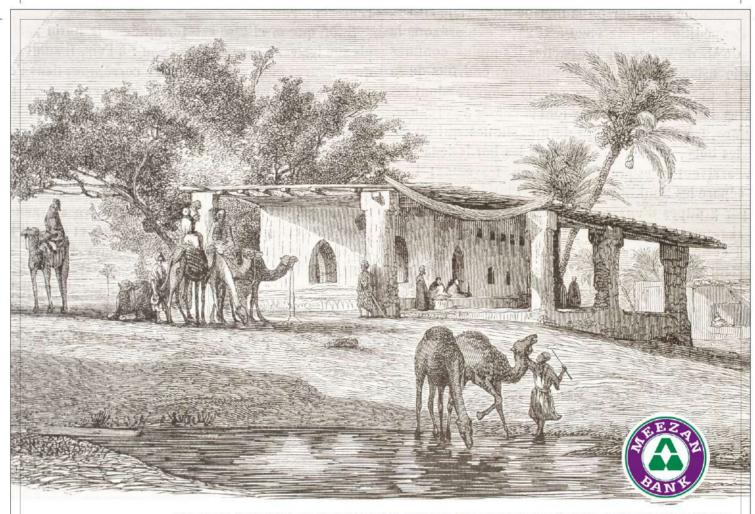
July 2013

شَكَعُبُان/ رَمَضْان ١٣٣٨



Aug	August 2013								
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Shawwal

The name of the tenth month of the Islamic calendar, 'Shawwal' is derived from the Arabic word 'tashawwala', which refers to the scarcity in she-cameis' milk, as it used to be the time for camel breeding Prior to Islam this month was traditionally considered a month of doom and despair by the Arabs, but contrary to their superstitions, Allah revealed this to be the first of three consecutive sacred months. This month begins with the celebration and blessings of Eid-ui-Fitr.

Illustration: Arabs tending to their camels

## August 2013





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Dhul-Qa'dah

ذُولِقِعُدنة

The name Dhul-Qa'dah comes from the word "qa'ada" which means to sit. The Arabs would stop their business activities to sit and prepare for the next month's religious pilgrimage to Makkah, the hajj. Dhul-Qa'dah is the eleventh month of the islamic calender and is the second consecutive month of the four sacred months for Muslims.

Illustration: People resting and preparing for the Hajj

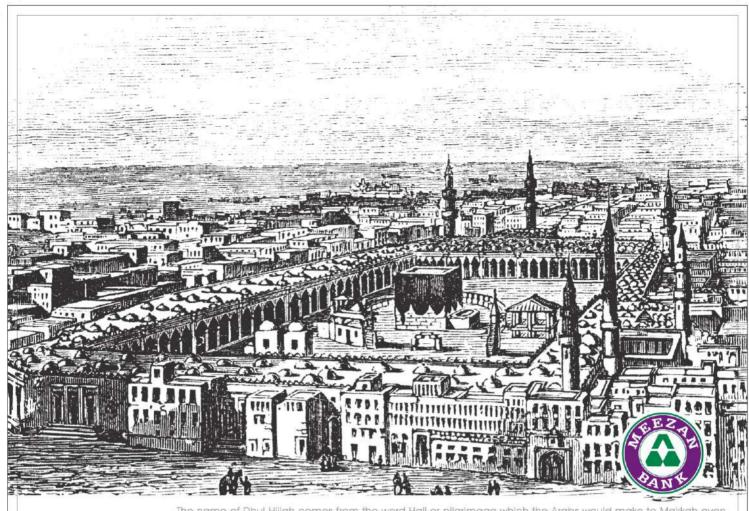
## September 2013





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Dhul-Hijjah

The name of Dhul-Hijjah comes from the word Hajj or pilgrimage which the Arabs would make to Makkah even before Islam. For Muslims, Dhul-Hijjah this is the last of the three consecutive sacred months and the last month of the calendar year. It was in this month in which Allah revealed the following Ayat:

"...This day those who disbelieve have despaired of [defeating] your religion; so fear them not, but fear Me. This day I have perfected for you your religion and completed My favor upon you and have approved for you Islam as religion..." (Verse 3 - Surah Al-Maridah)

Illustration: Masjid-al-Haram in Makkah

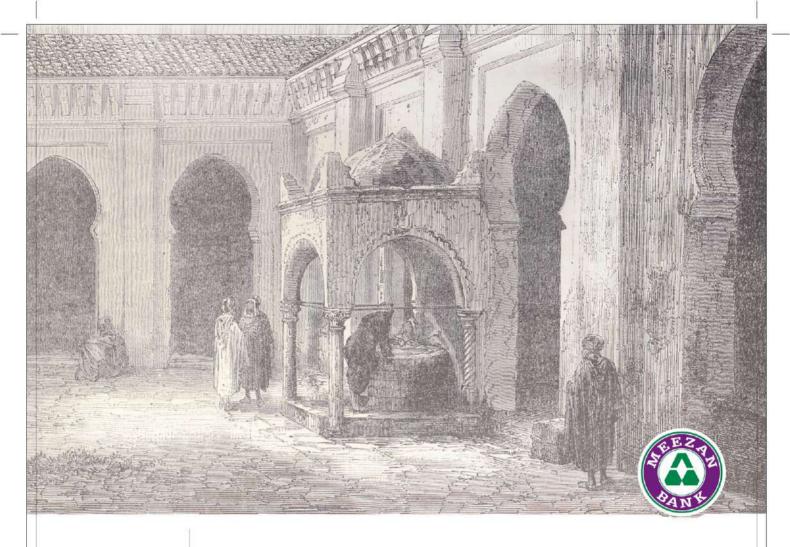
#### October 2013





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Muharram



Muharram, the first month of the Islamic calendar, derives its name from the word "Haram" which means forbidden. Prior to the advent of Islam, the Arabs respected this month and sanctified it by abstaining from warfare and practicing piety.

 $Illustration: A \ man \ performing \ ablution \ in \ a \ Musjid \ courty ard$ 

### November 2013





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Safar

صنق ٥

The name Safar, the second month of the Islamic calendar, comes from the word "Empty", because in pre-Islamic days the Arabs used to leave their houses empty during month to set out to fight their enemies, while other traditions say they would leave their homes to escape the summer heat. The month of Safar was considered to be evil and ominous by the Arabs, while the Holy Prophet Muhammad such rejected such beliefs and ideas.

'There is nothing ominous about the month of Safar'.

(Bukharl, Vol.1 - Pg. 857)
Illustration: An army heading out for war

### December 2013





January 2014							
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