# Ramadan: family shares meal at sundown

"You don't fast for yourself. You do it for God and He, in return, gives you blessings," said Hoda. The Succars, and thousands of other Moslems in Southeast Michi-

gan, have abstained from eating and drinking from approximately 5 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. daily, although the exact time changes by minutes from day

On this night the fast ended at 8:26
p.m. Unlike the Middle East where a
he continues to work five days a

cannon is sounded to signify the end of the day's fast, the Succars refer to a timetable published by the Islamic Association of Greater Detroit.
"IT IS MORE difficult here,"
Bashar Succar admits. A physicia-

week during the month of Ramadan, attending to patients in his Bloom-field Hills medical office or per-forming surgery at St. Joseph's Hos-pital in Pontiac. "In Syria (and other predominant-ly Moslem countries) life slows

Continued from Page 1

During the 15 years that the Suc-cars have lived in the United States, cars have lived in the United States, lean ground sirolin has gradually replaced lamb as their meat of choice, pices, available fresh and raw year around in the Middle East, are purchased in season here and carefully stored for later use. With the influx of Araba to metropolitan Detroit, genuine lingcediers required in the preparation of Syrian country of the preparation of Syrian and the propersion of th

pepper to taste
I small onion, finely chopped
pinch baking powder

Mix all ingredients. Process twice in meat grinder. Divide into two, equal-sized portions.

Kibbee Filling
pound lean ground sirioin
I small onion, chopped fine is cup pine nuts sult and pepper to taste

With the influx of Arabs to metropolitan Detroit, genuine ingredients required in the preparation of Syrian recipes have become readily available. To are a substitute of the substitute of the

In Damascus, this soup always ac-companies kibbec.

1 % cups dried lentils 5 medium potatoes 4-5 carrots 2 medium onions 2 medium tomatoes 2 tablespoons tomato paste

Add lentils and vegetables in a pot. Add water to cover and simmer until well cooked. Mash mixture and

strain.

Prepare a white sauce, using half a stick butter, 2 tablespoons flour and 3 cups milk. Add to lentil mixture and simmer until thick. Season with salt and pepper to taste.

## FATTEH MAKDOUS

This is Bashar's specialty, pre-pared in the manner of his mother and grandmother. He also prepares yogurt in the old style. The recipe is for five people.

5 small eggplants I large onion, sliced into large pieces I small can tomato paste 2-3 tablespoons pomegranate juice 3 cups water

Hollow out eggplants. Stuff with same meat filling used in the kibbee loaf. Deep fry. Set aside. Saute onion in oll. Combine with

tomato paste, pomegranate julce and water. Add stuffed eggplant. Season with salt and pepper to taste.

Simmer until sauce is thickened and eggplant are cooked.

Cut three rounds of pita bread into bite-sized triangles. Fry in oil until crisp. Set aside.

## Yogurt Sauce

Bashir makes yogurt like grand-mother did, by adding one container plain yogurt to a half gallon of milk. Stande at room temperature for 12 to 35 hours. The longer the mix-ture sits, the more tart it becomes.

3 cups yogurt 2 cloves fresh garlie, minced biat of iemon juice 2-3 tablespoons tahini (sesame paste) salt to taste

Mix all ingredients.
Layer the bottom of a flat bowl with fried bread. Spoon tomato sauce over the bread, gently mixing it. Cover with yogurt sauce. Arrange eggplants in a circle. Drizzle with spoonfuls of tomato sauce. Spinkle with chopped parsley, allspice and cayenne red pepper to taste. Sprinkle with diced parsley, allspice and cayenne.

"MORE FOOD is cooked at Ramadan than any other time of the year," Bashar said, passing a heart-shaped crystal bowl of dates to his

down. The whole country is fasting. Days are shorter and there is a slower pace," he said, citing Damascus, where by dusk the city becomes a "ghost town" during Ramadan. "Everyone is at his home cating. It's really unbellewable."

Adjustment is most difficult here for first three or four days, he said. He finds coffee during the day to be the most difficult thing to give up. Even a drink of water is forbidden during daylight hours.

"If you break the fast on purpose, you must fast 60 days and make an additional double to the fast on purpose. But God always forgives," Hoda said.

"The Succars have altered the fast to fift their American way of life in bother ways as well.

They brush their teeth, which is technically forbidden. They also miss "sahur," the morning meal, which is permitted an hour before dawn. They have learned from experience that if they arise at 3.20 a.m. they are unable to fully function throughout the fong day.

In Damascus, the mousaher (ans with the first throughout the long day.

In Damascus, the mousaher (ans with the first through the forgular of the first through the first through the forgular of the first through the first through

Turkish coffee and traditional Arab sweets.
At the close of Ramadan new week, Moslems will celebrate Eld, a special three-day holiday during which new clothes are purchased, gifts are exchanged and familles and friends gather again for a new round of visiting and feasting. Islam is one of the world's largest religious, with more than 500 million followers. The remaining pillars of faith are profession, ritual prayer, donations to charity and a pilgrimage to Mecca in Saudi Arabla.

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