

THE *FASLI* ERA AS USED IN HYDERABAD

- by Peter Röver

The *Hijri* year, which is a lunar year of normally 354 days, is suitable for merchants and religious purposes, but not for farmers and governments, as it is a 'wandering' year with an ever changing start. The farmer needs a 'standing' year which tells him when to sow and when to harvest. The same applies to a government which will know at what fixed time the taxes have been paid.

The Northern *Fasli*

The *Fasli* (= Harvest) year is a solar year of 365/6 days. The emperor Akbar (963 - 1014H; 1556 - 1605AD) introduced it in 1585 with a start at the autumnal equinox (22/23 September). The official beginning of this era was, however, fixed at the first autumnal equinox after Akbar's accession. This year started when the farmer had collected his harvest and had paid his taxes. Thus the fiscal year of the government started with a full treasure chest. This era was introduced in the whole of northern India, to the Vindhya Mountains in the south. The conquest of the kingdom of Khandesh had been Akbar's last success in that direction.

The Southern or Deccan *Fasli*

After emperor Shah Jahan (1037 - 1068H; 1628 - 1658AD) had conquered parts of India south of the Vindhyas, he introduced there the *Fasli* year in 1046H / 1636AD. Since the theoretical start of the *Fasli* era and the introduction of it in the south 83 lunar years had passed, but only 80 solar years. As the newly introduced *Fasli* was counted from the then current *Hijra* year there were now two *Faslīs*, the Northern (F^N) and the Southern (F^S), with a difference of three years. Thus for example 1956-57AD (= 1556AD + 400) corresponds to 1363 F^N (= 963H + 400); whereas 1956-57AD (= 1636AD + 320) is 1366 F^S (= 1046H + 320).

Leap Days

The *Hijri* year was that used generally by the government and Muslim population. This year does not have leap days. The *Fasli* year was used only for administrative purposes. We are accus-

tomed to leap days and know which years are leap years. For the Muslim administration the leap day was something new and every leap day was obviously ordered specially.

The Nizam's Dominions

In what was later simply called 'Hyderabad' the Southern *Fasli* was the fiscal year in all six provinces. There was, however, a problem which concerned both *Faslīs*. When emperor Aurangzeb (1068 - 1118H; 1659 - 1707AD) died, the situation of the empire was so in disorder that the existence of leap years was forgotten and the leap-days were omitted. The result was that, slowly but steadily, the beginning of the *Fasli* year advanced, until at last the connection with the harvest was completely lost. In 1884AD - after 42 leap-years had passed without leap-days - the first day of the year was the 11 August instead of the 22 September.

At last the Hyderabad government reacted. There was no calendar reform; the beginning of the year was simply deferred by two months, from *Mehir* to *Azur*. Whereas 1293F had started on 12.08.1883AD, 1294F started on 10.10.1884AD. The cause of the problem had obviously not been understood. When at last in 1316F / 1906AD the leap-day was reintroduced, the start of the year had advanced further, to 06.10.1906AD. The only reform of the *Fasli* year had to wait until 1946AD, when the last five days of 1355F were omitted. Thus 01.01.1356F corresponded to 01.10.1946AD. In addition the length of the *Fasli* months became the same as those of the Gregorian months. So, rather late, it was no longer difficult to compare *Fasli* and Gregorian dates.

In Appendix A are listed the *Fasli* years which are found on Hyderabad datestamps. In Appendix B are listed the months of the *Fasli* year and their form as used on the postmarks. Also the length of the *Fasli* months and their start in the Christian months. This information is mainly from an article by H. Amir Ali in the *Diglot Calendar*, Vol. I, 4th Edition, Hyderabad 1961.

Appendix A: The different calendars used (*Fasli* period)

| <i>Fasli</i> yr | Starts on (AD) | <i>Fasli</i> yr | Starts on (AD) |
|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 1306 | 07.10.1896 | 1315 | 02.06.1897 |
| 1307 | 07.10.1897 | 1316 | 22.05.1898 |
| 1308 | 07.10.1898 | 1317 | 12.05.1899 |
| 1309 | 07.10.1899 | 1318 | 01.05.1900 |

| <i>Fasli</i> yr | Starts on (AD) | <i>Fasli</i> yr | Starts on (AD) |
|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 1310 | 07.10.1900 | 1319 | 20.04.1901 |
| 1311 | 07.10.1901 | 1320 | 10.04.1902 |
| 1312 | 07.10.1902 | 1321° | 30.03.1903 |
| 1313° | 07.10.1903 | 1322 | 18.03.1904 |

| Fasli yr | Starts on (AD) | Fasli yr | Starts on (AD) | Fasli yr | Starts on (AD) | Fasli yr | Starts on (AD) |
|----------|----------------|----------|----------------|----------|----------------|----------|----------------|
| 1314 | 06.10.1904 | 1323 | 08.03.1905 | 1337° | 07.10.1927 | 1347 | 20.06.1928 |
| 1315 | 06.10.1905 | 1324 | 25.02.1906 | 1338 | 06.10.1928 | 1348 | 09.06.1929 |
| 1316* | 06.10.1906 | 1325 | 14.02.1907 | 1339 | 06.10.1929 | 1349 | 29.05.1930 |
| 1317° | 07.10.1907 | 1326° | 04.02.1908 | 1340* | 06.10.1930 | 1350° | 19.05.1931 |
| 1318 | 06.10.1908 | 1327 | 23.01.1909 | 1341° | 07.10.1931 | 1351 | 07.05.1932 |
| 1319 | 06.10.1909 | 1328 | 13.01.1910 | 1342 | 06.10.1932 | 1352 | 26.04.1933 |
| 1320* | 06.10.1910 | 1329 | 02.01.1911 | 1343 | 06.10.1933 | 1353 | 16.04.1934 |
| 1321° | 07.10.1911 | 1330° | 22.12.1911 | 1344* | 06.10.1934 | 1354° | 05.04.1935 |
| 1322 | 06.10.1912 | 1331 | 11.12.1912 | 1345° | 07.10.1935 | 1355 | 24.03.1936 |
| 1323 | 06.10.1913 | 1332 | 30.11.1913 | 1346 | 06.10.1936 | 1356 | 14.03.1937 |
| 1324* | 06.10.1914 | 1333 | 19.11.1914 | 1347 | 06.10.1937 | 1357 | 03.03.1938 |
| 1325° | 07.10.1915 | 1334° | 09.11.1915 | 1348* | 06.10.1938 | 1358 | 21.02.1939 |
| 1326 | 06.10.1916 | 1335 | 28.10.1916 | 1349° | 07.10.1939 | 1359° | 10.02.1940 |
| 1327 | 06.10.1917 | 1336 | 17.10.1917 | 1350 | 06.10.1940 | 1360 | 29.01.1941 |
| 1328* | 06.10.1918 | 1337 | 07.10.1918 | 1351 | 06.10.1941 | 1361 | 19.01.1942 |
| ----- | --- -- ---- | 1338° | 26.09.1919 | 1352* | 06.10.1942 | 1362 | 08.01.1943 |
| 1329° | 07.10.1919 | 1339 | 15.09.1920 | 1353 | 07.10.1943 | 1363° | 28.12.1943 |
| 1330 | 06.10.1920 | 1340 | 04.09.1921 | 1354 | 06.10.1944 | 1364 | 17.12.1944 |
| 1331 | 06.10.1921 | 1341 | 24.08.1922 | 1355 | 06.10.1945 | 1365 | 06.12.1945 |
| 1332* | 06.10.1922 | 1342° | 14.08.1923 | 1356 | 01.10.1946 | 1366 | 25.11.1946 |
| 1333° | 07.10.1923 | 1343 | 02.08.1924 | 1357*° | 01.10.1947 | 1367° | 15.11.1947 |
| 1334 | 06.10.1924 | 1344 | 22.07.1925 | 1358 | 01.10.1948 | 1368 | 03.11.1948 |
| 1335 | 06.10.1925 | 1345 | 12.07.1926 | 1359 | 01.10.1949 | 1369 | 24.10.1949 |
| 1336* | 06.10.1926 | 1346° | 01.07.1927 | 1360 | 01.10.1950 | 1370 | 13.10.1950 |

KEY: * = A leap-year (re-introduced from 1316F).

° = The February falling in this year has 29 days!

Appendix B: The twelve *Fasli* months

| No. | Name | Transcription | Urdu | European month |
|-----|--------------------|-------------------|---------|----------------|
| 01. | 1 Azur (30) | A-Za-R | رزا | 6 October |
| 02. | 1 Dai (29/30) | Da-E / Da-I | دے / دے | 5 November |
| 03. | 1 Bahman (30) | BaHMaN | نہمب | 4 December |
| 04. | 1 Isfander (30) | a-SfaND(-A-R) | دنفسرا | 3 January |
| 05. | 1 Farwardi (31) | FaR-Wa-R(-D-I) | رورف | 2 February |
| 06. | 1 Ardibehisht (31) | a-R-D(-I BaHaSHT) | درا | 5 March |
| 07. | 1 Khurdad (31) | KHU-R(-D-A-D) | روح | 5 April |
| 08. | 1 Tir (31) | TIR | ریت | 6 May |
| 09. | 1 Amardad (31) | a-MaR(-D-A-D) | رم | 6 June |
| 10. | 1 Shahrewar (31) | ShaHR(-EWa-R) | رمش | 7 July |
| 11. | 1 Mehir (30) | MaHaR | رم | 7 August |
| 12. | 1 Aban (30) | A-BA-N | نابا | 6 September |

Appendix C: The influence of the missing *Fasli* leap year

| Fasli yr | Starts on (AD) | Fasli yr | Starts on (AD) | Fasli yr | Starts on (AD) | Fasli yr | Starts on (AD) |
|----------|----------------|----------|----------------|----------|----------------|----------|----------------|
| 1103 | 23.09.1693 | 1111 | 24.09.1701 | 1119 | 23.09.1709 | 1127 | 21.09.1717 |
| 1104 | 23.09.1694 | 1112 | 24.09.1702 | 1120 | 23.09.1710 | 1128 | 21.09.1718 |
| 1105° | 23.09.1695 | 1113° | 24.09.1703 | 1121° | 23.09.1711 | 1129° | 21.09.1719 |
| 1106* | 22.09.1696 | 1114* | 23.09.1704 | 1122 | 22.09.1712 | 1130 | 20.09.1720 |
| 1107 | 23.09.1697 | 1115 | 24.09.1705 | 1123 | 22.09.1713 | 1131 | 20.09.1721 |
| 1108 | 23.09.1698 | 1116 | 24.09.1706 | 1124 | 22.09.1714 | 1132 | 20.09.1722 |
| 1109 | 23.09.1699 | 1117° | 24.09.1707 | 1125° | 22.09.1715 | 1133° | 20.09.1723 |
| 1110* | 23.09.1700 | 1118 | 23.09.1708 | 1126 | 21.09.1716 | 1134 | 19.09.1724 |

| Fasli yr | Starts on (AD) | Fasli yr | Starts on (AD) | Fasli yr | Starts on (AD) | Fasli yr | Starts on (AD) |
|----------|----------------|----------|----------------|----------|----------------|----------|----------------|
| 1135 | 19.09.1725 | 1180 | 08.09.1770 | 1225° | 29.08.1815 | 1270 | 17.08.1860 |
| 1136 | 19.09.1726 | 1181° | 08.09.1771 | 1226 | 28.08.1816 | 1271 | 17.08.1861 |
| 1137° | 19.09.1727 | 1182 | 07.09.1772 | 1227 | 28.08.1817 | 1272 | 17.08.1862 |
| 1138 | 18.09.1728 | 1183 | 07.09.1773 | 1228 | 28.08.1818 | 1273° | 17.08.1863 |
| 1139 | 18.09.1729 | 1184 | 07.09.1774 | 1229° | 28.08.1819 | 1274 | 16.08.1864 |
| 1140 | 18.09.1730 | 1185° | 07.09.1775 | 1230 | 27.08.1820 | 1275 | 16.08.1865 |
| 1141° | 18.09.1731 | 1186 | 06.09.1776 | 1231 | 27.08.1821 | 1276 | 16.08.1866 |
| 1142 | 17.09.1732 | 1187 | 06.09.1777 | 1232 | 27.08.1822 | 1277° | 16.08.1867 |
| 1143 | 17.09.1733 | 1188 | 06.09.1778 | 1233° | 27.08.1823 | 1278 | 15.08.1868 |
| 1144 | 17.09.1734 | 1189° | 06.09.1779 | 1234 | 26.08.1824 | 1279 | 15.08.1869 |
| 1145° | 17.09.1735 | 1190 | 05.09.1780 | 1235 | 26.08.1825 | 1280 | 15.08.1870 |
| 1146 | 16.09.1736 | 1191 | 05.09.1781 | 1236 | 26.08.1826 | 1281° | 15.08.1871 |
| 1147 | 16.09.1737 | 1192 | 05.09.1782 | 1237° | 26.08.1827 | 1282 | 14.08.1872 |
| 1148 | 16.09.1738 | 1193° | 05.09.1783 | 1238 | 25.08.1828 | 1283 | 14.08.1873 |
| 1149° | 16.09.1739 | 1194 | 04.09.1784 | 1239 | 25.08.1829 | 1284 | 14.08.1874 |
| 1150 | 15.09.1740 | 1195 | 04.09.1785 | 1240 | 25.08.1830 | 1285° | 14.08.1875 |
| 1151 | 15.09.1741 | 1196 | 04.09.1786 | 1241° | 25.08.1831 | 1286 | 13.08.1876 |
| 1152 | 15.09.1742 | 1197° | 04.09.1787 | 1242 | 24.08.1832 | 1287 | 13.08.1877 |
| 1153° | 15.09.1743 | 1198 | 03.09.1788 | 1243 | 24.08.1833 | 1288 | 13.08.1878 |
| 1154 | 14.09.1744 | 1199 | 03.09.1789 | 1244 | 24.08.1834 | 1289° | 13.08.1879 |
| 1155 | 14.09.1745 | 1200 | 03.09.1790 | 1245° | 24.08.1835 | 1290 | 12.08.1880 |
| 1156 | 14.09.1746 | 1201° | 03.09.1791 | 1246 | 23.08.1836 | 1291 | 12.08.1881 |
| 1157° | 14.09.1747 | 1202 | 02.09.1792 | 1247 | 23.08.1837 | 1292 | 12.08.1882 |
| 1158 | 13.09.1748 | 1203 | 02.09.1793 | 1248 | 23.08.1838 | 1293° | 12.08.1883 |
| 1159 | 13.09.1749 | 1204 | 02.09.1794 | 1249° | 23.08.1839 | 1294 | 10.10.1884 |
| 1160 | 13.09.1750 | 1205° | 02.09.1795 | 1250 | 22.08.1840 | 1295 | 10.10.1885 |
| 1161° | 13.09.1751 | 1206 | 01.09.1796 | 1251 | 22.08.1841 | 1296 | 10.10.1886 |
| 1162 | 12.09.1752 | 1207 | 01.09.1797 | 1252 | 22.08.1842 | 1297° | 10.10.1887 |
| 1163 | 12.09.1753 | 1208 | 01.09.1798 | 1253° | 22.08.1843 | 1298 | 09.10.1888 |
| 1164 | 12.09.1754 | 1209 | 01.09.1799 | 1254 | 21.08.1844 | 1299 | 09.10.1889 |
| 1165° | 12.09.1755 | 1210 | 01.09.1800 | 1255 | 21.08.1845 | 1300 | 09.10.1890 |
| 1166 | 11.09.1756 | 1211 | 01.09.1801 | 1256 | 21.08.1846 | 1301° | 09.10.1891 |
| 1167 | 11.09.1757 | 1212 | 01.09.1802 | 1257° | 21.08.1847 | 1302 | 08.10.1892 |
| 1168 | 11.09.1758 | 1213° | 01.09.1803 | 1258 | 20.08.1848 | 1303 | 08.10.1893 |
| 1169° | 11.09.1759 | 1214 | 31.08.1804 | 1259 | 20.08.1849 | 1304 | 08.10.1894 |
| 1170 | 10.09.1760 | 1215 | 31.08.1805 | 1260 | 20.08.1850 | 1305° | 08.10.1895 |
| 1171 | 10.09.1761 | 1216 | 31.08.1806 | 1261° | 20.08.1851 | 1306 | 07.10.1896 |
| 1172 | 10.09.1762 | 1217° | 31.08.1807 | 1262 | 19.08.1852 | 1307 | 07.10.1897 |
| 1173° | 10.09.1763 | 1218 | 30.08.1808 | 1263 | 19.08.1853 | 1308 | 07.10.1898 |
| 1174 | 09.09.1764 | 1219 | 30.08.1809 | 1264 | 19.08.1854 | 1309 | 07.10.1899 |
| 1175 | 09.09.1765 | 1220 | 30.08.1810 | 1265° | 19.08.1855 | 1310 | 07.10.1900 |
| 1176 | 09.09.1766 | 1221° | 30.08.1811 | 1266 | 18.08.1856 | 1311 | 07.10.1901 |
| 1177° | 09.09.1767 | 1222 | 29.08.1812 | 1267 | 18.08.1857 | 1312 | 07.10.1902 |
| 1178 | 08.09.1768 | 1223 | 29.08.1813 | 1268 | 18.08.1858 | 1313° | 07.10.1903 |
| 1179 | 08.09.1769 | 1224 | 29.08.1814 | 1269° | 18.08.1859 | 1314 | 06.10.1904 |

| Fasli yr | Starts on (AD) | Fasli yr | Starts on (AD) | Fasli yr | Starts on (AD) | Fasli yr | Starts on (AD) |
|----------|----------------|----------|----------------|----------|----------------|----------|----------------|
| 1315 | 06.10.1905 | 1327 | 06.10.1917 | 1339 | 06.10.1929 | 1351 | 06.10.1941 |
| 1316* | 06.10.1906 | 1328* | 06.10.1918 | 1340* | 06.10.1930 | 1352* | 06.10.1942 |
| 1317° | 07.10.1907 | 1329° | 07.10.1919 | 1341° | 07.10.1931 | 1353° | 07.10.1943 |
| 1318 | 06.10.1908 | 1330 | 06.10.1920 | 1342 | 06.10.1932 | 1354 | 06.10.1944 |
| 1319 | 06.10.1909 | 1331 | 06.10.1921 | 1343 | 06.10.1933 | 1355 | 06.10.1945 |
| 1320* | 06.10.1910 | 1332* | 06.10.1922 | 1344* | 06.10.1934 | 1356 | 01.10.1946 |
| 1321° | 07.10.1911 | 1333° | 07.10.1923 | 1345° | 07.10.1935 | 1357°* | 01.10.1947 |
| 1322 | 06.10.1912 | 1334 | 06.10.1924 | 1346 | 06.10.1936 | 1358 | 01.10.1948 |
| 1323 | 06.10.1913 | 1335 | 06.10.1925 | 1347 | 06.10.1937 | 1359 | 01.10.1949 |
| 1324* | 06.10.1914 | 1336* | 06.10.1926 | 1348* | 06.10.1938 | 1360 | 01.10.1950 |
| 1325° | 07.10.1915 | 1337° | 07.10.1927 | 1349° | 07.10.1939 | 1361°* | 01.10.1951 |
| 1326 | 06.10.1916 | 1338 | 06.10.1928 | 1350 | 06.10.1940 | | |

KEY:

° = The February falling in this year has 29 days! - * = This Fasli year is a leap-year.
The years 1700, 1800 and 1900AD are not leap years.

Note:

The Gregorian reform was introduced in 1583 (The 5. to 14. September were omitted).
The reform was adopted by England only from 1752! Care for Indian dates!

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