

20 FEB 1996

Aidilfitri (Roundup)

HARI RAYA CELEBRATIONS FURTHER STRENGTHENS GOODWILL AND UNITY

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 20 (Bernama) -- Muslims today celebrated Hari Raya Aidilfitri which this year brought double joy as it coincided with the Chinese New Year festival.

The simultaneous celebrations by the two major races of Malaysia's multi-racial population was symbolic of the goodwill and unity prevailing in the country.

The joy was more overwhelming with Muslims in Indonesia and Singapore also celebrating Hari Raya today.

Since last night, the "Takbir Aidilfitri," signalling the end of a month-long fast during the month of Ramadhan and onset of Syawal, was heard from mosques, over radio and on television.

This morning, Muslims thronged the mosques for Hari Raya prayers before visiting cemeteries to pay respect at the graves of beloved ones.

Families then gathered in their festival finery and children sought forgiveness of parents for misdeeds during the past year before laying out the Hari Raya fare for open house.

As usual there were ketupat, lemang and redang and a wide variety of cakes and Hari Raya goodies, popular among Malaysians during open house.

In the federal capital, the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Ja'afar and Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Najihah attended prayers at the National Mosque.

In the congregation were also Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, Muslim ministers and deputy ministers.

Among the thousands of followers were foreign students and workers.

After the prayers, their Majesties were greeted by the people who wished them "Selamat Hari Raya."

The city was quiet, with little traffic and activity, after most of the people in the greater Kuala Lumpur area left for hometowns to celebrate Chinese New Year and Hari Raya Aidilfitri with families.

Many people also took the opportunity of the long break to go for holidays.

In KOTA BAHARU, the Sultan of Kelantan performed Aidilfitri prayers at the Muhammadi state mosque together with thousands of Muslims.

Accompanying him were the Tengku Mahkota and Deputy Menteri Besar Haji Abdul Halim Abdul Rahman, dignitaries and senior state government officers.

The Sultan later received greetings from the people after which he held open house at Istana Mahkota in Kubang Kerian.

Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat performed his prayers at the Pulau Melaka mosque, near Kota Baharu.

In KUALA KANGSAR, the Sultan of Perak Sultan Azlan Shah attended Hari Raya prayers at the Ubaidiah mosque together with Menteri Besar Tan Sri Ramli Ngah Talib, state secretary Datuk Habib Mansor, State Executive Councillors, heads of department and other Muslims.

After prayers, the Sultan and Raja Perempuan Perak Tuanku Bainun visited the royal mausoleum in Kuala Kangsar together with other family members.

In KUALA PILAH, Negeri Sembilan Regent Tunku Naquiyuddin Tuanku Jaafar and Tunku Puan Muda Nurul Hayati attended Aidilfitri prayers with more than 2,000 Muslims at the Tuanku Munawir mosque in Seri Menanti.

He then visited the royal mausoleum and offered prayers with state Mufti

Datuk Haji Mohamad Murtaza Haji Ahmad reciting the prayers.

In PEKAN, the Sultan of Pahang performed Aidilfitri prayers at the Sultan Abu Bakar mosque together with Menteri Besar Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob and Muslim State Executive Council members.

In KANGAR, the Raja and Raja Perempuan of Perlis attended prayers at the Arau state mosque along with more than 1,000 followers.

Their Majesties then held Hari Raya "open house" at Istana Arau from 9.30am to 11am, attended by thousands of people including Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim and state secretary Datuk Jamaluddin Ahmad Damanhuri.

In KUALA TERENGGANU, the Sultan of Terengganu attended Hari Raya prayers with about 2,000 Muslims at the Abidin mosque.

Menteri Besar Tan Sri Wan Mokhtar Ahmad and other members of the royal household also attended prayers there.

The Sultan then visited the royal mausoleum in the mosque compound and held open house at Istana Maziah.

In KUCHING, Sarawak Yang Dipertua Negeri Tun Haji Ahmad Zaidi Adruce Mohammed Noor performed Hari Raya prayers with more than 2,000 Muslims at the Kuching division mosque.

Also present was state Minister of Industrial Development Datuk Abang Johari Tun Abang Haji Openg.

Sarawak Chief Minister Tan Sri Taib Mahmud attended Aidilfitri prayers in Demak Jaya.

His "open house" this year was different from previous years as it was held at Stadium Perpaduan Negeri Sarawak to mark the double celebrations.

In PULAU PINANG, Yang di-Pertua Negeri Tun Dr Hamdan Sheik Tahir joined thousands of Muslims including state secretary Datuk Mohd Noor Abdul Rahim for prayers at the state mosque.

Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Dr Ibrahim Saad held open house at his residence in Tanah Liat, Bukit Mertajam, while Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim will hold his at Cheruk Tok Kun tomorrow.

In SABAH, Yang Dipertua Negeri Tan Sri Haji Sakaran Dandai joined more than 5,000 Muslims for Hari Raya prayers at the State Mosque in Kota Kinabalu.

Also performing the solat were Chief Minister Datuk Salleh Said Keruak and other state Muslim leaders.

Deputy Chief Minister and President of the Sabah Progressive Party (SAPP), Datuk Yong Teck Lee and other other SAPP officials held Chinese New Year open house at the Likas Sports Complex near Kota Kinabalu from 10am to 2pm.

In KEDAH, Their Royal Highnesses the Sultan and Sultanah of Kedah held Hari Raya open house at Istana Anak Bukit.

Thousands of people of all walks of life called at Seri Mentaloon, the residence of Kedah Menteri Besar Tan Sri Haji Osman Aroff to wish him "Selamat Hari Raya."

In JOHOR, His Royal Highness Sultan Iskandar performed the solat Aidilfitri at the Sultan Abu Bakar Mosque in Johor Baharu City together thousands of people including Menteri Besar Haji Abdul Ghani Othman.

In SELANGOR, His Royal Highness Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah ibni Almarhum Sultan Hishamuddin Alam Shah performed Aidilfitri prayers at the State Mosque in Shah Alam together with more than 10,000 Muslims who included Menteri Besar Tan Sri Muhammad Haji Muhammad Taib.

In MELAKA, Yang Dipertua Negeri Tun Syed Ahmad Shahbuddin performed Hari Raya prayers together with more than 7,000 Muslims at the Al-Azim State Mosque.

The prayers were led by the Imam Besar of the Mosque Haji Yusof Musa.

Chief Minister Datuk Haji Md Zin Abdul Ghani was also present. --
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