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Hari Raya (roundup)

AIDILADHA CELEBRATED ON A MODERATE SCALE THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY

KUALA LUMPUR, April 18 (Bernama) - Hari Raya Aidiladha is being celebrated on a moderate scale by Muslims throughout the country today.

Since yesterday afternoon, Muslims in major towns began returning to their kampungs to celebrate Aidiladha with their families and relatives.

This morning, mosques all over the country were filled with people who came to perform the Aidiladha prayers, before many of them left to visit relatives. They will return to the mosque again at midday for the Friday prayers.

Thousands of cows, buffaloes and goats were slaughtered in mosques and suraus in conjunction with the celebration which is also referred to as Hari Raya Korban or Hari Raya Haji.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, are celebrating Aidiladha in Kedah as in previous years.

They are holding an open house at Dewan Jitra in Alor Setar.

In KOTA BAHARU, the Sultan and Raja Perempuan of Kelantan performed their prayers at Masjid Muhammadi together with some 3,000 Muslims.

Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat prayed at Masjid Pulau Melaka near his house along with about 1,500 others, while Rural Development Minister Datuk Annuar Musa performed his prayers at the Royal Malay Regiment's Kem Desa Pahlawan near the state capital.

Meanwhile, Entrepreneur Development Minister Datuk Mustapa Mohamed will hold an open house and korban (sacrifice) ceremony from noon to six in the evening tomorrow at his house in Batu 11, Kemahang, Jeli.

In PEKAN, the Sultan of Pahang performed Aidiladha prayers at Masjid Sultan Ahmad.

Menteri Besar Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob prayed at Masjid Lepar Hilir Dua in Kuantan.

Meanwhile, eight heads of cattle were slaughtered at Masjid Sultan Ahmad Satu in Kuantan in a korban ceremony organised by the Pahang Government Staff Sports and Welfare Council (Maksak).

In SERI MENANTI, Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Ja'afar performed Aidiladha prayers along with 500 Muslims at Masjid Tuanku Munawir. Also present were Tunku Muda Serting Tunku Imran and other members of the royalty and senior state officials.

Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Najihah is away in Mecca to perform the haj.

Tuanku Ja'afar then proceeded to attend a tahlil ceremony at the royal mausoleum nearby after which he hosted a reception for the people at the Istana Seri Menanti.

Meanwhile, Menteri Besar Tan Sri Mohamed Isa Abdul Samad and his wife, Puan Sri Hazizah Tumin, held an open house at their residence in Kampung Baru SiRusa in Port Dickson.

Di KUCHING, Hari Raya Aidiladha is celebrated moderately with open houses held mainly for relatives.

The celebration was more apparent in kampungs while most urban residents have taken advantage of the three-day weekend break to go to places like the Santubong resort.

In BANTING, the Sultan of Selangor performed Aidiladha prayers together with other Muslims including state executive councillors at the Masjid Bandar.

The Sultan then went to Istana Pantai Bahagia in Morib for the korban ceremony, before receiving guests at the palace.

The Raja Muda of Selangor performed his prayers in Shah Alam, while former Selangor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Muhammad Taib prayed at his state constituency in Batang Kali.

In KUALA LUMPUR, thousands of Muslims prayed at Masjid Negara and other mosques in the city.

Malaysian Islamic Development Department director-general Datuk Abdul Hamid Zainal Abidin read the khutbah (sermon) at Masjid Negara.

Cattle will be slaughtered in the thousands in mosques and suraus in the city including in Masjid Jamek, Kampung Baru and Masjid Azzubir Ibn Awwam in Cheras.

In KANGAR, Aidiladha was also celebrated in an atmosphere of moderation with Muslims visiting relatives after performing their prayers.

The Raja and Raja Perempuan of Perlis did not celebrate Aidiladha with the people this year as they are outside the state, while Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim is in Mecca to perform the haj.

In MELAKA, Chief Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Zin Abdul Ghani performed his prayers at Masjid Melekek in Alor Gajah.

Deputy Transport Minister Datuk Mohd Ali Rustam prayed at Masjid Bukit Katil before attending a korban ceremony organised by the Kelebang Besar Umno branch where 20 heads of cattle were slaughtered.

In KUALA TERENGGANU, the Yang DiPertuan Muda of Terengganu performed Aidiladha prayers at Masjid Abidin along with some 5,000 Muslims, including Menteri Besar Tan Sri Wan Mokhtar Ahmad, state executive councillors and state government officials.

Good weather enabled the people to celebrate Aidiladha in a joyful mood, with Muslims and non-Muslims alike attending open houses.

In KOTA KINABALU, Aidiladha was observed with some 5,000 Muslims performing their prayers at the state mosque. Among them was the state mufti Datuk Ismail Abas.

It was fairly quiet in the state capital as many residents had gone to their kampungs to celebrate Aidiladha with their relatives, while Muslim state leaders went to their respective constituencies.

In JOHOR BAHRU, the Sultan of Johor performed Aidiladha prayers at Masjid Pasir Pelangi together with about 1,000 Muslims.

Among them were the Tengku Mahkota, Tunku Ibrahim, Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman, state executive councillors and other government officials.

In PULAU PINANG, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim prayed at Masjid Cherok To'kun in Permatang Pauh along with some 500 people.

In a sermon after that, he said Muslims must be prepared to sacrifice in many ways to overcome problems such as the increasing social ills in the country.

He said sacrifice required of Muslims was not limited to slaughtering cattle for the needy.

Anwar said Muslims in Malaysia were more fortunate than those in most other countries, which not only lack a strong economy and political system but also often witness fighting among Muslims themselves.

"The situation for us here is so good that millions of foreigners are coming here to earn a living," he said.

Meanwhile, Pulau Pinang Yang Dipertua Negeri Tun Hamdan Sheikh Tahir performed Aidiladha prayers at the state mosque along with about 1,000 people.

In IPOH, the Sultan of Perak, Sultan Azlan Shah, performed his prayers at the state mosque along with Menteri Besar Tan Sri Ramli Ngah Talib and state government officials.

With tomorrow too being a public holiday in Perak in conjunction with the Sultan's birthday, many people have taken the opportunity to travel outside their areas including to visit relatives. -- BERNAMA

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