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Muslims mark Aidil Adha with `korban'

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - Muslims throughout the country marked Hari Raya Aidil Adha celebrations today by fulfilling the symbolic gesture of sacrifice by slaughtering cows, buffaloes and goats.

Performed after the Hari Raya Aidil Adha prayers earlier in the morning, the meat was then distributed especially among the poor, irrespective of their race and religion.

Although celebrated on a moderate scale this year, the festive mood was prevalent with thousands congregating at mosques, surau and madrasah for the prayers.

In Alor Star, the Hari Raya Aidil Adha celebrations began at the Masjid Zahir here, with the Sultan of Kedah and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad joining about 1,000 Muslims for prayers.

Also present were Menteri Besar Tan Sri Sanusi Junid and State Executive Council members.

Dr Mahathir later held an open house at Dewan Jitra. About 5,000 people, including Sanusi and Perlis Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim, attended the open house.

Members of the public who attended the open house had an opportunity to meet the Prime Minister when he took time off to greet and mingle with the crowd.

In Penang, the Yang di-Pertua Negeri Tun Hamdan Sheikh Tahir joined thousands of Muslims in Aidil Adha morning prayers at the State Mosque.

In many kampungs, the occasion was marked by korban ceremonies where cattle were slaughtered and the meat distributed to the poor in the area.

Meanwhile, people of all races joined in the celebrations by calling on Muslim firends who had invited them to their homes for treats.

In Ipoh, the Sultan of Perak, Sultan Azlan Shah, and Menteri Besar Tan Sri Ramli Ngah Talib were among hundreds of Muslims attending the Hari Raya Aidil Adha prayers at the State Mosque.

The Sultan later met the people to offer greetings.

Also present were State Secretary Datuk Abdul Habib Mansur, State Financial Officer Datuk Dr Isahak Yeop Mohd Shar and senior government officers.

Similar prayers were also held in mosques throughout the State.

In Shah Alam, the Regent of Selangor participated in the prayers with the people at the State mosque in Shah Alam.

Also present was Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Abu Hassan Omar, State Secretary Datuk Hashim Meon, several State Executive Council members and heads of departments.

Twenty cows were also slaughtered and distributed after prayers at the mosque.

Sultan of Selangor, who is in Orlando, United States, donated two cows and the Regent a cow to a mosque in Morib.

In Negri Sembilan, the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Ja'afar joined Muslims in performing prayers at Masjid Tuanku Munawir in Seri Menanti, Kuala Pilah.

The King also paid his respects and offered tahlil prayers at the Royal Mausoleum, next to the mosque, where Tuanku Ja'afar's late father is buried.

A reception was later held at the Istana Besar Seri Menanti.

Meanwhile, Menteri Besar Tan Sri Mohamad Isa Abdul Samad and his wife,

Puan Seri Hazizah Tumin, played host to more than 500 well-wishers at their residence in Kampung Si Rusa, Teluk Kemang.

In Malacca, the Yang di-Pertua Negeri Tun Syed Ahmad Shahabuddin joined 3,000 Muslims for prayers at the State mosque, Masjid al-Azim.

Also present were Chief Minister Datuk Seri Abu Zahar Isnin, State Secretary Datuk Abdul Aziz Omar, State Assemblymen, head of departments and senior government officers.

Meanwhile, over 900 cows and 60 buffaloes were slaughtered in mosques all over the State in conjunction with the celebration.

In Johor, the Sultan of Johor led worshippers at the Sultan Abu Bakar Mosque for prayers. Also present were Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman, government officials and heads of departments.

In Kota Baru, scores of Muslims made their way to the mosques as early as 7am to perform the Aidil Adha prayers.

At the Muhammadi Mosque, the Sultan of Kelantan joined hundreds of Muslims in prayers.

The religious ritual of slaughtering animals became the highlight of the celebration as the morning prayers ended.

The people in Kelantan, who observe a two-day public holiday for Aidil Adha, took the opportunity to perform the ritual.

In Kuala Terengganu, the occasion was celebrated with prayers and slaughtering of cattle. The meat was later distributed to poor Muslims.

Adults and children wearing their new colourful attires arrived in full strength from 10am onwards to receive their share of meat at various distribution centres set up at mosques and multi-purpose halls.

In Kuantan, the occasion was celebrated moderately with prayers held at the Masjid Negeri Sultan Ahmad Satu.

Menteri Besar Tan Sri Mohd Khalil Yaakob joined a congregation of 2,000 people at the mosque which was followed by the sacrifice of about 21 heads of cattle.

In Kota Kinabalu, Hari Raya Aidil Adha was celebrated on a moderate scale with thousands performing prayers at the State Mosque in Sembulan.

The Yang di-Pertua Negeri Tun Sakaran Dandai and several members of the Cabinet attended the prayers.

In Tawau, Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Abdul Ghapur Salleh led some 15,000 Muslims for their Aidil Adha prayers.

In Kuching, Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud witnessed the slaughtering of 250 head of cattle at Sara Bif slaughterhouse in Pending here.

Taib called on Muslims to heed the Government's advice to reduce imports and increase exports to help the country recover from the current economic situation.

Earlier, Yang di-Pertua Negeri Tun Ahmad Zaidi and Taib were among those who attended prayers at Masjid Jamek in Petra Jaya.

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