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Raya-Roundup

MUSLIMS CELEBRATE FIRST HARI RAYA OF NEW MILLENNIUM

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 8 (Bernama) -- Muslims in the country celebrated Hari Raya today with Aidilfitri prayers followed by open house for friends and relatives.

Hari Raya this year is extra special because it's the first of the new millennium and the country's economy is on the path to recovery.

In Kuala Lumpur, Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Salahuddin and Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Aishah, accompanied by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, performed Aidilfitri prayers with their subjects at Masjid Negara.

Present were Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and several ministers and foreign envoys.

Most of the city dwellers have returned to their hometowns to celebrate the auspicious occasion with their relatives.

Those that remain behind, especially the non-Muslims, took advantage of the public holiday to call on their Muslim friends or visit the recreational spots in the city.

In KOTA BAHARU, the Sultan and Raja Perempuan of Kelantan joined their subjects for Aidilfitri prayers at Masjid Muhammadi at 8.45am.

Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat prayed at Masjid Pulau Melaka opposite his residence and later held open house until 6pm.

Kelantan Umno liaison chairman Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah also held open house at his residence until 6pm after performing the Aidilfitri prayers.

In KUALA TERENGGANU, the Sultan of Terengganu prayed with about 6,000 Muslims at Masjid Al Muktafiyillah Shah Ladang before holding open house at Istana Maziah.

Menteri Besar Haji Abdul Hadi Awang, who also prayed at the same mosque, held open house at his residence in Kampung Rhusila, Marang.

The fine weather in Terengganu added festive cheer to the occasion.

In Kangar, the Raja and Raja Perempuan of Perlis performed Aidilfitri prayers with their subjects at Masjid Negeri, Arau, before receiving dignitaries and members of the public at Istana Arau.

Among those who attended the open house were Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim and the state executive councillors.

In KUCHING, Yang Dipertua Negeri Tun Ahmad Zaidi Adruce Muhammed Noor and his wife, Toh Puan Rosmiati, joined 12,000 Muslims for prayers at Masjid Jamek Negeri in Petra Jaya before holding open house at the Istana, also in Petra Jaya.

Sarawak Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud and his wife, Puan Sri Laila Taib, and other Muslim members of the state cabinet also joined in the prayers. Abdul Taib held open house at his residence, Demak Jaya, in Jalan Bako.

State Industrial Development Minister Datuk Abang Johari Tun Abang Openg held open house at his residence, "Sri Minangkabau 11", in Petra Jaya while Food and Agricultural Industry Minister Datuk Adenan Satem received guests at his residence in Damai Jaya, Jalan Santubong.

In SEREMBAN, Yang Dipertuan Besar Tuanku Ja'afar and Tunku Ampuan Tunku Najihah prayed at Masjid Tuanku Munawir in Seri Menanti and visited the royal mausoleum nearby.

They later held open house at Istana Besar, Seri Menanti, from 10.30am to 12.30pm.

Negeri Sembilan Menteri Besar Tan Sri Mohamed Isa Abdul Samad prayed at

Masjid Negeri, Seremban, and held open house at his official residence in Jalan Tasik from 10am to 1pm.

In PEKAN, the Sultan of Pahang joined about 1,000 subjects in performing Aidilfitri prayers at Masjid Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah, Pekan. Present were Pahang Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Adnan Yaakob and state executive councillors.

Adnan later received guests at Dewan Konvensyen, Jalan Teluk Sisek.

In KOTA KINABALU, Sabah Yang Dipertua Negeri Tun Sakaran Dandai and Chief Minister Datuk Osu Sukam joined thousands of Muslims for Aidilfitri prayers at Masjid Negeri.

Sakaran and his wife, Toh Puan Hajah Siti Rukaiyah Panglima Abdullah, later held open house at Istana Negeri while Osus' open house was held at Dewan Maksak in Likas.

In ALOR SETAR, the Sultan and Sultanah of Kedah, the Raja Muda and Menteri Besar Datuk Syed Razak Syed Zain prayed at Masjid Zahid with about 3,000 Muslims.

The sultan later held open house at Istana Anak Bukit while Syed Razak received guests at his residence in Mentalon from 11am to 4pm.

In SHAH ALAM, the Regent of Selangor, Tengku Idris Shah, Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Abu Hassan Omar, state executive councillors and senior government officers performed prayers at the state mosque.

Tengku Idris Shah held open house at the Istana Bukit Kayangan from 10.20am while Abu Hassan's open house at his residence at Bukit Megawati, Section 7, was from 12.30pm to 6pm.

In PULAU PINANG, Yang Dipertua Negeri Tun Dr Hamdan Sheikh Tahir prayed at the state mosque and later exchanged greetings with the people.

Among the leaders in the state who held open house were Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Dr Hilmi Yahaya, state executive councillor Datuk Azhar Ibrahim and State Assembly Speaker Datuk Yahya Abdul Hamid.

In MELAKA, Yang Dipertua Negeri Tun Syed Ahmad Shahabudin and his wife Toh Puan Marfuza Sheikh Mohamed Osman performed Aidilfitri prayers with over 10,000 Muslims at Masjid Al-Azim, Bukit Palah.

Chief Minister Datuk Wira Mohamed Ali Rustam, who called on them at their open house at Istana Melaka, Bukit Beruang, later held his open house at Seri Bendahara, Bukit Peringgit, from 11am to 2pm.

-- BERNAMA

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