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Raya-Roundup

MUSLIMS CELEBRATE HARI RAYA BY FORGIVING EACH OTHER

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 27 (Bernama) -- Muslims throughout the country today celebrated Hari Raya Aidilfitri by exchanging greetings and forgiving one another as exhorted by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

In his Hari Raya message broadcast by RTM yesterday, Dr Mahathir had exhorted Muslims to forget misunderstandings and enmity among them in religion and politics at least on Hari Raya day through the practice of exchanging greetings and forgiving among themselves.

This atmosphere could be seen when hundreds of Muslims performed the solat Aidilfitri together with the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah and Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Aishah as well as the country's leaders including Dr Mahathir and Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi at Masjid Negara here.

Also performing the solat Aidilfitri were several ministers and foreign diplomats.

The Aidilfitri celebration this year is a bit unique because Muslims are celebrating it for the second time within the same year.

Government officers and staff this time are celebrating Hari Raya with full of joy as they had been given a bonus of RM500 or half month's pay. Most of them had returned to their respective kampungs to celebrate Hari Raya with their old folks and relatives.

Among the dignitaries holding Hari Raya open house is Dr Mahathir at Seri Perdana in Putrajaya and Abdullah at the Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC) here.

In MELAKA, Yang Dipertua Negeri Tun Syed Ahmad Shahabuddin performed the solat Hari Raya together with more than 10,000 people at the Masjid Al-Azim. Chief Minister Datuk Wira Mohd Ali Rustam and the State Assembly Speaker Datuk Amid Nordin were also present.

After the prayers, Syed Ahmad and Mohd Ali exchanged greetings with the people. Syed Ahmad later received guests at his open house at Istana Melaka on Bukit Beruang in Melaka and Mohd Ali held open house at his official residence Seri Bendahara on Bukit Peringgit.

In KUCHING, Sarawak Acting Yang di-Pertua Negeri Tun Abang Muhammad Salahuddin and Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud held a joint open house at Stadium Dalaman Negeri.

In SHAH ALAM, the Regent of Selangor Tengku Idris Shah performed the solat Aidilfitri together with more than 5,000 Muslims at the Masjid Negeri.

Also performing the solat Aidilfitri were Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Dr Mohd Khir Toyo and his predecessor Datuk Seri Abu Hassan Omar.

The Regent then held open house at Istana Bukit Kayangan while Dr Mohd Khir held open house at his official residence on Bukit Megawati.

In JOHOR BAHRU, the Sultan of Johor performed the solat Aidilfitri together with more than 8,000 Muslims at the Masjid Sultan Abu Bakar.

Earlier on arrival at the mosque, the Sultan, the Tunku Mahkota and Tunku Bendahara were received by the Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman and State Assembly Speaker Datuk Zainalabidin Mohamed Zin.

The Sultan held open house at Istana Besar Johor Baharu, the Tunku Mahkota at Istana Pasir Pelangi while Abdul Ghani held his open house at his official residence Saujana.

In KUALA TERENGGANU, Sultan Mizan Zainal Abidin performed the solat Aidilfitri at the Masjid Al Muktafi Billah Shah in Ladang.

He was accompanied by members of the Terengganu Royal Household and Senior State Executive Councillor Mustafa Ali. Menteri Besar Abdul Hadi Awang performed the solat sunat Hari Raya at the Masjid Rusila in Marang.

After performing the solat, the Sultan held Hari Raya open house at

Istana Maziah and Hadi held his open house at Rusila after having an audience with the Sultan at Istana Badariah.

In KOTA BAHARU, the Sultan of Kelantan Tuanku Ismail Petra performed the solat sunat Aidilfitri at the Masjid Muhammadi. The Sultan then exchanged greetings with Muslims at Istana Balai Besar near the mosque. The Sultan also visited the Makam Diraja Langgar in Kota Baharu.

Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat performed the solat sunat Aidilfitri at the Masjid Pulau Melaka near Kota Baharu and held open house thereat after the prayers.

In ALOR SETAR, the Sultan of Kedah, the Raja Muda and Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Syed Razak Syed Zain joined about 500 people for the solat Aidilfitri at Masjid Zahir.

Members of the Kedah Royal Household and elected representatives then held an audience with the Sultan at Istana Anak Bukit while Syed Razak held Hari Raya open house at Mentalon.

In ARAU, the Raja of Perlis Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Putra Jamalullail and the Raja Perempuan joined thousands for the solat sunat Aidilfitri at Masjid Negeri.

The Raja held open house at Istana Arau about 200 metres from the Masjid Negeri.

Among the dignitaries who visited the royal open house were Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim and State Assembly Speaker Abdul Azib Saad.

In PEKAN, Sultan Ahmad Shah of Pahang performed the solat sunat Aidilfitri at the new Masjid At-Taqwa which he opened recently, near Kampung Peramu.

Also present were the Tengku Muda of Pahang Tengku Abdul Rahman Sultan Ahmad Shah and Pahang Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Adnan Yaakob.

Adnan held Hari Raya open house at the Dewan Jubli Perak Sultan Ahmad Shah in Jalan Teluk Sisek, Kuantan.

In SABAH, Yang Dipertua Negeri Tun Sakaran Dandai performed the solat Aidilfitri together with more than 10,000 people at the Masjid Bandar Raya Kota Kinabalu in Likas.

Chief Minister Datuk Osu Sukam, Minister in the Chief Minister's Department Datuk Musa Aman and Kota Kinabalu Mayor Datuk Abdul Ghani Abdul Rashid were among the dignitaries present.

Sakaran later entertained guests at two levels at Istana Negeri -- first for very important dignitaries and later for ordinary people. Osu held open house at the Dewan Perdana Maksak, Jalan Istiadat, in Likas Bay.

In Penang, Yang Dipertua Negeri Tun Dr Hamdan Sheikh Tahir performed the solat Aidilfitri at Masjid Negeri along with more than 1,000 people.

Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Dr Hilmi Haji Yahaya held open house in Jalan Sungai Nipah, Balik Pulau.

In NEGERI SEMBILAN, Yang Dipertuan Besar Tuanku Jaafar and Tuanku Ampuan Najihah performed the solat sunat Aidilfitri with the people at Masjid Diraja Tuanku Munawir Sri Menanti.

Tuanku Jaafar and the Tuanku Ampuan visited the Makam Diraja near the mosque and then held the Tahlil.

The royal couple held Hari Raya open house at the Istana Besar in Sri Menanti.

Menteri Besar Tan Sri Mohamed Isa Abdul Samad performed the solat Aidilfitri at Masjid Negeri in Seremban and then held open house at his residence No 4 Jalan Tasik, Seremban.

-- BERNAMA

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