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## Prayers and offerings of sacrifice

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - With prayers and offerings of sacrifice, Muslims throughout the country today celebrated Hari Raya Aidil Adha. This morning, the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Salahudin Abdul Aziz Shah and Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Siti Aishah joined more than 1,000 people for prayers at the Sultan Abdul Aziz Mosque on Pulau Indah in Klang. The King, who is also Sultan of Selangor, had chosen to attend the prayers there in conjunction with his 74th birthday. The King had paid for the building of the mosque which was opened a year ago. Also present was the Regent of Selangor Tengku Idris Shah and Menteri Besar Datuk Abu Hassan Omar. The King, Queen and Tengku Idris donated cattle which were slaughtered in sacrifice and the meat distributed to the poor. In Alor Star, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his wife Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali joined other Muslims for prayers at the Al-Gurfan mosque in Akar Peluru. Later, Dr Mahathir also visited his parents' graves at the mosque cemetery. The Prime Minister's open house, which was held at Dewan Jitra, had a long stream of people. Among them were Barisan Nasional leaders including MCA vice-president Datuk Chua Jui Meng, People's Progressive Party president Datuk M. Kayveas and Penang Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Dr Hilmi Yahya. In Sungai Petani, hundreds converged at the home of Umno Merbok division chief Arzmi Hamid in Kampung Bukit Selambau to share a meal with Finance Minister Tun Daim Zainuddin and several State executive councillors. Daim earlier distributed meat to villagers in Bukit Selambau, Gurun and Tanjung Dawai. In Kuala Lumpur, thousands of Muslims performed their Aidil Adha prayers at the National Mosque. The city streets were free from the usual traffic, as city folk took advantage of the public holiday and weekend for a balik kampung trip. In Perlis, prayers were held at the State's 99 mosques and 200 surau. The Raja Perempuan of Perlis joined several hundred Muslims for Aidil Adha prayers at the State Mosque in Arau. Also present was Perlis Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim and State dignitaries. Later, Shahidan held a kenduri at the official residence of the Menteri Besar. In Penang, more than 10,000 Muslims joined the Yang di-Pertua Negeri Tun Dr Hamdan Sheikh Tahir for prayers at the State Mosque in Jalan Air Itam. After prayers, four cows were sacrificed at the mosque for the occasion while another was sacrificed at Seri Mutiara - Hamdan's official residence. In Ipoh, Raja Muda Perak Raja Nazrin Shah and Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Tajol Rosli Ghazali were among 2,000 Muslims who performed Aidil Adha prayers at Masjid Sultan Idris Shah II. In Seremban, the Yang di-Pertuan Besar Tuanku Ja'afar joined about 500 Muslims for prayers at the Masjid Munawerah Seri Menanti. The Tunku Ampuan of Negri Sembilan Tuanku Najihah and members of the royal household were also present. After prayers, the Yang di-Pertuan Besar and the Tunku Ampuan visited the Royal Mausoleum nearby.

They later held an open house at the Astaka Istana Besar in Seri Menanti.

Menteri Besar Tan Sri Mohamed Isa Abdul Samad held an open house at Kampung Baru, Si Rusa in Port Dickson.

In Johor Baru, the Sultan of Johor together with his sons, the Tunku Mahkota of Johor and Tunku Bendahara, led about 3,000 Muslims in prayers at the Sultan Abu Bakar mosque.

Also present were Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman and several State executive councillors.

In Kuantan, the Tengku Mahkota of Pahang and Information Minister Tan Sri Mohd Khalil Yaakob joined more than 2,000 Muslims for prayers at Masjid Sultan Ahmad Satu, which was followed by the sacrifice of cows. Forty heads of cattle were slaughtered after the prayers organised by the Pahang Civil Servant's Welfare and Sports Council and the mosque management.

In Kota Baru, the Sultan of Kelantan and the Raja Perempuan attended prayers at the Muhammadi Mosque, and exchanged greetings with the people at the Istana Balai Besar.

Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat joined the people for prayers at the Masjid Pulau Melaka near his house.

Kelantan Umno chief Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah held an open house at his residence at Palm Manor.

In Kuala Terengganu, some 2,000 people joined the Sultan, members of the Terengganu Royal household and State dignitaries for prayers at the Masjid Al Muktafi Billah Ladang. The Sultan later visited the Royal Mausoleum in the mosque grounds.

In Malacca, the Yang di-Pertua Negeri Tun Syed Ahmad Shahabudin and his wife Toh Puan Marfuza Sheikh Mohd Osman joined more than 10,000 people for prayers at the Masjid Al-Azim, Bukit Palah. Chief Minister Datuk Wira Mohd Ali Rustam Mohd Ali was also present.

The Chief Imam of the mosque Yusof Musa led the ceremony of slaughtering 21 heads of cattle.

In Kuching, Sarawak Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud urged the people to inculcate tolerance and to think beyond their personal interests and material wealth.

He joined about 6,000 people for prayers at the Masjid Jamek in Petra Jaya.

Later, he attended a sacrificial ceremony at the Pending abattoir where 220 heads of cattle were slaughtered and the meat distributed among the poor in the Kuching and Samarahan areas.

In Kota Kinabalu, Muslims residing in villages around the city braved the morning downpour to attend prayers at the city's mosques. Many also visited cemeteries in the city to offer prayer for departed family members.

Sabah Yang di-Pertua Negeri Tun Sakaran Dandai joined more than 10,000 for the Aidil Adha prayers at Masjid Bandaraya in Likas.

Later, Sakaran and his wife Toh Puan Siti Rukaiyah Datuk Panglima Abdullah received well-wishers at their open house at Istana Negeri.

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