

06 MAR 2001

Aidiladha (Roundup)

MUSLIMS GATHER IN MOSQUES, SURAU FOR AIDILADHA PRAYERS

KUALA LUMPUR, March 6 (Bernama) -- Muslims across the country gathered in mosques and surau for Aidiladha prayers with a country at peace and its leaders committed to strengthening unity among the Ummah.

They were indeed joining thousands of Muslims all over the world in discharging their duties and responsibilities as Muslims and pay homage to Allah.

Yesterday Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in his Hari Raya Korban message exhorted Muslims to close ranks and unite in brotherhood.

In PORT KLANG, the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah attended Aidiladha prayers together with some 1,000 people at the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah Mosque on Pulau Indah.

This is the first time His Majesty is attending prayers at this particular mosque since being installed as the Yang di-Pertuan Agong in 1999.

Joining the King in the prayers were the Regent of Selangor Tengku Idris Shah, Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Dr Mohd Khir Toyo, State Assembly Speaker Datuk Seri Onn Ismail and other dignitaries.

The Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Siti Aishah is in the Holy Land for the pilgrimage and is scheduled to return to Malaysia on March 13.

After the prayers the Yang di-Pertuan Agong witnessed the ceremony of sacrifice in the mosque compound.

Sultan Salahuddin donated four head of cows and the Regent added another one for slaughter at the ceremony. His Majesty then exchanged Hari Raya greetings with those present.

The Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah Mosque on Pulau Indah was built from His Majesty's personal allocations, according to an Istana Negara statement yesterday.

Ini ALOR SETAR, Dr Mahathir joined some 10,000 people for Hari Raya prayers at a new mosque, Masjid Al-Bukhary, in Jalan Langgar.

The mosque within the multi-million ringgit Al-Bukhary Islamic Complex is among the most beautiful mosques from the aspect of architecture and is a new landmark in Alor Setar.

The mosque can hold some 15,000 worshippers.

The Prime Minister arrived at the mosque at 8am for the prayers led by Haji Kassim Ismail while the khutbah was read out by Syeikh Ahmad Salleh of the Kedah Islamic Affairs Department.

After the prayers Dr Mahathir spent more than 30 minutes exchanging greetings in the mosque grounds with the people who jostled to get close to him.

Dr Mahathir then visited the graves of his parents at the Akar Peluru Muslim Cemetery in Jalan Pegawai. The Prime Minister and Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, sprinkled "air mawar" and placed flowers on the graves of the late Mohamad Iskandar and Wan Tempawan Wan Mohd Saman.

Dr Mahathir then made an unscheduled call on ailing Khatijah Hashim, 76, who lived near the cemetery.

She is the wife of the Prime Minister's political compatriot, Othman Hanafiah, 83, who is also ailing and was on a wheelchair.

Dr Mahathir had an audience with the Sultan of Kedah at Istana Anak Bukit and then held Hari Raya open house at Dewan Jitra.

In PENANG, the Yang Dipertua Negeri Tun Dr Hamdan Sheikh Tahir joined

about 1,000 people for Adiladha prayers at the State Mosque.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi attended Hari Raya prayers at the Jamiul Badawi Mosque in Kepala Batas. The prayers were led by Imam Datuk Abdul Rahim Bakar.

Abdullah then witnessed the slaughter of cows in a ceremony of sacrifice organised by the Bertam state constituency at the mosque compound.

He also attended similar ceremonies organised by the Pinang Tunggal state constituency at the Pinang Tunggal new mosque and by the Penaga state constituency at the Penaga Mosque.

In KUALA TERENGGANU, the Sultan of Terengganu attended Aidiladha prayers at the Al-Muktafibilillah Shah Mosque in Ladang.

He was accompanied by Menteri Besar Abdul Hadi Awang, State Secretary Datuk Mazlan Hashim and other dignitaries.

After the prayers, the Sultan accompanied by Hadi visited the mausoleum of the late Sultan Mahmud in the mosque grounds. He also visited the grave of his elder sister Tengku Farah who died on Feb 25 of a stroke.

Meanwhile Hari Raya was celebrated on a moderate scale in view of rain since early morning. The rain kept many indoors and limited the number of Hari Raya open house visits.

In LANGKAWI, the Raja Muda of Kedah joined some 1,000 Muslims for prayers at the Al Hana Mosque in Kuah.

He exchanged Hari Raya greetings with the people soon after the prayers. Muslims and tourists of the Islamic faith also thronged the 25 mosques on this island resort for Aidiladha prayers.

Many local and foreign tourists are in Langkawi at present.

In ARAU, the Raja and Raja Perempuan of Perlis attended prayers at the State Mosque.

Also present was the Raja Perempuan Besar of Perlis, the mother of the Raja of Perlis.

The Raja and Raja Perempuan of Perlis also received in audience state dignitaries at the Istana Arau from 9.30am.

In KOTA BAHARU, the Sultan and Raja Perempuan of Kelantan joined Muslims for Hari Raya Aidiladha prayers at the Muhammadi Mosque.

Their Royal Highnesses then received in audience a number of people at Istana Balai Besar which is near the mosque.

They then visited the Langgar Royal Mausoleum where the Sultan's parents and other royalty are buried.

Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat said Hari Raya Aidiladha prayers at the Pulau Melaka Mosque near his house.

In JOHOR BAHARU, Hari Raya Aidiladha was celebrated moderately with prayers at all mosques and surau.

The Tengku Mahkota of Johor, Tengku Ibrahim attended Aidiladha prayers at the Pasir Pelangi Mosque. Also present were Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman and State Assembly Speaker Datuk Zinalabidin Mohamed Zin.

Some 700 cows were slaughtered in sacrifice in mosque grounds in various parts of Johor.

The Menteri Besar donated two cows for slaughter at his state constituency of Ledang in Muar.

In MELAKA Yang Dipertua Negeri Tun Syed Ahmad Shahabudin joined some 7,000 people for Adiladha prayers at the Al-Azim Mosque in Bukit Palah. He was accompanied by State Assembly Speaker Datuk Amid Nordin.

Chief Minister Datuk Wira Mohd Ali Rustam attended Aidiladha prayers at the Bukit Katil Mosque near his house.

Hari Raya Korban was celebrated moderately with rain in the morning.

In KOTA KINABALU, Sabah Yang Dipertua Negeri Tun Sakaran Dandai

attended Aidiladha prayers with some 800 people at the State Mosque in Sembulan. Also present was his wife Toh Puan Hajah Siti Rukaiyah Datuk Panglima Abdullah.

In KUANTAN, the Tengku Mahkota of Pahang Tengku Abdullah Sultan Ahmad Shah accompanied by Information Minister Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob attended Hari Raya prayers at the Sultan Ahmad Shah 1 Mosque together with some 3,000 people.

The prayers were led by Pahang Mufti Datuk Sulaiman Ahmad.

Also present was Pahang State Assembly Speaker Datuk Wan Razali Wan Mahussin.

Khalil also witnessed the slaughtering of cows in sacrifice at the Youth and Sports Complex.

--BERNAMA

HIS AAM