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Prayers, sacrifice to celebrate Aidiladha

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. - Muslims across the country today celebrated Hari Raya Aidiladha with full gratitude for the strong bond of unity and prosperity under the able leadership of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

The faithful gathered in mosques, surau and madrasah in the morning for prayers, followed by the slaughtering of cows, goats, sheep and buffaloes in sacrifice. The meat was then distributed to the poor and needy.

The Prime Minister joined about 2,000 Muslims for prayers at the Masjid Jamiul Badawi in his hometown in Kepala Batas, Penang.

He later witnessed the slaughtering of 37 cows before proceeding to visit Masjid Permatang Kuang in Bertam and Permatang Tok Brahim surau in Penaga.

Abdullah also attended an Aidiladha luncheon and a meet-the-people session in Ekor Kucing near Pinang Tunggal.

In Cameron Highlands, Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin and Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Fauziah attended Aidiladha prayers at the Masjid Sultan Abu Bakar in Tanah Rata.

The Royal couple, who are on a four-day trip to the holiday resort, were joined by about 1,000 people, including Pahang Deputy Menteri Besar Datuk Tan Mohd Aminuddin Ishak and State Secretary Datuk Abdul Rahim Abdul.

The Raja Permaisuri Agong later had a Hari Raya get-together with members of the Cameron Highlands Women's Institute.

In Ipoh, Sultan of Perak Sultan Azlan Shah performed his prayers at the Sultan Idris Shah II State Mosque.

Also present were Raja Muda Perak Raja Nazrin Shah, Raja diHilir Raja Jaafar Raja Muda Musa and Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Tajol Rosli Ghazali.

One cow and 78 goats were slaughtered at the Masjid India in Ipoh. In Shah Alam, Sultan of Selangor Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah joined about 5,000 people in performing prayers at Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah mosque here at about 7.45am.

Joining him in the prayers were Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Dr Mohd Khir Toyo, State Assembly Speaker Datuk Seri Onn Ismail and several State executive councillors.

In Seremban, Yang di-Pertuan Besar Tuanku Ja'afar and Tuanku Ampuan Najihah attended prayers at the Masjid Diraja Tuanku Munawir in Seri Menanti, Kuala Pilah.

They then attended a tahlil at the Royal Mausoleum before hosting an open house at Istana Besar Seri Menanti.

In Port Dickson, about 3,000 people joined Menteri Besar Tan Sri Mohd Isa Abdul Samad and his wife Puan Sri Hazizah Tumin in celebrating the occasion at their residence in Kampung Baru SiRusa from 10am.

In Alor Star, Sultan of Kedah Sultan Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah joined former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Syed Razak Syed Zain, senior state officials and the rakyat in performing prayers at Masjid Zahir.

The day also saw hundreds of head of cattle being slaughtered at various mosques in the State and the meat distributed to the poor.

In Kuala Terengganu, Sultan Mizan Zainal Abidin joined more than 3,000 people for the prayers at the Al-Muktafibilah Shah mosque.

After the prayers, Sultan Mizan visited the grave of his father in the mosque grounds.

At the Rusila mosque in Marang, Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang joined about 1,500 Muslims to perform the prayers.

In Johor Baru, Tunku Mahkota of Johor Tunku Ibrahim Ismail led Muslims in prayers at the Masjid Pasir Pelangi.

Also present were Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman, State Executive Councillors, senior government officers and community leaders.

Offerings of cows and goats for slaughter as part of the celebrations were held at several mosques and surau throughout the State. The meat was then distributed to the poor.

In Kota Baru, Sultan Tuanku Ismail Petra and Raja Perempuan Tengku Anis joined their subjects in performing the prayers at the Muhammadi Mosque.

The Royal couple then proceeded to meet the people at the Istana Balai Besar nearby and visited the Royal Mausoleum in Langgar.

Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat led about 2,000 people to perform prayers at the Pulau Melaka mosque near his residence.

In Malacca, Yang di-Pertua Negeri Tun Syed Ahmad Shahabudin and Chief Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Ali Rustam joined about 7,000 Muslims for prayers at the Masjid Al-Azim, Bukit Palah. A total of 15 cows were slaughtered at the mosque.

In Sandakan, Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Seri Musa Aman attended prayers with about 2,000 people at Masjid Kampung Batu Puteh.

In Kuching, Yang di-Pertua Negeri Tun Abang Muhammad Salahuddin and Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud performed prayers at Masjid Jamek Petra Jaya.

State Agriculture and Food Industry Minister Datuk Seri Adenan Satem presided at the sacrificial offering of cattle in Kota Samarahan and assistant minister Datuk Awang Tengah Ali Hassan attended a similar ceremony at the Sarawak Islamic Affairs Council building in Jalan P. Ramlee.