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SPECIAL MESSAGE

PM: PEACE, UNITY ARE PRECIOUS GIFTS

Celebrate Aidiladha with gratitude and faith, Najib tells Muslims

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak has called upon Muslims in the country to celebrate Hari Raya Aidiladha as a festival which fosters unity.

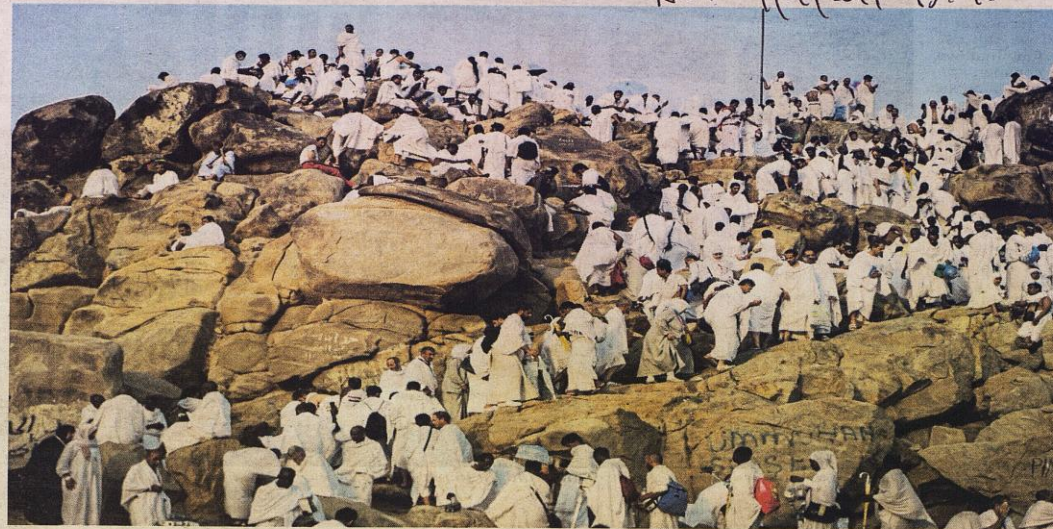
He said through such appreciation, Muslims in this country could maintain a close relationship as well as remain united and willing to sacrifice, while at the same time avoid selfishness.

"Muslims who ignore the principles of unity will make room and opportunity for enemies of Islam to break through, weaken and destroy the religion and its believers.

"Indeed, the unity and peace that are endowed as precious gifts must be maintained.

"In fact, it is compulsory for us to be fair to those who are from different religions and religious groups," he said in his blog at www.1Malaysia.com.my.

Najib said the Aidiladha celebration this year was also special as it coincided with the National Day celebrations as well as



Worshippers climbing Mount Arafat near Mecca, Saudi Arabia, yesterday. Aidiladha is the holiest of the two Muslim holidays celebrated each year, as it marks the yearly Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca, the holiest place in Islam. EPA PIC

Malaysia's success in winning the 2017 Kuala Lumpur Sea Games yesterday.

The prime minister also shared his joy in seeing off the highest number of Malaysian pilgrims in the nation's history to perform the haj.

Najib said he was grateful to

the Saudi Arabian government for facilitating the management of pilgrims' entry into the country.

This is after Malaysia became the first country in the world to be allowed to run a pilgrimage pre-departure programme this year, he said.

"Our pilgrims no longer need to undergo passport and customs check-in process in Mecca and Medina.

"This is due to our close ties with the Saudi government that we continued to nurture and preserve all this time," he said.

Najib invited Muslims to cel-

ebate Aidiladha with gratitude and faith, as well as to strengthen ties of friendship to create a successful ummah.

Page 1 pic: Worshippers praying during the haj pilgrimage on Mount Arafat, near Mecca, Saudi Arabia, yesterday. EPA PIC