

A sea of colour to mark the end of Eid: Millions of worshippers gather to celebrate the finish of fasting for Ramadan

- Muslims around the world celebrating the holy festival of Eid, which marks the end of the fasting month of Ramadan
- Over three days Muslims will pray, feast and visit friends and family, holding parties, giving presents and dressing up

By Damien Gayle AND Amanda Williams

A sea of colour and celebration has erupted across the world as millions of worshippers gather to celebrate the end of fasting for Ramadan.

For the past month observant Muslims have refrained from eating or drinking anything from dawn to sunset in a show of spiritual devotion.

The festival of Eid al-Fitr - the 'breaking of the fast' - is now being celebrated across the globe with devout Muslims meeting to exchange gifts, enjoy food and decorate their homes in a show of thanksgiving.



Filipino Muslim women bow their heads in solemn prayer at Rizal Park in the capital Manila as they celebrate the breaking of the fast



Hundreds of thousands gather to mark the important annual event, which falls after the first sighting of a new crescent moon



A young girl dressed in canary yellow stands out from the crowd as families kneel to pray this morning near the Bajrah Sandhi monument in Denpasar, Bali



Palestinian Muslim men perform the morning Eid Al-Fitr prayer in front of the Dome of Rock at the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound, Islam's third most holy site, in the old city of Jerusalem



Muslim women cover their faces with their hands as they mark the end of the fasting month



Muslims will greet each other with the traditional Muslim greeting of Eid Mubarak, which translates roughly as 'Eid blessings' and is equivalent to 'Merry Christmas'





A family travels on a traditional boat to morning prayer (left). Although it looks like a solemn occasion (right) Eid is a time of joy and thanksgiving for Muslims



A toy seller rides on 'sea of sands' as Indonesian muslims people perform Eid Al-Fitr prayer at Parangkusumo beach in Yogyakarta, Indonesia



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Indonesian Muslims take part in special morning prayers near the Bajrah Sandhi monument in Denpasar



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Muslims pray during mass to celebrate Eid-ul Fitr on Bali, Indonesia. The two-day holiday, Eid ul-Fitr, marks the end of Ramadan, the Islamic month of fasting and begins after the sighting of a new crescent moon



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People attend Eid al-Fitr prayers at Parang Kusumo beach, near the ancient city of Yogyakarta August 8, 2013. Indonesia, which has the world's largest Muslim population, celebrates Eid al-Fitr with mass prayers and family visits



Indonesian muslims perform Eid Al-Fitr prayer on 'sea of sands' at Parangkusumo beach in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. Eid Al-Fitr, marks the end of Ramadan, the Islamic month of fasting and begins after the sighting of a new crescent moon



As well as the special prayers and celebrations, customs of Eid include dressing up in new clothes, eating special delicacies, giving presents and, for women, decoration of the hands with henna



Soleh, walks using crutch as he attends Eid Al-Fitr prayer on 'sea of sands' at Parangkusumo beach, in Yogyakarta, Indonesia

They will greet each other with the traditional Muslim greeting of Eid Mubarak, which translates roughly as 'Eid blessings' and is more or less equivalent to 'Merry Christmas'.

More...

- There's actually a train under there... Mass of people try to get on board as millions celebrate the end of Ramadan
- Women and children among 14 people killed during a picnic at the grave of a relative during Eid celebrations

As well as the special prayers and celebrations, customs of Eid include dressing up in new clothes, eating special delicacies, giving presents and, for women, decoration of the hands with henna. Jack Khan, a British-Bangladeshi Muslim, told MailOnline that some of the special dishes being passed round Eid tables may include shemai, a sweet made with vermicelli and milk, and fita, fried dough balls made with rice flour and drizzled with ghee - which he described as 'delicious'. For those who can afford it in Bangladesh, there would also be lots of different types of roasted meat on offer, served with that perennial favourite, pilau rice.



A girl carries her sister as Indonesian muslims perform Eid Al-Fitr prayer on the 'sea of sands'



Muslim women hug each other after prayers at the Rizal park as they celebrate Eid ul-Fitr in the city of Manila, Philippines



Muslims around the world celebrate Eid al-Fitr this week, marking the end of holiest month of Ramadan during which followers are required to abstain from food, drink and sex from dawn to dusk



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A young girl looks up as Indonesian Muslims take part in special morning prayers near the Bajrah Sandhi monument



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Bangladeshi Muslims sit on the roof of an already packed train ahead of Eid al-Fitr as others wait at a railway station in Dhaka



Party time: Tonight is the start of a three-day national holiday in Bangladesh, where people will take time to visit friends and family as well as attend mass religious gatherings



Risky business: Ferry passengers take their lives in their hands by clinging on to the sides of the packed vessel departing the Sadarghat ferry terminal on the outskirts of Dhaka earlier today

Many will be feeling a sense of relief at the end of Ramadan, a month of fasting during which observant Muslims are encouraged not to eat or drink anything - even water - during the hours of daylight. A time of spiritual reflection and increased worship, during the period Muslims are expected to pay more attention to the teachings of their religion, also refraining from sexual relations with their spouses as well as generally sinful behaviour.

It is believed to help teach devotees how to better practice self-discipline and sacrifice, but also inculcate empathy for those less fortunate than themselves and encourage generosity and charity.



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Comfy? Bangladeshis sit on blankets laid out on the packed ferry as they rush home to be with their families

Charity is also an important part of Eid. Mr Khan explained: 'I have to give a minimum of ₳5 per person in my family - which is the equivalent of a bag of rice.

'This time of year, because it's the New Year, a lot of people also give their Zakāt, which is 2.5 per cent of your wealth, irrelevant of much you earn.

'So my wife has to give 2.5 per cent of the value of all her jewellery, which she can either do by selling some of it... or I can pay for it.

'If you watch the Muslim TV channels you would have seen there has been a massive amount of fundraising going on over the past month.'

Millions of Muslims celebrated Eid across the world. Thousands of Palestinian men performed the morning Eid Al-Fitr prayer in front of the Dome of Rock at the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound, Islam's third most holy site, in the old city of Jerusalem. While women gathered in Indonesia to mark the day.