

CELEBRATING EID AL-FITR

By Faten Omar

At the end of Ramadan, Muslims throughout the world observe a joyous three-day celebration called Eid Al-Fitr. Eid Al-Fitr or 'Feast of Breaking the Fast' is an important religious holiday for Muslims worldwide because it marks the end of Ramadan, the Islamic holy month of fasting. The day of Eid falls on the first day of the month of Shawwal, which is the month that comes after Ramadan in the Islamic calendar.

In most countries, Eid Al-Fitr is celebrated on the same day as Saudi Arabia; while other countries celebrate it on a different date. It is not possible to accurately predict the date of Eid Al-Fitr according to the Gregorian calendar. This is because the month of Shawwal begins after a confirmed sighting of the new moon, either in Saudi Arabia or locally. The new moon may be sighted earlier or later in specific locations; hence, many Muslims in different communities, for example on the East and West Coasts of the US and Canada, may begin Eid Al-Fitr celebrations on different dates.

Before the day of Eid, during the last few days of Ramadan, each Muslim family gives a determined amount as donation to the poor. This donation is

known as Zakat Al-Fitr or 'Charity of Breaking the Fast' and donations include actual food such as rice, barley, dates, meat and so on. If a Muslim has not given Zakat Al-Fitr during Ramadan, he or she can give it on Eid Al-Fitr.

On the first day of Eid, Muslims gather early in the morning to pray in mosques to perform the Eid prayer. Eid Al-Fitr has a particular prayer consisting of two Rakats (units) and has an additional six Takbirs (rising of the hands to the ears, while saying "Allahu Akbar," which literally means "God is greatest"). Three Takbirs are done in the beginning of the first Raka'ah and the other three are done just before Ruku' in the second Raka'ah. Other Sunni schools usually have twelve Takbirs, seven in the first Raka'ah, and five in the second Raka'ah. The Eid Al-Fitr prayer is generally offered in an open field or large hall. It may be performed only in a congregation setting.

After the Eid prayer, Muslims usually plan to visit family and friends and give 'Edia' (amount of money given especially to children) and many Muslims may travel far to participate in these activities. Some communities organize different festivities, such as communal meals or events for children. These activities traditionally continue for three days, and the entire three days period is an official government holiday.



Children receive their 'Edia'.



KUWAIT: Children play at a local amusement park during the Eid holiday in this file photo. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



VIVA GIVES BACK THIS RAMADAN WITH CHARITABLE CAMPAIGN

DISTRIBUTING IFTAR MEALS TO MOSQUES

KUWAIT: VIVA, Kuwait's fastest-growing and most developed telecom operator, distributed free iftar meals around local mosques in some of the Kuwait governorates, as part of its corporate social responsibility (CSR) efforts to give back during the Holy Month of Ramadan.

The campaign commenced during the Holy Month and included the distribution in two mosques in the Shuwaikh industrial area in Kuwait City. VIVA's Corporate Communications team has presented meals to the fasters and enjoyed the Iftar meal with them.

VIVA reiterates its commitment to being an active member of the local community in Kuwait as an integral part of its CSR commitment. VIVA's CSR activities can be reviewed on the company's website at <https://www.viva.com.kw/csr>. This offers a description of each CSR initiative that VIVA has supported, or taken on since its inception.

To find out more information about VIVA's products and services, visit any of the company's 69 VIVA branches, or the website at www.viva.com.kw, or simply call VIVA's 24 hour call center at 102.

KRCS PREPARES TONS OF FOOD RELIEF TO YEMEN

KUWAIT: Kuwait Red Crescent Society's (KRCS) Chairman Dr Hilal Ali Al-Sayer announced yesterday preparing 200 tons of food supplies in Djibouti, to be later transferred by sea to Aden in Yemen, where people are suffering from deteriorating humanitarian conditions.

A total of 10,000 food packages were bought from the local market in Djibouti, in preparation for their shipment to Yemen shortly, Dr Sayer said. The shipment will be handed to Yemen's High Relief Committee (HRC) to be distributed to the Yemeni people to alleviate their suffering, he added.

Such relief is offered to the Yemeni people according to the instructions of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, he said. HRC volunteers distributed Eid Al-Fitr

coupons to 4,000 Yemeni families taking up refuge in Amboli town in Djibouti, he mentioned.

HRC's field team visited Aboukh coastal camp in Djibouti where 300 Yemeni families are residing, to evaluate the needs of the camp and the refugees and offer the refugees their needs of food and medicine, he affirmed. The team distributed candies and toys to the children in the camp, in a step which spread happiness among their young hearts, he added. KRCS launched last May a relief campaign to Yemen as 40 tons of medical equipment were transferred to that country on board of an aircraft which flew from Abdullah Al-Mubarak air base. KRCS also launched a public campaign last April to collect donations in support of the humanitarian situation in Yemen. — KUNA



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