



Filipino Muslim Munib Dalidig talks to a man working on his roof beside the Marikina Islamic Mosque in suburban Tumana, Marikina city, east of Manila, Philippines. — AP photos



Filipino Muslim Munib Dalidig, in orange shirt, joins others during prayers at the Marikina Islamic Mosque.



Filipino Muslim Munib Dalidig, seated second right, listens with other Filipino Muslims to a reading of the Quran at the Marikina Islamic Mosque.



Munib Dalidig reads the Quran inside his home.

## Filipino Muslims observe holy month of Ramadan

**F**ilipino Muslim Munib Dalidig, 33, is a vendor who sells DVDs from his pedicab. He's married with three children and lives in a small house in a flood-prone area near the Islamic mosque in Tumana, in Marikina city, east of Manila. He's among the Muslim minority in the Philippines, whose population is predominantly Roman Catholic.

Like many Muslims, Dalidig is currently observing Ramadan - a month of intense prayer, dawn-to-dusk fasting and nightly feasts. He answers some questions about his faith and Islam's holiest month:

**How important is prayer to you?**

That is the order of Allah. It is our obligation. We can lose everything but not our prayers. It is the key to enter paradise.

**Do you always pray here?**

Yes, because it is just outside my home. I use my pedicab (three-wheeled bicycle) to peddle DVDs around town. If there is no mosque nearby, then I pray where I am. I bring my prayer rug if I know that I will go to a place where mosques are not available. I rarely miss prayers since I make an effort to go home during prayer time.

**If you could change anything about yourself during Ramadan, what would it be?**

I would like to refrain from being late during prayer time. I would like to stop gossip mongering about people.

**Do you think your non-Muslim friends understand Islam and what it means to be Muslim?**

Yes, I explain Islam to them and many have become Muslim after I have told them about our teachings.

**What is the most important thing to you about being a Muslim in the Philippines?**

It is about improving yourself. I would like to do good. Praying is the most important thing for me. How to follow the orders of Allah. Each day this week, The Associated Press will focus on a Muslim devotee living in the minority in Asia, illustrating what the fasting month of Ramadan means to the Muslim community in that country. — AP



Munib Dalidig finishes listening to a reading of the Quran.



Munib Dalidig uses his mobile phone as his daughter, right, looks outside their home.

## Indonesian Muslims in Bali observe Ramadan

**S**urrounded by colorful plastic cups, Sumaria and other Indonesian Muslim women pour sweet tea as they prepare for iftar, the traditional breaking of the dawn-to-dusk fast during the holy month of Ramadan. Indonesia is the world's most populous Muslim nation. But the island of Bali, where Sumaria has lived since arriving with her family half a century ago, is predominantly Hindu. Growing up in the religious minority, she has held on to her Muslim faith.

Now retired from her work in microfinance that loaned money to poor farmers and entrepreneurs, she travels some distance from her home to the Grand Mosque in Bali's provincial capital of Denpasar

to pray. "We are encouraged to pray in congregation," Sumaria, 58, said.

She also volunteers her time at the mosque during Ramadan, which the devoted believe is the time to do good deeds. "As a Muslim, every word and deed should reflect Islamic teaching," said Sumaria. "Islam teaches us to be tolerant and kind to one another." Each day this week the Associated Press will focus on a Muslim devotee living in the minority in the Asia-Pacific region, illustrating what the fasting month of Ramadan means to the Muslim community in that country. — AP



Sumaria, center, performs "taraweeh," the Ramadan evening prayer, at Denpasar Grand Mosque in Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia.



Sumaria carries the Quran as she stands at the entrance of Denpasar Grand Mosque.



Sumaria, center, performs "taraweeh," the Ramadan evening prayer, at Denpasar Grand Mosque.



Sumaria, left, distributes snacks to Muslim devotees to break their fast.



Sumaria, center, fills plastic cups with tea as she prepares drinks for Muslim devotees to break their fast.