



Eid al-Fitr is the "festival of breaking of the fast" and is an important religious holiday celebrated by Muslims worldwide that marks the end of Ramadan. Eid al-Fitr falls on the first day of Shawwal, the month which follows Ramadan in the Islamic calendar.

The first Eid was celebrated in 624 CE by the Prophet Muhammad with his friends and relatives after the victory of the battle of Jang-e-Badar.

Muslims are not only celebrating the end of fasting, but thanking Allah for the help and strength that he gave them throughout the previous month to help them practise self-control.

The festival begins when the first sight of the new moon is seen in the sky. The celebratory atmosphere is increased by everyone wearing best or new clothes, and decorating their homes.



It is a time to give charity to those in need, and celebrate with family and friends the completion of a month of blessings and joy. (Before the day of Eid, during the last few days of Ramadan, each Muslim family gives a determined amount as a donation to the poor. This donation is of actual food -- rice, barley, dates, rice, etc. -- to ensure that the needy can have a holiday meal and participate in the celebration.)

There are special services out of doors and in mosques, processions through the streets, and of course, a special celebratory meal - eaten during daytime, the first daytime meal Muslims will have had in a month.

After the Eid prayer, Muslims usually scatter to visit various family and friends, give gifts (especially to children), and make phone calls to distant relatives to give well-wishes for the holiday. These activities traditionally continue for three days; in most Muslim countries, the entire 3-day period is an official government/school holiday.

