

Do you want to make sure that you celebrate the LAYLATUL BARA'AT/ SHAB E BARA'AT correctly?

The announcement by those groups who are blindly following the Hilal announcements of the authorities in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, has defied all logic, for this month of Sha'baan.

For reasons only known to the authorities in Saudi Arabia the first day of the month of Sha'baan was announced on Monday the 27th of Rajab. This itself was wrong, as to declare the new Islamic month, either the moon has to be sighted on the 29th of the month, or in case of negative sighting, 30 days has to be completed. The Announcement from the authorities in Riyadh was lacking both these principles, as one can see from the announcement below:



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Monday 20 July 2009 (27 Rajab 1430)

Arab News: Kaaba washing on Thursday

MAKKAH: On behalf of Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah, Makkah Governor Prince Khaled Al-Faisal will wash Kaaba on Thursday, the first day of the month of Shaaban of the Hijri calendar. Religious leaders, government officials, and foreign dignitaries will participate in the event. Prince Khaled will wash the Kaaba with Zamzam water mixed with rosewater, Saudi Press Agency reported...

As you can see from the report there is no mention of Ummul Qura Calendar, rather a clear declaration of the 1st of Sha'baan has been made. Which proves that a pre-calculated calendar based on **ASTRONOMY, HAS BEEN USED FOR THIS ANNOUNCEMENT**. Those who will celebrate the Laylatul Bara'at on the night of Wednesday the 5th of August will be celebrating it **according to the Astronomy based Ummul Qura calendar**. The other **Important point** is that the **Moon was impossible to sight** on Wednesday 22nd of July in that region, as there was a total solar eclipse seen by millions of people in Asia on that day. (Wednesday 22 July 2009/29 Rajab 1430 AH). When there is an eclipse in a region then the Hilal would be impossible to sight in that region on that day, as you can understand from the Fatwa given by the eminent Saudi Scholar, Sheikh As Salih Al Othaimen RA dated 30/01/1412AH:

BismillahIrRahmaanIrRaheem Wa Alaykum AsSalaamu WaRahmatullahi WaBarakaatuhu.

If an eclipse takes place after sunset in any place on earth, it becomes impossible to have a new month the next day. This is due to the fact that scholars and experts are of the same opinion that the physical reason for the eclipse is the presence of the moon between the sun and the earth.

It is also a common fact to the scholars and the public that a new month would not start without the sighting of Hilaal, sometime after sunset. If that is the case, then a new month would not be possible in the same night where an eclipse has taken place after sunset. This is impossible based on the norms that the Almighty Allah set for the rotation of the sun and the moon... He writes further on in the same Fatwa; Therefore, if a person claims that the month began in the same night when an eclipse took place after sunset, is like a person who claims that the moon would be in a full-moon position in the same night when it is born. Or, like the person who claims that the sun would rise before dawn, or like a baby will show up before he gets out of the womb of his mother. All these things are impossible according to the rules & behaviour that the Almighty Allah has ordained for this splendid universe, in its precise system. See the full Arabic version and translation on the Wifaq ul ulama website.

Further, all experienced observers are fully aware that, if the waning (old) crescent moon was seen on any date before sunrise then the next day cannot be the first day of the month. This is because there must be at least one or two days gap for the New Moon phase (Mahaq) to take place, before the waxing crescent moon (hilal) can be seen after sunset.

On Tuesday 21 July 2009, the waning crescent moon was seen in Saudi Arabia and other countries (see photographic evidences on Shaban 1430 page of ICOP web site, www.icoproject.org). Also on Wednesday 22 July 2009, there was a total solar eclipse in the same region as witnessed by millions of people of people by their naked eye, which only happens during Mahaq.

In the light of the above facts (from both Fiqh and scientific point of views), it was impossible for any positive Hilal sighting to have taken place in Asia/Middle East (i.e. from any countries in the east of UK) on Wednesday 22 July 2009. Hence, the next day (23 July 2009) was 30th Rajab and not 1st Sha'baan.

So if someone really wants to make sure that their Ibaadat and Dua's are made on the night of the fifteenth of Sha'baan, then it is necessary for them to follow the Wifaq UI Ulama decision, according to which the first of Sha'baan was on Friday the 24th of July and the night of the 15th of Sha'baan will be on Thursday the 6th of August.

Although we have always propagated actual sighting from the time that we were founded, we have never taken such a drastic decision to openly criticize any groups on their decisions/announcements, but this time due to the importance of the night of the fifteenth of Sha'baan, we have seen it necessary to release this statement. As we do not want the people to make their Ibaadaat on the night of the 14th (Wednesday the 5th of August) believing that it is the 15th night of Sha'baan. (Wa Ma Alainaa Illal Balagh)