

Translation of the answer received from Mazahir ul uloom
Saharanpur

The answer, and the Towfeeq is in the hands of Allah.

In the eyes of the Shariah, to become obedient or dependent on moonsighting news requested from other countries is not necessary. If the moon is not visible on the twenty ninth day, the order given in the Hadith is to complete thirty days, as one can understand from the Ahaadith in Sahih Al Bukhari and Sahih Al Muslim that, 'If it (moon) is invisible then complete thirty'.

There is also the Hadith in Sunan e Tirmizi Volume 1 page 88:

Which means that if according to Shar'ee tahqeeq (investigation verified by our Holy Shariah), whatever day people commence the Fast, and whatever day people finish the Fast, and whatever day the people perform Qurbani, will be counted by Allah Ta'aala as the day of Fast, or the day of Eid, or the day of Qurbani. One will receive complete Thawaab (reward).

In the question put forward, if in Saudi Arabia the moon sighting is verified then it (moon sighting news) could be relied upon in Britain, but the reality is, that Saudi authorities claim that moon has been sighted, yet, the moon is not seen in the whole of the African Continent, nor could it be seen in America. This gives reason to doubt. The Fuqahaa (jurist) are united that, when the skies are clear, it is necessary for a large group of Muslims to sight the moon, for the testification to be deemed as acceptable.

The harms attached in following the Saudi's in moon sighting, which have been highlighted in the question, itself proves that reliance on Saudi authorities on moonsighting news is, without doubt, against *Ihtiyaat* (caution).

An ordinary Muslim is aware that our Eid is just not a customary celebration like other Religions or Nations, but rather it is the end of one form of Ibaadat(worship) and the beginning of another, in which it is not permissible to stray away from the principles laid down by our Holy Shariah. It is for this reason, obligatory upon the Ulamaa that they ponder and think on this matter, and create a formula in light of principles laid down by our Holy Shariah, and on which the Ulamaa and the ordinary Laymen are satisfied.

The formula mentioned in the question is correct and in accordance with our Holy Shariah, hence the Muslims of U.K. should at first base the decision on moon sighting on their own local sighting and if the skies are not clear then on those countries whose horizon is the same as U.K.

And Allah Knows Best

**Al Abd Muhammad Tahir (Mufti) 22/02/1428 A.H.
The answer is correct Maqsood (Mufti) 23/02/1428 A.H.**

