



Gilani Research Foundation is a not for profit public service project to provide social science research to students, academia, policy makers and concerned citizens in Pakistan and across the globe.

Gilani Research Foundation is headed by Dr. Ijaz Shafi Gilani who pioneered the field of opinion polling in Pakistan and established Gallup Pakistan in 1980. Currently Dr. Gilani, who holds a PhD from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and has taught at leading universities in Pakistan and abroad, is Chairman of Gallup Pakistan.

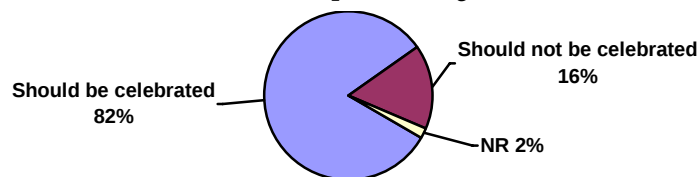
82 % of all Pakistanis Keen on Celebrating 12th Rabi-ul-Awal / Eid Milad-un-Nabi: GILANI POLL / GALLUP PAKISTAN

Islamabad, March 1, 2010

12th Rabi-ul-Awal holds a special meaning for Muslims as the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) was born on this day. Just two days ago, on the 27th of February 2010, people all over Pakistan celebrated 12th Rabi-ul-Awal with a lot of fervor. To find out people's perceptions about celebrating this day in special ways, a Gilani Research Foundation survey was carried out by Gallup Pakistan. According to this a vast majority (82%) say this day should be celebrated in special ways whereas 16% do not favor special celebrations. It is seen that people celebrate 12th Rabi-ul-Awal in many ways such as holding recitation of Quran at home, attending Milads (a gathering where religious poetry is recited), lighting up candles, distributing food, going to religious gatherings etc.

A nationally representative sample of men and women from across the country were asked "*The month of Rabi-ul-Awal has started. In Pakistan, this month, especially 12th of this month, is celebrated with great zeal and enthusiasm. In your opinion should 12th Rabi-ul-Awal be celebrated in special ways or not?*" Eighty two percent (82%) said it should be celebrated whereas 16% claimed they do not favour special celebrations. The remaining 2% of the respondents gave no response. It is seen that keenness for special celebrations is higher in urbanites (92%) as compared to rural population (78%).

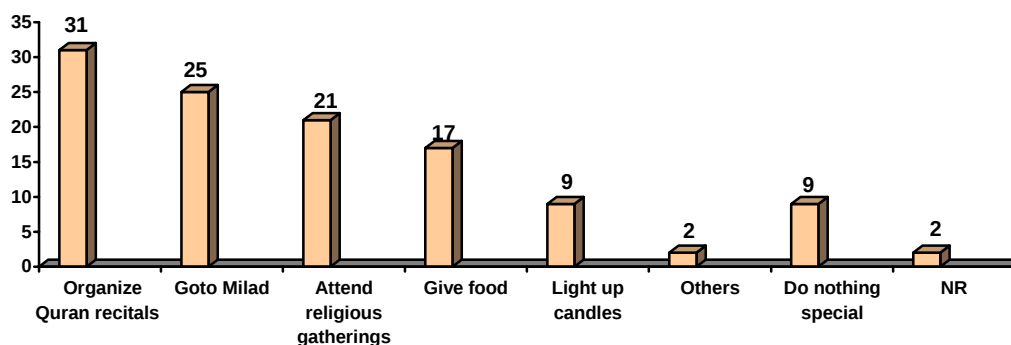
"The month of Rabi-ul-Awal has started. In Pakistan, this month, especially 12th of this month, is celebrated with great zeal and enthusiasm. In your opinion should 12th Rabi-ul-Awal be celebrated in special ways or not?"



Source: Gilani Poll conducted by Gallup Pakistan,
the Pakistani affiliate of Gallup International Association (www.gallup-international.com; www.gallup.com.pk)

In a follow up question the respondents were asked "*How do you celebrate 12th Rabi-ul-Awal?*" Thirty one percent (31%) said they hold congregational recitation of Quran at home or neighbourhoods, 25% claimed to attend Milad gatherings, 21% said they attend general religious gatherings, 17% distribute food (known as Niaz) , 9% said they light up candles in their localities and at home, and 2% stated they do something else on this special day. Eleven percent (11%) of the respondents claimed they do not do anything special or gave no response.

“How do you celebrate 12th Rabi-ul-Awal?”



Source: Gilani Poll conducted by Gallup Pakistan,
the Pakistani affiliate of Gallup International Association (www.gallup-international.com; www.gallup.com.pk)

The study was released by Gilani foundation and carried out by Gallup Pakistan, the Pakistani affiliate of Gallup International. The recent survey was carried out among a sample of 2761 men and women in rural and urban areas of all four provinces of the country, during February 2010. Error margin is estimated to be approximately ± 2 -3 per cent at 95% confidence level.

Gallup Pakistan proposes that its poll results be attributed as Gilani Poll conducted by Gallup Pakistan, the Pakistani affiliate of Gallup International. This is to distinguish our polls from polls on Pakistan sometimes released by other organizations not part of Gallup International Association (www.gallup-international.com) and referred to by the same title. Also please see necessary Disclaimer on our website (www.gallup.com.pk). Gallup Pakistan takes responsibility for only its own polls on Pakistan.

For more survey data on religious and other issues see website www.gallup.com.pk

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