

Day-long celebration Eid ul-Fitr is a day-long celebration and is sometimes also known as the "smaller Eid" as compared to Eid ul-Adha that lasts four days and is called the "greater Eid". Muslims are commanded by the Qur'an to complete their fast on the last day of Ramadan and then recite the takbir throughout the period of Eid.

Common greetings during this holiday are the Arabic greeting "Id mubarak" ("Blessed Eid") or "Id sa'id" ("Happy Eid"). In addition, many countries have their own greetings based on local language and traditions.

Typically, Muslims wake up early in the morning and have a small breakfast as a sign of not being on a fast on that day, of preferably the date fruit, before attending a special Eid prayer (salah) that is performed in congregation at mosques or open areas, such as fields, squares and so forth. Muslims are encouraged to dress in their best clothes (new, if possible) for the occasion.

No adhan or iqama is to be pronounced for this Eid prayer, and it consists of only two raka'ahs.

The Eid prayer is followed by the khutbah (sermon) and then a duah (supplication) asking for forgiveness, mercy and help for all living beings across the world.

The khutbah also instructs Muslims as to the performance of the rituals of Eid, such as zakat. It is then customary to embrace the persons sitting on either side of oneself, while greeting them.

After the prayers, people also visit their relatives, friends and acquaintances and some people also pay visits to graveyards (ziyarat al-qubur). Eid ul-Fitr is not a day of rest because there is no basis for rest in the Qur'an.

The takbir is recited after having confirmation that the moon of Shaw'wal is sighted on the eve of the last day of Ramadan.

It continues until the start of the Eid prayer. Before the Eid prayer begins, every Muslim who is able must pay zakat al-fitr, an alms for the month of Ramadan.

This equates to about 2kg of a basic foodstuff (wheat, barley, dates, raisins and so forth), or its cash equivalent, and is typically collected at the mosque.

This is distributed to needy local Muslims prior to the start of the Eid prayer. It can be given at any time during the month of Ramadan and is often given early, so the recipient can use it for Eid purchases.

This is distinct from zakat, which is based on wealth, and must be paid to a worthy charity.

Local traditions

In Cape Town, hundreds of people gather at Green Point for the sighting of the moon on the last day of Ramadan each year.

The gathering brings together people from all walks of life, and everyone comes with something to share with others at the time of breaking the fast.

The magrib prayer is then conducted and sighting of the moon is announced thereafter.

The day of Eid ul-Fitr is celebrated by first attending the mosque for Eid prayer.

This is followed by visiting neighbours and family. Lunch is usually served in large family groups.

Children receive presents and money from elder members of the family, relatives and neighbours.

Most people wear new clothes with bright colours, while biscuits, cakes, samoosas, pies and tarts are presented to visitors as treats.

Information courtesy of <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki>

Reading this book is equivalent to introducing a new individual into your private space, whose mark will leave a memory.

For many men, it will recall a self last seen ages ago, its poignancy beyond personal.

I suggest that all women who have always wanted to know why boys are so dumb read the story about this little genius.

It is a lesson that is priceless and profoundly elusive. – Tshepo Tshabalala

How to talk to the heart of a matter

Straight Talk: How To Manage Conversations That Scare You by Maureen Collins (Zebra Press, R150)

DO YOU have a problem explaining to individuals that they have terrible body odour, verbal diarrhoea, pathetic management of money or their noses stuck too deeply in your business?

Then, at the risk of sounding like a glib medication advertisement, *Straight Talk* is your prescription.

Collins has put together a blueprint of how to polish conversations in a way that gets the message across, sets an open tone for dialogue, and most importantly, provides results.

The book presents scenarios in which tension can easily overflow between parties and diligence is paramount.

One needs to gain a clear understanding of tone, body language and how conversations are led lest they lead to a clash.

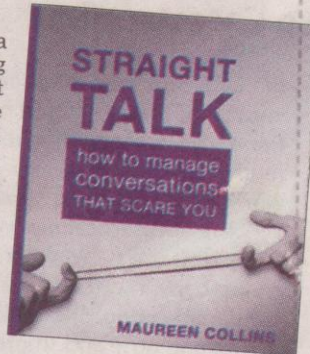
It is these seemingly minute factors that could change a conversation that chars relationships to one that ends in the relieved smoking of the peace pipe.

Though it is impossible to generalise the reactions of all individuals to a set scenario, after each example Collins provides a short list of *Straight Talk* Tips that elucidate the lessons in the given situations, as would be done when practicing food etiquette with served dishes.

You get a thorough breakdown of ideas and purposes behind each conversation, keeping the desired outcome in mind.

Collins takes into consideration work, family and friends in her tips of dialogue, allowing many to relate.

If you have struggled to guide your life in the direction that you desire, this book could give you fresh options. – Tshepo Tshabalala



Univer

SAPA

TRADE and Indust yesterday aunched empowerment (E development progr universities

"For the first tin ising and professio

Don't miss

PRETORIA

NEWS

Motorin

inside

every

Thursday

THE
ou
ta