

Muslims celebrate Eid amid coronavirus outbreak

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Highlight: This weekend, two billion Muslims worldwide are celebrating Eid, the most important religious holiday in the Islamic year. But for many thanks to COVID, it will be a subdued affair. In Paris, Christians headed to the first public church service since the lockdown. Worshipers were cautious, but ready and willing to take communion. Bit by bit, Western Europe is returning to a new normal as the virus retreats. But the coronavirus pandemic is still surging in some parts of the world, notably Russia and South Africa. But the real epicenter is in Latin America, notably Brazil. It's now second only to the U.S. in total deaths.

Body

ELIZABETH KLINGE: Well, it may be a long weekend for Americans. For Muslims worldwide, today marks the start of Eid. The festivity is marking the end of Ramadan. Here's CBS News senior foreign correspondent Elizabeth Palmer.

(Begin VT)

ELIZABETH PALMER (CBS News Senior Foreign Correspondent): This weekend, two billion Muslims worldwide are celebrating Eid, the most important religious holiday in the Islamic year. But for many thanks to COVID, it will be a subdued affair. In Paris, Christians headed to the first public church service since the lockdown. Worshipers were cautious, but ready and willing to take communion. Bit by bit, Western Europe is returning to a new normal as the virus retreats.

But the coronavirus pandemic is still surging in some parts of the world, notably Russia and South Africa. But the real epicenter is in Latin America, notably Brazil.

It's now second only to the U.S. in total deaths. And the virus has traveled into the remote communities of the Amazon, where health care and health itself is already fragile. In Mexico, too, the death rate keeps climbing. Ominously, for every person who dies, eight more are falling sick. By contrast, China, where the virus began, reported zero new cases yesterday and only three today. But China's foreign minister pointed to a growing political crisis.

(Wang Yi speaking foreign language)

ELIZABETH PALMER: Forces in the U.S., Wang Yi said, were pushing Chinese- American relations to the brink of a new cold war. But he added both China and the U.S. stand to gain from cooperation.

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Elizabeth Palmer, CBS News, London.

(End VT)

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