48969 - When to Start Takbir for `Eid Al-Fitr

the question

When should the Takbir for `Eid Al-Fitr begin and when does it end?

Summary of answer

-The Takbir for `Eid Al-Fitr begins at sunset on the last day of Ramadan and continues until the `Eid prayer starts.
-Reciting Takbir is a Sunnah practice encouraged for both men and women, with men reciting it aloud and women doing so quietly.

-The phrases of Takbir include gratitude and exalting Allah’s greatness.

-Scholars emphasize that Takbir should be recited at home, in mosques, marketplaces, and on the way to the `Eid prayer.

Detailed answer

Praise be to Allah.

The Obligation of Takbir for `Eid

At the end of Ramadan Allah has prescribed that His slaves should recite Takbir. Allah says (interpretation of the meaning):

{(He wants that you) must complete the same number (of days), and that you must magnify Allah

[i.e. to say Takbir (Allahu Akbar: Allah is the Most Great)] for having guided you so that you may be grateful to Him.} [Al-Baqarah 2:185]

{that you must magnify Allah" means venerating Him in your hearts and on your lips, by pronouncing the Takbir.

The Correct Takbir Phrases

So you should say: Allahu akbar, Allahu akbar, la ilaha illallah, Allahu akbar, Allahu akbar, wa Lillahi'l-hamd (Allah is Most Great, Allah is Most Great, there is no god except Allah, Allah is Most Great, Allah is Most Great, and all praise be to Allah).

Or you can say Allahu akbar three times, so you say:

Allahu akbar, Allahu akbar, Allahu akbar, la ilaha illallah, Allahu akbar, Allahu akbar, Allahu akbar, wa Lillahi'l-hamd (Allah is Most Great, Allah is Most Great, Allah is Most Great, there is no god except Allah, Allah is Most Great, Allah is Most Great , Allah is Most Great, and all praise be to Allah).

Both are permissible.

Is Takbir for `Eid Compulsory?

This Takbir is Sunnah according to the majority of scholars. It is Sunnah for both men and women, in the mosque, in the home and in the marketplace. Men should say it out loud, and women should say it quietly, because women are commanded to lower their voices. Hence the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: "If you notice something during the prayer, men should say 'Subhan-Allah!' and women should clap." So women should say the Takbir quietly and men should say it out loud.

When to Start and End Takbir for `Eid

The time for this Takbir begins when the sun sets on the night of `Eid (i.e., the night before) if it is known that the new month has begun when the sun sets, such as when the people have completed thirty days of Ramadan, or when it is proven that the new moon of Shawwal has been sighted. And it ends when the prayer begins, i.e., when they start the `Eid prayer then the time for the Takbir ends. (End quote from Majmu` Fatawa Ibn `Uthaymin, 16/269-272)

Ash-Shafi`i (may Allah have mercy on him) said in Al-Umm:

Allah says concerning the month of Ramadan (interpretation of the meaning):

{(He wants that you) must complete the same number (of days), and that you must magnify Allah [i.e. to say Takbir (Allahu Akbar: Allah is the Most Great)] for having guided you.} [Al-Baqarah 2:185]

I heard from some scholars whom I trust and who are knowledgeable about the Quran:

“(He wants that you) must complete the same number (of days), and that you must magnify Allah [i.e. to say Takbir (Allahu Akbar: Allah is the Most Great)] for having guided you” it is completed when the sun sets on the last day of the month of Ramadan.

Reciting Takbir: Public and Private Practices

Then Ash-Shafi`i (may Allah have mercy on him) said:

When they see the new moon of Shawwal, I like all the people to recite Takbir together and individually in the mosques , the marketplaces, the streets, the houses, travellers and non-travellers in all situations, no matter where they are. They should pronounce the Takbir openly and continue to recite it until they come to the prayer-place the next morning, and after that until the imam comes out to lead the prayer, then they should stop reciting the Takbir.

Then he narrated from Sa`id ibn Al-Musayyib, `Urwah ibn Al-Zubayr, Abu Salamah and Abu Bakr

ibn `Abd Ar-Rahman, that they used to recite Takbir on the night before `Eid Al-Fitr in the mosque, reciting the Takbir out loud.

It was narrated from `Urwah ibn Az-Zubayr and Abu Salamah ibn `Abd Ar-Rahman that they used to recite the Takbir out loud when they came to the prayer-pace in the morning, and that Nafi` ibn Jubayr used to recite the Takbir out loud when he came to the prayer-place in the morning of the day of `Eid.

It was narrated from Ibn `Umar that he used to come to the prayer-place on the morning of the day of `Eid Al-Fitr, when the sun had risen, and he would recite Takbir until he reached the prayer-place, then he would recite Takbir in the prayer-place until the imam sat down and stopped reciting Takbir.

Look at these answers for further details: (36442, 49014, 148039)

And Allah knows best.