

# **CHITRAL NEWS**

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## **Ramazan in Chitral**

Chitral -- The holy month of Ramazan is in full swing in Chitral, and being observed with full solemnity and discipline. Chitralis are traditionally very particular about fasting and make no concessions about it.

The society may accept other weaknesses in the person of an individual, like, not saying prayers, dishonesty, telling lies, accepting / offering bribe, cheating, adulteration, forgery etc, but when it comes to fasting in the month of Ramazan "no compromise", said one diehard Chitrali.

The stigma of being labeled a 'Ramazan Khor' (non faster) is too big to be borne by any one and thus almost 100 percent compliance of the religious order is seen amongst Sunni Muslims in Chitral.

One liberal minded Chitrali however remarked that people fast more because of the fear of other people than the fear of God, because if they had the fear of God in them, they would have obeyed His other orders too, like being truthful, honest, upright, etc.

One senior cleric talking to *Chitral News* confessed that he finds the ritual of fasting the toughest amongst the religious rituals. It may be noted that fasting time is 20 minutes longer in Chitral compared to other cities of Pakistan. -- *CN report, 05Aug 2011.*