



High Commission of the Republic of Maldives
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Newsletter

February 2026
Issue 20



Newsletter



**High Commission of the
Republic of Maldives**
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

February 2026

Issue 20

Maahefun 2026

7 February



The High Commission of the Republic of Maldives in Malaysia organised a traditional Maahefun gathering for the Maldivian community residing in Malaysia at the High Commission. The event brought together Maldivian families and students living in Malaysia in anticipation of the holy month of Ramadan.

The gathering was attended by H.E. Mr. Abdulla Nasir, Minister at the President's Office, and his spouse. In her remarks, High Commissioner H.E. Dr Mariyam Shabeena Ahmed highlighted the importance of preserving Maldivian traditions and fostering unity within the community while living abroad.

Guests were served a variety of traditional Maldivian dishes commonly prepared for Maahefun by the staff of High Commission and a cake-cutting ceremony was also held to mark the occasion.



Iqra'ul Quran Competition 1447 AH

28 February



The High Commission of the Republic of Maldives in Malaysia organised the Iqra'ul Quran Competition 1447 AH at the High Commission for Maldivian students residing in Malaysia. The annual competition, organised since 2019 during the holy month of Ramadan, aims to encourage young Maldivians to strengthen their connection with the Holy Quran.

A total of 42 students participated across five age categories, competing in Quran memorisation and recitation. This year's competition also introduced a special category to provide opportunities for students with special needs to participate.

The competition was judged by Ms. Mariyam Shiuna Rasheed and Ms. Ihusana Saleem, with Associate Professor Dr Nashwan Abdo Khaled of the International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM) attending as a special observer. Trophies, medals, and certificates were awarded to the winners, with High Commissioner H.E. Dr Mariyam Shabeena Ahmed presenting trophies to all first-place winners.

Officiating of the Maldivian Students' Association Malaysia New Executive Committee

11 February



High Commissioner H.E. Dr Mariyam Shabeena Ahmed officiated the new Executive Committee of the Maldivian Students' Association Malaysia (MSAM) during a ceremony held at the High Commission. In her remarks, the High Commissioner emphasised the importance of strengthening unity and cooperation among Maldivian students residing in Malaysia.

Following the officiating address, the High Commissioner presented the official registration document, formally recognising the elected Executive Committee of MSAM. Established in 2024 during the official visit of H.E. Dr Mohamed Muizzu, President of the Republic of Maldives, MSAM serves as a non-profit association representing Maldivian students in Malaysia.

Chinese New Year Reception with the Diplomatic Corps

12 February



High Commissioner H.E. Dr Mariyam Shabeena Ahmed attended the Chinese New Year Networking Reception with members of the Diplomatic Corps, hosted by H.E. Vanu Gopala Menon, High Commissioner of Singapore to Malaysia and Dean of the Diplomatic Corps.

Royal Iftar Reception Hosted by the King of Malaysia

25 February



High Commissioner H.E. Dr Mariyam Shabeena Ahmed attended the Iftar Reception hosted by His Majesty Sultan Ibrahim, King of Malaysia, and Her Majesty Raja Zarith Sofiah, Queen of Malaysia. The event gathered members of the diplomatic community in observance of Ramadan.

Iftar Reception Hosted by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia

23 February



High Commissioner H.E. Dr Mariyam Shabeena Ahmed attended the Ministry of Foreign Affairs MADANI Iftar Event 2026, hosted by YB Dato' Seri Utama Haji Mohamad bin Haji Hasan, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia, and graced by YAB Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim, Prime Minister of Malaysia.

During the event, the Prime Minister officially launched the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Strategic Plan 2026–2030, anchored in the Malaysia MADANI vision and aligned with key national development frameworks.

Launch of Forum Ekonomi Malaysia 2026

5 February



High Commissioner H.E. Dr Mariyam Shabeena Ahmed attended the official launch of Forum Ekonomi Malaysia 2026, organised by the Ministry of Economy of Malaysia. The event was officiated by YAB Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim, Prime Minister of Malaysia, and brought together government leaders, industry stakeholders, and policymakers.

National Day Reception of the Islamic Republic of Iran

10 February

High Commissioner H.E. Dr Mariyam Shabeena Ahmed attended the National Day Reception of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The event brought together members of the diplomatic corps and esteemed guests.

ACCIM Chinese New Year Reception 2026

11 February



High Commissioner H.E. Dr Mariyam Shabeena Ahmed attended the Chinese New Year Reception hosted by The Associated Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia (ACCIM). The event was honoured by the presence of YAB Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim, Prime Minister of Malaysia, and gathered leaders from the business community.

Official Welcoming Ceremony for Prime Minister of India

8 February



High Commissioner H.E. Dr Mariyam Shabeena Ahmed attended the Official Welcoming Ceremony held in conjunction with the Official Visit of H.E. Mr. Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of the Republic of India, to Malaysia from 7–8 February 2026. The ceremony was attended by senior government officials and members of the diplomatic corps.

MITI & Agencies Chinese New Year Networking Event 2026

12 February

High Commissioner H.E. Dr Mariyam Shabeena Ahmed attended the Chinese New Year networking event hosted by the Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry (MITI) and its agencies. The engagement provided an opportunity for interaction with government and industry stakeholders.

Meeting with Vice Chancellor of UKM

23 February



High Commissioner H.E. Dr Mariyam Shabeena Ahmed met with the Vice Chancellor of Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM). The engagement reflected continued academic cooperation and institutional engagement.

UAE Embassy Iftar and Water Sustainability Seminar

25 February



Deputy High Commissioner Mr. Ibrahim Shaaz Habeeb attended the Iftar Reception and Seminar on Water Sustainability hosted by the Embassy of the United Arab Emirates in Malaysia. The event combined Ramadan observance with discussion on sustainability initiatives.

Diplomatic Soirée

12 February

Deputy High Commissioner Mr. Ibrahim Shaaz Habeeb attended the Diplomatic Soirée organised by the Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia. The event brought together representatives of the diplomatic community and senior education officials.

Chinese New Year Open House by MCA

17 February



Minister Counsellor Mr. Hassan Maail Ali attended the Chinese New Year Open House hosted by the Malaysian Chinese Association (MCA). The event brought together members of the diplomatic community, government representatives, and invited guests to celebrate the festive occasion and strengthen community engagement.

Reception for the 66th Birthday of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan

11 February



Deputy High Commissioner Mr. Ibrahim Shaaz Habeeb attended the reception held on the occasion of the 66th birthday of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan. The event brought together members of the diplomatic corps and distinguished guests.

National Day Reception of the State of Kuwait

12 February

High Commissioner H.E. Dr Mariyam Shabeena Ahmed attended the reception marking the 65th Anniversary of the National Day and the 35th Liberation Day of the State of Kuwait. The event gathered members of the diplomatic corps and invited guests.

Iftar Hosted by the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

28 February



Minister Counsellor Mr. Hassan Maail Ali attended the Iftar hosted by H.E. Mr. Osama Al-Ahmadi, ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Malaysia. The gathering brought together members of the diplomatic corps and invited guests in the spirit of Ramadan, fostering friendship and goodwill among the diplomatic community.

Meeting with The RuMa Hotel and Residences

4 February



Officials from the High Commission met with representatives of The RuMa Hotel and Residences to learn about the hotel's facilities and services suitable for diplomatic guests. The engagement explored potential arrangements for official delegations and events. The visit underscored continued collaboration with Malaysia's hospitality sector.

Engagement with Concierge Group Maldives

4 February

Officials from the High Commission received Mr. Ismail Imran, General Sales Agent for Batik Air to the Maldives, for a courtesy engagement. Discussions focused on enhancing services on the Kuala Lumpur–Malé route and exploring continued cooperation. The engagement reflected the importance of strengthening aviation connectivity between Malaysia and the Maldives.

Courtesy Visit by Renaissance Hotel Kuala Lumpur

5 February



Officials from the High Commission received representatives of Renaissance Hotel Kuala Lumpur for a courtesy engagement. The visit introduced the hotel's facilities and explored potential collaboration for future official functions. The discussion reflected continued engagement with key stakeholders in the hospitality industry.

Engagement with MIMCOIN

5 February



Officials from the High Commission met with representatives of the Malaysian Indian Muslim Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MIMCOIN). The discussion centred on the proposal to host the 2nd Malaysia Expo (MYEXPO) in the Maldives in 2026 to further strengthen commercial ties. The engagement highlighted efforts to expand trade and business collaboration between both countries.

Meeting with Sailog Shipping

6 February

Officials from the High Commission met with Mr. Chandra, General Manager of Sailog Shipping, to discuss maritime logistics between Malaysia and the Maldives. The engagement reflected ongoing efforts to enhance commercial connectivity. Both sides expressed interest in maintaining communication to support improved trade routes.

Engagement with IIUM Alumni Foundation

9 February



Officials from the High Commission met with a delegation from the IIUM Alumni Foundation regarding the proposed Kelantan–Maldives Business and Investment Mission 2026. The engagement reflected continued interest in strengthening business cooperation. The meeting also highlighted opportunities for institutional and private sector engagement.

Meeting with YB Senator Dato Setia Dr Mohd Naim

11 February



Officials from the High Commission met with YB Senator Dato Setia Dr Mohd Naim, former Minister of Religious Affairs at the Prime Minister's Department of Malaysia. The engagement reflected continued dialogue in areas of shared interest. The meeting underscored the importance of maintaining strong bilateral engagement in educational and cultural matters.

Meeting with National Hotels and Guesthouse Association of Maldives

10 February

Officials from the High Commission participated in a virtual meeting with the National Hotels and Guesthouse Association of Maldives to discuss an upcoming tourism promotion event in Malaysia. The engagement reflected continued support for promoting Maldivian tourism abroad. Coordination efforts will continue in preparation for the event.

Meeting with MAIWP University College and SABA Trade Asia Sdn Bhd

12 February



Officials from the High Commission met with representatives of MAIWP University College and SABA Trade Asia Sdn Bhd to explore opportunities for educational collaboration and promotional engagement relating to Maldivian tourism. The discussions highlighted potential avenues for mutually beneficial cooperation. The engagement reflected continued outreach to institutional and commercial partners.

26th Architectural Heritage Studies Exhibition 2026

25 February



High Commissioner H.E. Dr Mariyam Shabeena Ahmed attended the official launching of the 26th Architectural Heritage Studies Exhibition 2026 held at the International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM), Gombak, in conjunction with the 30th anniversary of the Kulliyyah of Architecture and Environmental Design (KAED). The event was graced by Her Royal Highness The Tengku Ampuan of Pahang, Tunku Azizah Aminah Maimunah Iskandariah Binti Almarhum Sultan Iskandar Al-Haj, Constitutional Head of IIUM.

The exhibition, themed "Layers of Time on the Ancient Routes (LARAS)", highlighted Islamic architectural heritage, including the Zakabannaya Masjid in Kazan, Russia, and Hukuru Miskiy (Old Friday Mosque) in Malé, Maldives. Following the launch, the High Commissioner toured the exhibition and viewed the displays featuring architectural documentation and artistic representations of the historic mosques.

Meeting with ZUS Coffee

23 February



Officials from the High Commission met with representatives of ZUS Coffee to discuss preliminary considerations for establishing operations in the Maldives. The engagement reflected ongoing commercial outreach efforts. The discussion formed part of broader initiatives to attract Malaysian brands to the Maldivian market.

Humanitarian Charity Sale Opening Ceremony

10 February



Officials from the Education Team of the High Commission attended the opening ceremony of the Humanitarian Charity Sale, organised by Soriata Resources in collaboration with Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and the Persons with Disabilities (PWD/OKU) community.

The event highlighted initiatives aimed at promoting inclusivity and community support while providing a platform to showcase products and activities led by members of the PWD/OKU community.

Launch of RAHA – Malaysia 2026

25 February



The Maldives Cultural Centre launched RAHA – Malaysia, a special video series produced for the holy month of Ramadan to showcase international cuisines and culinary traditions. The series introduces Maldivian audiences to dishes from different countries while promoting cultural understanding through food.

The programme features culinary traditions from the Maldives, Malaysia, Turkey, and Sri Lanka. RAHA – Malaysia was filmed in Malaysia in collaboration with Public Service Media (PSM), with the first episode aired on 25 February 2026 and later shared on the High Commission's social media platforms.

Qatar National Sports Day 2026

8 February

The High Commission of the Republic of Maldives in Malaysia took part in Qatar National Sports Day 2026, joining fellow diplomats and invited guests in celebrating wellness, unity, and the spirit of sportsmanship. The event provided an opportunity to promote healthy lifestyles while strengthening friendly relations within the diplomatic community in Kuala Lumpur.



Consular Statistics of February

In February, the High Commission's Consular Department processed a total of 342 cases and enquiries. The department remains committed to delivering timely responses and professional support across a range of consular services.

Here's a breakdown of the services provided:

Passport Renewals and Cancellations: Passport renewals and cancellations were processed for 7 individuals. Passport applications are only accepted from individuals holding long-term visas.

Certificates of Identity: A total of 4 emergency travel documents were issued for cases involving lost passports and newborns. Citizens are advised to report any lost passport to the nearest police station immediately. For newborns, obtaining a birth certificate from Malaysian authorities is a prerequisite before submitting a travel document application.

Document Verification and Attestation: A total of 22 documents were sent for verification, and 63 documents were attested as true copies during the month. Documents are verified with the relevant Maldivian authorities before attestation. The document verification process generally takes three to five working days, and early submission is strongly recommended to avoid delays.

Email Correspondence: The consular department managed a total of 111 email enquiries addressing diverse consular matters, including visa assistance, passport renewals and family relationship letters, and licence verifications.

Visa-Related Assistance: A total of 28 visa-related letters were issued. Students and families are advised to request assistance through email and maintain communication via the same channel. For expedited visa processing, students should initially consult their university for assistance. If the issue is not resolved within the designated timeframe, the High Commission may be contacted, with all the relevant supporting documents included, for assistance.

Meranaa and Medical Services: A total of 41 applications were verified. Applicants are strongly advised to upload updated visas and ensure all details are accurately completed to prevent the application from getting rejected.

Miscellaneous assistance provided: 1 letter was issued for identification.



Editorial Team

Editorial Oversight

H.E. Dr Mariyam Shabeena Ahmed, High Commissioner

Editorial Review

Hassan Maail Ali, Minister Counsellor

Hussain Jahhaz, Counsellor

Aminath Sharafnaz, Counsellor

Editorial & Content Development

Fathimath Shaba, Second Secretary

Editorial Formatting & Production

Hassam Hassan Maumoon, First Secretary

Contributors

Abbas Adil Riza, Trade Representative

Abdullah Mamdhoo, Counsellor

Aminath Mohamed, Counsellor

Dr. Azumeena Abdul Kareem, Second Secretary

