

Two amazing days in Kuala Lumpur

Thursday evening went to KL Jamatkhana and really reached early at 7 p.m. when Du'a time was 7.30 p.m. There was no one around and the JK gate was locked. We decided to take a walk around the "Taban" streets. Mukhi Kamadia and most jamati members had left for Singapore. Samim and I waited for someone to arrive. Two families arrived and we got in the front gate but could not get into Jamatkhana. So we sat outside with none other than Mr & Mrs MyDin (Ismaili king of Malaysia and our relative – great grandfather is the same Bhaloo). We recited ginans and even a garbo, which aunty sang. Finally the Vic President's wife came and she had all the keys. Two more students also arrived and we commenced Jamatkhana ceremonies with yours truly sitting as Mukhisaheb. All ceremonies were carried out in the Indian / Pakistani style – yes standing tasbi after second dua, etc. Wow what an honour!

Friday – Today, Samim and I went to the Museum of Islamic Arts – just to be told that the Aga Khan Exhibition, advertised for viewing from 10 am on the 30th initially, was going to be officially opened by His Highness the Aga Khan in the afternoon. We went and saw all the neighbouring tourist places



including the National Mosque and came back to the Museum – hoping to get a glimpse of Mawlana Hazar Imam.

However the security people and the Museum staff did not mind us watching the whole ceremony from the floor above. It was like

a balcony seat with direct vision of Mawlana Hazar Imam. There were over 200 invited guests – cream of Malaysian society, including leading Architects plus AKDN personnel. There were very few Ismailis – most had gone to Singapore.



Mawlana Hazar Imam arrived at 3.30 pm together with the Minister for Communications and Culture. The formalities involved the Museum curator welcoming all the guests including the VIPs.

Mawlana Hazar Imam then made a very impressive speech on how, through architecture, Islam can really express itself as a religion with diversity and peace loving. This was followed by a speech by the Minister who did not follow the script and paid Mawlana Hazar Imam some remarkable compliments – saying that Mawlana Hazar Imam has a great lineage. “Who does not know the Aga Khan, who does not know Karim? Who does not know Ali?” He also stressed the importance of Architecture and how the Mosques portrayed real Islamic Art. He went on to make a statement that those who build mosques will have a special place in haven. This statement, on the eve of opening of Perth Jamatkhana on 31st March, may have a deeper meaning for the IMARA members and all the helpers.



Mawlana Hazar Imam was asked to officially open the exhibition. The total time we saw Mawlana Hazar Imam was around 45 precious minutes.

We left whilst the dignitaries and invited guests toured the exhibition. It was a fantastic feeling having been able to record the entire speeches as well as numerous photos - without any objections from the Museum staff. There was no one to censor you, no one to ask you to surrender the pictures / videos, etc for screening. Oh what a feeling!

Being a coincidental and an unexpected event made it even more special for us. These have been two great days.



We are presently on our way to Singapore JUST AS VOLUNTEERS. We respect the fact that Deedar and Religious ceremonies are for the Far East Jamat. However they are short of volunteers on the ground. We will try and do our little bit as we happen to be in this part of the world, on other business.

Mubarakhis to you all.