

Malaysia Airlines faces scrutiny over possible in-flight alcohol ban

- A Monitor Desk Report

Date: 30 October, 2025



Dhaka: Malaysia Airlines is facing mounting pressure amid reports it may ban alcohol on flights, following renewed calls from the Islamist party PAS to replace alcoholic beverages with local drinks like sirap bandung and cendol.

PAS argues the move would align the airline with other Muslim-majority carriers such as Saudia and Kuwait Airways, which prohibit alcohol. However, critics point out that major airlines from Muslim nations like Emirates and Qatar Airways still serve alcohol to meet global standards.

A PAS proposal in Parliament drew criticism from the Democratic Action Party (DAP), which warned that banning alcohol would infringe on non-Muslims' rights and harm Malaysia's moderate image.

Tourism industry leaders also voiced concern, saying alcohol service is

standard practice and expected by international travelers. Malaysian Tourism Federation president Tan Kok Liang said removing it could affect the nation's appeal as an inclusive destination.

The debate comes as Malaysia intensifies efforts to boost tourism, reporting a 20 percent rise in international arrivals in early 2025 and aiming for 35.6 million visitors by 2026. The country is also preparing to launch the world's first Muslim-friendly cruise, the M/V Piano Land, in November.

- T