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From the National Museum of the Maldives



Sultan's "Turban"

The photo shows one of the turbans worn by Sultan Ibrahim Nooruddin. The top of the turban is shaped like a cap and made from velvet. A raised velvet "cap" on top of the turban would mean that when the turban was placed on the Sultan's head, it would create enough space between the Sultan's head and the turban thereby aiding air circulation. The soft velvet was thus, used as a vent to cool the Sultan's head.

A decorative piece of embroidered cloth, showing multi-coloured flowers, is attached on front of the turban. The designs and the thread used to produce this decorative piece of embroidery may look quite simple now. However, given the fact that the turban was used in the 19th century, one should be note that it was a time when multi-coloured embroidery designs were rare in the Maldives.

The turban is in good condition. However, the white colour of the turban is now a bit brownish- a sign of accumulated dust over the time. The turban is currently displayed in the National Museum Sultan Ibrahim Nooruddin's reign began just a year after the Maldives became a British protectorate in 1887.

He reigned the Maldives from 1888 to 1892. - Ahmed Zaki Nafiz

