

## NEWSLETTER

HIGH COMMISSION OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN SINGAPORE





Pakistan High Commission 1 Scotts Road #24-02/04, Shaw Centre 228208, Singapore



Luncheon Meeting with the Singapore-Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SICCI) on 21<sup>st</sup> January, 2021.

The Singapore-Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SICCI) hosted a business lunch in the honour of the High Commissioner on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2021. SICCI, a premier business association in Singapore with over 1000 members, serves as a connector, enabler and advocator for the Singaporean companies to grow locally and globally.

High Commissioner Ms. Rukhsana Afzaal enumerated several initiatives taken by the High Commission in collaboration with the Singapore Business Federation, Monetary Authority of Singapore and Trade Development Authority of Pakistan, to forge closer business and commercial ties between Pakistan and Singapore. She also spoke at length about progress achieved in infrastructure and power generation sectors under CPEC and its significance for achieving economic prosperity through regional connectivity.

The event was attended by top leadership of the Chamber, besides business leaders and investors representing different sectors. The participants expressed keen interest in the emerging investment opportunities in Pakistan particularly in housing and construction, agro-food and power generation. The event was part of the Mission's activities to promote economic diplomacy in line with the Prime Minister's vision.



The High Commission presented Pakistani oranges to the local dignitaries in February 2021 to promote import of Pakistani seasonal fruits. Singapore, being a non-agrarian country imports all its food from abroad.



Luncheon meeting of the High Commissioner Ms. Rukhsana Afzaal with Ambassador Ong Keng Yong, non-resident Ambassador of Singapore to Pakistan on 08<sup>th</sup> March, 2021 and Mr. Gilbert Oh Hin Kwan, Director General (South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore.



High Commissioner Ms. Rukhsana Afzaal called on Minister for Sustainability and the Environment, Singapore Ms. Grace Fu on 09<sup>th</sup> March, 2021. During the call possible collaboration between Pakistan and Singapore in Environment protection, Water Conservation and Climate Change were discussed.



High Commissioner Ms. Rukhsana Afzaal held a Zoom meeting with the Second Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Social and Family Development Singapore, Mr. Stanley Loh on 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2021.









A National Day Ceremony held Virtually, on 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2021 to mark the 81<sup>st</sup> National Day of Pakistan.

The High Commission hosted a Virtual National Day Ceremony followed by flag hoisting on 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2021.

A flag hoisting ceremony was held at the Pakistan House, Singapore to commemorate 81<sup>st</sup> National Day of Pakistan. High Commissioner Ms. Rukhsana Afzaal hoisted the flag. Following recitation from the Holy Quran, messages of the President and the Prime Minister were also read out. The flag hoisting ceremony was held virtually due to the COVID-19 restrictions.



High Commissioner Rukhsana Afzaal called on CEO, Singapore Business Federation (SBF), Mr. Lam Yi Young on 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2021. Opportunities to promote bilateral trade between Pakistan and Singapore were discussed.



Chief Procurement Officer, & Director, Fresh & Frozen items, Fair price Group, Singapore's largest grocery retailer called on High Commissioner on 20<sup>th</sup> April, 2021, to discuss possibilities of importing Pakistani grocery items and food products.



High Commissioner Ms. Rukhsana Afzaal called on Minister of Defence Singapore H.E. Dr. NG Eng Hen, on 27<sup>th</sup> April, 2021. Areas of defence cooperation between Pakistan and Singapore and regional situation were discussed during the meeting.



Introduced Pakistani dates in the Singaporean market

The High Commission presented Pakistani dates to the Singaporean dignitaries, representatives of various Chambers of Commerce, the business community, importers, and wholesale dealers in an effort to introduce Pakistani products in the Singaporean market in the month of May, 2021.



Presented Eid Hampers of Pakistani Products to local Dignitaries

The High Commission presented Eid hampers on the occasion of Eid-Ul-Fitr containing Pakistani products, to the Singaporean dignitaries, business community, importers and whole sale dealers in an effort to introduce Pakistani products in the Singaporean market.

Courtesy: ShanFoods, Chashni Sweets and Karachi Nimco.

The High Commission, in coordination with the Singapore Business Federation (SBF), GCB2B, Enterprise Singapore,

Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), and Pakistan Business Council (PBC), organized a webinar on

"FYI: Pakistan Food Buyer-Seller Meet (Packaged Food)" on 27<sup>th</sup> May, 2021.







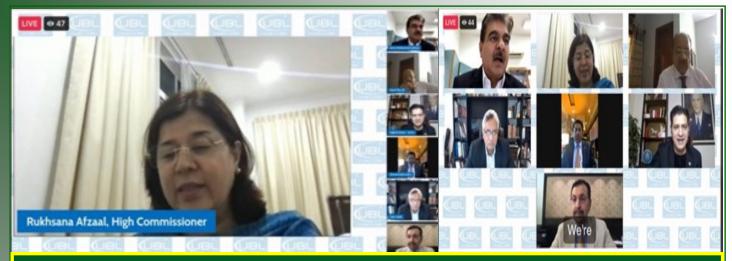
High Commissioner Ms. Rukhsana Afzaal held a Zoom meeting with Minister of State for Home Affairs & National Development Singapore, Associate Professor Dr. Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim on 02<sup>nd</sup> June, 2021, and discussed mutual cooperation between two countries in crime prevention, cyber security & social development including housing & employment.



High Commissioner Ms Rukhsana Afzaal met with Minister for Manpower on 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2021.



High Commissioner Ms. Rukhsana Afzaal had a dinner with the Ambassador of Saudi Arabia on 6<sup>th</sup> June, 2021.



High Commissioner Ms. Rukhsana Afzaal participated in a webinar on the Roshan Digital Accounts (RDAs) hosted by UBL on 08<sup>th</sup> June, 2021. RDAs are meant to facilitate overseas Pakistanis in investing in the future of their beloved homeland.



The High Commission hosted a Zoom meeting with Diaspora on 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2021. Proposals for further strengthening economic & trade relations with Singapore and improving consular services were discussed.



The High Commission co-hosted a webinar on 'Pakistan as source destination for fresh produce for Singapore market' on 17<sup>th</sup> June, 2021, together with the Singapore Business Federation (SBF).



High Commissioner Ms. Rukhsana Afzaal attended a feedback session on Zoom link, organized by HBL Singapore, following import of first consignment of Pakistani mangoes in Singapore on 21st June, 2021. The import of fresh fruits and vegetables from Pakistan was discussed during the session.



High Commissioner Ms. Rukhsana Afzaal called on Minister-in-Charge of Trade Relations (MTI) Singapore, H.E. Mr. S Iswaran on 28th June, 2021. Proposals for strengthening & diversifying bilateral economic & trade relations were discussed.

High Commissioner Ms. Rukhsana Afzaal called on Minister for Home Affairs and Minister for Law Singapore, Mr. K Shanmugam on 06<sup>th</sup> July, 2021.



Amna Asim

Hasnain Siddiqui

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Pakistan High Commission & Embassy of China in Singapore jointly organized a webinar on 08<sup>th</sup> July, 2021.

High Commissioner Ms. Rukhsana Afzaal and Chinese Cd'A Mr. Zhang Xumin in Singapore, addressed the webinar on 'Investment Opportunities in CPEC related SEZs'. Lt. Gen. (R) Asim Saleem Bajwa Chairman CPEC Authority updated on CPEC projects, while Mr. Ying Xiong, DG, National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) China shared the progress made so far on CPEC. The Singaporean infrastructure community, think tanks, investors, senior govt. officials & diplomats attended the webinar.



Mango diplomacy by Pakistan High Commission

The High Commission presented Pakistani Mangoes (Chounsa) to the Singaporean dignitaries, representatives of various Chambers of Commerce, the business community, importers, and wholesale dealers in an effort to introduce Pakistani Mangoes in the Singaporean market in the months of June -July, 2021.



High Commissioner Ms. Rukhsana Afzaal received a prize from High Commissioner of Maldives to Singapore, H.E Mr. Ibrahim Shaheeb on 02<sup>nd</sup> August, 2021. She won the prize in a lucky draw held on 56<sup>th</sup> Independence Day of the Republic of Maldives.



High Commissioner Ms. Rukhsana Afzal attended virtual launch event of the Fintech Festival on 04<sup>th</sup> August, 2021.



Flag hoisting at Pakistan House on Independence Day

High Commissioner Ms. Rukhsana Afzaal hoisted the flag to the tune of National Anthem, followed by the messages of the President and the Prime Minister of Pakistan read out by the Press Counsellor, Mr. Muhammad Saleem and Deputy High Commissioner, Ms. Farhana Asif, respectively. A virtual film festival was also organized in connection with 74<sup>th</sup> Independence Day of Pakistan, from 14-16 Aug 2021.

High Commissioner Ms. Rukhsana Afzaal called on Enterprise Singapore Assistant CEO Mr. Tan Soon Kim on 24<sup>th</sup> August, 2021, to discuss areas of business cooperation between Pakistan and Singapore.





A Zoom meeting was arranged by the High Commission on 09<sup>th</sup> September, 2021, between the Civil Service College, Singapore and the National School of Public Policy, Pakistan, to discuss bilateral cooperation.



Newly appointed Honorary Investment Counsellor in Singapore, Mr. Abdul Latif Siddiqui called on High Commissioner Ms. Rukhsana Afzaal and her team on 21<sup>st</sup> September, 2021, to discuss investment opportunities in Pakistan.



A webinar on "Pakistan's Digital Transformation: Past, Present and Future" jointly organized by Pakistan High Commission & Institute of South Asian Studies (ISAS) Singapore on 21<sup>st</sup> September, 2021.



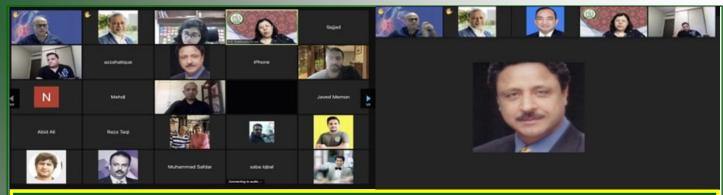
A delegation of Ismaili Council for the Far East called on High Commissioner Ms. Rukhsana Afzaal on 27<sup>th</sup> September, 2021.



The High Commission hosted a Zoom meeting with Pakistani Diaspora in Singapore on 29<sup>th</sup> September, 2021, to respond to their questions/concerns and listen to their suggestions.

H.E Mr. Abdullah Mohammed AlMadhi, Ambassador of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia made a courtesy call on the High Commissioner on 11<sup>th</sup> October, 2021.





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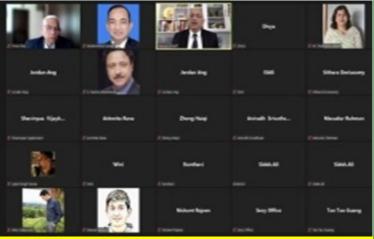


High Commissioner Ms. Rukhsana Afzaal attended ASEF Summer University 23 (12-14 Nov 2021) briefing session on 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 2021, the participating Universities included Superior University, Lahore, Krea University, Andhra Pradesh, Daffodil University, Dhaka.



High Commissioner Ms. Rukhsana Afzaal called on the Dean of Civil Service College Singapore, Ms. Ong Toon Hui and her team on 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 2021.





The High Commission organized a webinar titled 'Pakistan's Regional Economic Integration: Challenges & Opportunities' on 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2021, in collaboration with ISAS Singapore, with Mr. Haroon Sharif, Former Chairman Board of Investment, as guest speaker.

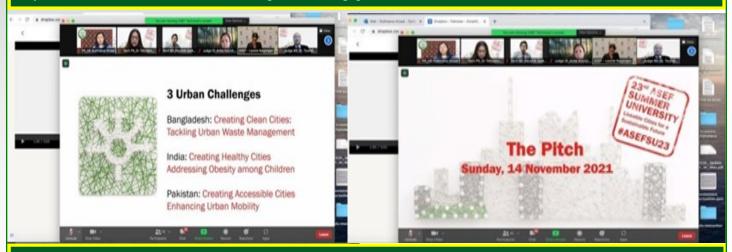
H.E. Ambassador Tochil Nwaneri, Special Adviser of Economic & Foreign Investment Matters of the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome & Principe called on High Commissioner Ms. Rukhsana Afzaal on 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2021.







High Commissioner Ms. Rukhsana Afzaal held a Zoom meeting with President (Mian Nauman Kabir) and office bearers of Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) on 16<sup>th</sup> November, 2021, to discuss ways & means to enhance Pakistan's exports to Singapore.



High Commissioner Ms. Rukhsana Afzaal participated in Asia-Europe Foundation Summer University Hackathon as a judge on 19<sup>th</sup> November, 2021.



The High Commission hosted a Zoom meeting with Pakistani Diaspora in Singapore on 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2021, to respond to their questions/concerns and listen to their suggestions.



Allegory – A tapestry of Guru Nanak's Travels

The High Commission screened docuseries Allegory – A tapestry of Guru Nanak's Travels on 04<sup>th</sup> December, 2021. The docuseries was attended by Government officials, Sikh & Pakistan Community, media persons and diplomats. Docuseries has been filmed by a Singaporean couple Mr. Amardeep Singh and his wife Ms. Vinender Kaur. The screening was followed by interaction with Amardeep. The docuseries brought significant focus on the potential of faith tourism in Pakistan.



Mercantile Singapore held a Zoom meeting with Board of Investment (BOI), Pakistan, on 09<sup>th</sup> December, 2021, facilitated by the High Commissioner.

Mercantile Singapore held a Zoom meeting with Board of Investment (BOI), Pakistan, facilitated by the High Commissioner. Investment opportunities in Pakistan's telecom and digital economy were discussed at length. Representatives of Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), Engineering Development Board (EDB) and Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication (MoITT) also attended.

High Commissioner Ms. Rukhsana Afzaal met with the senior representatives of Singtel, a leading communication and digital service Provider, on 09<sup>th</sup> December, 2021, to discuss the streaming of Pakistani TV channels in Singapore.

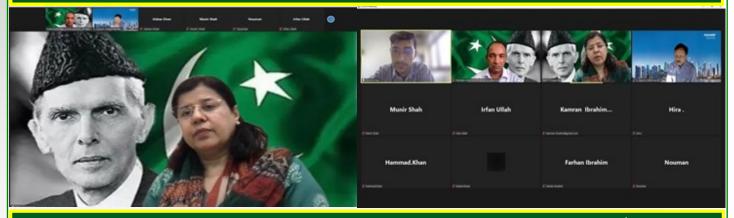




High Commissioner Ms. Rukhsana Afzaal, inaugurated the Pakistani restaurant 'Kebabchi Charcoal BBQ' on 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2021.



High Commissioner Ms. Rukhsana Afzaal hosted a dinner on 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2021, at Pakistan House, in the honour of High Commissioner of Malaysia H.E Dato' Dr. Azfar, and Charge d' Affaires, of Cambodia H.E Mr. Sok Khoeun.



The High Commission hosted a Zoom meeting with the Pakistani Diaspora in Singapore on 28<sup>th</sup> December, 2021, to respond to their questions/concerns and listen to their suggestions.

