## HIGHLIGHTS 2023



### **HIGH COMMISSION OF** PAKISTAN SINGAPORE



Celebration of 83rd National Day of Pakistan

**Exhibition of Selected Artwork** of Renowned Pakistani Artist, Jimmy Engineer

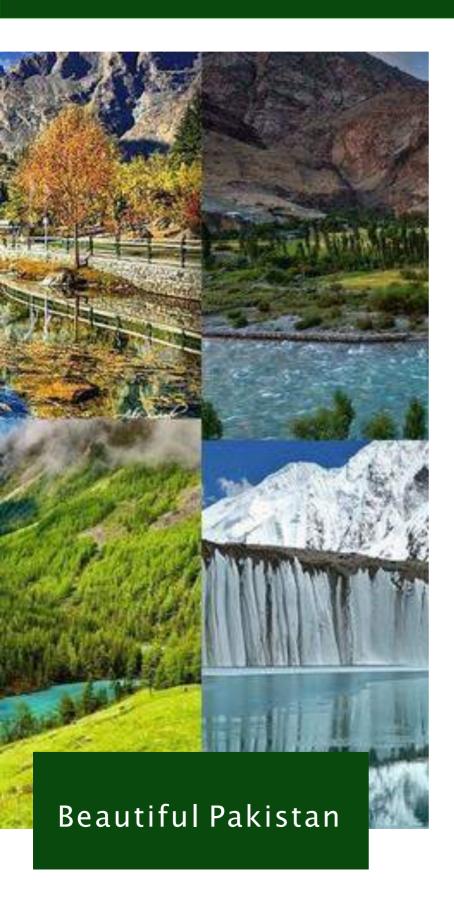
Bazm-e-Urdu to Honor The Memory of Late Amjad Islam Amjad and Zia Muhayuddin

Milad-ur Rasool (SAW)

Pakistan's Participation in Singapore Fintech Festival Nov 2023

Reception to Honor The First Singaporean Female Mountaineers to Summit K-2

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### 117th National Management Course (NMC) delegation 13 January 2023

A group of senior civil servants from 117th National Management Course (NMC), Lahore, visited Pakistan High Commission. The group led by Ms. Sijal Tauseef, Directing Staff, was on a study visit to Singapore.



### "Writing Pakistanis into Singapore's History" 21 January 2023



Associate Prof. Dr. Sher Banu Abdul Latif Khan and Researcher Mr. Abbas Khan from the Department of Malay Studies of National University of Singapore (NUS), gave a talk on their research paper, "Writing Pakistanis into Singapore's Heritage and Identity of a History" Community'. The first of its kind, the academic study highlighted how Pakistanis living in modern-day Singapore for more than a century identify themselves with Pakistan. It also underscored their contributions to Singapore's development. miniexhibition was also held at the venue, attended by a cross-section of Pakistanis in Singapore.

#### Breakfast of Women Ambassadors 16 February 2023

High Commissioner Ms. Rukhsana Afzaal attended a breakfast meeting of women Ambassadors in Singapore, hosted by the Dutch Ambassador, H.E. Ms. Anneke Adema.



### Celebrating the Joy of Pakistani Mandarin Oranges 16 February 2023

Pakistan High Commission celebrated the orange festival coinciding with the Lunar New Year, in collaboration with the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP). It presented the best Pakistani oranges to the Singaporean dignitaries and friends.





## High Commissioner's Meeting with Chairman, ASEAN Chapter of Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan Members (ACIM)

#### 03 March 2023

The High Commissioner met with Mr. Humayun Habib, Chairman of the ASEAN Chapter of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan (ICAP) Members. Dato' Sri Nazir, Chairman, of the Malaysia-Pakistan Business Council (MPBC), Mr, Salim Ibrahim, secretary of MPBC, and Mr. Mokhtar Ali, MPBC Exco also joined the call at the Pakistan High Commission. They discussed plans to connect the ASEAN Chapter of ICAP with the Institute of Singapore Chartered Accountants (ISCA).

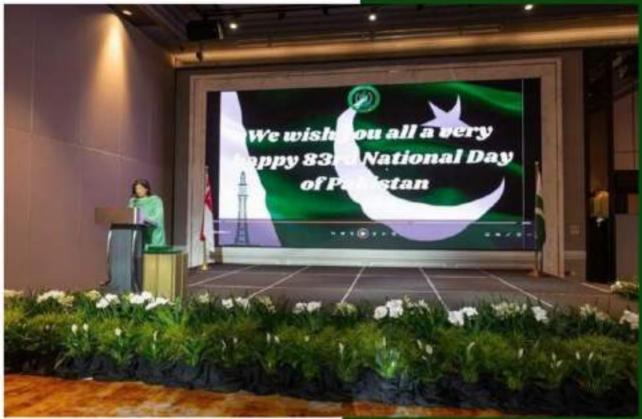


### Zoom Meeting with Pakistani Diaspora in Singapore 14 March 2023



#### 83rd National Day of Pakistan 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2023







The High Commission hosted the 83rd National Day Reception at Orchard Hotel. Senior Minister of State for Finance & Transport, Mr. Chee Hong Tat was the guest of Honour. Two lady Parliamentarians Madam Foo Mee Har and Madam Ng Ling Ling also graced the occasion with their presence.



A cake cutting ceremony was held to mark 83rd National Day of Pakistan. The guests congratulated the government & people of Pakistan on the auspicious occasion.



Dr. Shahzad Nasim, Chairman of Meinhardt, who was nominated for conferment of Sitara-e-Imtiaz during Covid-19 but could not receive it due to the lockdown, was decorated on the occasion, in the presence of Singaporean dignitaries, diplomatic corps and Pakistani diaspora.







### Meeting with Dawoodi Bohra Community 06 April 2023

High Commissioner Ms. Rukhsana Afzaal received Sheikh Huzaifa Bharainwala. Head Dawoodi Bohra Community, together with prominent members of the Bohra Community. 02 Volumes book, "Qiraat Zahira Li Kitabillah" were presented to her on behalf of Hafiz Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin, 53rd Dai-al-Mutlag of Bohra Community, for the High Commission's library.



### Iftar Dinner by the US Embassy 12 April 2023

Iftar-dinner hosted by Mr. Casey Mace, Charge d'Affairs, US Embassy Singapore and Mrs. Anne Mace.



#### 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ASEF 12 April 2023

High Commissioner Ms. Rukhsana attended the 25th anniversary of the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), where Foreign Minister Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan delivered opening remarks.



### Meeting with IHHN 12 April 2023

The High Commissioner had an online meeting with Dr. Abdul Bari, CEO of Indus Hospital and Health Network Karachi, and his team to explore bilateral cooperation between Singapore and Pakistan in the health sector.



### 15th Anniversary of Proctor & Gamble (P&G) Singapore 14 April 2023

High Commissioner Ms. Rukhsana Afzaal attended 15th Anniversary of Proctor & Gamble (P&G) Singapore Pioneer Plant. This event was hosted by P&G family. President Asia Pacific, Middle East & Africa Mr. Standa Vecera hosted the event together with a large number of pioneers, founding members and current team.





### Online Meeting with ICAP 18 April 2023



High Commissioner Ms. Rukhsana Afzaal attended an online meeting with the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan (ICAP), facilitated by Mr. Humayun Habib, Chairperson, ASEAN Chapter of ICAP Members. The meeting was attended by the top leadership of the Institute, to explore career opportunities for ICAP members in Singapore and ASEAN and build institutional linkages between Charted Accountants (CA) institutes of both countries.





#### Biennial Food and Hotel Exhibition Asia 25 April 2023

High Commissioner Ms. Rukhsana Afzaal attended Biennial Food and Hotel Exhibition Asia, known as a trendsetter in hospitality industry worldwide. Around 1500 exhibitors from 40 countries participated in the exhibition. Ayaz Trading and Gourmet set up their booths for promotion of Pakistan's packaged food industry.

## Meeting with President Singapore FinTech Association (SFA) 26 April 2023



The High Commissioner visited the Singapore FinTech Association (SFA) and met Mr. Shadab Tayyabi, President of SFA. With hundreds of local FinTechs on its platform, SFA represents ASEAN's largest FinTech landscape.

### President's Annual Diplomatic Reception 29 April 2023



The High Commissioner attended President Mdm Halimah Yacob's Annual Diplomatic Reception.







High Commissioner Ms. Rukhsana Afzaal met with H. E. PM Lee Hsien Loong and Madam Ho Ching at the President's Annual Diplomatic Reception 29 April 2023

#### Visit to Golden Equator Company 04 May 2023

High Commissioner Ms. Rukhsana Afzaal visited Golden Equator, a company that brings together communities, technology, capital and learning to propel human potential and inspire new possibilities. The High Commissioner was received by Ms. Shirley Crystal Chua, Group CEO and Mr. Rai Rummaan Kharal, Managing Partner of Wealth and Capital. She was given a tour/briefing of the company.

## Call on the CEO of the Institute of Singapore Chartered Accountants (ISCA) 19 May 2023

High Commissioner Ms. Rukhsana Afzaal called on the CEO of ISCA, Ms. Fann Kor. She was accompanied by Singapore-based members of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan (ICAP). ICAP Pakistan's Director of Education, Mr. Umair Jamal gave an online presentation. Mr. Humayun Habib, President of the ASEAN Chapter of ICAP Members (ACIM), joined online from Malaysia. They explored institutional cooperation and accreditation of CAs in the two countries. CEO of Audit Alliance, Mr. Bernard Lee also attended the meeting whose company has employed 50 CAs in its two offices in Lahore and Islamabad.



### Dinner in the honour of President SFA & Chief FinTech Officer 24 May 2023

Hiah Commissioner Mr. The hosted Sopnendu Mohanty, Chief FinTech Officer, and Mr. Shadab Tayyabi, President of Singapore FinTech Association to dinner, together with their teams, to discuss strategies connect Pakistan's to FinTech/startup ecosystem with Singapore. A group of Pakistani FinTech founders, senior bankers. technologists, and influencers also attended the dinner. A presentation was made on the thriving FinTech scene in Pakistan and its potential as an emerging startup market.



### Lunch with Minister for Sustainability & the Environment 24 May 2023

High Commissioner Ms. Rukhsana Afzaal attended a luncheon meeting with H.E Ms. Grace Fu, Minister for Sustainability & the Environment, hosted by Women Ambassadors in Singapore.



### Meeting between NUH & IHHN 26 May 2023

A delegation of Indus Hospital and Health Network (IHHN) visited Singapore to discuss avenues of cooperation, especially in training doctors/paramedic staff and joint research, with the National University Hospital of Singapore. The visit organized by the High Commission, was the first of its kind and opened doors of cooperation between Pakistan & Singapore in the health sector.





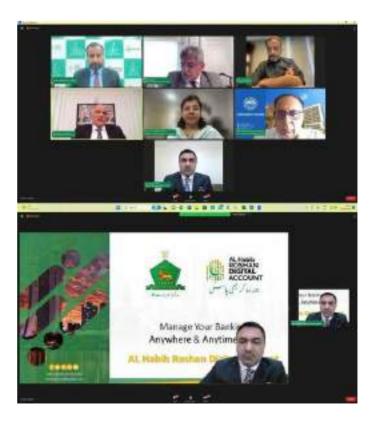


### Meet & Greet with IHHN 27 May 2023

High Commissioner Ms. Rukhsana Afzaal attended a Meet & Greet with Indus Hospital & Health Network (IHHN) Karachi, hosted by Pakistani Diaspora in Singapore. Dr. Abdul Bari, Founder & CEO of IHHN shared his journey with the audience and invited them to become friends of IHHN.

### Webinar on Roshan Digital Accounts 16 June 2023

The High Commissioner Ms. Afzaal addressed a Rukhsana webinar on Roshan Digital Accounts, jointly organized Pakistan High Commission and Bank Al Habib. Mr. Qambar Ali, Head Roshan Digital Bank Al Munj, Chairman Pakwheels, Aun Ali, Group Head, Business. Bank Al Habib. Mr. Mansoor Ali Khan, Chief Executive, Bank Al Habib, and Mr. Muhammad Haroon Rasheed, Executive Director State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) also addressed the Webinar.



### Zoom Call with the Bank of Punjab (BoP) 20 June 2023

The High Commissioner had a zoom call with Mr. Nofel Daud, Group Head, Retail Baking and Ms. Aliya Zafar, Head Quality Assurance and Compliance Management, Bank of Punjab (BoP). They discussed ways of promoting entrepreneurship and digital economy in Pakistan through collaboration with Singapore.



### Mango Diplomacy 27 June 2023





Pakistan High Commission Singapore presented the best Pakistani Chaunsa Mangoes to the Singaporean dignitaries and friends.

## Singapore International Math Olympiad Challenge Global Finals Awards Ceremony 23 July 2023

High Commissioner Ms. Rukhsana attended Afzaal, the Singapore International Math Olympiad Challenge Global Finals Awards Ceremony, together with Ambassadors of various countries. MP Dr. Lim Wee Kiak was the Guest of Honor. A 24-member contingent of young mathematics scholars from Pakistan participated in the event and raised the Pakistani flag.



### Visit by 118th NMC Delegation 24 July 2023

The participants of 118th National Management Course (NMC) visited the High Commission for a briefing prior to their calls/meetings with the Singaporean government departments, as part of their Foreign Study Tour. The course participants were hosted to dinner by High Commissioner Ms. Rukhsana Afzaal at Pakistan House.



## Zoom Meeting with Fauji Foundation-Overseas Employment Service 02 August 2023



The High Commissioner had a Zoom meeting with Fauji Foundation-Overseas Employment Service, to explore collaboration between Technical & Vocational Education & Training (TVET) institutions of Pakistan and Singapore.

### Exhibition of the Artwork of Jimmy Engineer 12 August 2023





The renowned Pakistani artist Mr. Jimmy Engineer was hosted by High Commissioner Ms. Rukhsana Afzaal at the Pakistan House, together with leading members of Parsi community. Mr Kishore Mehbubani, a renowned scholar, Distinguished Fellow at the Asia Research Institute (ARI) of the National University of Singapore (NUS), former Dean of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, who has also served as the President of UN Security Council also graced the occasion with his presence and presented his book, "Has China won" to the High Commissioner.

Flag hoisting
ceremony on the
occasion of
Independence
Day
14 August 2023



#### Message of the High Commissioner Ms. Rukhsana Afzaal







Pakistan High Commission organized together with The Rice Company Limited (TRCL) Gallery, an exhibition of selected artwork of renowned Pakistani artist, Mr. Jimmy Engineer, to commemorate 76th Independence Day of Pakistan. 14 August 2023

There was also a meet and greet session with the artist where Mr. Jimmy shared his inspirational life story with the audience and answered their questions.



### MoU signed for collaboration between IHHN & NUHS 15 August 2023



Indus Hospital and Health Network, (IHHN) Pakistan signed an MoU for collaboration in the health sector with the prestigious National University Hospital, Singapore (NUHS). The MoU opened doors for cooperation in several areas, especially cancer research in Pakistan. Prof. Syed Zafar Zaidi, CEO of IHHN and Prof. Aymeric Lim, CEO of NUHS signed the MoU in the presence of High Commissioner Ms. Rukhsana Afzaal.

Pakistan High Commission presented Chaunsa mangoes from the President of Pakistan to the Singaporean leadership & Government representatives

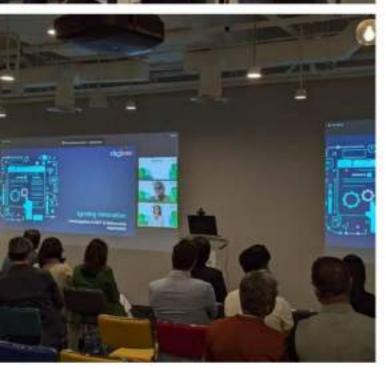
22 August 2023











## Startup/ FinTech networking Night 22 August 2023

Pakistan High Commission, Singapore hosted a hybrid startup/FinTech networking n i g h t. The Chief FinTech Officer of Singapore, Sopnendu Mohanty, attended the event as the Guest of Honour along with the President of Singapore FinTech Association, Mr. Shadab Tayyabi, and CEO of Elevandi, Singapore, Mr. Navin Suri. StartKar, the brand comprising 8 leading Pakistani FinTechs created by the High Commission for participation in the 4th Singapore FinTech Festival (SFF) in Nov 2019, shared its experience.

Eight Pakistani companies including Systems Limited, Quantum Westlabs, Bank of Punjab, Endeavour Pakistan, Waada, Neem, Sehat Kahani and Abhi made virtual presentations. Two Pakistani-origin Tech founders in Singapore, Mr. Meeran Malik, and Ms. Fatima Rizwan introduced their FinTechs; Seedefy and Meta School respectively.

StartKar Networking Night was organized for young entrepreneurs to learn from their Singaporean counterparts. The event was organized to serve as a precursor to the annual Singapore FinTech Festival in November 2023, the largest FinTech event in the world.

#### Red Cross Red Crescent Women Conference 2023 25 August 2023



High Commissioner Ms. Rukhsana Afzaal participated in the Red Cross Red Crescent Women Conference 2023 as a panelist. Ms. Foo Chi Hsia, Deputy Secretary, Southeast Asia and ASEAN at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) Singapore was the keynote speaker at the event attended by a large number of lady Ambassadors in Singapore.



The High Commissioner attended Unicorns for Good- Giants in Conversation on 28th August, where Jimmy Wales, Founder of Wikipedia was the guest of honor.

28 August 2023



### 2nd Anniversary of Singapore Women Entrepreneurs Network 21 September 2023



The High Commissioner attended 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of Singapore Women Entrepreneurs Network. H.E. Ms. Josephine Teo, Minister for Communication and Information was the Guest of Honor.

## Reception in the honor of Singaporean female mountaineers 28 September 2023

Pakistan High Commission Singapore hosted a reception in the honor of Ms. Vincere Zeng & Ms. Sim Phei Sunn, the first Singaporean women to successfully summit K2, the world's second-highest peak. The event was attended by a cross section of Singaporean society, media persons and Pakistani community. The High Commissioner commended the mountaineers for their courage and perseverance. In her remarks, she highlighted Pakistan's tourism potential, from adventure tourism to culture, faith, culinary and architectural tourism.





#### Bazm-e-Urdu 30 September 2023

A Bazme-Urdu was hosted by the High Commissioner at Pakistan House, in collaboration with Singapore-Pakistan Association. The literature evening was organized in the memory of Late Amjad Islam Amjad and Zia Muhayuddin.





## Briefing at Singapore Business Federation (SBF) 05 October 2023

High Commissioner Ms. Rukhsana Afzaal briefed Singapore Business Federation (SBF), South Asia (SABG) Business Group on business & investment opportunities in Pakistan. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Kok Ping Soon, CEO of SBF and hosted by Mr. Gautam Banerji, Chairman, SABG.



### Milad-ur Rasool SAW gathering at Pakistan House 07 October 2023

A Milad-ur-Rasool gathering was hosted by the High Commissioner at Pakistan House, in collaboration with the Singapore-Pakistan Association (SPA).



## Dinner for ASEAN-Pakistan Business delegation 18 October 2023



High Commissioner Ms. Rukhsana Afzaal hosted a dinner for the delegation that participated in the ASEAN-Pakistan Business Opportunities Conference in Pakistan on 7-11 August 2023. They appreciated the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP)'s hospitality and meticulous arrangements. The delegation shared its feedback and recommendations for future events to be hosted by the Government of Pakistan.

### Global Fellow Alliance 2023 21 October 2023



High Commissioner Ms. Rukhsana Afzaal attended Global Fellow Alliance 2023 hosted by the prestigious National University Hospital Singapore (NUHS). Dr. Noreen Nasir from Agha Khan Hospital, Pakistan currently doing the fellowship was presented a plaque together with fellow doctors from other countries. The High Commissioner hosted a lunch at Pakistan House for the senior leadership of NUHS and the visiting delegation of Indus Hospital and Health Network (IHHN), Karachi, to further discuss collaboration under the MoU signed between the two prestigious institutions in August 2023.

### Thank You Lunch in the honor of President Halimah Yacob 27 October 2023

High Commissioner Ms.
Rukhsana Afzaal
attended an Appreciation
and Thank You lunch
hosted in honor of Mdm
Halimah Yacob, former
President by Mr. Heng
Swee Keat, Deputy
Prime Minister and
Coordinating Minister for
Economic Policies.



### **Grand Finale of Sprint Pakistan Hackathon 24 October 2023**







The Bank of Punjab hosted the grand finale of Sprint Pakistan hackathon for the selection of 10 finalists for participation in the annual Singapore Fintech Festival 2023. The hackathon run in 8 cities of Pakistan was organised in partnership with Pakistan High Commission, SFA, Elevandi, Apix and DigiBoP, NICL, Takhleeq, and 7 NICs. CEO Zafar Masud and High Commissioner Ms. Rukhsana Afzaal congratulated the winners.

The High Commissioner attended "Sustainable Christmas Markets", organized by the Peace of Art, a Singaporean Charity organization, to raise funds for underprivileged children. Minister of State for Culture, Mr. Alvin Tan was the Guest of Honor.

11 November 2023



#### Red Cross Red Crescent Annual Charity Bazaar 18 November 2023





Pakistan High Commission participated in the Red Cross Red Crescent Annual Charity Bazaar. President Tharman Shanmugaratnam was the Guest of Honour at the event attended by 20 diplomatic missions and several local businesses and charities. Pakistan High Commission served Karachi Biryani to the guests.

# 15 SINGAPORE 17 FIMTECH 1823 FESTIVAL

High Commissioner Ms. Rukhsana Afzaal hosted a networking dinner for Pakistan Fintech delegation

14 November 2023



High Commissioner Ms. Rukhsana Afzaal hosted a networking dinner for Pakistan Fintech delegation at Pakistan House, to which she invited the top leadership of Monetary Authority of Singapore, Singapore Fintech Association, Apix Singapore and Global Fintech Institute, in addition to leading banks including HSBC, Standard Chartered and OCBC. Preceding the launching ceremony of the annual Singapore Fintech Festival, the dinner provided an excellent opportunity to young entrepreneurs to network with their Singaporean counterparts and tech executives.







## Pakistan fintech delegation at the World Bank-IFC SMEs forum on the first day of SFF 15 November 2023







High Commissioner Ms. Rukhsana Afzaal inaugurated Pakistan pavilion at the 8th Singapore Fintech Festival (SFF 2023) on 15th November. together with Mr. Saleem Ullah Khan, Deputy Governor, Bank State Pakistan and Mr. Abrar Mir. Innovation & Financial Inclusion Officer. HBL. The Pavilion showcasing 7 leading Pakistani fintechs was set up by Mr. Amar Makhdoom, CEO/Founder of Invents Global. The three finalists of Sprint Pakistan Hackathon launched by the Bank of Punjab were provided complimentary booths by the Monetary Authority of Singapore. 62 Pakistani companies attended SFF 2023.

15 November 2023





Dr. Sara Saeed Khurram, CEO and co-founder of Sehat Kahani, the first Pakistani startup to complete 3 Series Funding, shared her story at the prestigious "The Founder's Peak" on the first day of SFF.

15 November 2023







Deputy Governor State Bank of Pakistan shared the stage with the Deputy Governor of Turkish Central Bank, Ms. Hatice Karahan at SFF.

**16 November 2023** 



The High Commissioner organized Deputy Governor SBP's visit to Meta and his call on Mr. Simon Milner, Vice President of Public Policy, APAC.

16 November 2023





HBL Singapore hosted a fireside chat with the Deputy Governor SBP Mr. Saleem Ullah, attended by the High Commissioner.

16 November 2023



Centre for Finance,
Technology and
Entrepreneurship (CFTE)
hosted a lunch for
Pakistani delegation
17 November 2023



Centre for Finance, Technology, and Entrepreneurship (CFTE) hosted a lunch for the Pakistani delegation at SFF. The co-founders of CFTE Ms. Tram Anh and Mr Huy Nguyen Trieu discussed the prospects of digital banking and entrepreneurial training with the Deputy Governor of SBP.





## High Commissioner hosted a farewell dinner in the honor of Mr. Saleem Ullah 17 November 2023



High Commissioner hosted a farewell dinner in the honor of Mr. Saleem Ullah, Deputy Governor SBP, Mr. Abrar Mir, CIO, HBL, and members of the Pakistan FinTech delegation participating in the annual SFF.

#### Panel discussion on Indonesia's Chairmanship of ASEAN 2023 22 November 2023





The High Commissioner attended a panel discussion on Indonesia's Chairmanship of ASEAN 2023, on 22nd November. Prof Tommy Koh, the renowned scholar and former Singaporean PR to UN New York was one of the panelists at the event.

### 65th Anniversary of Singapore Shariah Court 24 November 2023

The High Commissioner attended the 65th Anniversary of Singapore Shariah Court where Minister for Social and Family Development, Mr. Masagos Zulkifli was the Guest of Honour.



#### 20th Anniversary of Mercy Relief 28 November 2023





The High Commissioner attended the 20th Anniversary of Mercy Relief, a renowned Singaporean NGO, on 28th November. Mercy Relief actively supported the Government of Pakistan's flood relief efforts in 2022. Deputy Prime Minister Heng Swee Keat was the Guest of Honor at the event.

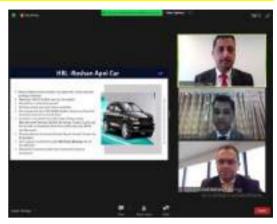
### Zoom Call with NUS 08 December 2023

In a virtual meeting with Mr. Mustafa Izzudin, a Fellow and Adjunct Senior Lecturer at the National University of Singapore (NUS), the High Commissioner discussed the possibility of sending a students' delegation from Singapore to Pakistan under the NUS Global Exchange Program's Culture Immersion initiative. To give Singaporean students comprehensive exposure, the High Commissioner expressed full support in collaborating with top universities of Pakistan in Karachi, Lahore, and Islamabad.



### Webinar on RDA Scheme 11 December 2023





Pakistan High Commission co-hosted a webinar on the RDA Scheme and Raast in collaboration with the State Bank of Pakistan and HBL. Deputy Governor, SBP, Mr Saleem Ullah, HBL's Head of International Banking Mr . Farhan Talib , and High Commissioner Ms. Rukhsana Afzaal made the opening remarks, followed by presentations on different investment options under RDA.

### Cooperation in Education Sector 19 December 2023





A delegation of the owners of Pakistani private schools led by Mr. Qasim Ali Shah, renowned educationist and motivational speaker, called on the High Commissioner, to explore cooperation with Singapore in education sector.

## Conferment of Civil award on the chief priest of Dawoodi Bohra Community 20 December 2023

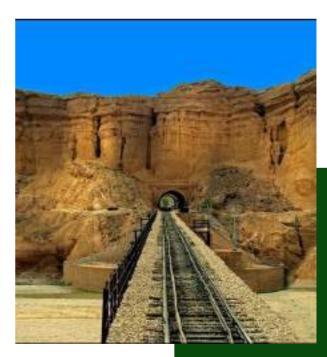
Janab Aamil Saheb Shaikh Huzaifa Bahrainwala and prominent members of Dawoodi Bohra Community were invited to the High Commission to congratulate them on the conferment of Nishan e Pakistan on Dr Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin, 53<sup>rd</sup> Dai-al-Mutlaq of Bohra Community by the Government of Pakistan.













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