

THE SIALKOT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

HELD ON FEBRUARY 27, 2023

01. A Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce & Industry was held on February 27, 2023 at 11:30 hours at Sheikh Muhammad Shafi Hall of the Sialkot Chamber.

02. Mr. Abdul Ghafoor Malik, President of the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce & Industry presided over the meeting. He thanked the members for attending the meeting.

03. The proceedings of the meeting started with the recitation of the Holy Quran by Mr. Zain Ul Abideen.

04. The following members attended the meeting:

• Mr. Abdul Ghafoor Malik	President
• Mr. Wahub Jahangir	Senior Vice President
• Mr. Amer Majeed Sheikh	Vice President
• Mr. Adnan Yousaf	-Member-
• Mr. Afzaal Bhatti	-do-
• Mr. Awais Ahmed	-do-
• Mrs. Gulzaib Waqas Awan	-do-
• Ms. Lubna Tubsim	-do-
• Mr. Matloob Ahmed Qureshi	-do-
• Mr. Muhammad Shahbaz	-do-
• Mr. Naeem Yousaf	-do-
• Mr. Saleem Akhtar Bhutta	-do-
• Mr. Toheed Nasir	-do-
• Mr. Zain Ul Abideen	-do-

05. Leave of Absence

• Mr. Ahmed Imtiaz Khan	-Member-
• Mr. Choudhry Jahangir Rashid	-do-
• Mr. Jawad Hussain	-do-
• Mian Fiaz Ahmed	-do-
• Mian Imran Akbar	-do-
• Mr. Peeter John	-do-
• Mr. Saqib Ashfaq	-do-
• Mr. Shoaib Imtiaz	-do-

06. Special Invitees.

- Mr. Abdul Waheed, Chairman Departmental Committee on Accounts
- Sheikh Zahid Hameed, Chairman Departmental Committee on Garrison HQ/ Cantonment Board Affairs
- Mr. Shafiq-ur-Rehman, Chairman Departmental Committee on Banking & Finance.

07. The Committee offered Fateha for departed souls and passed condolence resolution on the sad demise of the following: -

- Mother of Mr. Agha Bilal Haider M/s. Technimen Agha
- Mr. Abdul Razaq of M/s. Al-Riaz & Co.
- Mother of Mr. Tahir Hussain M/s. Tahir Shield Company
- Younger Sister of Mr. Ihsan Ullah Khan (Late) M/s. Ihsan Sports
- Mother-in-Law of Mr. Mushtaq Ahmed Butt of M/s. Kashmiri Intl
- Mother of Mr. Shafqat Ali (Shaheed Cutter Walay)

08. Point discussed.	Approval of minutes of meeting of the Executive Committee held on January 31, 2023.
Approval	Approved.

09. Point discussed.	Approval of Statement of Accounts for the month of January 2023.
Discussion:	
<p>Mr. Naeem Yousaf said that it had been mentioned in the accounts that 50% advance payment of Rs. 1189777/- had been paid to M/s. Al-Noor for the purchase of SMD Screen of Auditorium whereas the EC had given approval of Rs. 1.2 (M).</p> <p>Mr. Umair Nisar replied that the initial quotation was approved of Rs. 1.4 (M) which was according to similar size of previous screen. The Vice President was requested for the installation of maximum size of SMD Screen to cover all area and its cost was around Rs, 2.5 (M) which had been approved by the house. The total cost of installation was 2.4 (M).</p> <p>Mrs. Gulzaib Waqas Awan appreciated the President for taking initiative and installation of SMD Screen in the Auditorium.</p>	
Participants	Mr. Naeem Yousaf, Mrs. Gulzaib Waqas Awan and Mr. Umair Nisar.
Approval	Approved.

10. Point discussed.	Approval of minutes of meeting of the Departmental Committee on Garrison HQ/ Cantonment Board Affairs held on February 11, 2023.
Discussion:	
<p>Sheikh Zahid Hameed, Chairman Departmental Committee on Garrison HQ/ Cantonment Board Affairs said that:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The fee of Golf Club for Members had been increased from Rs. 100,000/- to Rs. 500,000/-. He requested the President that in this regard, a delegation of the Sialkot Chamber should visit Golf Club or write a letter to concerned to minimize the fee. The tax rates had also been increased for residents of the Cantonment area and on inquiring, the concerned office replied that tax should be deposited or should wait for any relaxation from the department. He requested the President to request in writing or arrange a meeting with Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Federal Minister for Defence to discuss the said issue. <p>The President replied that Sialkot Chamber should resolve the issue at its own by requesting to concern like GOC etc., instead of involving Khawaja Muhammad Asif.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The foreigners were not allowed to stay at night, at the cantonment area, whereas host industry wished that foreign customers stay, at their residents, instead of hotels because hotels in Sialkot were not up to the mark in terms of facilities. He also requested the President to take up the issue with the concerned. <p>The President replied that the matter to allow the foreigners stay in Cantonment Area was discussed with GOC, in a meeting with him but he did not agree due to the policy matter, therefore it should not be</p>	

requested again.

Sheikh Zahid Hameed suggested that the Sialkot Chamber should, at least, raise the issue, therefore, he requested the President to write a letter to concerned or authorize the Departmental Committee to send the letter.

The Secretary General shared that it had been requested even to Army Chief in this regard, but no reply was received because the policy could not be changed by any person.

Sheikh Zahid Hameed informed that Foreigners were allowed for dining in the hotels situated at Aziz Shaheed Road, on the request of this Chamber, which was not before. He said that if the house was considered, it should be requested otherwise he had no issue.

Mr. Wahub Jahangir replied that it was not approved any request of this Chamber to allow the Foreigners. He informed that the policy for Cantonment Area had been revised by the concerned under which they were allowed and it had been implemented in Cantonment Areas at country level as per their rules & regulation.

Mr. Naeem Yousaf shared the main purpose of checking of identity cards at the check post in the Cantonment Area was to control and identify the foreigners.

Sheikh Zahid Hameed again proposed for requesting the concerned authorities.

Mr. Muhammad Shahbaz Saim informed that a meeting with the Corps. Commander was held in this Chamber during the tenure of Mian Imran Akbar wherein the issue of stay of foreigners was discussed. The Corps. Commander proposed to establish a Guest House inside Services Club for stay of foreigners and offered every kind of support from his Department.

Mr. Muhammad Shahbaz suggested that the proposal could be considered and, in this regard, a letter should be written to concerned authorities. Mr. Muhammad Shahbaz Saim informed that he had also discussed the issue of traffic blockage at Check Post near Papa Johns due to commercial area. He had requested that the Check Post should be shifted to resolve the issue.

Mr. Amer Majeed Sheikh replied that the proposal of the Corps. Commander to establish a Guest House inside Services Club was discussed, in detail, but could not be approved by the members due to certain reasons.

Participants	The President, Mr. Wahub Jahangir, Mr. Amer Majeed Sheikh, Mr. Naeem Yousaf, Sheikh Zahid Hameed, Mr. Muhammad Shahbaz Saim, and the Secretary General.
Approval	Approved.

11. Point discussed.	Approval of minutes of meeting of the Departmental Committee on Hospitals & Health Services held on February 15, 2023
Approval	Approved.

12. Point discussed.	Approval of minutes of an emergent meeting of the Departmental Committee on Banking & Finance held on February 16, 2023.
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Discussion:

Mr. Wahub Jahangir briefed that the meeting was convened to discuss the State Bank of Pakistan's EPD Circular 01 of 2023 dated February 13, 2023. The

State Bank of Pakistan had introduced a new rule for Authorized Dealers (ADs) in Foreign Exchange through a circular dated February 13, 2023, to ensure the timely realization of export proceeds due to the prevailing economic crisis. After thorough discussion the Committee had decided the following: -

- A request for extension till 31st of December would be made to SBP considering the current political and economic situation.
- All trade bodies would be taken onboard to send request to SBP and other quarters through mutual consensus.
- A letter should be written to the President and Chairman Banking Committee FPCCI.
- The request for 180 days of realization would also be made to the Government.

The President informed the house that a letter had been dispatched to the Governor State Bank of Pakistan by requesting therein to withdraw the Circular whereas the Committee had decided for extension and if required, the letter for the extension would be written. All the trade bodies were taken onboard on said issue.

Mr. Naeem Yousaf appreciated the President for the steps taken by him on the issue.

The President informed that a meeting had been planned today at 3:00 p.m. in this regard. He requested all EC member to attend the meeting.

Participants	The President, Mr. Wahub Jahangir and Mr. Naeem Yousaf.
Approval	Approved.

13. Point discussed.	Approval of minutes of meeting of the Departmental Committee on FBR, Customs, Sales Tax, Federal Taxation and Excise & Provincial Taxation held on February 20, 2023.
Approval	Approved.

14. Point discussed.	Approval of report of Road Show on "Electrical Safety & Fire Prevention by GIZ held on January 26, 2023.
Approval	Approved.

15. Point discussed.	Approval of report of meeting with the Representatives of House Building Finance Company (HBFC) held on January 27, 2023.
Approval	Approved.

16. Point discussed.	Approval of minutes of meeting on visit of H.E. Dr. Mehmet Pacaci, Ambassador of Turkiye held on February 02, 2023.
Approval	Approved.

17. Point discussed.	Approval of minutes of meeting on visit of H.E. Ambassador of Azerbaijan held on February 06, 2023.
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Discussion:

Mr. Naeem Yousaf said that feedback of the meetings held with dignitaries should be shared with EC Members.

The President replied and expressed his concern about the attendance of Executive Committee Members in the meetings held in this Chamber, especially with the Ambassadors. He said that the attendance of the members during the visit of H.E. Ambassador of Azerbaijan were quite low that was embarrassing for him and faced very difficult to manage it. Only two EC Members Mr. Ahmed

Imtiaz Khan and Mr. Zain Ul Abideen attended the meeting. The President requested the members to attend the meetings and should not avoid, especially the meetings held with Ambassadors because they thought positively about Sialkot, its industry and social sector projects. Maximum participation of the members created a good impression on the guests. The President said that next time he would bring on record, in case, the EC members would not attend the meetings. He also requested the members to attend the meeting scheduled to be held with Ambassador of Switzerland on March 07, 2023.

Mr. Naeem Yousaf said that the Ambassador of Turkiya, during the visit, of Sialkot Chamber was very interested in the trade of Surgical Instruments. Mr. Naeem requested the President that a delegation from Sialkot Chamber or Turkiya should be arranged with the coordination of the Ambassador.

The President replied that after the visit of the Ambassador, there was an earthquake in Turkiya for which the Chamber sent them medicines. Moreover, a meeting of the prominent members for the fund raising had been held. The EC Members could not be invited by mistake, which he had noticed and decided that in future, the Executive Committee would be invited in all important meetings held in this Chamber. He said that any member could announce donation, if he desired. He said that the procedure to send the collected donation to effectives would be set, most probably it would be handover to the Ambassador.

Mr. Wahub Jahangir informed the house that the Sialkot Chamber had nominated a person in Islamabad, for lobbying and coordination with the Ministries and Embassies on the issues discussed in the meetings held with them, for maximum results.

Mr. Muhammad Shahbaz Saim inquired about the progress on the point discussed with the Turkish Ambassador for grant of visa to members who had issued Visa Recommendatory Letters for business purposes. He asked whether the MOU had been signed or not. He suggested that the issue of visa issuance discussed with the Ambassador should be shared with the members.

Mr. Wahub Jahangir replied that the Chamber had not received any Turkish Visa refusal case from the members who had been issued Visa Recommendatory Letters. The Embassy was fully co-operating with the members. He shared that Mr. Shahbaz had raised the point which was replied positively by the Ambassador. There was no formal MOU.

Participants	The President, Mr. Wahub Jahangir, Mr. Muhammad Shahbaz Saim and Mr. Naeem Yousaf.
Approval	Approved.

18. Point discussed.	Approval of report of Seminar on Leads Generation & Email Marketing held on February 07, 2023.
Approval	Approved.

19. Point discussed.	Approval of minutes of the Project Committee on Sialkot Industrial Zone held on February 08, 2023.
Approval	Approved.

20. Point discussed.	Approval of minutes of meeting of the Departmental Committee on Gloves Industry held on February 16, 2023.
Approval	Approved.

21. Point discussed.	Approval of report of fundraising meeting for earthquake victims of Turkiye held on February 21, 2023.
Approval	Approved.
22. Point discussed.	Approval of Report of Meeting with Mr. Qasim Afzal, Additional Director General, Punjab Information Technology Board held on February 22, 2023.
Approval	Approved.
23. Point discussed.	Approval of minutes of meeting on visit of Mr. Richard Phillips, Consular Section Chief, U.S. Consulate Lahore held on February 23, 2023.
Discussion: The President said that all the EC members should have attended the meeting to see how Mr. Richard Phillips replied positively on the questions posed to him. He even replied to those questions which were not related to him.	
Participants	The President.
Approval	Approved.
24. Point discussed.	Approval of minutes of meeting of the Departmental Committee on Women Entrepreneurs held on February 24, 2023.
Discussion: Mrs. Gulzaib Waqas Awan said that Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry Sialkot was organizing first ever WE-Exhibit 2023 to display products of Women Entrepreneurs in Sialkot. She thanked and appreciated the Sialkot Chamber for the financial contribution, as sponsored for managing the expenses of the Exhibition. She said that there were still shortage of funds, therefore, requested the members for financial support. The President endorsed Mrs. Gulzaib Waqas Awan and requested the members for financial support, so that the event could be managed. He shared that the Sialkot Chamber, he himself and some of the members who had booked the stalls had contributed financially. Mr. Afzal Bhatti announced PKR 200,000/- as financial contribution for the event. The President informed Mrs. Gulzaib Waqas Awan that M/s. Nishat was ready to print & install the flexes but requested that it should not be charged publicity charges of the Cantonment area. He suggested Mrs. Gulzaib Waqas Awan to discuss the matter with Dr. Mariam, so that she might discuss with the authorize to waive off flexes publicity charges. Miss Lubna Tubsim shared that the matter of the steamer charges was discussed with the concerned and requested to waive off the charges which they agreed. The President suggested that prior approval of all such kind of matters should be gotten. Miss Lubna Tubsim informed that a meeting had been planned with Mr. Tariq, wherein all the matters would be discussed. Mr. Amer Majeed Sheikh and Mr. Naeem Yousaf announced PKR 50,000/- each as financial contribution for the event.	
Participants	The President, Mr. Amer Majeed Sheikh, Mr. Afzal Bhatti, Mr. Naeem Yousaf, Mrs. Gulzaib Waqas Awan and, Miss Lubna

	Tubsim
Approval	Approved.

25. Point discussed.	Approval of minutes of meeting of the Departmental Committee on Library & Publications held on February 25, 2023.
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Discussion:

Mr. Muhammad Shahbaz Saim said that the meeting of the Departmental Committee on Library was held on Saturday at 4:00 p.m., one day before the Executive Committee Meeting and its minutes had been placed on the table for approval by including in the agenda point. He objected and said that such kind of practice to place the minutes on table should be changed. He suggested that a date of the minutes of meetings to send to the members should be fixed as per the agenda, so that the members might study the minutes of meetings, well in time, for approval etc. in the Executive Committee Meeting. He also requested to upgrade the Chamber's Library by placing New Chairs for the visitors and arrangement of books. Mr. Muhammad Shabaz Saim also discussed about the Bulletin. He asked about the number of bulletin were printed during this tenure, status of next bulletin to be printed and its existing rates of publication. He also informed that the members were complaint for non-delivery of bulletin. Moreover, the activities done by the Committee were not published in the bulletin.

Mr. Naeem Yousaf said that the issue of Bulletin's delivery and its printing was discussed in details during the last year in Executive Committee Meetings, as well, but could not be resolved till now. He said that he did not receive bulletin on his given company's address. Mr. Naeem Yousaf said that he was proposed to get approval from DGTO in writing and upload a PDF file of Chamber's bulletin on it's website for the information of members, instead of printing & posting of bulletin to all members that wasted the money. Few copies of the bulletin should print and keep in this Chamber for members to pick up.

Mr. Afzal Bhatti endorsed Mr. Naeem Yousaf and said that the postman did not deliver bulletin regularly, although his company situated on main Defence Road. He suggested that a PDF file should be uploaded to make it cost effective.

Mr. Muhammad Shahbaz Saim suggested that the publication of the bulletin should not be stopped but could be limited. It was proposed to print annually 6 Bulletin instead of fortnightly which was agreed by the house. He said that SMEs and newly registered members were benefited with the information of jobs, exhibition etc., published in the bulletin. Moreover, it was an identity and the honor of this Chamber.

Mr. Adnan Yousaf said that the issue was under discussion from last one year. He hoped that it would be resolved during this tenure by taking a better step by the President to resolve it. Mr. Adnan said that the advertisements published in Chamber's bulletin was a source of income which had also been gone due to lack of advertisements. He suggested that it should make sure of advertisements in the Bulletin. As concerned to ensure the delivery, he had proposed that services of private persons could be hired for delivery of bulletin who would deliver with responsibility.

Mr. Abdul Rauf shared that the Services of Couriers companies were also hired for the delivery of bulletin but they could not provide better service than the Post Office. The Committee held number of meetings with Post Maters and set a mechanism that led to improvement. Area wise lists were provided to Committee Members to ensure the delivery of Chamber's Bulletin by phone

calls to members and monitor the working of Postmen.

The President said that all members had complaint that they did not receive the bulletin.

Mr. Abdul Rauf replied that previously the bulletins were published and delivered to all active members but now with the approval of the Executive Committee five thousand copies were printing only for the voters. Definitely the non-voter members would not receive the bulletin.

Mr. Awais Ahmed also complaint about non-delivery of the bulletin to him. He said that it had been proposed that services of private persons could be hired for delivery of bulletin.

Mr. Salim Akhtar Bhatta said that the issue of sending and publishing the bulletin of the chamber has been under discussion for a long time. The publication of the bulletin had been initiated since the establishment of this Chamber by Mr. Daud Ahmed Chatha. He had suggested in the previous meetings that printing of bulletin should be continued because it is the pride of this Chamber. It should also be sent to members, as well as, high officials.

As concerned to delivery of Bulletin, Mr. Saleem Akhtar Bhutta said that he had discussed the issue with the Director, Post Office who was suggested that it could be gotten the services of computerized proof of delivery (POD) from Post Office by paying charges to confirm the delivery. He said that Postmen delivered the bulletin to members on their addresses at gate but it could not reach to concern person which was the issue of the members but not the delivery. Secondly, lot of members had changed their business address but they did not update in this Chamber due to which the bulletin was not delivered accordingly.

The President asked Mr. Abdul Rauf about the status of current bulletin.

Mr. Abdul Rauf replied that the current bulletin was under process while the previous one was combined was printed like December & January.

Mr. Adnan Yousaf asked about the printing of the bulletin, whether it was printing fortnightly, monthly or quarterly.

Mr. Muhammad Shahbaz Saim said that he had observed that pictures of the EC Members, seminars and other activities done by the Committee did not include in the bulletin. He requested the President to include the members liked IT experts etc., for the improvement of the bulletin and the benefit of the members.

Mr. Naeem Yousaf suggested that there was need to set Rules & Regulation regarding bulletin's printing because the material of December liked Quaid-e-Azam Day's picture was printed in February's Bulletin.

Mr. Wahub Jahangir said that he was received Chamber's bulletin regularly 3-4 years ago on his business address but now he did not receive. He said that the printing of the bulletin should not be stopped but it should move towards the modernization by following the practices of current age. He suggested that:-

- As the PDF file of the bulletin was finalized, it should forward to all members on their Whatsapp because it was the quick source to share the information to members. The Chamber had mobile numbers of most of the members.

- Copies of the bulletin should print as per the number Corporate Renewed Members and send them only. The delivery of Corporate Members which would approximately 1500 could be managed easily.

Mr. Naeem Yousaf did not agree on the proposal to send only for Corporate Members with the comments that it should not create a difference. He suggested that it should print 1000-2000 copies of the bulletin and keep them in Chamber for the members to pick up which agreed by Mr. Afzaal Bhatti.

The Secretary General said that it had already been decided by the Executive Committee about the delivery, printing of bulletin etc., therefore it should not discuss again in the Executive Committee upto one year, as per law.

Mr. Muhammad Shahbaz Saim the main issue was the personal liking & disliking about the material published in the bulletin. He said that the activities like seminars arranged by the Chairmen were not published in the bulletin. He suggested that there should be checked on it. He said that the EC Members were not attended the meetings only due to the reason that their working was not endorsed and ignored them regarding their activities. He said that there was not a single picture of the meeting of Departmental Committees meeting printed in the bulletin.

The President replied that there was no issue of personal liking or disliking. He asked Mr. Abul Rauf whether the bulletin was printed monthly or fortnightly.

Mr. Abdul Rauf replied that this time two month's bulletin was being printed together, while earlier it was printed monthly basis.

Mr. Naeem Yousaf objected and said that how could the decision of the Executive be changed now. He asked that who had decided about it.

Mr. Amer Majeed Sheikh informed that Mr. Arshad Latif Butt was the Chairman of the Committee.

Mr. Abdul Rauf shared that it had been decided by the Committee the reports of Departmental Committees would not be published in Chamber's Bulletin.

Mr. Afzaal Bhatti requested for the provision of Minutes in which the decision had been taken to see what decision had been taken.

Miss Lubna Tubsim requested the President that a meeting of the Chairmen of Departmental Committees could be called on monthly basis to see their issues related to the Committees.

Mr. Saleem Akhtar Bhutta suggested that the proposal of the Post Office about computerized POD of the bulletin could be implemented with the coordination of the Committee which replied by the President that it would be discussed.

Mr. Adnan Yousaf shared that he got registered his firm in 1997 and trade deals by getting the information from Chamber's bulletin but now such information was not published in current magazine. He said that it was an era of technology but the SCCI's bulletin had its own importance because it could helpful for new SMEs. He requested that the process of registration, trade fairs, trade inquiries and other related information should publish in the bulletin for SMEs.

The President instructed Mr. Abdul Rauf to note all the points of the members as discussed for further discussion with Mr. Arshad Latif Butt, Chairman Departmental Committee on Library & Publication who would visit today at 3:00

p.m. The President also requested the members to join him in the meeting. He also assured that he would suggest Mr. Arshad Latif Butt to add the activities of the Departmental Committees, as requested by the members of the Executive Committee.

The house approved to send the PDF file of the bulletin to all members on their WhatsApp numbers.

Mr. Faraz said that there would be need to purchase a Marketing Application to forward the bulletin through WhatsApp because it could not be managed in free application due to size of file and number of members.

The President requested the house for the approval to purchase the application.

Mr. Adnan Yousaf suggested that all pros and cons regarding the application should be considered first because no member would read such a large file on WhatsApp message. He requested to focus on betterment of publication.

Mr. Amer Majeed Sheikh said that publication charges were charged from the members and it was also compulsory to publish as per the rules, therefore, it should be published.

Mr. Muhammad Shahbaz Siam said that nobody suggested to stop the publication of bulletin but it had been requested to bring improvement by including the events done by the Committees like seminars etc.

Participants	The President, Mr. Wahub Jahangir, Mr. Amer Majeed Sheikh, Mr. Afzaal Bhatti, Mr. Naeem Yousaf, Mr. Muhammad Shahbaz Saim, Mr. Saleem Akhtar Bhutta, Mr. Adnan Yousaf, Miss Lubna Tubsim, Mr. Awais Ahmed, Secretary General and Mr. Abdul Rauf
Approval	Approved.

26. Point discussed.	Approval of minutes of Meeting of Departmental Committee on Membership/Bye-Laws held on February 25, 2023.
Approval	Approved.

Any Other Point:

27. The President said that a Block consisting of Membership & Visa Section, Cash Counter, Attestation Counter, Khud Kafalat Rozgar Trust and Government Departments Help Desk in the basement of this Chamber had been renovated with the approval of the house. He proposed to dedicate the block with the name of “Mr. Riaz Ud Din Sheikh Block”.

The house unanimously approved the proposal of the President to dedicate the Block with the name of “Mr. Riaz Ud Din Sheikh Block”, in recognition of his meritorious services and dynamic leadership to develop and shape up the Sialkot Chamber as one of the best Chambers in Pakistan by uniting the business community under the umbrella of the Chamber that has resulted into unprecedented development projects turning Sialkot Chamber as a role model in the country eulogized, praised and appreciated by all.

Mr. Adnan Yousaf appreciated the President to complete State of the Art renovation work of the Block in a very limited time. He suggested that a few lines of introduction should also be mentioned. Moreover, a name plate of Mr. Abdul Ghafoor Malik should also be placed who had completed a wonderful work of the block under his supervision.

28. Mr. Naeem Yousaf said that he applied Schengen visa in the German Embassy along with his Son who was also the Partner of the Firm to Exhibit at IDS Exhibition in Germany but their visas were refused. All required documents were attached with the applications. He said that the visa applications of other prominent & leading members companies like Forward Sports etc., had also been refused. He requested the President to take up the matter with the concerned of the Embassy for grant of visas.

Mr. Wahub Jahangir replied that the matter was already in the notice of this Chamber and it had been raised with all concerned forums. He said that the President held a meeting with the MOFA' Head last Friday, wherein the issue of visa refusal cases of the members was discussed, in details, and it was requested to them to take up the matter with the Embassy and resolve it. It was the third meeting. It had also been requested to the MOFA to arrange Chamber's meeting with the Embassies including Germany, Canada & Italy to discuss the issues of the members and in case, the Embassies had changed their policies, it could be conveyed to members to follow it.

The MOFA further requested to the Embassies which they agreed for meeting with this Chamber with the condition that the representatives of MOFA would also be present in the meeting. The Embassies suggested to the MOFA to get the details of the Cases from the Sialkot Chamber to discuss with them first, then with the Chamber. After that, a list comprising of the visa cases of Germany who met all requirements, issue of Italy Embassy Appointment and time of visa processing of Canada was prepared and shared with the MOFA. Moreover, a working paper of for solution had also been sent but till now the reply was not received.

The President said that he had requested for grant of visas to Exhibitors whose exhibition was going to start on March 12, 2023 and they had invested a big amount in the shape of stall fee etc., which they agreed.

Mr. Wahub Jahangir informed that it had also been requested to Embassies for the meeting.

28. Mr. Wahub Jahangir said that he had observed that Electricity Bills of this Chamber had increased a lot, due to increase in rates by the Government and high consumption as compared to last year. He said that electricity bill in winter of 12000 Units was PKR 690,000/- which would definitely increase in summer when consumption would go upto 16000 Units approx., as per last year's bill. He said that matter was discussed with the President and it was as suggested to install Solar System which he agreed and then he invited a company for survey. The Solar Company surveyed and suggested that 80KW solar system was suitable to fulfill the requirement of Sialkot Chamber in order to reduce the bill of electricity to minimum or zero. It would not be installed on the Chamber's roof but on elevator structure. On further discussion about increasing its capacity they suggested that it could be installed upto 100KW Solar System. The cost of invertors of 80-100 KW system would remain same but only the cost of panels would be increased. Mr. Wahub Jahangir shared the quotations of Sialkot and Lahore solar companies.

Company	Kw	Price	Kw	Price	Kw	Price
Sialkot	80KW	24,000,000	90KW	27,000,000	100KW	30,000,000
Lahore	80KW	15,600,000	90KW	17,095,000	100KW	18,727,000

He enquired from the house if solar system should be installed or not and if yes then to suggest about its capacity and the company from whom to get the system.

Mr. Naeem Yousaf appreciated Mr. Wahub Jahangir about working done by him and suggested that solar system should be installed. He suggested that calculation from the companies about pay back of the investment on Solar System should also be gotten.

Mr. Wahub Jahangir replied that 4 Years calculation had been made.

Mr. Adnan Yousaf endorsed the proposal of Mr. Wahub Jahangir. He said that there would definitely be the issue of quality due to big difference of the quotation amount of the two companies. He suggested that quality should be checked but suggested to prefer the companies of Lahore instead of Sialkot to install the solar system. He also suggested to install in parts like 25KW each to check the working instead of 100KW at once.

Mr. Afzal Bhatti also confirmed to install the solar system and also stated that he had the information of the solar system services companies from whom he had gotten the services which would be shared to contact them for getting information/quotation. He said that as per his information, the rates of the submitted quotations were high. The cost of a unit could be calculated of the quotations. He also suggested that two Solar Systems of 50KW should be installed instead of one 100KW.

Mr. Naeem Yousaf suggested that quotation should also be gotten from Sky Electric Company Lahore.

Mrs. Gulzaib Waqas Awan suggested that the technicalities of the Solar System should be checked before installation.

The President suggested that a Committee comprising of some members should be formed who could see its technicalities and submit their report for further action.

Mr. Muhammad Shahbaz Saim said that State Bank of Pakistan had initiated Solar System Financing in Pakistan. In this regard, SBP had organized a Seminar in this Chamber, therefore, information should be gotten from SBP to avail the facility of financing and hence, in this way the issue of funds would be managed.

Mr. Umair Nisar replied that the Government had stopped solar financing facility.

Mr. Amer Majeed Sheikh shared that he had gotten a quotation for his office under Solar Financing Pakistan of SBP which was not feasible due to very high markup rate. He said that Solar System should be installed, but before its installation, the availability of funds should also be checked so that other routine expense works were not affected by investing funds on the solar system.

Mr. Wahub Jahangir said that the rates to install the Solar System were not stable, it changed regularly, therefore, he suggested that decision should be taken as soon as possible before next EC Meeting, otherwise the rates of current quotation would not be compared with next month's rates due to high increase, on regular basis. He also agreed to the suggestion of Mr. Naeem Yousaf to get the quotation from Sky Electric Lahore, and Mr. Afzaal Bhatti and the suggestion of the President to form a Committee.

Mr. Saleem Akhtar Bhutta informed that the State Bank of Pakistan held meeting with the Bankers who offered them the rate of 3% while the banks were charging up to 8% by adding their charges, therefore SBP should be approached for Solar System.

The house unanimously approved to install Solar System in this Chamber by verifying rates, quality and availability of funds etc.

The President formed a Sub-Committee comprising Mr. Wahub Jahangir, Mr. Amer Majeed Sheikh, Mr. Afzaal Bhatti and Mr. Naeem Yousaf to look after the matter of installation of Solar System.

29. Mr. Amer Majeed Sheikh said that the Executive Committee had approved to develop a new documentary in its meeting held on December, 2022. In this regard, the developer M/s. Verit Media had requested an advance of PKR 200,000/- which required approval from the house to start work on it.

The members asked about the total cost, time limit and previous stats of the documentary.

Mr. Amer Majeed Sheikh replied that the total cost of the documentary would be Rs. 863,000/- and its time limit would be 11-12 minutes.

Mr. Naeem Yousaf suggested that a draft paper of the documentary should be prepared and shared with the house before developing it.

Mr. Amer Majeed Sheikh replied and suggested that a Sub-Committee comprising of 3-4 members should be formed to check and make amendments if required.

Mr. Adnan Yousaf said that the rate of the market to develop a documentary was Rs. 40-50 thousand per minute which should be checked. He suggested it should be negotiated with M/s. Verit Media on rates because it amounted to Rs. 85000/- per minutes, in case 10 minutes documentary was developed.

After thorough discussion the house formed a Sub-Committee comprising of Mr. Naeem Yousaf, Mr. Adnan Yousaf, Mr. Afzaal Bhatti and Mr. Zain Ul Abideen to look after the matters of documentary, as suggested by Mr. Amer Majeed Sheikh.

30. Mr. Amer Majeed Sheikh said that an application for reimbursement of medical bill of Rs. 122,000/- of wife of Mr. Mohsan Murtaza of cesarean operation had been received. As per the Human Resource Policy he was entitled.

The house unanimously approved to reimburse medical bill of Rs. 122,000/- to Mr. Mohsan Murtaza.

31. Mr. Azhar Iqbal Darr, Assistant Secretary informed the house that as per the instruction of the President, the installation work of new sound proof aluminum windows and doors of Chamber's Mosque had been completed. He said that the members had contributed an amount of PKR 650,000/- for the work whereas the expenses were Rs. 850,000/-, hence an amount of PKR 200,000/- was short. He shared following details of collected amount from members:-

- Mr. Abdul Ghafoor Malik 300,000/, Mr. Naeem Yousaf 100,000/-, Mr. Matloob Ahmed Qureshi 100,000/- Mr. Jawad Hussain 50,000/- Mr. Raja Saqib Ashfaq 50,000/- and Mian Fiaz Ahmed 50,000

He requested the house for the contribution to meet the short amount of PKR 200,000/-

The President said that there was also a need to repair the ablutions area which needed a big amount.

Following members announced their contribution:-

- Mr. Wahub Jahagir 100,000/- Mr. Naeem Yousaf 50,000/- Mr. Saleem Akhtar Bhutta 25,000, Mr. Zain Ul Abideen 25,000/- Mr. Afzaal Bhatti 50,000/- Mr. Toheed Nasir Mirza 50,000/- and Mr. Adnan Yousaf 200,000/-

32. The President sought approval from the house to form a new Departmental Committee on Manufacturing Technologies and Industrial Academia Linkage.

The house unanimously approved to form Departmental Committee on Manufacturing Technologies and Industrial Academia Linkage and authorized the President to nominate the Chairman of the Committee.

33. Mr. Afzaal Bhatti requested to make numbering on the minutes as per the agenda for easy access of minutes.

The President agreed and suggested the concerned staff to arrange it accordingly.

34. Mr. Amer Majeed Sheikh said that lot of papers were used to prepare Agenda for Executive Committee Members. He said that the rate of papers had increased a lot, therefore, suggested the members might arrange/purchase their iPads, at their own, to save the expense of papers. He said that in this way the record of minutes of meetings would also be available to them in soft form. He said that if the house approved, he would request the Accounts Department to calculate and share the cost of agenda incurred while preparation/printing of Agenda.

The President said that the hard copy of the minutes was required to keep in the record, as per rules.

Mr. Amer Majeed Sheikh replied that a set for the record could be printed to keep in record.

Mr. Afzaal Bhatti said that all members could afford to purchase their iPads but he would suggest that the Chamber should arrange and fix IPADS on the tables because every year new EC Members were elected.

34. Mr. Toheed Nasir Mirza proposed to hold the Executive Committee Meeting of month of May, 2023 at PAF Officers Mess in Nathiagali.

The President asked the Secretary General whether EC Meeting could be arranged outside the Sialkot Chamber premises or not.

The Secretary General replied that the meeting could be held but the members would have to bear the expenses by themselves.

Miss Lubna Tubsim said that it was a good idea but visit to other organizations, during the trip, should also be planned.

The President replied that it would be considered.

The house agreed on the suggestion of Mr. Toheed Nasir Mirza.

Mr. Wahub Jahangir said that the members would have to confirm their participation & submit the dues for the reservation of rooms for onward submission to hotel, after it would be confirmed by them.

The Meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

Minutes approved by the President, Sialkot Chamber of Commerce & Industry.