

# **THE SIALKOT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY**

## **MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE** **HELD ON MARCH 31, 2023**

**01.** A Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce & Industry was held on March 31, 2023 at 11:00 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. Jawad Hussain.

**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. Ahmed Imtiaz Khan -do-
- Mr. Awais Ahmed -do-
- Mrs. Gulzaib Waqas Awan -do-
- Mr. Jawad Hussain -do-
- Ms. Lubna Tubsim -do-
- Mr. Matloob Ahmed Qureshi -do-
- Mian Fiaz Ahmed -do-
- Mr. Muhammad Shahbaz -do-
- Mr. Naeem Yousaf -do-
- Mr. Peeter John -do-
- Mr. Shoaib Imtiaz -do-
- Mr. Zain Ul Abideen -do-

**05. Leave of Absence**

- Mr. Choudhry Jahangir Rashid -Member-
- Mian Imran Akbar -do-
- Mr. Toheed Nasir -do-

**06. Members who could not attend the meeting**

- Mr. Saleem Akhtar Bhutta -do-
- Mr. Saqib Ashfaq -do-

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

- Mr. Pervaiz Ahmed Khan, Former Vice President SCCI.
- Mian Akhtar of M/s. Spange Intl.
- Wife of Late Mr. Ashraf Nizami of M/s. Rustam And Co.

<b>08. Point discussed.</b>	Approval of minutes of meeting of the Executive Committee held on February 27, 2023.
<b>Approval</b>	Approved.

<b>09. Point discussed.</b>	Approval of Statement of Accounts for the month of February 2023.
<b>Discussion:</b>	
Mr. Naeem Yousaf inquired about details of miscellaneous expenses of Rs. 890,243/- as mentioned in the head of expenditure.	
Mr. Amer Rashid Wyne replied that the details were mentioned on Page # 11 Point 26.1.	
Miss Lubna Tubsim asked whether the Chamber's Employees had been insured by insurance policy or not and if not, why they had not been insured. She said that Insurance head was shown blank in the Expenditure head of the Accounts Statement. She suggested that all Employees of this Chamber should be covered under insurance policy.	
Mr. Amer Rashid Wyne replied that the blank insurance head was related to the Assets of this Chamber while the SCCI's staff were covered by Group Insurance which could be checked in the head of Staff Salary.	
<b>Participants</b>	Mr. Naeem Yousaf, Miss Lubna Tubsim and Mr. Amer Rashid Wyne.
<b>Approval</b>	Approved.

<b>10. Point discussed.</b>	Approval of minutes of meeting of the Departmental Committee on Sports Wears/Bags held on March 22, 2023.
<b>Approval</b>	Approved.

<b>11. Point discussed.</b>	Approval of minutes of meeting of a Joint meeting of Trade Bodies of Sialkot held on Feb 27, 2023.
<b>Discussion:</b>	
Miss Lubna Tubsim suggested that briefing might be give on the Minutes of Meetings before approval so that the members knew about the agenda/discussions held in the meeting.	
The Secretary General replied that the purpose to note the minutes was that the members could study the discussions held in meeting.	
Miss Lubna Tubsim said that she had studied the minutes but would request to brief the minutes again in EC Meeting before approval.	
Mr. Ahmed Imtiaz Khan suggested that Chairmen of Departmental/Project Committee should be invited in EC Meetings to brief their minutes of meetings which were put up in Executive Committee Meetings.	
The President replied that the Chairmen were invited in the meeting and if they did not attend, so what he could do.	
Mr. Ahmed Imtiaz Khan replied that they should be instructed to strictly attend the meetings.	
Mr. Wahub Jahangir replied that the President could not instruct strictly to its Executive Committee Members, then how could he instruct the Chairmen.	
The President expressed that majority of the Executive Committee Members did not attend the meetings held in this Chamber, whereas they participated	

actively in the meetings held in Associations which he had seen in the pictures. He would bring on record the issue of lack of attendance of EC Members, as he discussed in last EC Meeting. He said that Mr. Raja Saqib Ashfaq and Mr. Muhammad Shahbaz Saim were the only EC Members who attended the meeting held yesterday.

Miss Lubni Tabasim shared that she came to attend two different meetings, one in which the MOU was to be signed for which she waited for one and a half hours in the Auditorium and later came to know that the MOU had been signed in the President's room while the other meeting was postponed by the guests.

The President expressed his regrets and replied that as per the practice, the MOUs were signed in the Office of the President. It was not informed to him about her presence in the hall for which he took notice on it. He said that it had been circulated and requested to all the EC Members about the meeting with Customs held yesterday but only two members attended. Even the attendance of EC Members in the meetings with Ambassadors was very low.

Mr. Naeem Yousaf said that main reason for non-attendance of the members was that sometimes the meeting did not start on time due to the late arrival of the guests. In one such incident another meeting started during the main meeting, in the President's room, in which the Executive Committee members were not allowed to enter. The staff sitting outside the office of the President stopped him by saying that a meeting was going on. That was quite insulting for the EC Members. Secondly, if they sit in the offices of SVP & VP to wait for the meetings, the lower staff did not entertain them in the absence of SVP & VP. He requested the President not to hold any other meeting in between the scheduled meeting and in case it was very important to hold meeting, the Executive Members should be informed and allowed to sit in the meeting.

The President in reply said that Mr. Naeem Yousaf had attended most of the meetings and he always welcomed him, whenever he came to his office, therefore, he could not object. Secondly, Mr. Ahmed Imtiaz Khan came to his Office, number of times, during last couple of days but did not attend the meetings. He said that in case of any meeting in President Room, the offices of the SVP and VP were opened where EC members could sit.

Mr. Naeem Yousaf said that staff had stopped him to enter in the room by saying that meeting was going on and if they had been instructed, then how he could enter the room.

The President replied that he would instruct the staff never to stop the EC Members to enter his room but according to him it was not a strong excuse for the absence in meetings because most of EC Members were absent in the meetings. He was not discussing about Mr. Naeem Yousaf because his attendance was very good as compared to other members. Mian Fiaz Ahmed also attended the meetings regularly. Mr. Zain Ul Abideen was very active in Association's meetings but did not attend the meetings held in this Chamber, even after request on telephone.

Mr. Adnan Yousaf endorsed Mr. Naeem Yousaf and said that it was the main reason that the EC members did not attend the meetings. He hoped that the President would not have passed, any such instructions, but the staff stooped them to enter in President's room.

The President replied that how the staff could stop the EC Members to enter in his room. He assured that he would instruct the staff not to stop EC Members. He said that in case the EC Members entered the room, during the meeting and

considered that the meeting was not related to him, he should not sit there rather move to the SVP/VP's room. The President said that it was not appropriate to make it an excuse for absence in meetings but could be discussed.

Mr. Adnan Yousaf said that the EC Members had considered that they were not allowed to enter in President's room.

The President replied that it was assumed by them which should not be considered as such.

Mr. Adnan Yousuf said that during the last tenure, the Executive Committee Members could join any meeting whether it was with Sheikh Sahib or the Ambassador while it was not so during this tenure due to which the doubts had been created.

Mr. Wahub Jahangir said that he was surprised that the members had targeted the Office of the President on the question of their absence in the meetings. He said that the President had not passed any instructions to staff to stop the EC Members to enter during the meeting. However, it had been instructed that they should stop unknown persons to enter, during the meetings but not the EC Members. He said that in case the EC Members were stopped to enter in the President's room by the Staff, the Offices of the SVP and VP were available where they were always warmly welcomed and taken care with best of hospitality. He requested the house that it should ignore, if any incident occurred from staff to stop them.

Mr. Naeem Yusuf said that his point was that if a meeting had been called and the guests were late for some reason, then any other meeting should not be held, at the same time, as Office Bearers got busy in other meeting.

Mr. Muhammad Shahbaz Saim endorsed the viewpoints of Mr. Naeem Yousaf and Mr. Adnan Yousaf and said that it had become a routine practice due to which the EC Members did not attend the meetings. He complained that the President gave importance to Women Chamber and other members in the photo session instead of the Executive Committee Members and sidelined them which was insulting for them. He requested the President that the Executive Committee Members to consider EC members as his team to give them importance.

The President replied that he had seen Mr. Muhammad Shahbaz Saim many times with his friends having tea and biscuits in the retiring room, situated alongside President office and never objected on it.

Mr. Muhammad Shahbaz Saim said that now his guests did not come.

The President replied that they had stopped to come in Ramzan but before that they regularly came. He further said that the visitors who came were unknown and had no concern with this Chamber. They spoke very loudly and even once he himself went and stopped them from speaking loudly.

Mr. Muhammad Shahbaz Saim replied that they were the members of this Chamber.

The President asked if they were members of this Chamber, then which meeting was taking place.

Mr. Muhammad Shahbaz Saim replied that the issues of fees, membership etc., were discussed.

The President asked then how could he say that the EC Members were not allowed to sit in the office

The President questioned how could anyone say that Executive Members were not allowed to sit in his office. The retiring room was used by Mr. Shahbaz.

Mr. Muhammad Shahbaz Saim replied that he did not occupy the retiring room. He said that the President probably did not want EC members to sit in the said room and that things are taken personally.

The President replied that he did not take it personally but the issue was that even after committing something you did not accept it which was not appropriate.

Mr. Muhammad Shahbaz Saim said that he had already requested, in an Executive Committee Meeting, for the separate room for the EC Member to sit and discuss the issues with members relating to their Departmental Committees.

Mr. Amer Majeed Sheikh said that he and Wahab Jahangir also avoided entering into the President's room, if the President had a meeting with someone because it created an interruption which was also against etiquettes to disturb meetings. Secondly, as concerned to the Photo, he knew very well that how the members pushed to come forward for photos which was against the etiquettes. He added that he himself gave the space to members to come forward to participate in photo session.

Mr. Muhammad Shahbaz Saim said that he had discussed about the photo taken in the meeting hall with Ambassadors

Mr. Amer Majeed Sheikh replied that you had discussed about the group photo.

Mr. Muhammad Shahbaz Saim said that he had discussed about the photos taken in the meeting hall with Ambassadors of other members by inviting them instead of EC Members. Secondly, as concerned to sitting in the retiring room, it was not forbidden to sit there. The room was for praying, meeting people and eating. He added that he was the Executive Committee member and he should not be degraded. He had been elected by getting votes from the member, therefore, they came to him for their issues.

Mr. Amer Majeed Sheikh objected on the statement of Mr. Muhammad Shahbaz Saim about getting vote by him. He said that he already explained to him that the members gave votes to the Etihad Founder Group and not to any individual. He asked Mr. Muhammad Shahbaz Saim to resign and contest the election in an individual capacity and see how many votes he could get.

Mr. Muhammad Shahbaz Saim replied that he knew that he had been elected on the platform of Itihad Founder Group and he was part of their team, therefore they had to work for the members and resolve their issues brought in his notice.

The President said that Mr. Muhammad Shahbaz had discussed about the importance given to women entrepreneurs for photos with Ambassadors. He said there were a few Women Entrepreneurs, therefore, why they should not be included in the photo session with dignitaries that created soft and good image of the Chamber among guests.

Mr. Muhammad Shahbaz Saim replied that what would happen, if the Executive Members were also asked to join photo session?

<p>The President said that he always invited EC Members who were present.</p> <p>Mr. Muhammad Shahbaz Saim stated that the President was always President.</p> <p>The President agreed and said that he had stopped Mr. Muhammad Shahbaz twice because of his discourtesy on the day he pulled him over, during an Ambassador's visit. He added that he asked Mr. Shahbaz if he did not know that it was the place of the President which he replied that he did not see the President. He should know that the President's place in the picture was on the right side.</p>	
<b>Participants</b>	The President, Mr. Wahub Jahangir, Mr. Amer Majeed Sheikh, Mr. Adnan Yousaf, Mr. Naeem Yousaf, Mr. Ahmed Imtiaz Khan, Mr. Muhammad Shahbaz Siam, Miss. Lubna Tubsim and Secretary General.
<b>Approval</b>	Approved.

<b>12. Point discussed.</b>	Approval of minutes of meeting with the Eleventh Mid-Career Foreign Trainee Diplomats from Foreign Service Academy, MOFA-Isb. held on March 06, 2023.
<p><b>Discussion:</b></p> <p>Mr. Wahub Jahangir said that except Mr. Peeter Joohn, no other Executive Committee Member attended this meeting, although, he had personally requested the members to attend the meeting because the President was not available due to a meeting in Lahore. The guests asked questions for 2-3 hours which he replied. He said that EC Members claimed that they were the team of Office Bearers but on the other hand whenever they were invited in the meetings, they did not come.</p> <p>Mr. Muhammad Shahbaz Saim replied that EC Members always supported the Office Bearers. The Office Bearers should change their attitude and check why the EC Members did not attend the meetings.</p> <p>Mr. Wahub Jahangir asked Mr. Muhammad Shahbaz Saim to explain as why the member did not attend this meeting. He requested Mr. Peeter John to share that how many members were present in the meeting and what kind of question were asked by guests.</p> <p>Mr. Peeter John informed that it was very uncomfortable situation due to poor attendance of the members. He said that being EC Members, he felt that there should be a good gathering especially the EC Members because the guests asked questions relating to Sialkot Industry. There was also issue of the reputation of Sialkot Chamber.</p> <p>Mr. Amer Majeed Sheikh said that there were 30-35 guests who asked 16-17 different questions which was replied by him, Mr. Wahub Jahangir and Mr. Muhammad Sarfraz Butt.</p>	
<b>Participants</b>	Mr. Wahub Jahangir, Mr. Amer Majeed Sheikh, Mr. Muhammad Shahbaz Saim and Mr. Peeter John.
<b>Approval</b>	Approved.

<b>13. Point discussed.</b>	Approval of Report of meeting with Maj Gen M. Aneeq Ur Rehman Malik HI (M) Director General, Anti-Narcotics Force held on March 06, 2023.
<b>Approval</b>	Approved.

<b>14. Point discussed.</b>	Approval of minutes of meeting with H.E. Mr. Georg Steiner, Ambassador of Switzerland to Pakistan held on March 07, 2023.
<b>Approval</b>	Approved.

<b>15. Point discussed.</b>	Approval of Report of meeting of the Departmental Committee on Media held on March 07, 2023.
<b>Discussion:</b> Mr. Awais Ahmed said that the meeting was convened to discuss about media coverage of We-Exhibit 2023 organized by the Women Chamber. The print & electronic media representatives were invited in the meeting. Dr. Mariam Nouman, President WCCIS briefed about the objective of the exhibition. She requested the media for maximum coverage which they fully supported and covered the event. Mr. Awais Ahmed informed that he had received an appreciation letter along with news clips of the coverage of event from Women Chamber in support of the Committee.	
The President requested that the representatives of Associated Press of Pakistan should also be invited in future.	
<b>Participants</b>	The President and Mr. Awais Ahmed
<b>Approval</b>	Approved.

<b>16. Point discussed.</b>	Approval of Report of meeting with Officers of 36 <sup>th</sup> Mid-Career Management Course, from the National Institute of Management, Islamabad held on March 08, 2023.
<b>Approval</b>	Approved.

<b>17. Point discussed.</b>	Approval of minutes of meeting with Honorable Khawaja M. Asif, Federal Minister for Defence and Honorable Syed Naveed Qamar, Federal Minister for Commerce held on March 15, 2023.
<b>Discussion.</b> The house appreciated the President to organize a successful meeting with Federal Ministers.  Mr. Wahub Jahangir asked about any update on withdrawal of notification regarding realization of overdue payments.  The President replied that today was the last date to wait because Khawaja M. Asif had confirmed that it would be withdrawn by March 24, while the Governor State Bank said that it would be withdrawn within March.	
<b>Participants</b>	The President, and Mr. Wahub Jahangir.
<b>Approval</b>	Approved

<b>18. Point discussed.</b>	Approval of Report of a Program to pay Tribute to Pak Army Shuhadas held at Rachna Polo & Country Club on March 16, 2023.
<b>Approval</b>	Approved.

<b>19. Point discussed.</b>	Approval of minutes of meeting of the Departmental Committee on Martial Arts, MMA/Fitness held on March 20, 2023.
<b>Discussion :</b> Mr. Peter John said that he had attended the meeting and as member of the Committee he had observed that some incidents occurred in the meeting were not in the favor of the members and against decorum of the meeting. He said	

that the respect and honour of the Chairman of the Committee should be taken care of. He said that Mr. Ahmed Imtiaz Khan Chaired the meeting, therefore, requested him to brief on it.

Mr. Ahmed Imtiaz Khan said that the meeting was called to discuss the issue of skilled workforce and demand-driven courses of the Industry of Sialkot with Heads of TEVTA and Vocational Training Institutes of Sialkot. It was a very good meeting wherein the Heads of institutes briefly explained their working and confirmed that how they could support to resolve the issue of skill force. Mr. Naeem Sohail, Principal PVTC Shahbpura shared the training courses in detail and also informed that the duration of one course was six months. They provided Rs. 500 stipend to the trainees from Zakat Fund which was a point of concern, hence, another meeting had been planned to deliberate on it and take decision for bringing improvement.

As concerned to the point of Mr. Peeter John, Mr. Ahmed informed that one of the members of the Committee preferred to support the head of institutions instead of Chairman of the Committee on the questions asked to the guests. On the question of shortage of skilled labour, the same person complained said to him that he had criticized the institutes; secondly, he said that you should fulfill your attendance in the meeting. Mr. Ahmed said that he did not note it in the minutes because the point was not so important, as Mr. John had requested so he explained it.

The President asked about the insulting factor in above discussion.

Mr. Ahmed Imtiaz Khan said that issue of attendance should not have been discussed in the presence of guests and that institutes were criticized.

Mr. Peter John said that the choice of words and tone were very important in the way you speak. The way of expressing the things was insulting in the presence of guests. Asking as where were your EC Members/Members was insulting and saying that first call your members and then invite the guests was objectionable.

Miss Lubna Tubsim wondered about mutual understanding of Executive Committee Members about each other's working, skill and services and other characteristics. She asked as how much they supported each other. She suggested that they should interact and sit together to discuss about their working & skills so that they might perform better on the issues of the Chamber as well as for the members. Secondly, she said that it was the responsibility of the Executive Committee Members to attend the meetings in which they were invited. It was not only the responsibility of the Office Bearers to attend the meetings.

<b>Participants</b>	The President, Mr. Peter John, Mr. Ahmed Imtiaz Khan and Miss Lubna Tubsim.
<b>Approval</b>	Approved.

<b>20. Point discussed.</b>	Approval of Report of a Program on World Water Day held on March 20, 2023.
<b>Approval</b>	Approved.

<b>21. Point discussed.</b>	Approval of minutes of meeting of the Departmental Committee on Human Resource held on March 27, 2023..
<b>Approval</b>	Approved.



<b>22. Point discussed.</b>	Approval of minutes of meeting of the Departmental Committee on Education/Universities held on March 27, 2023
<b>Approval</b>	Approved.

<b>23. Point discussed.</b>	Approval of minutes of meeting of the Departmental Committee on Membership/Bye-Laws going to be held on March 29, 2023.
<b>Approval</b>	Approved.

**Any Other Point:**

**24.** Miss Lubna Tubsim, on behalf of the Women Chamber thanked the President for his maximum support by all means to organize We-Exhibit 2023. She said that it was a dream of Women Chamber which came true with the support, encouragement and the vision of the President. She also thanked all the members who played their positive role to make it successful. She said that it was a big achievement which was realized under the supervision of the President.

Miss Lubna Tubsim invited the Office Bearers and the Executive Committee Members on fundraising event of SKMT Hospital scheduled to be held on Sunday March 02, 202. She requested the members to donate any amount of their choice for such a noble cause. She offered that the members could submit donation to her Secretary, if they could not attend the event. The receipts of donation would be issued.

The President replied that Mr. Zain Ul Hassan Shabbir had sent him invitation personally.

Mrs. Gulzaib Waqas Awan thanked the President and said that it was the support & role of this Chamber for which the WRC and Women Chamber was established & sustained. She said that without the support of the EC they could not survive. She said that Women Chamber had a limited staff, therefore, requested the President to nominate a person who could see Women Chamber's Accounts on weekly basis.

The President nominated Mr. Amer Rashid Wyne, Accounts Manager to see the account of Women Chamber as requested by Mrs. Gulzaib Waqas Awan.

Mrs. Gulzaib Waqas Awan requested to shift the WRC of Sialkot Chamber in the premises of Women Chamber of Commerce for support in the working.

The Secretary General replied that it was not feasible due to the reason that both were different entities.

Mrs. Gulzaib Waqas Awan thanked the President to give respect in taking pictures.

The President said that he always encouraged Women to include them pictures for a soft image of this Chamber. He said that he didn't understand why the members had objected on it.

Mrs. Gulzaib Waqas Awan said that it would be a respect of this Chamber to empower the Women Entrepreneurs.

Mr. Naeem Yousaf informed the President that a group photo of the visit of Federal Ministers Khawaja Muhammad Asif and Mr. Naveed Qamar was circulated on social media wherein the President was standing, in the second row, behind the guests. The picture became a joke on Social Media which he did not feel good. He said that it was the prerogative of the President to stand in front line for picture, therefore, he should instruct the concern staff to make arrangements before taking picture.

Mian Fiaz Ahmed said that he got disappointed by the comments of the members regarding the protocol of President's Office. He said that the office of Sialkot Chamber's President was most honorable, therefore, instead of complain, they should feel proud and suggest to make further improvement. Secondly, the meetings were held in the Auditorium but not the President's Office. He said that the members should appreciate the President of his efforts for awarding Sitara e Imtiaz to the Group Leader on March 23, 2023.

**25.** Mr. Ahmed Imtiaz Ahmed Khan and Mr. Naeem Yousaf said that they also attended the meeting held with the Eleven Mid-Career Foreign Trainee Diplomats from Foreign Service Academy.

**26.** Mr. Adnan Yousaf suggested that the place for the Office Bearers and the Guests could be reserved by mentioning a sign where the group picture was taken to avoid any such inconvenience. Secondly, Mr. Adnan Yousaf appreciated the President on his successful efforts to organize We-Exhibit 2023 of Women Chamber. He suggested that it should be continued and organized, at least, twice in a year because it would become a landmark for the empowerment of women entrepreneurs in Sialkot.

The President Informed that he had taken up the issue of funding for WE-Exhibit with the Minister of Commerce and expressed hope of positive outcome.

Mr. Adnan Yousaf appreciated the President of his efforts made in awarding the "**Sitara-e-Imtiaz**" to **Mr. Riaz Ud Din Sheikh**. He requested the house for clapping in the honour of the President.

The President replied that it was his duty to respect and recognize the services of Mr. Riaz Ud Din Sheikh as leader of the business community. He said that it was the effort of his Members, Office Bearers and Chamber staff and honour was to be given to Almighty Allah. He said that he tried to include the name in Award List of March 23, 2023 and Almighty be thanked that he succeeded.

Mr. Muhammad Shahbaz Saim endorsed Mr. Adnan Yousaf and also appreciated the President for his effort to make it successful in a very short time.

**27.** The President mention following:-

1. It had been planned to continue the necessary construction work of Chamber's building, extension of Dinning Area, installation of Solar System, Building white wash, and repair & Maintenance which required approval from the house. The estimated required budget was 30-40 (M) to complete the work. He said that previously an amount of Rs 20 (M) was approved which had been spent.

**The house unanimously approved PKR 30-40(M) for the construction work as requested by the President.**

2. An application for the grant of PKR 500,000/- was received of kidney patient Mr. Saif Ali, for his transplant. He said that Mr. Fazal Jillani had also donated PKR 500,000/- personally. Moreover, other organizations had also donated, so he desired to pay PKR 500,000/- from this Chamber which required approval from the house.

The house unanimously approved PRK 500,000/- for the donation to Mr. Saif Ali.

3. A list had been received from Child Protection Bureau for orphan children for the provision of 70-pillow, 70-top sheets, 70-khase, 70-bed sheets, 50-mattresses, 70-pent shirts for Eid, 70- fancy Shalwar Kameez. The estimated cost for the purchase of items could be Rs. 4-5 Lac. He requested the house for the approval of said amount so that it might be purchased and provided to Child Protection Bureau.

The house unanimously approved PKR 500,000/- for the purchase of goods as requested by Child Protection Bureau.

4. An application for the grant of PKR 100,000/- was received from the Syed Ali Naqi , Driver of Child & Social Development Organization for medical treatment of his wife. .

The house unanimously approved PKR 100,000/- for Syed Ali Naqi, as he had requested.

5. The President said that a list of 70 convicted prisoners in Sialkot Jail who had completed their sentence but could not be released due to non-payment of a fine had been received. As per the list majority of the prisoners were women. The total amount of a fine become PKR 915,000/-. He requested the members to donate from Zakat/charity because he desired to give at least Rs. five to six lakh so that the prisoners could be release by paying fine and celebrate Eid with their families at home.

Mr. Naeem Yousaf suggested that it could be distributed equally among all the Executive Committee Members to collect the amount.

The President announced PKR 200,000/- .

Mr. Amer Majeed Sheikh, Mr. Naeem Yousaf and Mr. Shoiab Imtiaz announced PKR 50,000/- each.

Mian Fiaz Ahmed suggested that Rs. 50,000/- could be contributed from each member.

Mr. Amer Mjaeed Sheikh said that it should not be made binding but suggested that Members should give donation as per the desire which was agreed by the house.

The President requested the member to submit donations before Monday, so that it could be paid as per the procedure during the visit of IG Jail on Monday.

6. The President said that Mr. Amer Rashid Wyne had requested for PKR 4.5 (M) for construction of house from which 2.5 had been approved. He would pay back fifty thousand rupees per month from his salary and also bonus would be paid back. Hence, he would pay back PKR 10 Lac annually. He had started construction work and required remaining PKR 2(M) to complete the work, therefore, he had again requested.

The house unanimously approved PKR 2(M) of loan of Mr. Amer Rashid Wyne, as he had requested.

**28.** Mr. Ahmed Imtiaz Khan requested to upgrade Chamber's Library.

The President replied positively and promised that if he got some time, he would try his best to complete the work of entire building including the women's Chamber, step by step. The rock shield paint work was being done of the building from a well-known company.

- 29.** Mr. Peter John appreciated and acknowledged the efforts done by President to :-
- i) Organizing WE Exhibit 23 of Women Chamber
  - ii) Construction and dedicate the Block with the name of "Mr. Riaz Ud Din Sheikh Block",
  - iii) Award of Sitara-e-Imtiaz to Mr. Riaz Ud Din Sheikh

He said that it was praiseworthy for all of them but the thing which he had felt was the doubts discussed by the members in Executive Committee Meeting. He said that anybody could have complaints, so a complaint/suggestion box could be kept in this Chamber only for the EC Member to resolve their issues internally rather than discussing in Executive Committee meeting.

The President replied that it was a good suggestion but in democracy all could speak and discuss to clear doubts about each other but said that end of the meeting was on a good and positive note.

Mr. Amir Majeed Shaikh said that all EC Members were like a family, so they should not be so worry to need a suggestion box to send their complaints. He said that if any member had the complaint, he/she should come in Offices of Office Bearers to sit with them and discuss the issue which hopefully would be resolved within no time.

Miss Lubna Tabsum supported the proposal of Mr. Amir Majeed Sheikh and said that the Chamber and Officials belong to them but there was a need to develop a sense of belonging. Secondly, as concerned to the decorum of the meeting, the court of law also had decorum but it could not be imagined about the debates made in Court room. Anyhow, the discussions had ended on a good note, as discussed by the President.

Mr. Peter Johan appreciated it but said that in fact it was just the saying while internally the things were not like so, therefore he personally feel offended on it. He said that it would be wonderful, if the issues were cleared on the table as per the saying which was the obligation of the house, the matters should be cleared here but unfortunately it would not so. He also discussed on proposal of Mr. Adnan Yousaf to reserve the place of Office Bearers with a sign. He said that it was not a way to reserve the space of Office Bearers by sign at Executive Committee Members level. He said all the EC Members were well educated and sensible, so that they should know about their place to stand in Group Picture. Anyhow, in future, he hoped that no one would push any other to come forward in the picture. Mr. Peter John appreciated the Secretariat to attach the tags with numbering on the minutes as per the agenda for easy studying of minutes.

The President said that during the visit of H.E. Ambassador of Azerbaijan, he kept him in his Office for one hour due to non-attendance of EC Members. Only 3-4 EC Members attended the meeting. As soon as the members gathered, he brought the Ambassador in the Auditorium who first of all handed over his mobile to his Secretary to take the pictures. The President said that the Auditorium was also the part of this Chamber and was very prestigious. He felt proud to bring the guests in the Auditorium for meeting but it be done, if the members were present, at least the Executive Committee members should be present.

**30.** Mr. Wahub Jahangir said that the Executive Committee, in its previous meeting had approved to install upto 100KW Solar System. In this regard, a Sub-Committee comprising of him, Mr. Amer Majeed Sheikh, Mr. Adnan Yousaf and Mr. Afzaal Bhatti had been formed to work on it. The Committee had invited quotations from different companies. The total requirement of the Chamber was 80-85KW system to make zero bill but it had been decided to install it in two phases. In 1<sup>st</sup> phase it had been planned to install 45KW system. He said that the advance payment had been made and hopefully the 1<sup>st</sup> phase installation would be completed in one month.

Mr. Wahub Jahangir said that as the members had discussed to get familiar with each other and sit together, he had arranged an Iftar Dinner in honour of Mr. Riaz Ud Din Sheikh at Grandiose on Monday. He had sent the invitation to all members but would again request to attend the program. He said that no doubt, the President deserved the appreciation to award Mr. Riaz ud Din Sheikh but as well as the EC

Members also deserved it because they were the part of the history. The Executive Committee Members had elected the Office Bearers who made decisions on their behalf. He said that it was the dinner hosting by Executive Committee in the honour of Mr. Riaz Ud Din Sheikh and Khawaja Masud Akhtar, therefore, requested them to come and host it.

**31.** Mrs. Gulzaib Waqas Awan said that the EC Members were like a family and had complaints with each other which could be discussed here and resolved amicably. It should be addressed on a good note.

**32.** Mr. Muhammad Shahbaz Saim said that the members were facing the issue of the appointment of German Embassy and Visa refusal. He said that number of members had approached him in this regard. He requested the President to instruct the focal person appointed in Islamabad to play her active role in this regard. He said that Mr. Wahub Jahangir had also circulated a message on issue of the appointment & visa. The members had varied comments on the message which he had come to know. He requested to work on it because Germany was the main market of the Sialkot Industry. He added to brief about any further update so that he might be well informed and reply the members accordingly.

Mr. Wahub Jahangir replied that as concerned to circulation of his message, he had already informed him that nothing had been mentioned which could be questioned. He said that it had only been mentioned to apply well before time of visit so that the members could attend the foreign visits programs, as per their plan and avoid any inconvenience. The German Visa refusal was not faced only by the applicants of Sialkot but it was faced by the applicants from all over Pakistan. He said that as per the bilateral trade between Pakistan & Germany, the Pakistan exports number of items to Germany while Germany exports Electric Vehicles to Pakistan besides other products. He said that 178 BMW cars and other vehicles manufactured in Germany on the order from Pakistan but the banks declined to issue Letters of Credit for their import. Therefore, the owners of companies approached the German Ambassador in Islamabad who further requested the concerned Ministries of Pakistan but his request could not be entertained under the current situation of the Economy of Pakistan. Due to which an issue had been created, therefore, the Embassy was also not entertaining the visa applications of the applicants all over Pakistan who had applied visa in German Embassy. He said that the focal person, appointed in Islamabad, was the employee of this Chamber. She had no influence in any Embassy but could request on behalf of this Chamber. The Chamber had even directly approached the Germany Embassy, MOFA and MOC. Moreover, Miss Hina Rabbani Khar had requested personally to the German Ambassador but he did not give positive reply. He said that it had become the issue of the Country but not only Sialkot. As an alternate, Mr. President held a meeting with the Ambassadors of Switzerland and Denmark wherein the issue of grant of visa from German Embassy had been discussed. They assured that they would issue the visa to the applicants early who would fulfill the requirements as per their required documents. He said that as concerned to facilitate the members, he had even made phone calls in the Germany Embassy.

Mr. Muhammad Shahbza Saim asked about time of visa processing of Canada.

Mr. Wahub Jahagnir replied that the issue of time of visa processing of Canada was prepared and shared with the MOFA. He informed that as per his personal experience, he had been granted business visa with 3-4 weeks. He had not been approached from anyone, therefore, he had evaluated that perhaps the business visa applied on the invitation of foreign buyer was granting early, otherwise, the timing of the issues of visa mentioned on Embassy's page was 272 days.

**33.** Mr. Amer Majeed Sheikh said that Mr. Imran, Naib Qasid had requested for the purchase of New Motorcycle Honda CD 70. He said that if the house allowed it could be purchase from Zakat Fund.

Mrs. Gulzaib Waqas Awan said that he had also discussed with her and also shared his family issues, therefore it should be approved.

The house unanimously approved to purchase a Honda CD 70 Motorbike for Mr. Imran, Naib Qasid from Zakat Fund.

**34.** The President shared that it was a routine that he attended telephonic calls starting from eight o'clock in the morning regarding Chamber's related issue which were received mostly from Islamabad. He noted it and referred to the concerned staff of the Chamber to proceed further after reaching the Chamber. He added that sometimes an important meeting was going in process in his Office due to which he could not pay attention to the Executive Committee Members, so the members should realize it. It was not appropriate to make it a complaint. The members should understand the he worked 15-16 hours daily.

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

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