



Fortnightly Bulletin

# THE SIALKOT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

ایوان صنعت و تجارت سیالکوٹ

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معزز اراکین چیمبر!

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

ملک میں نئی سرمایہ کاری اور صنعتی یونٹس کے قیام کیلئے درکار مختلف NOCs کا اجراء سرمایہ کاروں / صنعت کاروں کیلئے ایک انتہائی مشکل امر تھا، NOCs کے حصول کیلئے بزنس کمیونٹی کو کئی ایک وفاقی و صوبائی محکمہ جات کے مہینوں چکر کاٹنے پڑتے تھے۔ سیالکوٹ چیمبر آف کامرس اینڈ انڈسٹری کی ہمیشہ یہ کوشش رہی ہے کہ حکومت ملکی انڈسٹری کے فروغ اور کاروباری آسانیوں کے پیش نظر ملک بھر میں ون ونڈو آپریشن کے تحت یہ تمام سہولیات کی فراہمی کو یقینی بنائے۔

الحمد للہ! جیسا کہ آپ کے علم میں ہے کہ سیالکوٹ چیمبر کی خصوصی کاوشوں کی بدولت سیالکوٹ انوار کلب کے مقام پر بزنس فسیلیٹیشن سنٹر کا قیام عمل میں آچکا ہے۔ بلاشبہ بزنس کمیونٹی کی سہولت کیلئے پنجاب بھر میں فسیلیٹیشن سنٹر کا قیام حکومت پنجاب کا ایک انقلابی قدم ہے۔ سیالکوٹ میں قائم BFC کے قیام کا بنیادی مقصد سیالکوٹ کی بزنس کمیونٹی کو کاروبار سے متعلق مسائل و مشکلات کے فوری حل کیلئے ایک ہی چھت کے نیچے بزنس سے متعلق سہولیات فراہم کرنا ہے۔ BFC سیالکوٹ میں 29 کے قریب مختلف صوبائی و وفاقی محکمہ جات کے کاؤنٹرز قائم کئے جائیں گے، ابتداء میں صنعت و تجارت اور ایکسپورٹ سے متعلقہ جن محکمہ جات کے کاؤنٹرز قائم کئے جا چکے ہیں ان میں ماحولیات، شہری دفاع، جنگلات و انڈلڈ لائف اور فٹنیز، لائیو سٹاک، انڈسٹریز کامرس سرمایہ کاری اور skills ڈیولپمنٹ، پنجاب سال انڈسٹریز کارپوریشن، آکسائز، فوڈ اتھارٹی، PSW، ہائی ویز، GEPCO، اری گیشن، لوکل گورنمنٹ، ٹی ایم اے، پولیس، سوئی گیس اور محکمہ صحت کے کاؤنٹرز شامل ہیں۔

مزید براں بہت جلد ایف بی آر اور کسٹمز کے کاؤنٹرز بھی اس BFC میں قائم کر دیئے جائیں گے۔ اب بزنس کمیونٹی کو نئی سرمایہ کاری / پیداواری یونٹس کے قیام کے حصول کیلئے درکار 124 سے زائد NOCs جو پہلے لاہور سے جاری کئے جاتے تھے، اب یہ NOCs براہ راست 14 دن کے انتہائی کم وقت میں BFC سیالکوٹ سے جاری کئے جا رہے ہیں۔

معزز ممبران گرامی! سیالکوٹ چیمبر آف کامرس اینڈ انڈسٹری کی ہمیشہ یہ کوشش رہی ہے کہ اپنے ممبران و کاروباری حضرات کو بہتر سے بہتر سروسز کی بلاتاخیر فراہمی کو یقینی بنایا جائے۔ مجھے یہ چیز آپ کے ساتھ شیئر کرتے ہوئے خوشی محسوس ہو رہی ہے کہ اب چیمبر میں نئی فرم کی رجسٹریشن کے خواہشمند حضرات گھر بیٹھے باسانی چیمبر ویب سائٹ پر موجود ”Name Reservation Form“ لنک کی مدد سے اپنی نئی فرم کا نام reserve کروا سکتے ہیں۔ آپ کی سہولت کے پیش نظر فارم کو پر کرنے کے عملی طریقہ کا ایک تصویری مظاہرہ بھی لنک پر موجود ہے۔ مزید براں بہت جلد ممبران کی سہولت کے پیش نظر چیمبر سروسز کے عوض چارجز کی وصولی اور تجدید رکیت کیلئے بھی آن لائن پیمنٹ سسٹم متعارف کروایا جا رہا ہے تاکہ ممبران کے قیمتی وقت کو save کیا جاسکے۔

عبد الغفور ملک

صدر

ایوان صنعت و تجارت سیالکوٹ





# THE SIALKOT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

ایوان صنعت و تجارت سیالکوٹ



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## باتیں ایوان کی

دنیا بھر میں پھیلے مسلمانوں کو امت مسلمہ کہتے ہیں جو مختلف معاشروں کا مجموعہ ہے گو یہ مجموعہ ایک جسم کی طرح ہے مگر....  
”وَاعْتَصِمُوا بِحَبْلِ اللَّهِ جَمِيعًا وَلَا تَفَرَّقُوا“  
کی روگردانی کر کے ہم نے امت مسلمہ کے جسم کو چھلنی چھلنی اور کرچی کرچی کر کے رکھ دیا ہے۔ مسلمان فرقوں میں بٹ گئے۔

پکڑ کے رکھیے خدا کی رسی  
منع ہے قرآن میں فرقہ بندی  
مگر میں حیرت میں گم ہوں داؤد  
ہنر ہے کس کا یہ فرقہ سازی

ایک اندازے کے مطابق پاکستان میں اس وقت خطِ غربت سے نیچے رہنے والوں کی تعداد چودہ کروڑ سے زیادہ ہے۔ خیال کیا جاتا ہے کہ دنیا بھر کے مسلمان اگر یورپ اور امریکہ کے بینکوں سے اپنی دولت نکال لیں تو یہ سب مالیاتی ادارے دیوالیہ ہو کر رہ جائیں۔ ان امیر اسلامی ملکوں کا فرض بنتا ہے کہ اپنی دولت کو غریب اسلامی ممالک میں تقسیم کریں۔

**رمضان المبارک کے مقدس مہینہ کی نسبت سے چند احادیث ملاحظہ ہوں۔**

☆ حضرت انسؓ فرماتے ہیں ایک سال رمضان آیا تو نبی مکرم ﷺ فرمایا "تم لوگوں پر ایک مہینہ آیا ہے جس میں ایک رات ہے جو ہزار مہینوں سے افضل ہے، جو شخص اس رات سے محروم رہ گیا وہ ساری کی ساری خیر سے محروم رہ گیا اور اس رات کی خیر و برکت سے محروم وہی رہتا ہے جو واقعی محروم ہے۔"

☆ حضرت عبداللہ بن عباسؓ کہتے ہیں کہ نبی اکرم ﷺ نے فرمایا "کسی مسلمان کی حاجت پوری کرنے کا اجر و ثواب دس سال کے اعتکاف سے بھی زیادہ ہے۔" (طبرانی)

☆ نبی اکرم ﷺ نے فرمایا کہ افطار کے وقت روزہ دار جو دعا مانگے اس کی دعا قبول کی جاتی ہے، روئیں کی جاتی۔ (ترمذی) آئیے۔ اس ماہِ صیام میں ہم پورے خضوع کے ساتھ استحکام پاکستان کیلئے دعائیں مانگیں۔ بیماروں کی عیادت کریں۔ رسول اللہ ﷺ نے فرمایا "..... مریض کی دعا ایسی ہے جیسے فرشتوں کی دعا...."

سجانے کا نام نہیں ہے۔ مہنگائی کو کم کرنے لئے سادگی اپنانا ضروری ہے۔ اگر دیسی گھی کے پراٹھے، سمو سے، پکڑے اور مہنگے ترین پھلوں کی چاٹ نہ ہوگی تو انشاء اللہ روزہ قبول ہو جائے گا۔ تاہم ذخیرہ اندوزوں کا یہ منصوبہ کہ روزہ داروں کو لوٹنا ہے، دھرے کا دھرا رہ جائے گا۔

اللہ رب العزت کی بے نیازی ہے کہ انسانی مخلوق کو کہیں دولت سے مالا مال کر رکھا ہے اور کہیں اتنی غربت دے رکھی ہے کہ لوگ کوڑے کرکٹ کے ڈھیر سے کھانے پینے کی اشیاء ڈھونڈ

تے پھرتے ہیں۔ ایسی صورت حال سے شیطان مردود بہت فائدہ اٹھانے کی کوشش کرتا ہے، اہل دولت کے دماغ میں یہ وسوسہ ڈالنے میں جُت جاتا ہے کہ خیر دار اپنی دولت کو اللہ کی راہ میں خرچ نہ کرنا مبادہ مفلس ہو جاوے گا۔ ہمیں چاہیے کہ ماہِ صیام میں خصوصی طور پر اور دیگر مہینوں میں عمومی طور پر نصاب کے مطابق زکوٰۃ ادا کریں اور صدقات و خیرات میں بڑھ چڑھ کر حصہ ڈالیں تاکہ شیطان مردود کے حصہ میں ذلت و نامرادی اور لعنت کا طوق آئے اور مسلم معاشرہ کے اندر خوشحالی اور دولت کی لہر بہر ہو جائے۔

قارئین کرام! یاد رہے دولت کی فروانی کسی کو خوبیوں کی بنا پر حاصل نہیں ہوتی اور "غریبی" کے کوہِ الم تلے دے کسی مفلس کو اس کی خامیوں کی وجہ سے سزا نہیں ملتی۔ "کن فیکون" کہنے والی ذاتِ اقدس نے نظامِ ہستی چلانے کے لئے سخت پابندیاں عائد کر رکھی ہیں ورنہ تو کوئی بھی غریب اور لاچار نہ ہوتا۔ چنانچہ غربا و مساکین کی عزت نفس کو محروح ہونے سے بچانے کے لئے رب العزت خود اپنے لئے قرض مانگتے ہیں، فرمایا! "اگر تم اللہ کو قرض حسنہ دو گے تو وہ اسے تمہارے لئے کئی گنا بڑھا دے گا اور تمہیں بخش دے گا اور اللہ بڑا قدر شناس ہے بردبار ہے"

رمضان المبارک کے اس مقدس مہینہ میں کوشش ہونی چاہیے کہ تقسیم خیرات میں ترجیحات کو مدنظر رکھا جائے تاکہ مستحقین کسی طور بھی محروم نہ رہ جائیں۔ سب سے پہلے خاندان اور غریب ہمسایہ کا جائزہ لیا جائے کوئی بیمار محض دوائی کی خاطر دم نہ توڑ دے، کسی طالب علم کی پڑھائی پیسوں کی وجہ سے ادھوری نہ رہ جائے۔ غریب نادار بچپوں کی شادیوں کیلئے بھی زکوٰۃ کی رقم مختص ہونی چاہیے۔



تحریر: داؤد احمد چٹھہ ایم اے  
سابق صدر ایوان صنعت و تجارت سیالکوٹ

## ماہِ صیام

رمضان المبارک کا مہینہ جاری ہے۔ مسلمان اس مقدس مہینہ کے فیوض و برکات سے اپنی اپنی جھولیاں بھرنے میں مصروف ہیں۔ ہر کوئی اپنے مقدر سنوارنے کی فکر میں ہے۔ ہمیں بھی یہ فکر دامن گیر ہے کہ نجات کا کوئی سامان پیدا ہو جائے چنانچہ چشم تصور میں ہم دیکھتے ہیں کہ ہمارے اعمال سیاہ پر رب تعالیٰ ناراض ہیں اور ماہِ صیام آگے بڑھ کر ہماری سفارش کر رہا ہوتا ہے۔ پھر جب ہم اس تصور سے باہر نکلتے ہیں تو ایک عجیب سی تمنا چنگاری بن کر شعلہ جوالا بن جاتی ہے۔ "یا اللہ۔ ماہِ صیام کی رمتوں بھری گھڑیاں کیوں جلد ختم ہو جاتی ہیں۔ کیوں پورا سال ہی رمضان کا سال نہیں رہتا تو ہم خود ہی اپنی حماقتوں پر ہنس دیتے ہیں کہ نظام کائنات ہماری معصومانہ خواہشوں پر نہیں، اللہ تعالیٰ کے اپنے ضابطوں کے مطابق چلتا ہے۔"

روزہ مسلمانوں کی جسمانی اور روحانی تربیت کرتا ہے اور ایمانی قوتوں کو جلا بخشتا ہے۔ سیاست، تجارت، معیشت، معاشرت، مذہب اور اخلاقیات غرضیکہ ہر شعبہ حیات میں رمضان کا مہینہ اصلاح کے عمل کو زندہ کر دیتا ہے جس کی وجہ سے ہماری زندگیوں میں خوشگوار نکھار آ جاتا ہے۔ دنیا بھر میں ہر قوم، مذہب اور معاشرہ تہوار مناتا ہے، وہاں تاجر اور دکاندار تہوار کے موقع پر اپنے لوگوں کی خوشیاں دو بالا کرنے کیلئے منافع کم کر کے سستے داموں اشیاء خورد و نوش فروخت کرتے ہیں حتیٰ کہ مسلمان ممالک میں بھی ایسا ہی رواج ہے تاہم پاکستان ایک ایسا اسلامی ملک ہے جہاں ہر تہوار کے موقع پر اور خصوصاً رمضان المبارک کے مہینہ میں 50% سے 100% تک مہنگائی کر دی جاتی ہے اور پھر اس مہنگائی کا گراف سارا سال قائم رہتا ہے۔ دوستو! روزہ رب تعالیٰ کے لئے ہے، بے شمار لوازمات میز پر



# MONTHLY ACTIVITIES OF SIALKOT CHAMBER

## VISIT OF MR. M. AYOUB, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER GEPCO



On December 07, 2023, Mr. M. Ayoub, Chief Executive Officer GEPCO visited the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce & Industry. Mr. Abdul Ghafoor Malik, President of Sialkot Chamber welcomed the honorable guest Mr. M. Ayoub, Chief Executive Officer GEPCO, Gujranwala, and Mr. Amir Mahmood, Superintendent Engineer GEPCO, Sialkot. He briefed the industrial setup of Sialkot and the achievements of the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry. He shared that the list of industrial-dominated feeders should be generated by the coordination of this Chamber as industries of Sialkot are scattered all around the city. He requested to ensure 8 hours of uninterrupted electricity supply on all industrial-dominated feeders of Sialkot during working hours and all kinds of maintenance should be made on Sunday, especially at Daska Road Industrial feeders. He also requested that the problems of the members of the Sialkot Chamber should be addressed on priority.

He emphasized issuing electricity connections in less time. He said that WAPDA should play the role as a facilitator instead of a regulator. (customer and seller relationships should be built among GEPCO Staff and Electricity consumers of GEPCO to provide the best and earliest possible facilitation to customers). He requested that two meters should be allowed in one Industrial unit therefore in this regard ban should be lifted because the industry of Sialkot is based on SMEs where more than one business is working in one factory premises for manufacturing of different nature of items. He requested that a survey be launched in Sialkot for the upgradation of the transmission line system of Sialkot to avoid long hours of shutdown and breakdown of the GEPCO transmission system during

the summer season.

Mr. M. Ayoub thanked the President for his warm welcome and hospitality extended to him. He shared that GEPCO has started online demand notice issuing system and instructed all of his Xens and S.Es to accept online applications of new connection and to ensure it to issue demand notices through online system in minimum time. He informed regarding issue of ban on issuance of two meters in one factory premises and Test Report/Load Report requirement, he informed that in this regard GEPCO was bound to comply under the strict S.O.Ps circular issued from WAPDA head office, Lahore and informed that above said circular was issued by NEPRA due to difference of tariff impact on revenue. He further said that GEPCO would appreciate if Sialkot Chamber may take up that issue with appropriate forum for its reversal. He appreciated that GEPCO generated 100% revenue from Sialkot Industry without any default or instalment of billing system on the other hand Gujranwala GEPCO is receiving applications for installments on the regular basis. He said that GEPCO had always enjoyed cordial relations with Sialkot Chamber. He appreciated positive working approach of Sialkot Chamber. He instructed the S.E GEPCO to make it convenient to shut the electricity for maintenance at Daska Road industrial feeders only on Sunday.

In the end, Mr. M. Ayoub once again thanked President SCCI, for his warm welcome and assured him that he will always remain available to hear and redress the issues/complaints of the members of Sialkot Chamber on priority basis.

## SEMINAR ON “ESG – ENVIRONMENT, SOCIAL AND GOVERNANCE REPORTING IN LEATHER INDUSTRY”

On December 08, 2023: Sh. Zohaib Rafique Sethi, Former SVP, SCCI welcomed the Honorable guest Mr.Chris Jacklin, Leather Working Group (LWG) Auditor, Mr.Junaid Ahmed, Sustainable Leather Foundation (SLF), and all the participants of the Seminar. He said that the European Union, a major importer of Leather Products is moving towards tough standards including REACH and Leather Working Group (LWG) which demand an increase in the traceability and transparency of the full supply chain of the leather products. He shared that up till now, manufacturers and exporters have followed only certain standards for the satisfaction of their respective international buyers,

# MONTHLY ACTIVITIES OF SIALKOT CHAMBER

whereas, with the introduction of new standards from REACH and Leather Working Group (LWG), it is now being made mandatory for any business involved in leather products to ensure that necessary compliance is made right from the start of value chain which seems impossible to implement given the present scenario.



Mr. Junaid Ahmed, Sustainable Leather Foundation (SLF), Auditor, thanked Sheikh Zohaib Rafique Sethi for his warm welcome and hospitality. The following points were taken from his presentation:

What is sustainability?

- The first real definition of sustainability, devised within the United Nations Brundtland Commission report "Our Common Future" in 1987 as "meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."
- Sustainability can be broken down into 3 principal pillars, known as "ESG" – Environment, Social and Governance, or put another way, Planet, People and Profit.

What is ESG?

ESG is a set of criteria used to evaluate a company's environmental, social, and governance impact. It is a standardised framework that enables investors and other stakeholders to assess a company's impact on society and the environment, as well as its corporate governance practices

What is the difference between Sustainability and ESG?

The key difference between ESG and sustainability is that ESG is a specific tool used to measure the performance of a company, while sustainability is a broad principle that encompasses a range of responsible business practices.

ESG Reporting Frameworks

- ❖ International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS)- set of accounting rules for the financial statements of public companies that are intended to make them consistent, transparent, and easily comparable around the world
- ❖ GRI standards-The GRI Standards are aligned with widely recognized international instruments for responsible business behavior. These include instruments such as the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, the ILO conventions, and the OECD Guidelines
- ❖ SASB standards- The Sustainable Accounting Standards Board (SASB) is a standards-setting organization that develops industry-specific standards for disclosing sustainability risks and opportunities
- ❖ CDSB Framework- Climate Disclosure Standard Board Framework is focused on reporting environmental and climate change information in mainstream corporate reports
- ❖ TCFD Framework- The Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures, or TCFD, is a global organization formed to develop a set of recommended climate-related disclosures that companies and financial institutions can use to better inform investors

EU Directives and Regulatory Developments

- Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive
- Due Diligence Legislation (focus on deforestation)
- Strategy for Sustainable and Circular Textile (French/ German labelling laws)
- New York Fashion Sustainability and Social Accountability Act

Key Sustainability Regulatory and Reporting Trends Pakistan

- Approximately only 50 out of 540 companies listed on the PSX reported on sustainability in 2020, with even fewer companies using standards to develop their sustainability reports
- Securities and Exchange Commission released the ESG Roadmap in 2022
- State Bank of Pakistan has made it compulsory for banks to establish mechanisms for conducting environmental and social due diligence on companies prior to providing loans.

Way Forward to Sustainability Reporting

- ★ At the end of June 2023, the Integrated Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB) released the



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International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) S1 and S2, requiring disclosure of sustainability-related and climate-related risks, opportunities and related performance.

- ★ Through this update, the IFRS will require all listed companies to report on sustainability-related risks and opportunities and relevant disclosures in its 140 jurisdictions, including Pakistan.

## MEETING OF DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON SIALKOT DISTRICT AFFAIRS



On December 07, 2023 a meeting of the departmental Committee on Sialkot District Affairs was held in the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce & Industry. Rana Nadeem Ahmed, Chairman Committee welcomed all the participants of the meeting.

CO Municipal Corporation, Sialkot shared that Municipal Corporation, Sialkot faced financial issues due to which some important matters were not addressed immediately, but the department worked very hard to overcome the constraints. He shared that issues like encroachments within the city, passing of maps, and parking areas were the big challenges faced by the department.

Chief Officer District Council, shared that District Council is working on Sialkot Wazirabad Road and all the work related to cleanliness and maintenance was as per plan. He also shared that the street lights on the overhead bridge, Paris Road, Kwawaja Safdar Road, and Kashmir Road are in 100% working condition. He shared that the project of Gulshan Iqbal Park is also continuing as per the plan. He invited attention to Khayaban-e-Iqbal Park Sialkot and said that Track work is completed. He suggested that a visit comprised of joint team members of this Chamber, PHA, and District Council should be planned to address the remaining

issues like Grass and Flowers, Canteen renovation, Ticket price, basketball court, swimming pool, and special time for ladies.

City Manager PICIIP, said that PICIIP escalations were approved but still contractor was facing loss due to unplanned development work done in the past within the whole Sialkot city. He shared that development work on Paris Road, Sialkot has been completed and currently development work on Commissioner Road is under process and will be completed within 3 months. He informed that the Lane Marking work at Sialkot Defence Road is completed. He requested the Chairman Committee to initiate a campaign in the schools regarding traffic rules and traffic management.

Manager Facilitation Center shared that Pakistan Post Office Sialkot took their resources back from the facilitation center which was of great facilitation to the business community as well as the general public.

Rana Nadeem Ahmed, Chairman Committee thanked all the guests for the updates on the situation of City projects and assured the participants that all the suggestions would be taken on board after discussion with the President SCCI.

## VISIT OF SECRETARY, INDUSTRIES, COMMERCE, INVESTMENT AND SKILL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, LAHORE



On December 13, 2023: Mr. Abdul Ghafoor Malik, President, welcomed Mr. Ehsan Bhutta, Secretary, ICI&SD, Punjab, Ms. Sidra Younas, Managing Director PSIC, Officers of Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB), distinguished guests and members of Sialkot Chamber. He expressed gratitude to the CM Punjab, Mr. Mohsin Naqvi, Provincial Minister for ICI&SD Punjab, Mr. S.M. Tanveer, and Secretary ICI&SD, Mr. Ehsan Bhutta, and their team members, who had made



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“Establishment of Business Facilitation Center” at Sialkot possible through persistent efforts, hard work and determination.

He said that establishment of Business Facilitation Center would be a great step towards promoting ease of doing business in Punjab, which would not only extend facilitation to the businessmen but would also pave the way for promotion of trade and investment. He said that provision of all business-related services under one roof would have a radical effect on export businesses. He stated that adoption of business-friendly policies would help in nurturing investment culture and promoting soft image of the country.

Mr. Ehsan Bhutta, Secretary, ICI&SD, thanked President and members of SCCI for their warm welcome. He informed that concept of Business Facilitation Centers (BFCs) had been derived from interactions of Chief Minister of the Punjab with Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Punjab at various occasions, where business community vehemently demanded effective resolution of business-related issues through a single facilitation platform. He appreciated proactive approach of businesses of Sialkot towards fulfilment of their Corporate Social Responsibility under auspices of Sialkot Chamber. He emphasized the need to replicate business model of Sialkot in other parts of Pakistan through sharing of knowledge, experiences and inculcating spirit of social wellbeing to promote prosperity.



Ms. Sidra Younas, Managing Director PSIC, also appreciated the business-oriented culture of Sialkot and said that due to the exceptional reputation of this region, first District Business Facilitation Center was being operationalized in Sialkot. She said that bringing all departmental services under one platform would

definitely facilitate the industry especially the SME sector. She said that processing of departmental NOCs / approvals would be expedited on receipt of complete documents, for which managers at BFC would provide necessary guidelines to the applicants.

Mr. Umer, Senior Program Manager, and Mr. Talha, Deputy Manager, Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB), delivered a comprehensive presentation and informed the house about 18 Departments that had been integrated through BFC. He informed that list of processes and NOCs available through BFC would be available at; [www.bfc.punjab.gov.pk](http://www.bfc.punjab.gov.pk) and <https://bizknowledge.punjab.gov.pk>

## SEMINAR ARRANGE BY PAKISTAN SINGLE WINDOW (PSW)

On December 14, 2023, Mr. Amer Majeed Sheikh, Vice President SCCI, welcomed Mr. Salman Afzal, Mr. Muhammad Ahmad, Ms. Maheen Gohar Khan, Mr. Sarfraz Amjad, Mr. Faisal Hussain, and members to the seminar. He mentioned that Pakistan Single Window was a revolutionary initiative aimed at transforming conventional trading methods into a modern and robust system. Mr. Majeed shared that the system had been well adopted by the industry of Sialkot and was helping the exporters manage their trade-related matters with ease and convenience, and Sialkot Chamber and the team of Pakistan Single Window enjoy a cordial working relationship in our joint goal of ensuring the adoption of PSW by the export industry. The Vice President of SCCI that the seminar was arranged to get a deeper insight into the Pakistan Single Window and the new updates included in the system over time. Mr. Amer Majeed Sheikh inquired about the green channel examination, email/MSG to PSW user in case of wrong filling of Good Declaration by agents. He also requested the concerned to eliminate paperwork, as ANF requires paper Good Declaration GD from exporters.

Mr. Salman Afzal, Additional Collector, Pakistan Single Window: Mentioned that Single Window was a facility that allows parties involved in trade and transport to lodge standardized information and documents with a single-entry point to fulfill all import, export, and transit-related regulatory requirements. He mentioned that PSW was designed to connect different departments under one platform to facilitate trade. Mr. Afzal mentioned that in the coming times, PSW will integrate a Single Registry for Trade, an Integrated Risk



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Management System, Air- And Sea Port Community Systems, Weboc Transformation, Khadijah Program, Small and Medium Enterprise Program, E-Commerce, and E-Learning Platform. He added that PSW implementation in 2022 caused Pakistan's score in the UN Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation, 2023 to jump from 56.9% to 70.9%, Pakistan showed highest growth in South Asia, PSW team was invited by the WTO to share its Perspectives in 2023 at its public forum. PSW also was invited by WTO to represent Pakistan at the WTO Trade Facilitation Committee meeting in October 202.

Hafiz Muhammad Ahmad, Representative, Pakistan Single Windows: share details of the newly established portal Trade Verse <https://tipp.gov.pk/> from where data related to Trade between two countries, exports concerning H.S. Codes, Free Trade Agreements or Preferential Trade Agreements signed with countries, individuals intending to do exports with.

### MEETING OF DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON GARRISON HQ/CANTONMENT BOARD AFFAIRS



On December 20, 2023, a meeting of the Departmental Committee on Garrison HQ/ Cantonment Board Affairs was held in the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce & Industry. Sheikh Zahid Hameed, Chairman Committee welcomed all the members of the Committee. He described his continuous efforts to boost the image of the Sialkot Chamber and address members' issues in various forums related to the Committee. He informed that the Station Headquarter had initiated the issuance of Cantt resident card, with a fee structure of Rs. 1000 for the family head and Rs. 100 for each family member. He also shared the important contact numbers of departments of the Cantonment area and emergency helpline numbers for the information of members. He

shared that vaccination for newborns was provided free of cost at the Cantonment Board Hospital, encouraging residents to take advantage of this service. He said that requests for foreign visitors should be submitted at least 10 working days in advance.

Participants of the meeting discussed in detail various issues related to Cantonment Board Affairs and requested the Chairman Committee for its possible resolution. Chairman Committee said in response to a member's request for a single Master Card covering all memberships, he explained that it was not feasible as some individuals were not interested in obtaining memberships for all places. Additionally, he suggested streamlining the security clearance process, advocating for a one-time clearance instead of undergoing the process for each membership. He said that CO Cantonment was newly appointed and committed to resolving the issues of members but it would take time to change the system. He said that a delegation from the Sialkot Chamber would visit the CEO office, and if necessary, the Station Commander would also be involved in resolving member concerns. He suggested that we should make efforts to develop Khyaban Iqbal Park (Shaira wala Bagh) and a walking track and swimming pool should be established there. He added that he would request to President to discuss with DC Sialkot. Mr. Ejaz Ghauree replied that it was discussed in TMA Committee and the Government was renovating Khayaban Iqbal Park and actively involved in the process. In the end, he assured that all discussed issues would be taken up in the upcoming meeting with the Station Commander and CEO of the Cantonment Board for comprehensive resolution.

### MEETING OF DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON CYBER CRIME



On December 22, 2023, a meeting of the Departmental Committee on Cyber Crime was held in



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the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce & Industry. Mr. Omer Khalid, Chairman Committee welcomed all the members of the Committee. He decided to continue the proceedings of the Committee by sharing precautionary measures among the members of this Chamber, to avoid being a victim of Cyber Crime in pictorial format. He further shared that the ratio of Cyber Crime events occurring within the industry has increased a lot. He said that hackers used multiple ways to distract the people such as fake phone calls, Man in the middle attack, ransomware, etc. He said that the Committee would try its level best to make this Chamber's liaison with the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) better and stronger. He said that Cyber Crime events are usually time bound and prompt action is required to handle the situation, so a quick response contact number or email from FIA officials would prove to be very helpful for the members.

He also suggested that efforts could also be made to form a permanent counter of FIA in SCCI, with their designated person, and members report to that person from FIA regarding Cyber Crime events. Moreover, he shared that the Committee is contacting the FIA officials and soon the Committee will be visiting FIA Office Gujranwala for member's issues to be addressed on a priority basis.

After due deliberations, the Chairman Committee decided to regain the exercise of sharing video messages with the members regarding any of the topics decided by the Committee members, and the house approved "Spoofing and Phishing" for the next video message to be shared with the members. Moreover, he shared that secure servers like G-Suite should be used for the security of the systems used for forwarding and receiving emails. He decided that the Committee would involve relevant people from the Tech Industry to create more awareness for the members. The Committee would organize Awareness Seminars regularly.

### MEETING OF DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON SIALKOT DISTRICT AFFAIRS

On December 26, 2023 Rana Nadeem Ahmed, Chairman Committee welcomed all the participants of the meeting on very short notice. He thanked the delegation from NADRA Office, Sialkot for visiting the Sialkot Chamber on his invitation to discuss the issues of the members of this Chamber related to NADRA Office, Sialkot. He appreciated the initiative taken by

NADRA Office Sialkot for the provision of a Mobile Registration Van on nominated days outside this Chamber to facilitate the business community and other public as well. He requested to continue the said facility for the benefit of the people of Sialkot.

He highlighted that the Executive Office of NADRA at Haji Pura, Sialkot was a good option for the people, who were willing to pay more fees and complete the procedure without any hassle, but due to its non-operational status, all the load has been transferred to the Defense Road Office. He suggested that E-Khidmat Markaz at the building of the Sialkot Business & Commerce Centre a suitable space available for the counter of NADRA. He requested to open a facilitation counter for NADRA at the said location so that the Business Community and general public would be facilitated at ease. He also said that in this way a little bit load of the public from the Defense Road office could be reduced.



Mr. Zeeshan, Director, NADRA Office, Sialkot thanked Chairman Committee for inviting him to the Sialkot Chamber. He informed that Haji Pura Office is the Passport Office, and CNIC services was only for on-spot facilitation for the clients who visited there for their passports and faced some issues regarding CNIC. He also informed that due to a great influx of the public just for the sake of services related to CNIC, the department has to close the facilitation for general public. He shared that Defense Road Office; 32 counters were operational and people get the desired services from there. Moreover, regarding the opening of a facilitation counter at E-Khidmat Markaz, he said that the Sialkot Chamber should move a written request to the Director General NADRA, Lahore. He assured that he would endorse the said request to open the facilitation counter at E-Khidmat Markaz Sialkot.



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## VISIT OF CIVIL OFFICERS OF 34<sup>TH</sup> SENIOR MANAGEMENT COURSE, NIM ISLAMABAD



On December 27, 2023, a delegation comprised of Civil Officers of the 34<sup>th</sup> Senior Management Course, NIM, Islamabad visited the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce & Industry. Mr. Abdul Ghafoor Malik, President Sialkot Chamber gave them a comprehensive overview of the Sialkot business industry.

Mr. Muhammad Masood Ahmed, Chief Instructor of the delegation, expressed gratitude to Mr. Abdul Ghafoor Malik for the warm welcome and the opportunity to engage with Sialkot's leadership. He commended the documentary presented by the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce & Industry, providing insights into the Sialkot Industry. Mr. Masood acknowledged that the Sialkot Industry serves as a role model for the entire business community in Pakistan. He conveyed his pride in visiting the Sialkot Chamber and Commerce Industry, considering Sialkot as an epitome of excellence in the country. Mr. Ahmed also praised the SCCI for its innovative initiatives, including the establishment of AIRSIAL and SIAL, as well as other socio-economic projects in Health and Education. He recognized the significant contributions of export figures, emphasizing the real impact on the country's growth.

At the end, Mr. Abdul Ghafoor Malik, President thanked the delegation for visiting Sialkot Chamber and Commerce Industry and wished them all the best of luck in their future endeavours.

## MEETING ON BALLOTING OF TRADE DELEGATION TO AUSTRALIA PHASE-I

On December 28, 2023, Mr. Qaiser Baig Chairman,

welcomed the applicants of Trade Delegation to Australia Phase I (TDAP Sponsored), President SCCI Mr. Abdul Ghafoor Malik, at the meeting. He mentioned that the Delegation was announced after approval from TDAP. He mentioned that the SCCI had meeting with Consul General of Pakistan in Australia and He recommended to formulate a High-Profile Trade Delegation from Surgical and Cutlery Instruments sectors. The Chairman Committee that the delegation would be sent during the month of March 2024 and as per the directions of the Consul General, two applications from new comer's category were rejected, and 17 applications were received in total.



Mr. Baig started the process of balloting and 7 delegates were selected. He congratulated the selected candidates and mentioned as soon as any information would receive from the Consul General, SCCI would inform accordingly.

## MEETING OF DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON SIALKOT DISTRICT AFFAIRS

On January 01, 2024, Rana Nadeem Ahmed, Chairman Committee welcomed all the participants of the meeting. He especially thanked Anjman-e-Tajran, Sialkot for their participation in the meeting. he also thanked the Municipal Corporation, District Government, and Traffic Police for their participation in the meeting. He highlighted the first agenda point of the meeting and shared that the said meeting was called on the special instruction of Deputy Commissioner Sialkot.

Maher Mujtaba, President Anjman-e-Tajran, Sialkot thanked Chairman Committee and Mian Muhammad Khalil for inviting them on the sensitive issue of Encroachments prevailing within the district Sialkot. He shared that due to an order received from the Chief



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Minister, Punjab's Office on the issue of encroachments in Punjab, all the departments were on high alert now. He added that departments had not done much in this regard in the past, due to which the issue has extended that much. He said that the issue of encroachment should be addressed by following a process and by taking all the key stakeholders like Traffic Police, TMA, District Government, and Anjman-e-Tajran on board.



Sheikh Javaid Haider, Secretary General, Anjman-e-Tajran, Sialkot presents his sincere thanks to the Chairman Committee for inviting them into this important meeting. He endorsed the point of view of the President Anjman-e-Tajran, Sialkot, and also assured that Traders would cooperate in every aspect for the removal of Encroachments from the city. He pointed out that not all the encroachments were made by the traders within the city but unregistered Rikshaws also played a big part in making life miserable for the common people. He added that not even a single Traffic warden was present on the main spots of the city. He suggested that the Deputy Commissioner, Sialkot should call a General Meeting on the said issue again and instruct the departments to submit proper report after a specific period regularly.

Mr. Nasir Saleem Mirza, Chairman Departmental Committee on Crime Watch & Traffic Management shared that Chairman informed DSP Traffic and informed him to attend this important meeting but he did not appear in the meeting and sent his representative instead who as no powers to take actions.

Mr. Asad Rashid, IP Traffic Police said that department was short of resources and the required equipment that was needed on the field. He pointed out that we requested several times about the dumping area and the need of two lifters for spontaneous actions in case

of Traffic violations by any on the citizens.

Rana Nadeem Ahmed, Chairman Committee said that the Sialkot Chamber will work hand in hand by taking all the stakeholders on board to address this important issue.

### UNITED BUSINESS GROUP(UBG) VICTORY IN FPCCI ELECTIONS (2024-2025)

On January 05, 2024, Mr. Abdul Ghafoor Malik, President SCCI extended congratulations to the United Business Group for their resounding victory in the FPCCI elections for the term 2024-2025. He expressed his deep admiration for the collective efforts of the UBG team, highlighting the strategic vision and collaborative spirit that contributed to their success. He specifically acknowledged the exceptional leadership of Mr. Riaz Ud Din Sheikh, the accomplished leader of the UBG group not only as the group leader but also for his dedicated service to the Sialkot business community.



Mr. Riaz Ud Din Sheikh, Group Leader expressed his heartfelt appreciation to all the leaders of associations and voters for their dedicated presence and efforts in the elections. He conveyed gratitude for their substantial contributions, acknowledging their instrumental role in achieving success with a substantial lead. He specifically highlighted the commendable efforts of Mr. S. M. Tanveer, Dr. Nauman Idress Butt and Mr. Waqas Akram Awan during the electoral process, assuring the business community that he would perform in alignment with their expectations.

### VISIT OF CIVIL OFFICERS OF 34<sup>TH</sup> SENIOR MANAGEMENT COURSE, NIM PESHAWAR

On January 09, 2024, a delegation of Civil Officers of



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the 34<sup>th</sup> Senior Management Course, NIM, Peshawar visited the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce & Industry. Mr. Abdul Ghafoor Malik, President Sialkot Chamber welcomed the Delegates, members of the Chamber and distinguished guests to the meeting. The President of SCCI appreciated the role of the National Institute of Management, in enhancing the capacity and efficacy of Government Officials, which improve public service delivery. Mr. Malik mentioned that the Officers, while serving in different departments, would put their best efforts while functioning, at key posts in Government quarters. He added that it would bring forth better results in their respective responsibilities to lead, manage and serve at the Federal, Provincial, and District levels for the benefit of the public at large. The President of SCCI mentioned that the Government should take all necessary measures to create an enabling business environment, in the Country to ensure steady growth in the private sector, and to attract higher levels of foreign direct investment. Mr. Abdul Ghafoor Malik, President, SCCI also briefed the delegates about the achievements of SCCI and projects that were running on a self-sustainable model.



Mr. Tariq Bakhtiyar, Chief Instructor, NIMS thanked the Office Bearers of the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry on behalf of NIM Peshawar, for the continuous courtesy of interaction of the delegates with the business community. All the projects and achievements of SCCI have been well acknowledged by Mr. Bakhtiyar. He mentioned that the officers after they completed the course, were on visits to interact with Public and Private Institutes to understand the issues and devise possible solutions. Considering the same, the visit to SCCI was an integral part of their training for the identification of export hurdles which would help them to shape the policy accordingly.

In response to a question Mr. Abdul Ghafoor Malik,

President SCCI replied that the Government and Business Community should join hands in promoting product diversification and creating export-friendly policies which were essential components of a comprehensive economic development strategy. He further elaborated that the Industry of Sialkot had been exporting a wide range of products i.e., Cutlery Items, Musical Instruments, Sports Goods, Gloves, Protective Equipment, Surgical Items, Shoes & Saddlery, Carpet, Rice, Sea Salt and miscellaneous items.

### MEETING OF THE DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON MARTIAL ARTS/ MMA/ FITNESS



On January 12, 2024, a meeting of the departmental Committee on Martial Arts/ MMA/ Fitness was held at the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce & Industry. Mr. Ahmed Imtiaz Khan, Chairman Committee welcomed all the Committee Members and also expressed gratitude for attending the meeting. He expressed thanks to Mr. Abdul Ghafoor Malik, President of SCCI, for once again providing him an opportunity to head this Committee. He highlighted that the industry was facing a shortage of skilled labor due to which Industrialists were providing on-job training to workers within their factories. He expressed concern that Vocational Training Institutes were not aligning their training programs with the industry's demands and were not extending support to the business community in addressing the issue of skilled workforce. He said that Industries provided heavy amounts of advances to workers but they left the work without any prior notice and without returning the advance payment amount. He stressed the necessity to effectively address this practice among laborers, aiming to enable businesses to protect themselves from financial losses and human resource challenges. He mentioned that the price of raw materials had been increasing day by day due to which exporters faced challenges. Moreover, to meet



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their orders exporters were willing to pay high costs for the raw material but the availability of the material was also not assured. He informed that his unwavering commitment to resolve the issue of shortage of skilled labor, led him to discover a group of 625 skilled female industrial stitchers in different rural areas. These individuals had received training from PSDF and Paidar Organization but, owing to certain societal and personal challenges, they were not willing to do jobs within factories.

After due deliberations, the Chairman Committee decided that a letter had been sent to TEVTA and VTIs, requesting them to introduce trades aligned with the demand of the industry, but they had not responded so far. Additionally, he shared that the Head of TEVTA Punjab visited the Sialkot Chamber and he highlighted the noncooperation of VTIs in addressing the demand of the industry. He highlighted that if training was confined to individual factories, the broader objective of collective interest would not be achieved. He acknowledged the effectiveness of the practice where individuals provide training to laborers within their industry premises to address the industry's shortage of skilled labor. However, he said that the said model did not fulfill the requirements of the entire Industry. Moreover, we had to collectively address the issues of the entire Martial Arts industry. He added that all mega projects in Sialkot had been initiated from the platform of the Sialkot Chamber and said that a consortium on raw materials would also be established to address the requirements of raw materials of the industry. He also said that we should focus on raw materials to ensure the quality of products. He also decided that a WhatsApp group would be formed of all registered Martial Arts members to enhance communication about labor issues and collaboration within the industry.

### MEETING OF DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON BANKING & FINANCE

On January 16, 2024 Mr. Akmal Javed, Departmental Committee on Banking & Finance at the committee's introductory meeting, welcomed attendees and emphasized the significance of active participation, drawing on his experience to assure members of his commitment to addressing their concerns. The committee aims to serve as an advisory body bridging the gap between the State Bank of Pakistan and Commercial Banks, advocating for the interests of the business community. Priority will be given to members' grievances related to the banking sector, with a

systematic approach proposed for timely resolution. Additionally, the meeting highlighted the payment issues confronting the E-Commerce sector, suggesting collaboration with the E-Commerce committee for future discussions.



The committee discussed proposals for an automated complaint system to streamline processes and increase efficiency in addressing member grievances. It also underscored the importance of raising awareness about State Bank of Pakistan schemes among members to ensure they can fully avail themselves of available benefits. Moreover, the facilitative portal "SUNWAI" by the State Bank of Pakistan was highlighted as a valuable resource for addressing complaints. The meeting concluded with a commitment to proactive engagement and collaboration, with the committee dedicated to empowering members and fostering a conducive environment for business growth and development in Sialkot.

### MEETING OF BALLOTING OF TRADE DELEGATION TO AUSTRALIA PHASE-II



On January 16, 2024, Mr. Qaiser Baig Chairman,



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welcomed the applicants of Trade Delegation to Australia Phase II (TDAP Sponsored), President SCCI Mr. Abdul Ghafoor Malik, at the meeting. The Chairman Committee mentioned that the Delegation was announced after approval from TDAP. He mentioned that the SCCI had meeting with Consul General of Pakistan in Australia and He recommended to formulate a High-Profile Trade Delegation of Sports Goods and Protective Equipment Sector. He added that after discussion of Chairman Committee with President SCCI, applicants from SME sector and new comers were also included. He added that total 53 applications were received out of which one application due to suspension of services with SCCI, was rejected. The Chairman Committee started the process of balloting and 8 delegates were selected. Mr. Baig mentioned that SCCI had always adopted merit while selecting Delegates for any Trade Delegation, even his own Son was not selected in the Balloting. He congratulated the selected candidates and mentioned that an undertaking would be furnished by Delegates selected from the new comers and SME category, from two established members of SCCI.

Mr. Professor Dr. Mujahid Hussain Bukhari Principal, Govt. Jinnah Islamia College Sialkot, Hon'ble Mr. Shahid Naveed Sahib, GM Al Khidmat Foundation Sialkot, and Mr. Shahid Naseer Sahib Convener Sialkot Social Welfare Council on their visit to the Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

He said that today's important event is organized for students studying in 9th and 10th class in government schools across the district who are weak in Science, English and Math subjects and their parents cannot afford tuition in expensive academies. To achieve this goal, the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce has started a "Free Tuition Program" with the mutual support of GC Women University, CEO Education and Sialkot Social Welfare Council. Earlier, the scope of this program was limited to the annual summer vacations, which are now being extended to the whole year and Government Murray College, Government Jinnah Islamia College and Al Khidmat Foundation Sialkot are also participating in this program.

He further said that in the light of the MoU, the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce, Al Khidmat Foundation and Social Welfare Council will jointly provide the necessary funds to run this program and the volunteer faculty required for the program will be provided by GC University, Murray College and Jinnah Islamia College while CEO Education Sialkot will be provided Departmental Support. He especially thanks Mr. Dr. Khurram Anwar Khawaja for serving as Chairman of the Departmental Committee for Education of Sialkot Chamber for a long time.

### MoU SIGNING CEREMONY REGARDING THE PROVISION OF FREE TUITION PROGRAM



On January 17, 2024, an important MoU signing ceremony was held under the SCCI's Departmental Committee on Education, regarding the provision of free tuition facilities to the children of 9th and 10th Classes in the high schools of District Sialkot. Mr. Abdul Ghafoor Malik, President of SCCI, presided over the meeting and extended a warm welcomed the distinguished guests and all MoU Stakeholders Mr. Iqbal Javed, CEO Education Department Sialkot, Professor Dr. Zareen Fatima Rizvi, Vice Chancellor GC Women University Sialkot, Mr. Dr. Muhammad Nawaz Sahib, Principal Government Murray College Sialkot,

### MEETING OF THE DEPTT. COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYERS & WORKERS/ VENDORS DISPUTES



On January 20, 2024, a meeting of the Departmental Committee on Employers & Workers/ Vendors Disputes was held. Ms. Lubna Tubsim headed the meeting and discussed important issues related to the disputes that



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arise between Employers and workers. The Chairperson Committee also invited a representative from the Labor Department, Sialkot, and he assured the department's full cooperation with the members of the Sialkot Chamber.

During the meeting, various suggestions from the Committee Members were given to develop a dedicated system for the facilitation of the members of this Chamber under the umbrella of SCCI. It was decided that meetings with the officials of the Labor Department, Social Security, and EOBI would be planned soon so that joint efforts for the betterment of the Sialkot Business Community could be actualized.

## VISIT OF TRADE & INVESTMENT OFFICERS AND CONSUL GENERALS

On 24th January 2024: Mr. Abdul Ghafoor Malik, President, SCCI: Welcomed the delegation of Trade Officers & Consul Generals, TDAP officers, SCCI members, and distinguished guests to the meeting. He congratulated the Consul Generals and Trade & Investment Officers (TIOs) on their selection of key important posts, pertaining to the promotion of Trade and increasing bilateral relations. The President of SCCI appreciated the role of the Ministry of Commerce and Trade Development Authority of Pakistan in coordinating today's interactive session. Mr. Malik mentioned that the meeting would prove to be mutually beneficial for both the export sector of Sialkot and the Trade Officers, who would be assuming pivotal roles in promoting trade between Pakistan and their respective countries.



Mr. Abdul Ghafoor Malik, President of SCCI highlighted the dynamics and role of the export industry of Sialkot towards the economic development of Pakistan. He proposed the establishment of a robust working

relationship between the Sialkot Chamber and Trade Officers to create synergy and achieve common objectives in both conventional and non-conventional markets. The President of SCCI also provided a comprehensive view of the achievements of SCCI and projects that were running on a self-sustainable model. He shared that the Sialkot Chamber had planned to send Trade Delegations to key markets, including the USA, Australia, Brazil, Japan, UK, and Canada in 2024. He requested the appointed officers in those regions to extend the maximum facilitation in the success of those visits by arranging B2B meetings and generating significant business through their Offices. He shared important initiatives to promote exports and assured that the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce & Industry would extend every possible support to all TIOs in achieving the objectives of their assignment.



Mr. Rana Shehzad Ahmed Khan, Head of Delegation/ Consul General Hong Kong: thanked the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SCCI) for the continuous courtesy of interaction of the delegates with the business community. He mentioned that it was the first time that 39 officers from different departments had been appointed to different destinations. Mr. Khan mentioned that the Sialkot remained a learning industry for any officer, deputed on any Government post. He assured that on assumption of the post(s), the TIOs would be performing market research, updating trade data, identification of international compliances/standards, finding of donor agency to meet budget constraints of the SME industry, and playing a bridge between the Industry and Commercial Importers.

During the question and answer session, the Trade & Investment Officers (TIOs) raised various questions on several important topics, including the export industry of Sialkot and the increase in exports, Empowerment of



# MONTHLY ACTIVITIES OF SIALKOT CHAMBER

Women Entrepreneur, role of TIOs in Trade Exhibitions etc. to which the President of the Sialkot Chamber Mr. Abdul Ghafoor Malik, Senior Vice President Mr. Wahub Jahangir, Vice President Mr. Amer Majeed Sheikh, former Presidents of SCCI Mr. Muhammad Hanif Khan, Mr. Fazal Jilani etc. gave detail satisfactory replies.

## MEETING OF DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON SME/TRAINING



On January 29, 2024, a meeting of the Departmental Committee on SME/Training was held at SCCI. Mr. Fizan Akbar, Chairman Committee welcomed all the committee members and distinguished guests at the first departmental committee meeting of SME/Training. He introduced himself to members and assured them of his full cooperation in addressing the issues of members related to SME's. The Chairman Committee shared that SME sector had significant potential but had not experienced a substantial increase in exports due to lack in science and technology.

He highlighted the importance of technology in the export business. While discussion on future working and meetings of the Departmental Committee on SME/Training, he shared that awareness seminars/trainings related to technology advancement, business startups, international markets, and export, etc. would be arranged to facilitate SME's same as before. He further added that B2B E-Commerce awareness seminar, a B2C training seminar and Tech Conference would be arranged soon. While highlighting the Tech Conference, he shared that it would be a mega event wherein technology service providers and IT experts would be called to interact with the business community.

Mian Muhammad Khalil, Senior Vice Chairman, Mr. M. Bashir Bhatti, Vice Chairman, Mr. Muhammad Aslam

Shahid, Mr. Majid Shabbir endorsed the point of view of the Chairman Committee and extended their unwavering support to the Chairman in addressing the concerns of SMEs of Sialkot. It was decided that Tech Conference, a mega event to invite technology service providers along with IT experts to interact with the business community will be organized after the approval of the Executive Committee of SCCI, Awareness seminars/training workshops related to technology advancement, business startup, international markets and export, etc. will be arranged on a regular basis to facilitate SME's and Follow-up meetings will be conducted to devise the strategies for future work of the Departmental Committee on SME/Training.

## MEETING OF THE DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS



On February 02, 2024 Mr. Peter John, Chairman Committee welcomed all the participants in the meeting of the Departmental Committee on Young Entrepreneurs for the year 2023-24. First of all, the Chairman Committee introduced himself and then he thanked Mr. Abdul Ghafoor Malik, President, the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce & Industry for giving him this opportunity to serve the industry by heading the important Committee of this Chamber. He highlighted the first agenda point of the meeting and requested all the participants for their formal introduction. After the introduction of the members, he presented special thanks to Mr. Richard Lyon for joining the Committee Meeting as a guest invitee. He then moved toward the 2nd agenda point of the meeting and requested suggestions/ recommendations for the members of the Committee about the key elements to promote new businesses in Sialkot.

Mr. Danish Abid, Senior Vice Chairman of the



## MONTHLY ACTIVITIES OF SIALKOT CHAMBER

Committee, Congratulated the Chairman Committee for holding the first meeting of the Departmental Committee. He said that Industry-Academia Linkages could play an important role for the new entrants as well as the existing business people to understand business techniques and methodologies. He also said that the Committee should arrange regular Seminars on business ethics in collaboration with different Universities. He added that the Committee should also hold meetings once a month for better results. He suggested to the Chairman Committee that more relevant or interested persons should be included in the Committee by circulating it to all the members of this Chamber. The Chairman Committee thanked Mr. Danish Abid for such valuable suggestions. He informed the house that he is already in coordination with Dr. Muhammad Aslam Darr, University of Sialkot. He shared that he requested him to suggest the names of some students to be added to the Committee.

Mr. Hassan Akbar, Vice Chairman of the Committee thanked the Chairman Committee and said that training of the business-people was the key to success. He added that some training sessions must be organized particularly for the young entrepreneurs and new entrants. He shared that product and market research was the only key to success in the industry. He emphasized that young entrepreneurs should come up with new and innovative ideas. He suggested to the Chairman Committee that a "New Idea Competition" among the young entrepreneurs should be held under the umbrella of this Chamber, where experts from different industries should be invited to evaluate the practicality of the business idea keeping in view the dynamics of the industry. Moreover, he suggested that the Committee should encourage people to think out of the box. The Chairman Committee thanked Mr. Hassan Akbar for his valuable suggestions and assured that the Committee would have a detailed discussion on his suggestions in the upcoming meetings for its implementation. He said that the support of all the Committee members in terms of participation would play a key role for the future working of the Committee.

### PRE-DEPARTURE MEETING OF SCCI TRADE DELEGATION TO UNITED KINGDOM

On February 03, 2024 a Pre-Departure Meeting of SCCI Trade Delegation to United Kingdom (TDAP Sponsored) was held at SCCI. Mr. Qaiser Baig, welcomed and congratulated all the delegates at the pre-departure meeting of SCCI Trade Delegation to the United

Kingdom (TDAP Sponsored). He appreciated the facilitation and cooperation, especially for allocating budget by the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan-to-Pakistan High Commission, London and for the successful execution of the Trade Delegation to the United Kingdom. He briefed the visit plan of the delegation shared by the Pakistan High Commission in London and requested the delegates to purchase the tickets accordingly. He further requested the delegates to keep the record of necessary invoices/receipts/boarding passes for onward submission to TDAP for the refund process. The Chairman Departmental Committee said that delegates may fix their other business commitments after attending the scheduled meetings/ visits of the delegation. He further requested the delegates to manage the return flight from any UK destinations only, which would allow the seamless procedure of refund from TDAP. Mr. Baig said the delegates to share the list of desired companies for the meeting so that he may be able to discuss the same with the Pakistan High Commission, London.



After the discussion, it was mutually decided by the delegates to get the services of Emirates Airline. While discussing hotel reservation and occupancy, it had been agreed that all the delegates would prefer to stay in single room and would keep the limit of hotel budget of \$150 per day for stay. In the end, Mr. Qaiser Baig, Chairman Committee requested all the delegates to follow business ethics during the visit to portray the positive image of our country, Pakistan, in the UK and extended heartfelt wishes to all the delegates for the success of their delegation to the United Kingdom

### MEETING OF DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON SPORTS ACTIVITIES

On February 07, 2024, Mr. Asif Ali, Chairman of the Committee on Sports Activities; Welcomed the members and thanked them for their participation. He



## MONTHLY ACTIVITIES OF SIALKOT CHAMBER

thanked the members for joining the Committee and said that it would serve to work for the cause assigned to it by the Chamber. He said that the Sialkot Chamber had high respect at the National/International level and this Committee would try to safeguard it by organizing events. The Chairman Committee extended his gratitude to Mr. Abdul Ghafoor Malik, President SCCI for appointing him Chairman of the Committee. He expressed hope that the Members of his Committee would fully cooperate during this year as well. Mr. Asif Ali, Chairman of the Committee informed that an invitation from Pakistan Cutlery & Stainless Utensils Mfg. Association was received to play T-20 Cricket Match on February 11, 2024, so he called the meeting to discuss and finalize the team. He added that The Jhelum Chamber had also planned to organize and host a Cricket Match between the SCCI & Jhelum Chamber Cricket Teams. He mentioned that an e-mail was received from Mr. Javed Butt, Chairman of Layton Lions CC (UK) therein requesting to play a match with SCCI's Cricket Team on March 01st, 2024. It was a cricket club in the UK that had planned to come to Pakistan to play a few matches in different Cities in Pakistan. another request from Mr. Adnan Akram Tour Organizer, London Cricketers had been received to arrange a cricket match between SCCI Team and London Cricketers under floodlights on Sunday, April 21, 2024. The London Cricketers would also visit Lahore and Islamabad Chambers to play matches with their cricket teams as well. The Chairman Committee shared that it had also been planned to play a cricket match with the British High Commission at Islamabad or invite them to Sialkot, after Ramzan.

The President said that the Chambers' Cricket Team should go to Islamabad to play a match with BHC instead of inhabiting them to Sialkot because there were lots of security clearance issues, in case BHC was invited herein Sialkot. He said that he would accompany the Team to Islamabad. The President said that he was happy to see the teamwork of the Committee. Mian Muhammad Khalil thanked the President and suggested that liaison with Trade Bodies in Punjab and Government Departments should be developed by organizing Sports Activities among them.

### AN AWARENESS SESSION BY PAKISTAN STOCK EXCHANGE



On February 14, 2024: Mr. Abdul Ghafoor Malik, President of SCCI, warmly welcomed the guests from the Pakistan Stock Exchange and expressed gratitude for sparing time for conducting an informative session, which he believed would be beneficial for Sialkot's industry. Mr. Ahmed Chinoy, Head of the Delegation, extended thanks to the President SCCI for the hospitality and praised the successful projects in Sialkot, such as Dryport, Sial, and AirSial. He then initiated the session by providing a brief introduction about the Pakistan Stock Exchange and highlighted its advantages for raising capital. He mentioned that the process time to become a listed company is 29 days after completing all necessary document by emphasizing the efficiency and accessibility of the process for interested companies.

Ms. Raeda Latif-Chief Marketing Officer, started the presentation with the mission statement of Pakistan Stock Exchange Top of Formand elaborated on the crucial financial needs of businesses aiming to raise capital for various expansionary endeavors, including but not limited to infrastructure development, research and development, increasing workforce and market



Mr. Asif Ali opened the house for the proposal from members to organize the events if they had. He said that events like football, hockey, etc., could be organized on the proposal of members, as approved by the house. He requested the President for his viewpoint on the events which he had shared with the members.



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penetration. She further explained the two basic types of listings on the stock exchange. The Main Board, requiring a minimum post-issue paid-up capital of PKR 200 million and above underscoring its importance for larger corporations with substantial capital needs and established market presence.

Moreover, she highlighted the benefits of being a listed entity on the stock exchange, including enhanced visibility, credibility, and access to a broader investor base. She underscored the potential for increased liquidity and valuation, which can positively impact the company's overall financial health and market standing. She elaborated on the role of consultants in guiding businesses through the listing journey, ensuring compliance with regulatory requirements and optimizing the company's positioning within the market.

Mr. Riaz Ud Din Sheikh, Group Leader, extended gratitude to the esteemed guests for the visit to SCCI and the beneficial session for the Sialkot's Industry. He proposed the establishment of an office in Sialkot to facilitate ongoing interaction with local stakeholders, emphasizing the importance of providing them with regular updates and knowledge-sharing initiatives.

### MEETING OF DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON BEAUTY INSTRUMENTS/ PERSONAL CARE INDUSTRY



On February 14, 2024 meeting of Departmental Committee on Beauty Instruments/ Personal Care Industry was held under the Chairmanship of Raja Muhammad Saqib Ashfaq to discuss the challenges of the beauty Instruments/ Personal Care sector faced by the members. He welcomed all the members and expressed gratitude for their participation. He particularly thanked Mr. Abdul Ghafoor Malik, President

of SCCI, for entrusting him with the leadership of the Departmental Committee for the year 2023-24.

Mr. Amir Hameed Bhatti, Senior Vice Chairman recommended initiating correspondence with TDAP for the inclusion of CosmoProf in the Annual Calendar to better facilitate exporters of Pakistan. He emphasized the necessity of removing obstacles to ensure a level playing field for manufacturers and exporters within the beauty sector. He said that some HS Codes of Beauty products were treated under the Surgical Sector and Some were placed under the Cutlery Association due to that classification, members faced challenges when DLT cases were claimed. He suggested that a region-wise exhibitions list should be compiled and a formal request letter should be written to TDAP for their inclusion in the Annual Calendar.

Raja Saqib Ashfaq acknowledged the various challenges faced by the members but he also expressed a commitment to working on the provided suggestions for the growth of the Beauty Instruments sector. He said that all relevant matters would be strategically planned and addressed through the platform of the Committee for resolution. He also said that he would proactively seek facilitation for members by approaching all available channels and avenues

### AN AWARENESS SESSION ON "EMPOWERING MOTHERS FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS"



On February 15, 2024 an awareness session on Empowering Mothers for Future Generations was held at the Sialkot Chamber with the collaboration of the Medical Women's Association of Pakistan. Mr. Amer Majeed Sheikh, Vice President, extended a warm welcome to distinguished guests and participants. He highlighted the importance of establishing an environment that nurtures and uplifts mothers, aligning with the critical necessity and recognizing their



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indispensable contribution to the socio-economic and cultural fabric of our nation.

Dr. Wajiha Rizwan, President Medical Women's Association of Pakistan highlighted the importance of recognizing and valuing the unique contributions of women, especially mothers, to society. She emphasized that empowering mothers with decision-making authority contributes to healthier families. She discussed the need for societal awareness, legal reforms, and support systems to protect women from domestic violence. She also shared barriers gender inequality remains a significant barrier to mothers' empowerment. Societal norms and stereotypes often limit women's opportunities and hinder their progress in various spheres. She said that Limited access to education for women, financial constraints, and unequal economic opportunities were identified as impediments to mothers' empowerment. She shared the role of Health Professionals, Organizations, and the Government to empower mothers. Because empowered women play a crucial role in community development initiatives, driving positive transformations and fostering inclusive societies.

Mr. Tariq Rehan, the Principal of Khawaja M. Safdar Medical College in Sialkot, Ms. Neelam Shakila, Syeda Shabina Gillani, and Mrs. Faisal Ikram distinguished individuals shared their views on the topic of "Empowering Mothers for Future Generations.

### PRE-DEPARTURE MEETING OF SCCI TRADE DELEGATION TO AUSTRALIA PHASE - I



On February 16, 2024 a Pre-Departure Meeting of SCCI Trade Delegation to Australia Phase - I (TDAP Sponsored) was held at SCCI. Mr. Qaiser Baig, Chairman, Departmental Committee on Fair and Exhibition/Delegation welcomed and congratulated all

the delegates at the pre-departure meeting of SCCI Trade Delegation to the Australia Phase-I (TDAP Sponsored). He appreciated the facilitation and cooperation, especially for allocating budget by the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan to the Consulate General & Trade Commission of Pakistan, Sydney Australia and for the successful execution of the Trade Delegation to the Australia Phase-I. He briefed the visit plan and note-verbale of the delegation shared by the Consulate General & Trade Commission of Pakistan, Sydney Australia and requested the delegates to purchase the tickets accordingly. He requested the delegates to keep the record of necessary invoices/receipts/boarding passes for onward submission to TDAP for the refund process. He suggested that delegates may fix their other business commitments after attending the scheduled meetings/visits of the delegation.

He further requested the delegates to manage the return flight from any Australian destinations only for the seamless procedure of refund from TDAP. He said the delegates share the list of desired companies for the B2B meeting so that he may be able to discuss the same with the Consulate General & Trade Commission of Pakistan, Sydney Australia. Mr. Baig asked about airline suggestions from delegates and after the discussion it was mutually decided by the delegates to get the services of Emirates Airline. While discussing hotel reservation and occupancy, it had been agreed that all the delegates would prefer to stay in single room and would keep the limit of hotel budget in between \$100 to \$150 per day to stay. He mentioned that a request letter would be forwarded to the Pakistani Consulate to issue a support letter, addressing to the Australian Customs Authority for clearance of samples being carried by the delegates during the visit. The chairman committee said that the visa processing system of Australia had been online therefore, all the supporting documents, i.e., Recommendation letter of TDAP & SCCI, Visit Plan, Note Verbale will be shared with the delegates to apply accordingly.

### VISIT OF H.E. DR. RUDIGER LOTZ CONSUL GEN GERMAN CONSULATE KARACHI

On February 19, 2024 H.E. Dr. Rudiger Lotz Consul Gen German Consulate Karachi along with Mr. Oliver Oehms, CEO, German Emirati Joint Council for Industry & Commerce, Ms. Janine Rohwer, First Secretary, German Embassy Islamabad visited SCCI and received a warm welcomed by Mr. Abdul Ghafoor Malik,



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President, SCCI, Mr. Amer Majeed Sheikh, Vice President SCCI and worthy members of Sialkot Chamber. Mr. Abdul Ghafoor Malik, President, SCCI mentioned that Pakistan was one of the first Asian countries to establish relations Germany and had enjoyed the friendly relations since the establishment of diplomatic ties in 1951. He also acknowledged and appreciated the role of Germany in the extension of the GSP+ status. While highlighting the trade figures between both countries, he stressed that there was a great possibility and huge potential for joint ventures and cooperation in various sectors, which should be exploited optimally to further improve bilateral trade. He highlighted the concerns and issues being faced by the Sialkot Business Community and requested to get relief, especially in terms of visa processing and provision of special appointments to members with emergent business commitments in Germany. Mr. Malik considering the high number of Visa applications and appointment requests frequently received from members, requested to accommodate Sialkot-based appointments to secured at the German Consulate in Karachi. He requested collaboration between German Emirati Joint Council for Industry & Commerce and SCCI to promote bilateral trade and investment opportunities between two countries.



H.E. Dr. Rudiger Lotz, Consul General, German Consulate Karachi, thanked and appreciated the contribution of SCCI towards the promotion of exports to Pakistan and the social sector as well. Dr. Lotz, acknowledged and ensured complete cooperation in the matters related to improving bilateral trade between Pakistan and Germany. He added that Pakistan and Germany could have more bilateral engagements to strengthen people-to-people linkages, within the areas of Sustainability, Supply Chain Management, Women empowerment, and overcoming environmental challenges. He mentioned that the textile industry of both countries had massive potential

and suggested that both countries should look for further opportunities available in the textile industry. He admired that 70% of the footballs being manufactured, was exported by the Sialkot industry of Pakistan.



Ms. Janine Rohwer, First Secretary of the German Embassy in Islamabad, thanked and briefed on the visa processing system of Germany for the Pakistani business community. She shared that to promote hassle-free visa processing, members should proceed with the visa applications according to the instructions given by the German Embassy (stated on official website of Embassy), to avoid any delay in the visa procedure. She conveyed that the Embassy had experienced an increase in the number of visa applications from across Pakistan, resulting in unexpected delays. She also requested the members to complete the checklist of documents before appearing for appointment at the German Embassy. She stressed that visa processing was a time-taking process and advised that members while securing appointments should keep in mind the following before proceeding with the visa application. "The business community to plan 6 weeks in case of meeting with the customers and 10 weeks in case of participating in Fairs/Exhibitions, ahead of their visit to Germany to ensure timely acquisition of visas, from the German Embassy."

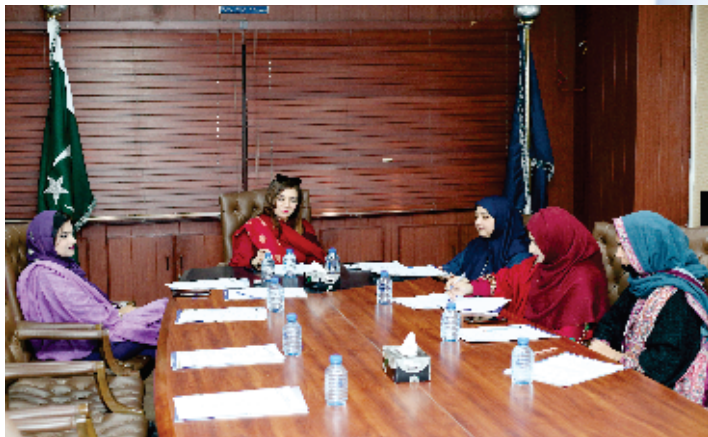
### MEETING OF DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS

Mrs. Gulzaib Waqas Awan, Chairperson Women Entrepreneurs Committee convened the meeting of Departmental Committee Women Entrepreneurs on February 21, 2024. She welcomed all the Members to the meeting. She asked about the issues of Women Entrepreneurs so that could be resolved from the platform of the Women Entrepreneurs Committee. She also asked about the challenges faced by women entrepreneurs, aiming to address and resolve these



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issues through the platform of the Women Entrepreneurs Committee so that an enabling business-friendly environment could be created. She also added that the Committee will work towards understanding the specific concerns of women entrepreneurs and implementing measures to overcome barriers, ensuring their sustainable development and contribution to the economic landscape.



She expressed commitment to organizing awareness-raising seminars for women entrepreneurs from the platforms of WRC to empower women with essential knowledge and skills for business success.

Members appreciated and commended the proactive efforts of the Women Entrepreneurs Committee for their commendable work in facilitating women entrepreneurs to establish and grow their businesses.

## MEETING OF DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON GARRISON HQ/CANTONMENT BOARD AFFAIRS

On February 21, 2024 meeting of the Departmental Committee on Garrison HQ/Cantonment Board Affairs was convened under the Chairmanship of Sheikh Zahid Hameed. He briefed regarding the advertisement issued by the Cantonment Board for the modification of building By-laws. She said that meeting was convened to collect suggestions to be forwarded to the Cantonment Board Sialkot by February 29, 2024. He shared the following recommendation for the public interest for submission to CBS.

- Division of the 600-yard plot in Cantonment MEO Land Sialkot into two portions to accommodate the construction of family homes due to the current high prices of Cantonment land.
- The need to secure permission from neighbors for basement construction, despite the prior approval of

the map, was recommended to be abolished.



He said that written information about advertisements regarding the changes in building Bylaws should be communicated to the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) because a significant number of SCCI members reside in the Cantt area.

Members objected to some proposed modifications and requested to change them.

Decision

- It was decided that a meeting of delegation of the Committee with the CEO Cantonment would be arranged to discuss all the matters and concerns related to the modification of building By-Laws of Cantonment Board Sialkot.
- A Letter of recommendations/suggestions would be written to the CEO and Higher Authorities of the Cantonment Board regarding the change in By-Laws after further discussion of the Chairman Committee with some senior members.

## JOINT MEETING OF DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEES ON SME/TRAINING AND EVENT MANAGEMENT

On 22 February, 2024, a joint meeting of Departmental Committees on SME/Training and Event Management was scheduled to discuss on arranging 1st ExpoTech in Sialkot. Mr. Fizan Akbar, Chairman, Departmental Committee on SME/Training presented the idea of Expo Tech Sialkot by Sialkot Chamber and mentioned that the Expo would be the first ever Technology Exhibition of Sialkot, wherein exporters, manufacturers and traders would be enabled to meet the service providers. He mentioned that Information Technology (IT) was turning around the business model around the world. It was also informed that a Tech Conference and Work Shop would also take place in the parallel to give innovative



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ideas to the exporters of Sialkot. He also inquired about the venue of the Expo, which was best for convenience of the people. The Chairman Committee said that the Exhibition would allow the entrepreneurs of Sialkot to learn about the services that could be provided by the IT Firms available in Sialkot, Lahore and Islamabad, that would turn around their businesses. Mr. Fizan Akbar added that the Expo Tech Sialkot would provide opportunities to the businessmen. During the meeting Mr. Ejaz Ghauree, Mr. Saleem Bhutta, Raja Saqib Ashfaq, Mr. Bashir Bhatti and Mr. Shahbaz Saim appreciated the idea of the expo and ensured full cooperation in this regard.



Mian Muhammad Khalil, Chairman, Departmental Committee on Event Management recommended to keep the execution date 10 days after the Eid-ul-Fitr and added that the idea of the Chairman, Departmental Committee on SME/Training would help the SME Industry to flourish further with IT services. Mr. Khalil mentioned that the execution date could be changed in consultation with the President SCCI, that would better suit for execution. He proposed Cantt View Marque and Hilton City for the Expo Tech Sialkot by Sialkot Chamber. It was recommended to make a subcommittee of the members to divide the tasks among them, under Chairmen Departmental Committee on SME/Training and Event Management.

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## تعمیراتی اجلاس کی باہمی گفتگو اور مشورہ

حوالہ سے کئی خوبصورت یادیں چھوڑی ہیں۔ صدر چیئرمین نے کہا کہ سialکوٹ کی بزنس کمیونٹی ان کی شاندار کاروباری ورفاہی خدمات پر انہیں خراج تحسین پیش کرتی ہے۔

صدر سialکوٹ چیئرمین کے علاوہ بزنس کمیونٹی کے راہنما جناب ریاض الدین شیخ صاحب، نائب صدر چیئرمین جناب عامر مجید شیخ صاحب، سابق صدر سialکوٹ چیئرمین جناب میجر (ر) منصور احمد، ڈاکٹر نعمان ادریس بٹ، جناب میاں عمران اکبر، جناب فضل جیلانی، جناب بابر اقبال، جناب خاور انور خواجہ، جناب خواجہ مسعود اختر، جناب شیخ یعقوب احمد کے علاوہ جناب نعیم اختر صاحب، جناب زین العابدین، جناب مرزا شکور احمد نے مرحوم کے بارے میں اپنے خیالات کا اظہار کیا۔

اجلاس میں سینئر نائب صدر وہب جہانگیر، جناب میاں محمد ریاض، جناب ملک محمد اشرف، جناب خرم انور خواجہ، جناب غلام مصطفیٰ چوہدری، جناب میاں نعیم جاوید، حاجی محمد اشرف صاحب کے فیملی ممبران جناب عمران اشرف صاحب، جناب کامران صاحب، جناب یاسین صاحب، جناب محمد شہباز صائم سمیت اراکین مجلس عاملہ، ممبران چیئرمین آف کامرس کی ایک کثیر تعداد نے تعزیتی اجلاس میں شرکت کی۔ اجلاس کے اختتام پر مرحوم کے ایصال ثواب کیلئے جامع مسجد چیئرمین کے خطیب جناب محمد یونس نس نے دعا مغفرت کی۔ جناب عمران اشرف صاحب نے سialکوٹ چیئرمین کی انتظامیہ کی جانب سے ان کے والد محترم کی وفات پر اظہار تعزیت کیلئے منعقدہ تعزیتی اجلاس پر ان کا شکریہ ادا کیا۔

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CONTACT

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## تعزیتی اجلاس میاں حاجی محمد اشرف آف بلہرو



سیالکوٹ کی سرجیکل انڈسٹری کیلئے گرانقدر خدمات سرانجام دی ہیں، آپ سیالکوٹ چیئرمین کے ایگزیکٹو کمیٹی ممبر بھی رہے ہیں۔ علاوہ ازیں مرحوم پاکستان کے اہم ادارے "انجینئرنگ ڈویلپمنٹ بورڈ" کے تاحیات ممبر بھی تھے۔

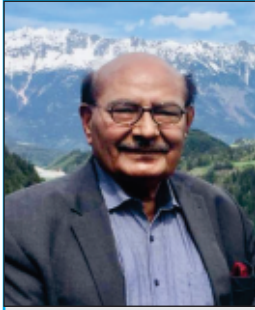
جناب حاجی محمد اشرف صاحب ایک معروف بزنس مین ہونے کے ساتھ ساتھ ایک درد دل رکھنے والے ایک انصاف پسند اور با اصول شخصیت کے مالک بھی تھے۔ آپ جعفر میموریل ڈسپنسری، جعفر میموریل ٹرسٹ کے زیر اہتمام زہرہ میموریل ہسپتال کا قیام، طلباء کیلئے تعلیمی وظائف کی فراہمی کیلئے فاطمہ جعفر ایجوکیشن ٹرسٹ، غریب اور نادار افراد کی مالی معاونت کیلئے ویلفیئر فنڈز کا قیام، فیکٹری ورکرز کے بچوں کی شادیوں و مالی معاونت کی فراہمی کیلئے بلہرو ایسپلائز ویلفیئر ٹرسٹ اور انجمن مغلیہ جیسے کئی سماجی و رفاہی اداروں کی سرپرستی کرتے رہے۔ علاوہ ازیں انہوں نے سیالکوٹ سیرٹ سٹڈی سنٹر کے قیام اور سیالکوٹ پبلک سکول سمیت سیالکوٹ کے دیگر ویلفیئر اداروں کے قیام کیلئے بھرپور مالی معاونت کی۔ اس میں کوئی دو رائے نہیں کہ جناب حاجی صاحب نے سیالکوٹ کی بزنس کمیونٹی اور فلاح انسانیت کے

مورخہ 10 جنوری 2024ء ایوان صنعت و تجارت سیالکوٹ کے آڈیٹوریم "شیخ محمد شفیع ہال" میں حاجی محمد اشرف صاحب، میسرز بلہرو (پرائیویٹ) لمیٹڈ کی یاد میں ایک تعزیتی اجلاس کا انعقاد کیا گیا۔ اجلاس کی صدارت، صدر سیالکوٹ چیئرمین آف کامرس اینڈ انڈسٹری جناب عبدالغفور ملک نے کی، اجلاس کا باقاعدہ آغاز تلاوت قرآن حکیم سے ہوا جس کی سعادت سابق صدر سیالکوٹ چیئرمین جناب خواجہ مسعود اختر نے حاصل کی۔

صدر سیالکوٹ چیئرمین نے اجلاس کی باقاعدہ کارروائی کو آگے بڑھاتے ہوئے مرحوم جناب حاجی اشرف صاحب کے فیملی ممبران، سابق صدر سیالکوٹ چیئرمین و معزز حاضرین کا شکریہ ادا کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ بلاشبہ جناب حاجی صاحب کا شمار سیالکوٹ کی ان چند معروف کاروباری شخصیات میں ہوتا ہے، جنہوں نے سیالکوٹ کی بزنس کمیونٹی کیلئے ناقابل فراموش خدمات سرانجام دی ہیں۔ آپ نے انتہائی قلیل سرمایہ سے بلہرو انڈسٹری کے نام سے ایک سرجیکل انسٹرومنٹس بنانے والی کمپنی کی بنیاد رکھی، جو کہ تھوڑے ہی عرصہ میں ترقی کی منازل طے کرتی ہوئی آسمان کی بلندیوں کو چھونے لگی اور آج سرجیکل انڈسٹری میں بلہرو کا شمار سیالکوٹ کی صف اول کی انڈسٹریز میں ہوتا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ حاجی صاحب ڈرائی پورٹ کے بانیان میں شامل ہیں، آپ نے بطور چیئرمین سرجیکل ایسوسی ایشن سیالکوٹ اور



# THIS WALL WILL FALL...



By: Prof. Safdar Sandal

I am not going to be pessimistic by re-calling only half-part of what John F. Kennedy had said once: "This wall will fall, for it cannot withstand faith; it cannot withstand truth. The wall cannot withstand freedom" (being the complete remark). The fall of the Berlin-wall started on 09<sup>th</sup> November 1989. It was a historical day which marked the end of the 'Cold War' and made re-unification of Germany, possible. The raising of arms by the people of East Germany mounted on the Berlin Wall was a symbol of victory and a part of their jubilation in the whole of East Germany which used to be a part of whole of Germany. The separation persisted for 30 years, against the will of the people and the 'Law of Nature'.

It was not pre-planned that on this

eventful day, I happened to be in Bonn/Germany (the then capital of West Germany) only on my annual business trip of Europe and specifically to take part as an exhibitor in the 'Messe Intermot' (a famous trade fair) being held in the nearby more commercial city of

ambassador to the United States, described the demolition of the Berlin Wall as a "sudden gift out of the blue".

In the preceding years before demolition of the Berlin Wall and during my business travels abroad



( Berlin Wall being fallen I - Nov. 1989).

Cologne, every two years. Obviously this coincidence in my business trip enabled me to witness the jubilation of the German people in Bonn and Cologne and of course in the rest of Germany which I visited, as usual, until Munich – the capital city of Bavaria, after accomplishing with the fair. The state of Soviet Union (USSR) had also collapsed, a year later. Emily Haber, Germany's

(since 1967) I had the opportunity of meeting some East German people too who had escaped from East Berlin to the West side of the city through various means. Most hazardous one was the example of a person who narrated to me, how he had passed through the underground sewerage way that connected the two parted-cities of East and West Berlin. Contd...Next





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