

THE SIALKOT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
HELD ON FEBRUARY 28, 2025

01. A Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce & Industry was held on February 28, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. at Sheikh Muhammad Shafi Hall of the Sialkot Chamber.

02. Mr. Ikram Ul Haq, 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.

04. The following members attended the meeting:

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| • Mr. Ikram Ul Haq | President |
| • Mr. Waseem Shahbaz Lodhi | Senior Vice President |
| • Mr. Omer Khalid | Vice President |
| • Mr. Abdul Ghafoor Malik | -Member- |
| • Mr. Aamer Mahmood | -do- |
| • Mr. Adnan Safdar | -do- |
| • Mr. Arshad Jamil Chaudhry | -do- |
| • Mr. Haseeb Tahir | -do- |
| • Mr. Hassan Akbar | -do- |
| • Mr. Jawad Khalid | -do- |
| • Mr. Khurram Javaid Sethi | -do- |
| • Mr. Mehtab Maqsood | -do- |
| • Mr. Mohammad Iqbal Asad | -do- |
| • Mr. Muhammad Abid | -do- |
| • Mr. Muhammad Murad Arshad | -do- |
| • Mr. Salman Sheikh | -do- |
| • Sh. Muhammad Shahid Inam | -do- |
| • Sheikh Atique-ur-Rehman | -do- |
| • Mr. Sohail Masood | -do- |
| • Syed Ahtesham Mazhar | -do- |

05. **Leave of Absence**

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| • Mr. Bilal Ahmed Khan | -do- |
| • Ms. Kinza Ijaz | -do- |
| • Syeda Ayesha Wadood | -do- |

06. **Special Invitees**

- Malik Naseer Ahmed, Chairman Departmental Committee on Accounts
- Mr. Fizan Akbar, Chairman Departmental Committee on SME
- Mr. Khawar Hussain Spall, Chairman Departmental Committee of Cantonment.
- Mr. Tariq Hussain, Chairman Departmental Committee on Cargo

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

- Mr.Faheem Pervaiz Lodhi, Brother Of Mr.Waseem Shahbaz Lodhi, Svp, Scci
- Sister Of Mr.Shahbaz Rafique Bhatti, M/S Rajco
- Mother Of Mr.Saif Ali, Dispatch Rider,Scci
- Daughter In Law Of Late Sh.Naeem Khaliq Ratra M/S.Super Crompton

- Mr.Faisal Mahmood Khan, Former Svp,Sccl
- Mr.Haji Nawaz Maan, Father Of Mr. Amjad Nawaz Maan,Advocate
- Wife of Mr. Sh. M. Ashraf Sandal,(late)
- Mr.M.Maqbul Khan, M/S.Nak Khan Sports
- Mr.Farooq Iqbal Butt,Uncle Of Mr.Umer Mir,M/S.Jsd Sports
- Mr. Imtiaz Ahmed Ray, Brother of Mr. Humayun Ray M/s. State Sports

08. Point discussed.	Approval of minutes of meeting of the Executive Committee held on January 25, 2025.
Approval	Approved.

09 Point discussed.	Approval of Statement of Accounts for the month of January 2025 and the minutes of meeting of the Departmental Committee on Accounts & Finance held on February 24, 2025.
<u>Discussion:</u> Malik Naseer Ahmed stated that a Committee Meeting was held on February 24, 2025, to review the monthly accounts and examine the vouchers. He mentioned that the vouchers were verified in accordance with the SOPs established by the management and were found to be satisfactory. Mr. Hassan Akbar stated that in the previous Executive Committee, he had proposed the establishment of quarterly or annual budgets to streamline operations and prevent mismanagement, similar to corporate practices. However, no further progress was made in this regard. The President stated that the proposal was discussed; however, the budgetary structure was not determined. He further added that, if the house agreed, the proposal could either be deliberated upon or referred to the Accounts Committee. Mr. Hassan Akbar stated that in the second Executive Committee meeting, extensive discussions were held regarding the accounts. It was proposed to establish a structured budget, similar to those implemented in other institutions. This approach would facilitate the upcoming team in managing expenditures effectively. Additionally, measures such as implementing checks within the software system were suggested to ensure better expense control. Mr. Omar Khalid stated that the Office Bearers were required to adhere to strict limitations within the account system. He mentioned that certain issues, particularly, those related to following the quotation system for purchasing goods, had been observed by him, the President, and the Senior Vice President. These issues had now been fully addressed and implemented. Additionally, a comprehensive file was being prepared to document any work initiated in the building, both past and present. Previously, staff overtime calculations were done manually. However, to enhance efficiency, staff overtime was now being linked with the attendance machine, allowing for automated calculations alongside salary processing. In this regard, a dedicated overtime calculation module had been integrated into the Accounts software and would be implemented soon. Furthermore, if deemed necessary, the Executive Committee might consider setting a budget. Mr. Hassan Akbar stated that if the proper system was being followed, then it should be carried on. Mr. Omer Khalid requested Malik Naseer Ahmed, Chairman of the	

Departmental Committee on Accounts, for his opinion on setting the budget.

Malik Naseer Ahmed stated that the accounts of the Sialkot Chamber were well-controlled, with staff salaries remaining consistent and the same employees receiving payments each month. The primary budget variations occurred in areas such as entertainment and repair & maintenance, which were managed on an actual cost basis. Entertainment expenses were linked to various programs held throughout the month. He suggested that entertainment, repair & maintenance, and a few other specific expense heads could be budgeted, while other expenditures were already well-managed and implemented accordingly. All transactions were properly documented, and the accounting software was regularly updated. Additionally, the Accounts Committee reviewed vouchers, on a monthly basis, seeking clarifications from the Office Bearers when necessary and offering suggestions where needed. For instance, in its last meeting, the Committee inquired about an increase in advance payments and the electricity bill despite the installation of a solar system, and satisfactory explanations were provided. He also noted that the budget-setting process discussed in the previous meeting could not be implemented in this case, as expenses within this Chamber were incurred based on necessity. He further requested Mr. Hassan Akbar to join the Accounts Committee.

Mr. Hassan Akbar stated that the purpose of the budget proposal was not to identify mismanagement or impose spending limits. Instead, it aimed to provide clarity to the new team regarding past expenditures under various heads and to understand any excess spending at different stages. He also accepted Malik Naseer's proposal to join the Committee.

The President stated that an ERP system had been implemented in the Sialkot Chamber to manage accounts. However, upon assuming office, he and the Vice President observed that the system was not functioning effectively. The software was limited to generating essential reports and conducting analyses. Additionally, the Accounts Officer lacked the confidence to provide requested reports directly from the system, such as month-to-month or year-to-year comparisons. In some cases, extra time was required to manually prepare reports using Excel, raising significant concerns. Subsequently, he (the President) held a meeting with AWM Management, the software developers, and it was revealed that the accounts software had been developed based on the advice and facilitation of the staff. AWM demanded an additional fee to integrate new modules. With the approval of the Executive Committee (EC), the accounts software was updated to meet requirements, allowing the extraction of annual, monthly, and weekly comparison reports as needed. The President affirmed that Office Bearers were satisfied with the updated system. However, some grey areas remained, one of which he wished to highlight. He requested the Accounts Committee to review these concerns and submit their report in the next meeting. One critical issue pertained to Rs. 10 million collected in 2007 from members as SIDC funds, at Rs. 100,000 per member. These funds were deposited in account at Al-Baraka Bank but had remained unutilized. Recently, it was discovered that the Chamber's Accounts Department lacked detailed information regarding these funds, including current balances and TDR maturity/approval. While a document from 2020 suggested that the amount had increased to Rs. 20 million, the President expressed doubt regarding its accuracy. He said that Mr. Majid Raza Bhutta drew his attention to the SIDC funds, urging him to assess their profit and explore potential utilization. Consequently, the President wrote to Al-Baraka Bank to obtain detailed fund statements. He noted that recurring issues stemmed from the improper use of the ERP system. A key concern was that the Accounts Department was running both manual and software-based systems in parallel, raising questions about reliability. Furthermore, only the Accounts Officer had access to information

about available funds and could advise the Office Bearers on expense allocation. However, the Office Bearers lacked direct access to this information due to not upgrading the financial software. The President reaffirmed his commitment to obtaining an accurate financial picture and expressed optimism about achieving this goal. He also noted that a staff member from the Accounts Department had resigned and had now been replaced. The President emphasized the need to appoint a Chief Financial Officer (CFO). He acknowledged that the current accounting staff was excellent, honest, and highly responsible. However, he also stated that appointing a Chief Marketing Officer (CMO) was necessary to meet the evolving demands of the time. He clarified that this decision was not based on any complaints.

Syed Ahtesham Mazhar endorsed the suggestion of the President to appoint the CFO.

The President said that Mr. Omer Khalid had highlighted some figures in accounts statement which needed to be clarified.

Mr. Omar Khalid emphasized that there was no intention to blame anyone. As he was entrusted with the responsibility of supervising the Chamber's accounts, he was conducting an objective review. He explained that the Office Bearers collectively proposed the development of a comparison report module within the accounting software to generate monthly and annual reports with comparisons to previous years' figures. This module was nearing completion. Additionally, he clarified that no blame was directed toward Mr. Amir Rashid, Accounts Officer. The delays in processing were due to a high workload following resignation of a senior accounts staff member. To address this, a new staff member had now been appointed to assist in managing the workload. Mr. Omer reported that an example comparison of expenses from October to February in the report module revealed a notable increase in Legal & Professional Charges. From October 2023 to February 2024, expenses under this head amounted to Rs. 66,000/-, whereas from October 2024 to February 2025, the amount surged to Rs. 416,000/-.

The President expressed concern that although the Vice President was the signing authority for accounts, he was unaware of the details regarding Rs. 416,000/- expenditure.

In response, Malik Naseer Ahmed suggested that the detailed voucher could be reviewed from the Accounts Department for further clarification.

Additionally, Mr. Omer Khalid noted that when comparing October 2023 to October 2024 in terms of income, there was an increase of Rs. 3.7 million in October 2024. However, the expenses also rose significantly, reaching Rs. 1.1 million.

M Abdul Ghafoor Malik stated that during his tenure, with the approval of the EC and leadership, a dinner for members at the Annual General Meeting was organized outside the Chamber, and its bill was duly paid. He emphasized that expense comparisons across different periods cannot be made under any specific account statement head. He further clarified that although no new activities were undertaken in October 2024, the expenses were higher compared to October 2023. This increase was due to payments for bills from previous months, specifically for work completed in September, in line with the routine practice of settling payments for completed projects. (Solar Project) While discussing the solar project, Mr. Abdul Ghafoor stated that an 88KW solar system had been successfully installed. He acknowledged the dedicated efforts of Mr. Wahub Jahangir, Former Senior Vice President, in completing and making

the project operational. He further mentioned that during the first month of their tenure in 2022, an electricity bill of Rs. 1.1 million was paid. Since then, the government had significantly increased tariff rates. He emphasized that if immediate action had not been taken to install the solar system, the organization's electricity bill could have risen to Rs. 20-22 lakh. However, due to the installation, the organization now paid a reduced amount of Rs. 3-4 lakh. Mr. Abdul Ghafoor Malik also informed that during his tenure, work on the Business Facilitation Center (BFC) was undertaken with the approval of the Executive Committee. An amount of Rs. 18-20 lakh was spent on renovation work, and additional funds were provided on a monthly basis to cover the shortfall. He highlighted that the BFC was an iconic facility for the members of the Sialkot Chamber and the public at large. Furthermore, he noted that all equipment required for the driving test center at BFC, including computers, rooms, and related infrastructure, was financed by the Sialkot Chamber.

The President informed Mr. Abdul Ghafoor Malik that the expenses incurred on BFC were proving to be highly worthwhile, as the public was extremely pleased and satisfied with its services. He emphasized that BFC stood as a truly iconic initiative, earning immense admiration for the Sialkot Chamber's dedicated efforts.

While discussing the Vice President's point regarding comparison reports and figure verification, the President stated that the Vice President intended to verify the figures mentioned in the accounts statement. The purpose was to re-verify whether he had approved them or not and, if so, to confirm their accuracy. This process served as an internal audit requiring cross-verification. The President also shared that during the HR meeting, the management had requested the Secretary General to closely monitor and thoroughly review accounts matters before forwarding them to the office bearers, aiming to further improve the process.

Mr. Omer Khalid stated that the module was integrated into the accounts software to enable self-accountability of expenses through comparison reports.

Sheikh Atiq ur Rahman suggested that since there were concerns about certain grey areas, a task committee should be formed to examine these matters and provide clarity.

The President acknowledged the suggestion of Sheikh Atiq ur Rehman's but stated that the Accounts Committee was already actively addressing these issues. He added that any member interested in contributing could join the Accounts Committee.

Mr. Murad Arshad stated that a software called Quickbox was available for generating comparison reports of accounts. He mentioned that this software could be purchased and launched alongside the existing system to facilitate comparison reporting. Additionally, he highlighted that Quickbox was user-friendly and easy to operate.

Mr. Omar Khalid stated that the comparison reports module was integrated into the accounting software. From this report, they generated a query revealing that an amount of 416,000 had been paid in legal and professional charges. He further mentioned that developing this module took approximately four months.

The Secretariat informed the house that the bills of Adam's Law Associate regarding the case of the members filed in Lahore High Court and FIA Gujranwala with the approval of Mr. Omar Khalid had been paid.

Mr. Omar Khalid endorsed and said that an amount of Rs. 200,000/- was paid to Adam's Law Associate of Legal & Professional Charges. Syed Ahtesham Mazhar said that there was no grey area in the accounts system, hence we should move forward and not to waste time. Malik Naseer Ahmed stated that one thing was very clear, none of the departments of this Chamber could make any payment independently. A proper procedure was always followed, which included bill verification, approval, cheque signing, and, subsequently, the disbursement of the payment.	
Participants	The President, Mr. Omar Khalid, Mr. Abdul Ghafoor Malik, Syed Ahtesham Mazhar, Mr. Hassan Akbar, Mr. Murad Arshad, Sheikh Atiq ur Rehman, Mr. Waseem Shahbaz Lodhi and Malik Naseer Ahmed.
Approval	Approved.

10. Point discussed.	Approval of minutes of meeting of the Departmental Committee on SME/Training held on February 03, 2025.
Mr. Fizan Akbar shared that the issue of finding verified suppliers was discussed in the meeting. He highlighted that new entrepreneurs, particularly female business owners, often receive orders from international buyers but face challenges in accessing verified suppliers. This lack of access leads to delays in order fulfillment and quality issues. To address this issue, it was suggested that a directory be maintained, containing details of verified suppliers from all sectors, ensuring accessibility for relevant stakeholders. Secondly, on January 21, 2025, the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SCCI) hosted a session led by representatives from the National Productivity Organization (NPO) and the Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB). The session aimed to raise awareness about key government initiatives focused on improving productivity and employment in Pakistan. During the event, a training workshop on productivity and marketing in the industry was proposed. The Department initially recommended a trainer from Sialkot, but after reviewing the trainer's portfolio, it was found out that he was not closely associated with the Sialkot industry, hence it was decided to appoint a trainer from Multan or Faisalabad instead. Mr. Fizan stated that he personally interviewed the appointed trainers but found them lacking in the latest industry knowledge and techniques. As a result, he requested the Department to assign another trainer. However, no response had been received to date. He requested the President's assistance in identifying a suitable trainer who could effectively support the industry. In response, the Secretary General suggested that Mr. Fizan contact may GLZ, Germany for further assistance in this matter.	
Participants	Mr. Fizan Akbar and the Secretary General.
Approval	Approved.

11. Point discussed.	Approval of minutes of meeting of the Departmental Committee on Shipping/Dryport held on February 04, 2025.
Approval	Approved.

12. Point discussed.	Approval of minutes of meeting of the Departmental Committee on Garrison HQ/Cantonment Board Affairs held on February 12,
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Discussion

Mr. Khawar Hussain Spall, Chairman Committee informed the house that the Committee meeting was held to discuss issues regarding the Cantonment Board faced by Members and the Matters of WCCIS of We-Exhibit. (Details were mentioned in the minutes) He said that in the follow-up to the Committee meeting, he arranged a meeting with Station Commander Sialkot on February 17, 2025. The meeting was attended by himself, Mr. Ikram ul Haq (President), and Mr. Fazal Jilani (Chairman AIRSIAL) to discuss matters related to the WCCI's We-Exhibit and other public interest issues. The following points were discussed, and responses were provided by the Station Commander:

- The charges were waived by the Station Commander as requested by the Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry for We Exhibit 2025.
- It was assured that the security clearance process for foreign visitors entering the Cantonment area including entrance, stay and dine-in will be allowed within one week particularly for those with a history of prior stays in the Cantonment, if a previous permission letter would be attached with the applications.
- Mr. Fazal Jilani proposed that the construction of a triple story should be allowed for residential buildings in the Cantonment area. In response, it was informed by the Station Commander that the request had already been forwarded, and once the official notification was issued, the construction of triple-story buildings would be allowed in the Cantonment area.
- He and the President requested that revised construction maps for old buildings be accepted for triple-story construction. In response, the Station Commander said that residents interested in constructing triple-story buildings should submit their revised construction maps so that they could start construction, as soon as, approval was granted. Moreover, he added that triple-story construction maps for new buildings could also be submitted.
- It was also proposed that the requirement of a copy of a visa of foreigners be exempted from applying for security clearance, and to issue security clearance of foreigners on the passport to be submitted with the application. because in some cases, the visa of foreign customers remained in process, at the time of applying for security clearance in the Cantonment area.

Syed Ahtesham Mazhar asked Mr. Khawar Hussain Spall whether he had discussed the traffic signal installed at junction of Quaid-e-Azam road, as requested in the previous EC Meeting.

Mr. Khawar Hussain replied that the matter fell under the jurisdiction of the Cantonment Board, which had been occupied with clearing encroachments. He further stated that they had discussed the issue with the Station Commander, who responded that while the signal could not be removed, its timing could be adjusted to improve public convenience.

The President said that matter would be discussed again, in the meeting with the concerned.

The President stated that discussions were held with the Station Commander regarding the approval process for high-rise buildings. The Station Commander informed that individuals had been requested to submit approval drawings for buildings up to 12 stories. Currently, approvals were being granted for seven-story buildings, while the approval process for 12-story buildings was expected to be completed within six months to a year. Consequently, those who

submitted their drawings earlier through the coalition would be the first beneficiaries and could commence their projects accordingly.	
Additionally, the President addressed the sewerage issue in the cantonment. The Station Commander acknowledged that a small section, approximately 1 to 1.5 km, remained to be connected. He mentioned that certain government-related matters required resolution but assured that he was aware of them and that the project would be completed soon.	
Mr. Sheikh Atiq ur Rahman informed the Chairman of the Committee about the improper disposal of garbage on the roadside near Grace Marquee, which had led to worsening conditions in the area. Despite his efforts to contact both the Cantonment Board and the Sialkot Waste Management Company, he was informed that the issue did not fall under their jurisdiction. Given the circumstances, Sheikh Atiq ur Rahman requested the Chairman to engage with the relevant authorities and use his influence to address the problem.	
The President urged the Chairman of the Committee to take up the matter with the concerned authorities.	
Participants	The President, Mr. Khawar Hussain Spall, Syed Ahtesham Mazhar and Sheikh Atiq Ur Rehman.
Approval	Approved.

13. Point discussed.	Approval of minutes of meeting of the Departmental Committee on Sports Goods, Sports Wears, Textile, Apparels, Bags held on February 13, 2025.
Approval	Approved.

14. Point discussed.	Approval of minutes of meeting of the Departmental Committee on Young Entrepreneurs held on February 24, 2025.
Approval	Approved.

15. Point discussed.	Approval of minutes of meeting of the Project Committee on Islamic Commercial Bank held on January 23, 2025.
Discussion. The President shared that meetings with two consultants regarding the bank had been held, and discussions had taken place. A Committee meeting must now be convened to approve the consultant for the feasibility study. Once a decision was made, the EC would be kept informed.	
Participants	The President.
Approval	Approved.

16. Point discussed.	Approval of minutes of meeting on visit of Officers (BS-18) of 42 nd Mid-Career Management Course from NIPA Lahore held on January 30, 2025.
Approval	Approved.

17. Point discussed.	Approval of Report of Seminar on Leads Generation & Networking held on February 11, 2025.
Approval	Approved.
18. Point discussed.	Approval of minutes of meeting on visit of H.E. Mr. Yerzhan Kistafin, Ambassador of Republic of Kazakhstan to Pakistan held

	on February 11, 2025.
Approval	Approved.

19. Point discussed.	Approval of Report of meeting on visit of H.E. Mr. MD Iqbal Hussain Khan, High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Pakistan held on February 18, 2025.
Approval	Approved.

20. Point discussed.	Approval of minutes of meeting on Departmental Committee of Human Resource held on February 19, 2025.
<u>Discussion</u> Syed Ahtesham Mazhar requested the President to brief the minutes, especially about appointments. The President stated that the committee meeting was convened to discuss the extension of services for the Secretary General. After thorough deliberation, the committee recommended granting a two-year extension to Mr. Tariq Mahmood Malik, Secretary General, in his existing pay scale and entitlements, effective from March 16, 2025, to March 15, 2027. He further stated that the committee had no alternative but to extend the Secretary General's services. The house unanimously approved the extension of Mr. Tariq Mahmood Malik, Secretary General, as recommended by the HR Committee.	
Participants	The President and Syed Ahtesham Mazhar.
Approval	Approved.

21. Point discussed.	Approval of minutes of meeting on visit of 52 nd Common Training Program from Civil Services Academy, Lahore held on February 20, 2025.
Approval	Approved.

22. Point discussed.	Approval of minutes of meeting on visit of H.E. Mohamed Karmoune, Ambassador of Republic of Morocco to Pakistan held on February 21, 2025.
Approval	Approved.

23. Point discussed.	Approval of minutes of meeting on visit of H.E. Mr. Irfan Neziroglu Ambassador of Republic of Türkiye held on February 22, 2025.
Approval	Approved.

24. Point discussed.	Approval of minutes of meeting of the Departmental Committee on Membership/Bye-Laws held on February 26, 2025.
<u>Discussion:</u> Mr. Sohail Masood stated that every month, the membership department registered 700-800 new firms, whose files were then submitted to the Vice President for signing and approval. He suggested that instead of physically submitting each file, a list containing the details of new members should be presented for the Vice President's signature. Mr. Omer Khalid replied that physical examination of files was a requirement for new membership, which was followed.	

Participants	Mr. Omer Khalid and Mr. Sohail Masood.
Approval	Approved.

Any Other Point:

25. Mr. Abdul Ghafoor Malik stated that last year, Mr. Aisam Ul Haq Qureshi, President of the Pakistan Tennis Federation, visited the Chamber and requested financial support for under-14 tennis player Mr. Zohaib. In response, he along with Mr. Khawar Anwar Khawaja, Mr. Nadeem Qureshi, and Mr. Hanif Khan, contributed funds and further committed to supporting the player for the next four years.

He mentioned that an email regarding the donation had been received. To fulfill this commitment, he had personally brought a cheque of Rs. 500,000 and urged Mr. Nadeem Qureshi to send his cheque to the Chamber. Additionally, it should be requested to Mr. Khawar Anwar Khawaja and Mr. Hanif Khan to also submit their contributions. Once, the total amount was collected, a consolidated cheque be issued on behalf of the Sialkot Chamber and sent to the concerned authorities.

26. Mr. Murad Arshad inquired about the meeting with the State Bank regarding bank-related matters, which had been planned over the past one or two months but had yet to take place. Additionally, he sought an update on the establishment of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs desk, as promised by Mr. Kakar.

The President stated that he had written a letter to the concerned authorities for setting up the desk of Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) at BFC Sialkot. A week later, Mr. Kakar responded that the organization had objected due to the low frequency of members, making it unfeasible to establish the desk in Sialkot. He mentioned that a MOFA counter had already been set up in Gujarat, where services could be availed. Furthermore, Mr. Kakar had not closed this chapter; rather, he remained committed to supporting the Sialkot industry. The President added that the establishment of a MOFA desk in Sialkot was also discussed with the Interior Minister and the Chairman of TDAP during their visit to Sialkot. The President shared that Mr. Omar Khalid, Vice President also extended support to some members in Gujarat MOFA. Today, if time permitted, the Vice President had planned to visit the Gujarat MOFA office to assess how could its services be effectively availed in order to facilitate the Sialkot industry.

Syed Ahtesham Mazhar suggested that a request could be made to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to establish temporary desks in Sialkot and Gujarat for three days to facilitate the residents of both cities.

Mr. Murad Arshad informed that the MOFA desk in Gujarat was fully authorized to attest all relevant documents. He suggested requesting the Gujarat MOFA Office to allocate a fixed time slot, such as 2:00–4:00 p.m. daily, with a dedicated window for attesting documents for members of the Sialkot Chamber.

The President requested Mr. Murad Arshad to accompany Mr. Omer Khalid on the visit to the Gujarat MOFA Office. He further mentioned that the President of the Gujarat Chamber had recently visited Sialkot for some work and had informed him about Mr. Omer Khalid, Vice President, planning to visit Gujarat. He assured that Mr. Omer Khalid would be warmly welcomed. The President also shared that the Gujarat Chamber had invited the Regional Police Officer (RPO) for the inauguration of their initiative involving the distribution of six electric scooters (EV Scooties) to women police officers. Additionally, the President informed the house that he had received a call from the District Police Officer (DPO), who requested a donation of 10 EV Scooties from the Sialkot Chamber of their women police for deploying them at 10 key locations in Sialkot. The estimated cost of each scooter

was approximately Rs. 100,000. The President sought the opinion of the house regarding this matter.

Mr. Sohail Masood mentioned that a similar initiative had been attempted previously but it was unsuccessful. He noted that Mr. Khawar Anwar Khawaja had been actively involved in that project.

The President stated that Rs. 1,000,000/- would be required for the purchase of the scooties, and the funds could either be sourced from the Sialkot Chamber's budget, contributions from members, or the profit generated from the SIDTS Project.

Mr. Waseem Shahbaz Lodhi pointed out that the profit from the SIDTS Project could not be utilized without consultation, as some senior members had requested either a refund of their investment or the allocation of funds towards a new initiative.

The President responded by stating that Mr. Majid Raza Bhatta had emphasized that the original capital of the SIDTS trustees must be returned, but any profit earned on the amount could be allocated to other projects within the Chamber. He added that if the house agreed, the profit from the SIDTS Trust could be invested in the EV Scooty project on behalf of the trustees.

Mr. Waseem Shahbaz Lodhi suggested to obtaining formal approval from the SIDTS trustees regarding the use of their profit for this initiative.

Syed Ahtesham Mazhar raised a concern about the estimated cost, stating that, according to his knowledge, each scooter was priced between Rs. 300,000 and Rs. 350,000. He requested verification of the price.

The President responded that the concerned department had provided him with the cost of a bike, but the exact pricing would be re-evaluated.

After a thorough discussion, the house unanimously approved the project for the distribution of 10 EV Scooties to women police officers. The procurement would be financed through the profit generated from the SIDTS Project, subject to approval from the SIDTS trustees. If the trustees did not approve, the amount would be arranged from the Sialkot Chamber's funds, with further discussions on reimbursement strategies.

Mr. Murad Arshad inquired, once again, about the meeting with the State Bank regarding banking-related matters. In response, Mr. Omar Khalid informed that the Committee was actively liaising with the relevant authorities at the State Bank. He expressed optimism that a seminar would be organized in the first week of March.

Regarding the MOFA desk, Mr. Omar Khalid stated that he had been in regular contact with MOFA authorities. A meeting had been scheduled for the following week, during which all proposals would be discussed.

27. The President provided an update on the "Medical Store of Sialkot Chamber" project, which was proposed by him. He stated that positive progress was being made, and to meet the project's initial financial requirements, he personally announced Rs. 1,000,000/-, with a commitment to further increase his contribution.

Additionally, the following members announced their contributions:

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| • Mr. Faisal Ikram (M/s. Medisporex) | Rs. 1,000,000/- |
| • Mr. Murad Arshad (EC Member) | Rs. 500,000/- |
| • Mr. Ijaz Bhatti (M/s. Rajco Industries) | Rs. 500,000/- |
| • Mr. Khurram (Galaxy Marriage Hall) | Rs. 500,000/- |

• Mr. Waqas & Mr. Fraz (Speedy Worldwide)	Rs. 200,000/-
• Mr. Omer Khalid Vice President	Rs. 200,000/-
• Mr. Arshad Jamil Ch. (EC Member)	Rs. 200,000/-
• Mr. Iqbal Asad (EC Member)	Rs. 200,000/-
• Mr. Jawad Khalid (EC Member)	Rs. 200,000/-
• Mr. Adnan Safdar (EC Member)	Rs. 200,000/-
• Mr. Sohail Masood (EC Member)	Rs. 200,000/-
• Mr. Muhammad Abid (EC Member)	Rs. 200,000/-
• Mr. Haseeb Tahir (EC Member)	Rs. 200,000/-
• Mr. Hassan Akbar (EC Member)	Rs. 200,000/-
• Haji Tariq, Prime Cargo	Rs. 100,000/-

Several other individuals also committed their support, bringing the estimated total collection to approximately Rs. 10 million. The President emphasized that only donations would be accepted for the project, excluding Zakat and Sadaqat. He further stated that the total estimated cost to complete the project, including infrastructure and medicines, was Rs. 40 million. A professional company from Gujranwala, specializing in medical store infrastructure, had been hired to design and install the necessary setup. As the company had a proven track record in similar projects, only one proposal was received.

A 3D model of the medical store's infrastructure was presented to the house for review and approval. The President giving further details said that the infrastructure cost, excluding equipment, was Rs. 750,000/-, covering racks, counters, and shelves for medicine store. However, computers and other logistics were not included in this estimate. He requested approval from the house for this amount to commence the infrastructure development with M/s. Ha Racks & Furniture, Gujranwala.

The house unanimously approved the quotation of Rs. 750,000/- for M/s. Ha Racks & Furniture, Gujranwala.

The President proposed launching a mobile medical service from the medical store, where a doctor would be available to provide home-based treatments such as injections, sugar tests, and drips on call.

Syed Ahtesham Mazhar suggested that since services like injections were typically administered by paramedical staff, hiring paramedics instead of a doctor would be more practical. The President agreed, and the house approved this suggestion.

Mr. Waseem Shahbaz Lodhi proposed integrating a telemedicine facility at the medical store by appointing a doctor for virtual consultations.

In response, the President mentioned that some associates had advised him to request Rescue 1122 to initiate a Tele-Consultancy service. This would help reduce patient waiting times by providing telephonic medical guidance while an ambulance was en route. He informed the house that a formal letter had been sent to the Ministry of Health regarding this request.

28. Mr. Aamer Mahmood stated that members were facing numerous banking-related issues. Therefore, he suggested requesting the concerned authorities of the State Bank to hold meetings or seminars, on a monthly basis, to address these concerns. Additionally, he noted that several Departmental Committees had not yet been activated.

In response, Mr. Omar Khalid recommended that the Senior Vice Chairmen of the inactive committees might coordinate with their respective Chairmen to ensure that meetings were held.

29. Mr. Salman Majeed Sheikh emphasized the importance of a structured follow-up procedure for meetings held with Ambassadors and other dignitaries at the Chamber. He highlighted those various decisions and commitments were made during these meetings, and a proper follow-up system should be in place to ensure their effective implementation and benefits.

The President acknowledged Mr. Salman Majeed Sheikh's valuable input and appreciated his initiative in raising the matter. He further requested the house to present their proposals on the best course of action for implementing an efficient follow-up mechanism.

Mr. Murad Arshad suggested that meetings, such as the recent discussion with the Turkish Ambassador regarding the five-year multiple-entry visa, should have a set criteria and other proposals should also be structured accordingly. He recommended that one or two Executive Members be assigned to follow up on such matters, emphasizing that staff might not always be able to deal with every issue effectively.

The President stated that the plan to engage Ambassadors and Visa Officers during their visits was adopted to request their support in facilitating visas based on a special letter issued by this Chamber. Additionally, the plan includes arranging meetings with their respective Chambers to facilitate member interactions, B2B meetings, and delegation visits to and from their respective countries, similar to past business delegations that visited Karachi. He highlighted that the Turkish Ambassador had committed to granting a five-year Turkish visa, while the Rwandan Ambassador assured the issuance of a one-month visa on arrival. Furthermore, during the visit to Turkey, the Turkish Ambassador was also requested to arrange meetings with various Chambers in his country. The President further invited members to submit any additional proposal for consideration.

Syed Ahtesham Mazhar stated that Mr. Muhammad Sarfraz Butt, former Senior Vice President, had extensive experience in working with Embassies. He proposed the formation of a Committee to liaise with Embassies and recommended Mr. Muhammad Sarfraz Butt for this role.

In response, the President clarified that a Departmental Committee on "Embassy Liaison" had already been established, with Mr. Waqas Akram Awan serving as its Chairman. This Committee was responsible for handling visa-related matters and trade disputes with Embassies on behalf of members. Additionally, Mr. Muhammad Sarfraz Butt had been nominated to address issues related to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, government departments, and other ministries.

Syed Ahtesham Mazhar expressed that he had not observed Mr. Waqas Akram Awan attending meetings with Ambassadors.

The President responded by affirming that Mr. Waqas Akram Awan had consistently played an active role in liaising with Ambassadors during their visit to Sialkot, including handling protocol arrangements. He clarified that Mr. Waqas Akram Awan was unavailable during the last two to three Ambassadorial visits due to his commitments and organizational responsibilities at We-Exhibit.

30. The President appreciated the Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry Sialkot (WCCIS) for successfully organizing *We-Exhibit 2025* and ensuring that the exhibition was managed in a credible and professional manner. He personally attended the event, having engaged with exhibitors and visitors to gather feedback, which was overwhelmingly positive. Participants expressed that *We-Exhibit 2025* provided an excellent platform to showcase their businesses. Additionally, the dialogue with media representatives and interactions with

attendees were highly productive. On behalf of the Executive Committee (EC) members, the President extended his appreciation to WCCIS for hosting a successful event. He emphasized that the Sialkot Chamber provided full support in terms of financial assistance, logistics, and human resources. He also expressed gratitude to Dr. Nouman Idris Butt, Mr. Waqas Akram, and other volunteers for their valuable contributions.

31. Sh. Muhammad Shahid Inam stated that it had been decided that EC Members would participate in the Canton Fair and inquired about the status of discussions regarding the matter. Additionally, he suggested that a request be made to the Chinese Embassy for the issuance of one-year multiple-entry Chinese visas to EC Members.

In response, the President clarified that, as per the agreement with the Chinese Embassy, EC Members were already entitled to a one-year Chinese visa, hence, there was no further need to get approval. Regarding participation in the Canton Fair, he reaffirmed his readiness but noted that, based on prior discussions, Mr. Shahid Inam was responsible for sharing the list of 12-13 EC Members interested in attending. However, this list had not yet been provided.

Sh. Muhammad Shahid Inam stated that some EC Members had expressed interest in participating in the Canton Fair.

The President emphasized that any EC Member wishing to attend should confirm their participation voluntarily, as soon as possible to facilitate timely visa processing, given the limited time available. He mentioned that they would be attending the third phase of the Exhibition. The primary objective of this visit would be to procure samples of potential products that were not currently manufactured in Sialkot, Pakistan, but could be developed locally with the help of those samples. The President also proposed that each participant allocate 10 kg of their luggage capacity to carry these samples back to Sialkot. Upon arrival, the samples would be submitted to the Sialkot Chamber for display, allowing the business community to examine them. Additionally, members visiting the Chamber would be informed about the source, pricing, and other relevant details of the samples. This initiative aimed to encourage local manufacturers to explore new product development and diversification. He further stated that any product displayed at the Canton Fair indicated a global demand for it. The President once again requested that interested members should confirm their participation by today.

Mr. Salman Majeed Sheikh inquired whether it would be possible to organize a Sialkot Chamber's booth at the Canton Fair.

32. Mr. Abdul Ur Rauf requested the members to deposit Rs. 10,000/- each, as approved in the last EC Meeting, to collectively raise the required amount of Rs. 200,000 for the WCCIS honorary ticket.

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

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