

THE SIALKOT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
HELD ON APRIL 30, 2026

01. A Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce & Industry was held on April 30, 2026 at 03:00 p.m. at Mini Meeting Room of the Sialkot Chamber.

02. Syed Ahtesham Mazhar, President of the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce & Industry presided over the meeting. He thanked the members for attending the meeting.

03. The proceedings of the meeting started with the recitation of the Holy Quran by Arshad Jamil Chaudhary.

04. The following members attended the meeting:

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| • Syed Ahtesham Mazhar | President |
| • Mr. Muhammad Murad Arshad | Senior Vice President |
| • Mr. Salman Sheikh | Vice President |
| • Mr. Ikram Ul Haq | -Member- |
| • Mr. Omer Khalid | -do- |
| • Mr. Arshad Jamil Chaudhry | -do- |
| • Mr. Bilal Ahmed Khan | -do- |
| • Mr. Haseeb Tahir | -do- |
| • Mr. Hassan Akbar | -do- |
| • Mr. Jawad Khalid | -do- |
| • Mr. Khurram Javaid Sethi | -do- |
| • Mr. Mehtab Maqsood | -do- |
| • Mr. Muhammad Abid | -do- |
| • Sh. Muhammad Shahid Inam | -do- |
| • Sheikh Atique-ur-Rehman | -do- |
| • Mr. Sohail Masood | -do- |

05. **Leave of Absence**

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| • Mr. Waseem Shahbaz Lodhi | -Member- |
| • Mr. Aamer Mahmood | -do- |
| • Mr. Adnan Safdar | -do- |
| • Ms. Kinza Ijaz | -do- |
| • Mr. Mohammad Iqbal Asad | -do- |

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

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| • Mr. Abdul Ghafoor Malik | -do- |
| • Ms. Syeda Ayesha Wadood | -do- |

07. **Special Invitees**

- Malik Naseer Ahmed, Chairman Departmental Committee on Accounts
- Mr. Zohair Babar, Chairman Departmental Committee on Surgical
- Mr. Imran Ali Rana, Chairman Departmental Committee on IT/FTR
- Haji Tariq Hussain.

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

- Mother of Mr. Jehanzaib Amin M/s. Weldon Industries
- Sheikh Mehfooz Sethi, Father-in-Law of Sh. Adnan Sethi
- Mirza Ihsan Arham, Brother of Mr. Slaman Arham, M/s. Hand N Craft
- Mr. Adnan Ali Rana, younger Brother of Mr. Imran Ali Rana
- Sister of Syed Mukhtar Hussain Bukhari, Former President SCCI.

09. Point discussed.	Approval of minutes of meeting of the Executive Committee held on March 31, 2026.
Approval	Approved.

10. Point discussed.	Approval of Statement of Accounts for the month of February 2026.
<u>Discussion.</u> Mr. Malik Naseer Ahmed stated that, as per the Accounts Statement, the affairs were running routinely. However, the Committee had observed 2–3 matters like WFSGI Membership etc. He said that the Sialkot Chamber had obtained membership of WFGI and was paying an annual fee of Rs. 1.2 million. The Committee was of the view that the Executive Committee should review whether the membership was beneficial for the Chamber and should it be continued, or otherwise discontinued. The President replied that he had discussed the matter with Dr. Nouman Idris Butt and Mr. Majid Raza Bhutta who both had suggested that the membership should be continued. Mr. Malik Naseer Ahmed further stated that the Committee had also discussed the stock position. Mr. Sohail Masood informed the meeting that the Committee had assigned him the duty to physically verify the stock, which he had checked and found in order accordingly. Mr. Malik Naseer Ahmed added that the Committee had discussed whether any stock items should be retained or disposed of. Mr. Sohail Masood replied that no such items were found which required disposal. Mr. Omer Khalid inquired about the TDR profit. Mr. Amer Rashid Wyne replied that the profit ratio was 9.2% and that approximately Rs. 1,100,000/- was being received every month. Mr. Omer Khalid further stated that certain additions had been made in the account software, including a data analysis module for comparison statements with the previous year. He asked whether the module was functional. Mr. Amer Rashid replied that it was not working. Mr. Ikram Ul Haq stated that during his tenure, the HR Committee and the leadership had highlighted the need for year-wise financial comparisons. Consequently, this module had been incorporated into the account's software by Mr. Omer Khalid, who was assigned the task. Mr. Ikram emphasized that financial comparisons should be properly generated and requested the President to reactivate the module. The President requested Mr. Amer Rashid to brief him accordingly. Mr. Ikram Ul Haq also discussed the reinstatement of the SIDTS account. Mr. Amer Rashid Wyne informed the meeting that the account had not yet been reinstated. The President replied that the matter was already under his notice and was being pursued, while Mr. Imran Ali Rana was working on it.	

Mr. Imran Ali Rana briefed the status of files in the Department regarding reinstate of Bank Account of SIDTS.	
Participants	The President, Mr. Ikram Ul Haq, Mr. Omer Khalid, Malik Naseer Ahmed, Mr. Sohail Masood and Mr. Amer Rashid Wyne.
Approval	Approved.

11. Point discussed.	Approval of minutes of meeting of the Departmental Committee on Income Tax/FTR held on March 30, 2026.
<u>Discussion</u> Mr. Imran Ali Rana informed the members that a meeting was held on March 30, 2026 to finalize the Chamber's stance prior to the upcoming meeting with the Director General, Tax Policy Office, and Member (IR Operations), FBR. He stated that after detailed deliberations, the Committee proposed a slab-based tax structure comprising the following three brackets relating to FTR: • 1% tax on turnover up to Rs.500 million, • 1.5% tax on turnover from Rs.500 million to Rs.1 billion, and • 2% tax on turnover from Rs.1 billion to Rs.2 billion. He further stated that, in case the Government did not agree to restore the Final Tax Regime (FTR), the Chamber had proposed that exemption from audit under the relevant provisions of the Income Tax Ordinance should be granted. In this regard, the Department had verbally assured that the proposal would be considered positively. Mr. Imran Ali Rana further informed that the Department was presently considering SMEs having exports up to Rs.25 crore. However, he emphasized that if the proposed relief up to Rs.2 billion turnover was extended, it should also appropriately cover manufacturing exporters while clearly distinguishing them from commercial exporters. He pointed out that commercial exporters could not avail SME-related benefits in the same manner as manufacturer-cum-exporters. He added that if commercial exporters were also accommodated within the proposed framework, approximately 50% to 60% of the Chamber members would benefit from the scheme. Mr. Imran Ali Rana further informed the members that today, along with Mr. Jamshed Murtaza Badar, he visited Dr. Qurat Ul Ain Chief Commissioner Inland Revenue Sialkot to welcome her on her appointment. During the meeting, she informed that the Commissioner had shared all the details and commitments made during the meeting held yesterday at the Chamber and had advised her to work in line with those commitments, which he described as a positive development and a significant achievement for the Chamber. The President shared that the Chamber had invited the newly elected office-bearers of the Sialkot Tax Bar to the Chamber. During that meeting, certain concerns were raised regarding the strict attitude of the Chief Commissioner and the alleged hardships being faced by members. However, the President stated that instead of adopting an immediate confrontational approach, the Chamber decided to first invite the Chief Commissioner for dialogue and present the members' grievances before him. He informed that the invitation was extended immediately, and the Chief Commissioner responded positively and visited the Chamber the following day at 3:00 PM. During the meeting, detailed and open discussions were held, and most of the Chamber's concerns and requests were discussed, in detail. The President added that, as highlighted by Mr. Imran Ali Rana, implementation on some of the discussed points had already commenced, which reflected a positive intent on	

the part of the Department.

The President appreciated Mr. Imran Ali Rana on his working as Chairman of the Committee.

Participants	The President and Mr. Imran Ali Rana.
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Approval	Approved.
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12. Point discussed.	Approval of minutes of meeting of the Departmental Committee on Surgical Instruments/Cutlery Sector/Allied Industries held on April 21, 2026.
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Discussion:

Mr. Zohair Baber, Chairman of the Committee, stated that there were three main issues under consideration: (i) DRAP, (ii) Free Sales Certificate, and (iii) import of samples. He informed that with coordination and supervision, the matter of the Free Sales Certificate had been resolved.

Regarding the second issue, i.e., DRAP requirements, he noted that there was currently a gap between the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) and the Surgical Association; however, he expressed confidence that this matter would also be resolved in due course. He recalled that in 2017, during the presidency of Zahid Latif Malik, the SCCI and SIMAP had successfully lobbied for an exemption, which had remained officially in place.

On the issue of import of samples, he stated that the matter was under discussion with the Ministry of Industries and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and was expected to be resolved soon.

The President inquired further about the issue regarding the import of samples, specifically asking whether a DRAP certificate was being demanded.

Mr. Zohair Baber confirmed that it was indeed required. He explained that customs authorities request a DRAP certificate for imported surgical instrument samples because such items fall under the category of regulated medical devices.

Mr. Omair Nisar explained that a letter had been written to Ministry of Industries and also discussed with Member Custom Operation, during his visit to this Chamber, to clear the import sample of surgical instruments, which were exported again without DRAP certificate.

Mr. Zohair Babar said that it was also discussed in the Committee meeting to establish MOFA office in Sialkot like established in Gujrat. He said that he had discussed this issue with Khawaja Muhammad Asif, in detail, and requested for the facilitation for business community.

Mr. Ikram Ul Haq said that during the last year the matter was discussed in detail with Khawaja M. Asif. It was proposed to set up MOFA office in BFC or set up a desk in Sialkot Chamber and assign some staff who visit two days a week and it was also requested to establish a collection center for the facilitation of members but Mr. Khawaja Zulquarnain, DC Sialkot passed the information that it was not feasible to setup office because there was not much frequency attestation seekers further stating that BFC would be closed and only Khidmat Markaz would continue for public services. So, on this information Khawaja Muhammad Asif stepped back. Mr. Ikram Ul Haq said that it was dire need In Sialkot due for certification of especially business-related documents. He also discussed about the DRAP.

Mr. Muhammad Murad Arshad observed that although surgical products were not specifically covered under FDA, exporters were still required to obtain FDA registration and pay the related fees for exports. He informed the members that under the FDA's upcoming regulations, effective from 2028, companies that were not registered with the

corresponding regulatory authority in their own country would not be eligible for FDA registration. In Pakistan, the equivalent authority was DRAP; therefore, registration with DRAP would become essential for maintaining FDA compliance and export access.

He further emphasized that the industry should take advantage of the facilitation currently being provided by the authorities and work collectively towards developing its own systems and mechanisms. He also appreciated the positive efforts initiated earlier and stressed that such constructive initiatives should be continued in the interest of the surgical industry.

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Mr. Zohair Babar stated that matters of this nature were government-to-government in nature. He emphasized that under such arrangements, the FTA would not communicate directly with DRAP; instead, it would approach its respective government. He further explained that the matter would then be taken up by the relevant national authority, primarily the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, and only thereafter would DRAP be involved in the process.

Mr. Ikram ul Haq said that by 2028, the government might bring the surgical industry under formal regulation through bodies like DRAP. He noted that earlier the industry resisted this, but now a practical and united approach was needed. He suggested that the industry itself should prepare a simple regulatory plan that could work for all types of manufacturers, small, medium, and large. He also said that companies already approved by international standards like FDA, MDR, or ISO 13485 should not face heavy checks or complicated registration processes. Instead, they should be given easier approval so they could continue their export work without delay. He stressed that a clear and agreed roadmap was needed to protect and support the future of the surgical industry.

The President requested Mr. Zohair Babar to invite Mr. Fazal Jilani and SIMAP Chairman in the Committee meeting for discussion. He added that since this was a comprehensive report and the forum worked like a Chamber, the Chairman of the Surgical Committee should also be included. This would help identify and address the current differences of opinion. He requested the Surgical Committee to review the matter carefully and try to resolve all existing disagreements through consultation.

Mr. Omair Nisar stated that, according to the roadmap finalized through the Surgical Council, the first step was to approach the Ministry of Commerce for arranging a meeting with DRAP and to request restoration of the previous arrangement as was done in 2017. He further added that if the request was not approved, the Council would proceed towards the formulation of separate Surgical Instruments Rules in coordination with the Surgical Council.

Mr. Omer Khalid informed the house that the Collector Customs, Sialkot, had assured that surgical samples would be cleared free of cost even in cases where the importer did not possess a DRAP certificate. However, he pointed out that most of the consignments were received at Lahore Airport, where Customs authorities insisted on the production of a DRAP certificate.

The President observed that the exemption certificate issued by DRAP was sufficient for such clearances.

Mr. Omer Khalid suggested that the matter would be more effectively handled if the DRAP exemption certificate was forwarded along with a covering letter from the Chamber, which was agreed upon by the President.

The Secretary General informed the members that the Collector Customs had personally visited the airport in connection with this issue and had assured that no further problems

would be faced, in this regard.

The President further stated that senior Customs officials, including Collectors from Karachi, Lahore, and Sialkot, had also attended the meeting. The matter had already been discussed in the same forum in the Chamber, with representation from Customs authorities responsible for the entire country. Mr. Omer Khalid reiterated that he would also send a formal letter to the concerned authorities.

Sheikh Shahid Inam congratulated the Chamber on the resolution of the issue regarding the Free Sales Certificate. However, he raised concerns over the charges being levied for its issuance within the Chamber. He stated that while the official fee was Rs. 3,000, some parties were charging up to Rs. 9,000, and in certain cases even up to Rs. 50,000 depending on the number of pages. He added that he possessed evidence in this regard, which could be shared. He emphasized the need for clear determination of standard charges applicable in Sialkot for certificates of varying page volumes.

Mr. Muhammad Murad Arshad requested Sheikh Shahid Inam to share the relevant details with him for further examination.

Sheikh Shahid Inam further stated that, regarding the establishment of a MOFA office, the requirement was a minimum of 500 visitors per day.

Mr. Imran Ali Rana stated that the establishment of a MOFA office at Sialkot BFC had already been approved by Mr. Anwar Ul Haq Kakar former Prime Minister during his visit to Sialkot BFC. He suggested that the matter could be reopened and resubmitted for approval by the Foreign Minister, by involving Khawaja Muhammad Asif in the issue.

Participants	The President, Mr. Muhammad Murad Arshad, Mr. Ikram Ul Haq, Mr. Omer Khalid, Sheikh Shahid Inam, Zohair Baba, Mr. Imran Ali Rana, the Secretary General and Mr. Omair Nisar.
Approval	Approved.

13. Point discussed.	Approval of minutes of meeting with Ms. Jaweria Shahid, Deputy Collector (EFS), Collectorate of Customs Sialkot, held on April 14, 2026.
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Discussion:

The President stated that a Joint Committee comprising representatives from the Chamber and the Collectorate Sambrial had been formed to address customs-related matters. He said that the Committee meetings were being held every fifteen days, alternately at the Chamber office and the Collectorate office. He added that during his meeting with the Collector Customs, the Committee was reactivated to facilitate the resolution of members' issues. He further informed that any member facing customs-related problems could bring the matter before the Committee, which would take it up in its scheduled meetings. He remarked that the mechanism was functioning effectively.

Participants	The President.
Approval	Approved.

14. Point discussed.	Approval of minutes of meeting with Ms. Nadia Jahangir Seth, Chief Executive Officer, SMEDA held on April 14, 2026.
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Discussion:

The President informed the members that the Chief Executive Officer of Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority visited the Chamber. He stated that the main agenda of the visit was regarding handing over of the SBCCI building to the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry. In this regard, a meeting had earlier been held in Islamabad with Haroon Akhtar Khan and Khawaja Muhammad Asif to discuss bringing SBCC under the administrative control of the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

He further informed that a new committee had now been constituted comprising four representatives from the Chamber and four representatives from SMEDA.	
The President informed that the first meeting of the committee would be held next week and expressed hope that sincere efforts would be made to bring the SBCCI building under the control of the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry.	
Participants	The President.
Approval	Approved.

15 Point discussed.	Approval of Report of Seminar on Hidden Beauty of Sialkot organized by the Departmental Committee on Sialkot Culture, Tourism, & Archaeology held on April 17, 2026.
Approval	Approved.

16 Point discussed.	Approval of minutes of meeting with Mr. Syed Shakeel Shah, Member (Customs Operations), FBR Islamabad, held on April 18, 2026.
<u>Discussion:</u> The President informed the members that a meeting had been held with senior customs officials, including Mr. Shakeel Shah, Member Customs Operations FBR, who visited Sialkot along with the Chief Collector Customs from Karachi. He said the meeting was very productive and highlighted the practical benefits of direct coordination with customs authorities. He explained that under EFS, the temporary import period was 18 months. However, some exporters faced an issue when attempting exports under the same scheme, as customs authorities incorrectly imposed a six-month export limit. Upon being informed by Haji Tariq Sahib that the matter appeared abnormal, the President immediately contacted the concerned customs official, who acknowledged that it was an internal error. He stated that the matter was raised around 3:00 p.m. and was fully rectified by 9:00 a.m. next morning, with the official personally confirming that the issue had been resolved. The President further stated that the Chamber also raised the issue of duties being imposed on samples imported from abroad, such as jackets and other items sent to exporters free of cost. He informed the members that an SRO had already been approved by the Government providing duty-free clearance for samples imported by regular exporters. However, despite this provision, courier companies such as DHL and others were combining around 100 samples into a single GD, which created complications and resulted in charge of duties. He said the customs authorities acknowledged that this practice was causing unnecessary difficulties and abuse of the facility available to exporters. Subsequently, the Collector Customs convened a meeting in Sialkot with DHL, FedEx, and other courier companies at the airport to address the matter. It was decided that if an importing company was properly registered and verified, then its free-of-cost samples would be cleared without charging duty. The President remarked that this development was a positive step forward and that these matters were discussed, in detail, during the meeting. Sheikh Shahid Inam shared that the charges for importing sample shipments through the Pakistan Post were very low. He requested the members to avail this opportunity, as his experience, in this regard, had been very good. He added that the Post Office charged only by weight and did not consider dimensions. The President endorsed the proposal and stated that Ahmed Imtiaz Khan, Chairman of the Committee, had secured very competitive rates. He suggested that members should	

send export samples through the Pakistan Post.

The President then inquired about members' feedback. Sheikh Shahid Inam replied that many members were availing this facility.

Hassan Akbar stated that there were concerns regarding safety, as some samples had reportedly been stolen.

Sohail Masood added that he had visited the Post Office twice, but no one paid proper attention to customer service or the handling of such matters.

Participants	The President, Mr. Hassan Akbar, Mr. Sohail Masood and Sheikh Muhammad Shahid Inam.
Approval	Approved.

17 Point discussed.	Approval of minutes of meeting of the Departmental Committee on Young Entrepreneurs held on April 20, 2026.
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Discussion:

Mr. Haseeb Tahir stated that the main purpose of the meeting was to discuss a proposal presented by Mr. Samran Sohail, aimed at bridging the digital gap in Sialkot's business sector and engaging local youth in the industrial development of the city. He shared that the proposal included the development of a sourcing application from the Chamber's platform to connect young entrepreneurs, new exporters, and businesses. He further informed that he also intended to collaborate with the International Chamber of Commerce through the Chamber's platform and involve universities in related projects. Mr. Haseeb said that they were currently coordinating with the IT Committee regarding the initiative.

The President stated that the proposal aimed to create a platform where businesses could post their sourcing requirements and connect with local suppliers. He appreciated the initiative, noting that the young individual was sincere and working for the benefit of the business community rather than personal gain.

Mr. Omer Khalid stated that certain individuals were using the platform of the Chamber for their personal promotion.

The President responded that the individual was not a professional but merely wished to explore and present his ideas. He emphasized that innovative ideas from the youth should be encouraged and supported.

Mr. Salman Sheikh clarified that the initiative could prove beneficial for the industry because the available data was currently scattered at large scale. He stated that consolidating such data would be advantageous for the industrial sector and would, at least, provide organized and useful information to the Chamber. He, therefore, supported moving forward with the proposal.

Participants	The President, Mr. Salman Sheikh, Mr. Omer Khalid and Mr. Haseeb Tahir
Approval	Approved.

18 Point discussed.	Approval of Report of Seminar on Sustainability, Accounting System and ERP held on April 20, 2026.
Approval	Approved.

19. Point discussed.	Approval of Report of MOU Signing Ceremony with EXIM Bank held on April 20, 2026.
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Discussion:

The President informed the members that the Exim Bank of Pakistan had signed an MOU

with the Sialkot Chamber. He explained that the bank was established by the Government of Pakistan to facilitate new businessmen who lack collateral for obtaining loans. Under this initiative, the bank provided guarantees to support financing without collateral requirements.

He further shared that the bank had requested the Chamber to play a social verification role. In cases where applicants sought loans, the Chamber would verify their credibility and background in a manner similar to the verification process adopted in self-employment and self-sufficiency schemes.

Participants	The President
Approval	Approved.

20 Point discussed.	Approval of Report of Seminar on Promoting Tax Culture and Awareness held on April 21, 2026.
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<u>Discussion:</u>	
Mr. Jamshed Murtaza stated that a seminar titled “Promoting Tax Culture and Awareness” was held on April 21, 2026, at the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI). He highlighted that Mr. Muhammad Muti-ur-Rehman Mumtaz, Secretary (Tax Education & Facilitation), delivered a comprehensive presentation. The presentation focused on policy direction, ongoing tax reforms, and the development of a stronger tax culture in the country. Mr. Jamshed Murtaza also noted that Mr. Imran Ali Rana, taking advantage of the opportunity, raised several operational issues related to taxation, which were discussed during the session. Mr. Salman Sheikh stated that the seminar was very informative. He noted said that Sialkot was a developed industrial city with a strong culture of tax contribution. However, he emphasized that taxpayers would be more willing to comply if they could see greater transparency in the utilization of tax revenues for development purposes. He suggested that tax authorities should introduce a city-wise, three-year development plan, clearly outlining how tax collected from cities like Sialkot would be spent on infrastructure and public services. According to him, such transparency would help build public trust and significantly improve tax compliance.	
Participants	Mr. Salman Sheikh and Mr. Jamshed Murtaza Badar.
Approval	Approved.

21 Point discussed.	Approval of minutes of meeting on visit of H.E Mr. Mehmet Eymen Simsek, Consul General of Republic of Türkiye in Lahore held on April 22, 2026.
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<u>Discussion:</u>	
Mr. Salman Sheikh noted that this was the second visit of H.E. Mr. Mehmet Eymen Simsek, Consul General of the Republic of Türkiye, Lahore, which reflected a highly positive development in bilateral engagement. He appreciated the constructive and facilitative approach shown by the Consulate, particularly regarding visa matter of one of the members of this Chamber. Mr. Omer Khalid stated that during his previous visit a commitment was made regarding the issuance of a long-term visa. The Secretariat informed that a proposal for 5-year multiple-entry visa had been forwarded; however, it was not approved by the government due to policy constraints.	
Participants	Mr. Salman Sheikh and Mr. Omer Khalid.
Approval	Approved.

22	Point discussed.	Approval of Report of meeting on visit of Civil Officers (BPS-19) of 39 th Senior Management Course from NIPA Lahore held on April 22, 2026.
<u>Discussion:</u>		
The President stated that a group of civil officers recently promoted to Grade-19 visited this Chamber. During their visit, they were shown the SCCI documentary, along with presentations on the university and the industrial estate. The officers were also briefed on key issues facing Pakistan, including the challenges behind low export growth and the factors limiting export potential. Mr. Muhammad Murad Arshad suggested revising the documentary, noting that its current duration of around 12 minutes was too long. He recommended shortening it to approximately 7–8 minutes for better engagement, especially considering that the production cost was significant and the content had already been used across multiple venues.		
Participants		The President and Mr. Muhammad Murad Arshad.
Approval		Approved.

23.	Point discussed.	Approval of Minutes of the Meeting of Departmental Committee on Information Technology held on April 24, 2026.
<u>Discussion:</u>		
Mr. Salman Sheikh stated that the Chamber had achieved a significant milestone after a long time, and the credit for this progress went to the Executive Committee. He informed the members that a new website was being established and that an E-Library had already been launched. He requested Mr. Faraz, IT Officer, to give a presentation on the project, which was accordingly presented before the house. Mr. Salman Sheikh further stated that a new news module had also been added to the website, which would be beneficial for the members. He added that various guidance books and informational material for new members had also been uploaded. In addition, a jobs module had been incorporated into the website. He emphasized that there was a need to upgrade the website in line with modern requirements and technological advancements. Mr. Hassan Akbar inquired whether Mr. Omer Saroya, being a member of the IT Committee, had also contributed to the project. Mr. Omer Khalid appreciated the initiative of the E-Library and termed it a very good idea. However, he stated that the matter of the website was highly critical and that no risks should be taken, in this regard. He said that he had always supported new ideas and development, but the issue of website security was extremely sensitive because the Chamber's server, database, and website had faced numerous cyberattacks, in the past. He remarked that the existing website, developed by Mr. Faraz, was currently very secure. He, therefore, requested Mr. Salman Sheikh to ensure that the security of the website remained the top priority. Mr. Salman Sheikh clarified that the initiative was aimed at enhancing security through the adoption of modern technology and stronger security measures, especially in view of the large number of cyberattacks faced by the Chamber. Mr. Omair Nisar stated that the existing website had been developed in-house after several years of efforts in order to avoid dependency on external developers. He said that the current system had proven to be stable and reliable over time. While improvements in the design and user interface could be made, he was of the view		

that changing the entire technology framework could create unnecessary risks.

The President also observed that the Chamber should avoid developing an entirely new website. In response, Mr. Salman Sheikh clarified that only the user interface of the website was being upgraded, while the existing core system would remain unchanged.

Participants	The President, Mr. Salman Sheikh, Mr. Omer Khalid, Mr. Hassan Akbar, Mr. Omair Nisar and Mr. Faraz.
Approval	Approved.

24 Point discussed.	Approval of Minutes of Meeting, visit of Mr. Hassan Zulfiqar Chief Commissioner (Inland Revenue), Regional Tax Office, Sialkot held on April 29, 2026
<u>Discussion:</u> The President informed that a meeting was held regarding complaints against the Chief Commissioner of Income Tax, who was also called and attended the session for detailed discussions. It was noted that members of Sialkot Chamber had approximately PKR 6 billion in sales tax and PKR 2.5 billion in income tax refund claims, which were pending. Concerns were raised over delays in refunds while recovery actions, including bank account freezes, were being carried out aggressively, causing difficulties for members. The issue was discussed in detail.	
Participants	The President.
Approval	Approved.

25 Point discussed.	Approval of minutes of meeting of the Departmental Committee on Medical/Hospital held on April 25, 2026.
Approval	Approved.

26 Point discussed.	Approval of minutes of meeting of the Departmental Committee on Membership/Bye-Laws held on April 27, 2026.
<u>Discussion:</u> Mr. Salman Sheikh said that 1096 Associate and 16 Corporate members were granted membership during this month.	
Participants	Mr. Salman Sheikh.
Approval	Approved.

Any Other Point

27. Sheikh Muhammad Shahid Inam requested the President to brief the house regarding the meeting with Pak Mission in Argentina and also asked the Senior Vice President (SVP) about the signing of the MoU in Russia. He inquired about the possible benefits of these initiatives for the members.

The President informed that Mr. Khurram Aslam Butt, former SVP had signed an MoU in Argentina. It was the 2nd meeting which he also attended. He shared that many members joined the meeting through Zoom, including representatives from different associations, while members from the Argentine Chamber also participated. The meeting was conducted in both languages with the aim of strengthening cooperation between the two sides.

The President further stated that discussions focused on increasing interaction through exchange of delegations. It was emphasized that more delegations from Sialkot should visit Argentina to explore business opportunities, while Argentine delegates should also visit

Sialkot to understand the city's industrial potential. He expressed hope that another delegation would soon be sent to Argentina.

The President said that Mr. Khurram Aslam Butt highly praised and appreciated the support extended by the Pakistani Ambassador. He added that the Ambassador had personally arranged meetings for every member, during visit of the delegation from Sialkot Chamber, which was appreciated by all participants.

Mr. Murad Arshad, Senior Vice President, briefed the house regarding signing of the MoU in Russia. He explained that it was his personal visit and that he remained in contact with the Russian Ambassador and Trade Secretary, who had earlier visited the Chamber. During his visit to Moscow, meetings were arranged at three important institutions, including the Moscow Chamber, the Export Center, and the Federation, with whom the MoU was signed. He stated that the main purpose of the meetings was to discuss banking and trade issues affecting business between Pakistan and Russia. Russian officials informed that most issues were related to commercial banking channels rather than government restrictions. He further shared that much of the existing trade with Russia was currently being routed through intermediary countries such as Türkiye and Dubai. The SVP said that the Russian market remained largely untapped and offered good opportunities for Pakistani exporters. However, banking arrangements and shipping/logistics were still major issues that needed to be resolved at the government level.

Mr. Murad Arshad also informed that he presented the SCCI documentary, which generated significant interest among Russian participants. He stated that Russian officials showed particular interest in Pakistan's sports goods and sportswear sectors, especially football manufacturing, and expressed willingness to engage with Pakistani companies in these industries. He concluded by saying that regular contact was being maintained and that Mr. Ammar Khan had all the details. He added that, if mutual interest developed further, Russian delegations would be invited to visit factories in Sialkot, while delegations from Sialkot could also visit Russia to explore future trade opportunities and collaborations.

28. The President informed the house that Muhammad Ejaz Ghauree was present in the present in the meeting to discuss the reimbursement of expenses incurred on the renovation of the Small Chamber office.

Muhammad Ejaz Ghauree stated that the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry had allocated space, in its building, for the Small Chamber office. He further shared that during their respective tenures, Mr. Abdul Ghafoor Malik and Mr. Ikram Ul Haq had financially supported and cooperated in the renovation of the office. However, some bills were still pending and required approval from the house.

The President requested details regarding the amount already reimbursed, the pending amount, and whether prior approval had been obtained before carrying out the work.

Muhammad Ejaz Ghauree informed that the pending amount was approximately Rs. 900,000/- (details attached with the bills). He clarified that no written approval had been obtained; however, the matter had been discussed verbally. He further explained that the expenses related to electrical work, computers, air conditioners, ceiling work, etc.

The President requested Mr. Omer Khalid to brief the house, in this regard.

Mr. Omer Khalid stated that all the bills had been approved during his tenure.

After detailed deliberations, the committee recommended to refer the matter to the Accounts Committee for review of the bills and further necessary proceedings.

29. Mr. Omer Khalid stated that during his tenure, approval had been obtained from the house for the development and installation of an ERP system to digitalize and online the Membership Department, similar to the system of SECP, for the facilitation of members and to reduce public rush by introducing modern digital practices. He added that this initiative

would also help create a paperless environment. He further informed that, with the coordination of the Membership Department, the developer had developed different modules without any additional cost.

The President requested Mr. Omer Khalid to meet him after the meeting, in his office to discuss the matter in detail, including expenses and other aspects, or alternatively invite all Office Bearers to the relevant committee meeting.

Mr. Muhammad Murad Arshad stated that his recommendation was to appoint two IT experts for in-house software and website development in order to make the Chamber self-sufficient. He requested the concerned committees to discuss and consider his proposal.

Mr. Omer Khalid replied that this option was not feasible because a number of specialized services, including designing, programming, and language expertise, were required, which could not be managed individually. He added that even software houses outsource certain services.

The President suggested that all Office Bearers should also be invited to the committee meeting to review the financial aspects of the project.

Mr. Omer Khalid informed that the financial aspect had already been approved at Rs. 6.5 million during his tenure.

Mr. Salman Sheikh appreciated the efforts of Mr. Omer Khalid and stated that significant work had been done on the project. He mentioned that he had already received a presentation from Mr. Noman, the developer, who was also present in the meeting, and noted that substantial work had been completed.

Mr. Omer Khalid further stated that developers from Lahore, Karachi, and Islamabad had been invited for the project, and they initially demanded amounts ranging from Rs. 10 million to Rs. 15 million. However, when they were informed about the complete scope of requirements, many of them stepped back from the project.

30. Mr. Sohail Masood said that there was a need for an Expo Center in Sialkot. He said that initially it was planned to establish the Expo Center in the Industrial Zone, by getting 100 acres of land but the project could not proceed further. He further said that the Gujranwala Chamber had taken the lead in establishing an Expo Center. He suggested that the Chamber should now independently pursue the establishment of an Expo Center and move the project forward.

The President replied that he had already instructed the Secretariat to invite Mr. Khalid Rasool to discuss the project of Expo Center. He further informed the house that the Government had identified 20 acres of land on University Road, which could be acquired with the approval of the Deputy Commissioner (DC).

31. Mr. Sohail Masood suggested that the SCCI bulletin should be printed on a quarterly basis instead of a monthly basis.

The President asked about the cost of the bulletin.

Mr. Sohail Masood replied that the cost exceeded Rs. 500,000/-.

The President further inquired whether any advertisements had been received to cover the cost, to which it was replied that no advertisements had been received.

The President said that he would obtain the details from Mr. Abdul Rauf, and if such expenses were being incurred every month without receiving advertisements, then the bulletin would be printed on quarterly basis.

32. Mr. Haji Tariq Hussain said that he was not invited to the meeting. He requested that he should be invited so he could share the work he had done and keep the members informed.

The President replied that, in fact, no formal meeting of the relevant committee had taken place.

Haji Tariq Hussain stated that he was working in coordination with Mr. Zulfiqar Hayat.

The Secretary General suggested that Haji Tariq should prepare a report of his work and submit it to the committee.

The President then requested Mr. Jamshed Murtaza Badar to ensure that Haji Tariq Hussain is invited to the next committee meeting.

33. Mr. Murad Arshad sought approval for shipping expenses for samples planned to be sent to various Embassies. He further added that if any member wished to send samples of their own company, the Chamber would share the relevant details. He informed the House that, at present, samples were being sent to Ukraine on the request of the Pakistan Ambassador.

The President inquired about the estimated cost.

Mr. Umair Nisar replied that the exact cost was not yet known and a quotation should be obtained; however, the estimated expense may be around PKR 1 million.

The President observed that this initiative had been started in the previous tenure with the idea of creating display windows for Sialkot products in different Pakistan Embassies, around the world.

Mr. Salman Sheikh suggested that unbranded samples should be sent.

The President responded that in that case the expenses would increase.

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

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