

THE SIALKOT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
HELD ON JUNE 04, 2026

01. A Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce & Industry was held on June 4, 2026 at 11:30 a.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. Omer Khalid | -Member- |
| • Mr. Aamer Mahmood | -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. Mohammad Iqbal Asad | -do- |
| • Sh. Muhammad Shahid Inam | -do- |
| • Sheikh Atique-ur-Rehman | -do- |
| • Mr. Sohail Masood | -do- |

05. **Leave of Absence**

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| • Mr. Ikram Ul Haq | -Member- |
| • Mr. Waseem Shahbaz Lodhi | -do- |
| • Mr. Adnan Safdar | -do- |
| • Ms. Kinza Ijaz | -do- |
| • Mr. Muhammad Abid | -do- |
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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**

- Mr. Ahmed Imtiaz Khan, Chairman Departmental Committee on Post Office.
- Dr. Raza Ullah Shah, Chairman Departmental Committee on R&D
- Mr. Asif Ali, Chairman Departmental Committee on Sports Activities
- Ch. Jahangir Rashid, Departmental Committee on Environment Protection

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

- Mir Alamgir Meyer, Former SVP, SCCI
- Lt. Col. Riaz Ahmed (Retd.) Director of M/s. Premier Products Int'l
- Wife of Mr. Amer Aslam Mughal M/s. Surgicrafts
- Daughter in Law of Sh. Zia Uddin, (Comet Sports Germany)

09. Point discussed.	Approval of minutes of meeting of the Executive Committee held on April 30, 2026
Approval	Approved.

10. Point discussed.	Approval of Statement of Accounts for the month of February 2026.
<u>Discussion.</u>	
Mr. Sohail Masood pointed out that the bills pertaining to the renovation of the hall had not been included in the Accounts Statement. Mr. Omer Khalid inquired about the reason for not including the renovation bills from the Accounts Statement. Mr. Amer Rashid Wyne replied that the renovation work had been completed during the month of May 2026 and the related expenditure would be incorporated in the Accounts Statement to be presented in the next meeting. The President clarified that the financial statements placed before the House covered the period up to April 30, 2026. Sheikh Muhammad Shahid Inam raised a complaint regarding an online payment of Rs. 390/- made to SCCI Med Pharmacy against the purchase of medicines. He stated that although he had successfully made the payment online, the pharmacy staff had not updated the payment in their system. Consequently, when he visited the pharmacy the previous day, he was asked again about the payment, which he considered embarrassing. He submitted the relevant payment documents, which were received by Mr. Abdul Rauf on the instructions of the President for referral to the concerned committee. He further mentioned that similar complaints had been made by other members, though they did not possess documentary evidence. Mr. Omer Khalid sought clarification regarding the advance payment of Rs. 397,500/- made to Nesco, as reflected on Page No. 4, Point 5.2 of the Accounts Statement. Mr. Faraz, IT Officer, explained that the amount represented a 50% advance payment made for the purchase of cameras installed in Sheikh Muhammad Shafi Hall.	
Participants	The President, Mr. Omer Khalid, Mr. Sohail Masood, Sheikh Muhammad Shahid Inam, Mr. Amer Rashid Wyne and Mr. Fraz. .
Approval	Approved.

11. Point discussed.	Approval of minutes of meeting of the Departmental Committee on Garrison HQ/Cantonment Board Affairs held on May 06, 2026.
<u>Discussion:</u>	
The Secretary General informed Mr. Khawar Spall, Chairman of the Committee could not attend the meeting because he had to urgently proceed to Lahore for treatment of his family member. Miss Hina, Secretary of the Committee, informed the House that the meeting was convened to discuss issues faced by members, particularly residents of the Cantonment area. She shared that the Committee emphasized the need for establishing a graveyard and a "Janazgah" on a priority basis. It was also suggested that a system similar to an E-Tag/M-Tag be introduced to facilitate the smooth passage of registered residents through check posts without unnecessary delays. The President informed the House that the Station Commander and Cantonment Executive Officer attended the meeting and apprised the participants that an E-Tag	

system had been launched, at one entrance. on a pilot basis. If found successful, the system would be extended to other entry points of the Cantonment area. Miss Hina further shared that the matter of constructing triple-storeyed buildings was discussed. It was informed that such constructions could be approved subject to submission of building plans along with the required documents for approval. The President also stated that a request was made to facilitate entry permissions for foreign business visitors who frequently visit Pakistan and need access to the Cantonment area. It was suggested that such approvals should be granted within 2–3 days. Mr. Arshad Jamil Chaudhary appreciated the introduction of the CB-CARE online portal for lodging complaints and requested that its details be circulated among members. Miss Hina informed the House that the portal information had already been circulated to the members.	
Participants	The President, Mr. Arshad Jamil Chaudhary and Miss Hina
Approval	Approved.

12. Point discussed.	Approval of minutes of meeting of the Departmental Committee on Research Management for Sustainable Development held on May 07, 2026.
<u>Discussion:</u> Dr. Raza Ullah Shah, Chairman of the Committee, informed the meeting that the Committee deliberated on the following proposed Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs): i. Upgradation and commercial utilization of laboratory facilities of Pakistan Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (PCSIR), Pakistan Standards & Quality Control Authority (PSQCA), National Compliance Centre (NCC), and the universities of District Sialkot. ii. Establishment of an Industry–Academia Collaboration Platform focusing on industrial problem-solving, technology mapping, and innovation development among Biltehqeeq, National Productivity Organization (NPO), Sialkot Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SCCI), and the Offices of Research, Innovation and Commercialization (ORICs) of universities in Sialkot. After detailed deliberations, the Committee unanimously agreed in principle to proceed with the proposed MOU framework and recommended that the draft MOUs be finalized after incorporating the observations and recommendations of all stakeholders, including Biltehqeeq, NPO, SCCI, and the ORICs of Government College Women University Sialkot, University of Sialkot, Grand Asian University, and University of Management and Technology (UMT) Sialkot, to ensure effective implementation and long-term sustainability of the initiative. The President informed the Committee that he had attended the meeting and was pleased with the encouraging participation of all stakeholders. He appreciated the presence of delegates from Islamabad and acknowledged the positive response received from all participating universities. He observed that universities possess highly qualified faculty members, including PhD scholars, as well as, well-equipped laboratories, which could be utilized by the local industry for testing and research purposes. The President further stated that Mr. Alamgir, a senior official from Islamabad also attended the meeting.	

Mr. Omer Khalid suggested that the Pakistan National Accreditation Council (PNAC) should also be taken on board.

Dr. Raza Ullah Shah informed the Committee that those preliminary discussions had already been initiated and that engagement with PNAC would follow further coordination with PCSIR.

Mr. Salman Sheikh observed that the approval and development process might require considerable time due to the substantial financial resources involved. He pointed out that PCSIR was currently providing Level-1 testing facilities; however, Level-2 testing facilities were either unavailable or not widely recognized internationally. He suggested that, as an interim arrangement, collaboration with PCSIR should be strengthened and an agreement be executed at the government level to authorize PCSIR for Level-2 testing wherever feasible. He further proposed that exporters requiring advanced testing services should be facilitated through PCSIR until local facilities become fully operational.

Dr. Raza Ullah Shah agreed that PCSIR was an important stakeholder; however, he emphasized that the broader objective of the initiative was not only testing services but also the training and development of university students and researchers to bridge the gap between academia and industry.

Mr. Salman Sheikh endorsed the objective and suggested that an MoU be signed in the interim period so that the collaboration process could commence immediately while infrastructure and accreditation requirements were being developed.

Mr. Murad Arshad informed the Committee that certain military laboratories possessed internationally accredited and state-of-the-art testing facilities, including Level-1 and Level-2 testing capabilities. However, such facilities were generally not available to the private sector. He suggested that efforts should be made to engage these laboratories through appropriate channels and explore the possibility of entering into a formal collaboration or MoU to facilitate access for the industry.

Dr. Raza Ullah Shah appreciated the suggestion and stated that while such collaborations could be explored in the future, the present initiative was focused on developing local capacity within Sialkot. He emphasized that the availability of testing facilities within the district would significantly reduce costs and improve accessibility for exporters and manufacturers. He also highlighted that the participating universities possessed substantial human resources, including more than 120 PhD-qualified professionals, capable of contributing to the success of the initiative.

Mr. Sohail Masood inquired about the current status of the proposed testing laboratory project approved for Sialkot.

Mr. Umair Nisar informed the Committee that the PC-I and funding for the project had already been approved. The project, with an estimated cost of Rs. 1.7 billion, was being executed through the Urban Unit, and the allocated funds had already been transferred to its account. He further informed that the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) had been engaged to facilitate accreditation and technical support for the laboratory. A draft agreement between the Government of Punjab and UNIDO had been prepared and was presently awaiting approval from the Provincial Cabinet before formal execution.

Participants	The President, Mr. Muhammad Murad Arshad, Mr. Salman Sheikh, Dr. Raza Ullah Shah, Mr. Sohail Masood and Mr. Umair Nisar.
Approval	Approved.

13	Point discussed.	Approval of minutes of meeting of the Departmental Committee on Post Office/Telecommunication held on May 09, 2026.
<u>Discussion:</u>		
Mr. Ahmed Imtiaz, Chairman, Departmental Committee on Post Office & Telecommunication, informed the house that a meeting of the Committee was held on 09 May 2026, which was also attended by the Chief Postmaster, Sialkot, and the Senior Manager FCO (PTCL). He stated that through the efforts of the Committee, Pakistan Post had reduced EMS, Foreign Letter Mail (FNG), and Air Parcel rates for Chamber members. He further informed that the proposal for direct dispatch of international mail and parcels from Sialkot International Airport, instead of routing through Lahore, was discussed. He expressed hope that the facility would be implemented, as soon as possible. He further stated that PTCL had been requested to ensure uninterrupted telephone and internet services during load shedding through adequate backup arrangements and to complete the installation and expansion of Flash Fiber services, on priority basis, in industrial areas. The President requested the members to share their experiences regarding the services of Pakistan Post for sending and receiving consignments. The members expressed dissatisfaction regarding delivery performance, tracking facilities, and tariff structure, and observed that the Post Office had yet to build sufficient confidence among the business community. Mr. Muhammad Murad Arshad highlighted an issue concerning a parcel handed over to UPS, where additional charges were imposed which, according to him, were unjustified. He informed the House that he had discussed the matter with the concerned UPS representative and sought an explanation regarding the charges. He further stated that the company had been requested to review and waive the charges otherwise, the matter would be pursued to consumer court. Mr. Murad further informed the House that he had also forwarded the matter to the Director General, Consumer Court, Lahore. He stated that if no satisfactory response was received within the stipulated period from UPS, the matter would be formally taken up before the Consumer Court. He suggested that if required, the Chamber might consider obtaining the consent of a large number of members to collectively pursue the case, as the issue appeared to affect wider business community.		
Participants		The President, Mr. Muhammad Murad Arshad and Mr. Ahmed Imtiaz Khan.
Approval		Approved.

14.	Point discussed.	Approval of minutes of meeting of the Departmental Committee on Shipping/Dryport/Airport/Railway/Transportation held on May 14, 2026.
<u>Discussion:</u>		
Mr. Salman Mir, Secretary Committee, briefed the House on the proceedings of the Committee meeting. He shared that Mr. Tariq Hussain, Chairman Committee, had highlighted the following key issues: • De-stuffing of import containers to avoid detention charges. • Facilitation for SMEs under the Export Facilitation Scheme (EFS). • Exemption of cargo and courier operations from restricted business hours. • Opening of export containers by the Punjab Food Authority. • Excess charges imposed by shipping lines during emergency situations. • Awareness regarding marine insurance for exporters. The President informed the House that complaints had been received from members regarding the opening of customs-bonded and sealed export containers by officials of the Punjab Food Authority/Food Security Department. The matter was taken up with Customs		

authorities, who assured the Chamber that the issue would be addressed appropriately. However, it was also pointed out that the authorities had concerns regarding the export of prohibited substances and had registered cases, in this regard.

Mr. Salman Sheikh stated that officials of the Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) often subjected passengers to unnecessary questioning and suggested that a meeting of the Committee be arranged with the concerned authorities to discuss the matter.

Mr. Omer Khalid suggested that the Office Bearers should directly take up such issues with the relevant authorities instead of routing them solely through the Committee Chairman.

The President said that from an exporters' perspective, the situation in Sialkot was comparatively better than in Karachi and Lahore, where inspection and sampling procedures were more stringent.

Mr. Muhammad Murad Arshad stated that the issue had two dimensions. He informed the House that during the last one and a half months, several narcotics-related cases had been detected. He further shared that around 20 kilograms of narcotics had recently been seized at Islamabad Airport. He expressed concern that in many such cases, the entities involved had links with Sialkot, which adversely affected the city's reputation as a leading export hub. He explained that these incidents certainly resulted in increased scrutiny. He advised that genuine exporters should continue their business activities in compliance with the law and cooperate with the authorities.

Mr. Omer Khalid reiterated his suggestion that a meeting should be arranged with the concerned authorities to discuss these issues.

Mr. Sohail Masood informed the House that a proposal for the installation of a large scanner to facilitate the scanning of export shipments was also under consideration.

Participants	The President, Mr. Muhammad Murad Arshad, Mr. Salman Sheikh, Mr. Omer Khalid, Mr. Sohail Masood and Mr. Salman Mir.
Approval	Approved.

15. Point discussed.	Approval of minutes of meeting of the Departmental Committee on Environment Protection held on May 19, 2026.
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Discussion: Chaudhary Jahangir Rashid informed the House that the meeting was primarily convened to review arrangements for Eid-ul-Adha. Representatives from the Punjab Authority, Tehsil Municipal Corporation (TMC), Cantonment Board, and other relevant departments were invited and detailed discussions were held regarding their preparedness. He shared that the Committee provided suggestions to the concerned departments and actively supported the awareness campaign by displaying banners at various locations across the city. He further informed that on the third day of Eid, the concerned authorities reported that waste collection activities had been carried out throughout Sialkot. He personally visited different localities, including Cantonment areas, to verify the arrangements. He observed that waste generated from sacrificial animals had largely been collected in a timely manner. He also checked the distribution of waste collection bags and gathered feedback from factory workers. According to the feedback received, around 50% of the workers had received the bags while the remaining did not receive the bags. Overall, he expressed satisfaction with the performance of the concerned departments. Mr. Sohail Masood appreciated the efforts of the "Suthra Punjab" team and noted that no animal waste was found during Eid. Ch. Jahangir Rashid commended Mr. Haider Munir, Secretary Committee, for his active coordination with the concerned departments. He also sought the approval of the house	
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to invite the Suthra Punjab team to present them with certificates of appreciation, which was unanimously approved.

Mr. Salman Sheikh appreciated the efforts of Ch. Jahangir Rashid and highlighted the importance of environmental compliance within the industrial sector. Referring to carbon credits and environmental sustainability, he suggested arranging an awareness session on carbon footprint and related environmental requirements by inviting relevant experts and officials.

Ch. Jahangir Rashid informed the house that he had already discussed the matter with the President and assured members that a dedicated awareness session would be organized.

The President emphasized the need to launch a plantation campaign during the upcoming monsoon season in July-August. He suggested establishing a temporary nursery outside the Chamber, in collaboration with the Forest Department or other relevant organizations, to provide affordable plants to the public and encourage tree plantation activities.

Ch. Jahangir Rashid assured the house that the Committee would work on the plantation campaign in coordination with Mr. Mian Imran Akbar and would also arrange suitable awareness displays and promotional material.

The President further informed the members that the NCRC, an NGO associated with Nizam Sons (Pvt.) Ltd. was undertaking commendable environmental initiatives. He noted that the organization was actively contributing to the restoration and development of Fatima Jinnah Park and suggested that the Committee coordinate with them for future environmental projects and awareness activities.

Participants	The President, Mr. Salman Sheikh, Ch. Jahangir Rashid and Mr. Sohail Masood.
Approval	Approved.

16. Point discussed.	Approval of minutes of meeting of the Departmental Committee on Education held on May 20, 2026.
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Discussion:

Mr. Abdul Rauf shared the two main agenda items discussed in the meeting: (i) awarding scholarships to students, and (ii) finalizing the fundraising strategy and proposed modifications for the Al-Suffa Free Tuition Program. He informed the house that the program was expanding continuously, resulting in an increase in its budget. In this regard, a Sub-Committee had been constituted to review the program and its financial requirements.

Mr. Omer Khalid inquired whether any improvements had been made to the billing system.

Mr. Abdul Rauf replied that the existing system was being followed, with efforts made to ensure that all expenditures were supported by proper bills and documentary evidence.

The President stated that the Al-Suffa Free Tuition Program had been evaluated and the results were highly encouraging. He shared that government officials had acknowledged that the academic performance of schools where the program had been implemented was better than that of many other schools. He further noted that students showed great interest in joining the tuition centers, resulting in strong attendance and increasing demand for the program in other areas, as well.

The President requested the EC Members to actively participate in the projects and committee working. He remarked that his own participation in committee meetings had greatly enhanced his understanding of Chamber affairs. He appreciated the performance of the Education Committee under the leadership of Dr. Khurram Anwar Khawaja and also highlighted the valuable work being carried out by Khud Kafalat Rozgar Trust. He informed

the house that the Trust was providing interest-free loans of Rs. 200,000/-, enabling small entrepreneurs to establish businesses such as beauty parlours, fruit and vegetable shops, and other small ventures. He encouraged all EC Members to become members of the Trust and support this welfare initiative.

Mr. Arshad Jamil observed that EC Members were only informed about the meetings of committees of which they were members and did not receive information regarding other committee meetings.

The President directed the Secretariat to share notices of all committee meetings with every EC Member. He sought the opinion of the Secretary General regarding any possible issues in implementing this proposal. The Secretary General replied that the consent of the respective Committee Chairman should be obtained.

The President suggested that if any Chairman had reservations, interested EC Members could be included in the committee as members.

The house unanimously agreed with the President's proposal to circulate notices of all committee meetings among EC Members.

Sheikh Muhammad Shahid Inam stated that, as per the rules, any EC Member could attend committee meetings. He further remarked that greater participation of EC Members would enable them to contribute more effectively and improve the overall performance of the Chamber's committees.

Participants	The President, Mr. Omer Khalid and Sheikh Muhammad Shahid Inam.
Approval	Approved.

17 discussed.	Point Approval of minutes of meeting of the Departmental Committee on Sports Activities held on May 22, 2026.
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Discussion:	
Mr. Asif Ali, Chairman Committee, informed the House that the Committee had discussed organizing inter-school indoor games. He stated that Mr. Saeed Asghar, CEO Education, had been invited to the meeting and had assured full cooperation for the initiative. He requested that an official letter from the Sialkot Chamber be sent to him, which would be issued after the approval of the minutes.	
Mr. Asif Ali further informed that the Table Tennis event would be organized at the Chamber premises, while the other indoor sports events for boys and girls would be held at Starla Indoor Stadium. The venue had been offered by Mr. Muhammad Sarwar, former Executive Committee Member, who had extended his support for arranging the events there.	
The President stated that he had requested the Chairman to organize inter-school Table Tennis and Badminton tournaments. He further suggested that the grounds of the Polytechnic Institute and Forward Sports should also be explored as potential venues for conducting the events.	
Participants	The President and Mr. Asif Ali.
Approval	Approved.

18 discussed.	Point Approval of Minutes of meeting between Officers of the Customs Department and representatives of SIAL, SCCI and International Courier companies held on April 23, 2026.
Approval	Approved.

19	Point discussed.	Approval of Minutes of the Committee meeting regarding Sialkot Business and Commerce Center (SBCC) held on May 05, 2026.
<u>Discussion:</u>		
The President informed the House that a meeting was held at the Chamber with Miss Nadia Jehangir Seth, CEO, SMEDA regarding the future management of the Sialkot Business and Commerce Centre (SBCC), which was presently under the administrative control of SMEDA. He shared those discussions were underway with the relevant authorities to bring the management control of the facility under the Chamber. He said that in this regard, a meeting was held with Khawaja Asif, along with Haroon Akhtar Khan and concerned government secretaries. A committee was constituted to examine the matter and propose a workable framework for transferring the management control of the facility to the Chamber. The committee members included Dr. Nouman Idris Butt, Mr. Majid Raza Butt, Malik Abdul Ghafoor Malik and the President. The President stated that Mr. Raja Hasnain, General Manager of SMEDA for Punjab, had expressed reservations regarding the proposed transfer and maintained that a significant portion of the facility belonged to SMEDA and should remain under its control. However, the Chamber's position was that more than 60% of the project pertained to the Chamber and that the facility was established primarily for industrial development, promotion of trade activities, and organizing exhibitions for the benefit of the business community. He further informed the House that a follow-up meeting had also been held in Lahore, attended by the Chamber representatives and members of the committee. Mr. Murad Arshad stated that it had been decided to ensure equal representation from both sides, with four members each from SCCI and SMEDA. However, according to the proposed list, the total number of members was nine, which required clarification. The President explained that the name of Mr. Muhammad Alamgir Choudhry had been included, at the request, of the Chamber. He clarified that Mr. Alamgir Choudhry was neither a representative of SCCI nor SMEDA. Being a former employee of SMEDA and currently serving as CEO of NPO, his inclusion was considered beneficial for the committee's work. The Secretary General further clarified that the committee had no decision-making authority. Its role was limited to reviewing the matter and submitting recommendations to the concerned Ministry for consideration. Mr. Sohail Masood stated that the SBCC Project was initiated by the Chamber, which invested around Rs. 20 million and constructed the two basement floors. He shared that later, during the tenure of Mr. Ahsan Iqbal, funds of approximately Rs. 140 million were arranged for completion of the building. He expressed concern over how the project came under the control of SMEDA. The President informed the house that all relevant documents were available with Raja Hasnain. He explained that an agreement had been signed between the Chamber and SMEDA, under which SMEDA invested about Rs. 210 million in the project. According to the agreement, the land was to be transferred in favor of SBCC and the center was ultimately to be handed over to the Chamber. However, this could not be done as the land remained in the name of a government institution. He further stated that SMEDA's position was that the Chamber had not fulfilled its commitment regarding the transfer of the land. On the other hand, the Chamber maintained that it had played the key role in establishing the project and providing the site. Therefore, the matter of ownership and management of the facility remained under discussion between the concerned parties. Mr. Sohail Masood stated that it had been proposed that one portion of the building be		

allocated to SCCI.

The President replied that this proposal was not acceptable. He clarified that SCCI's proposal was to establish a Private Limited Company, with a shareholding structure comprising 60% of SCCI and 40% of SMEDA.

Participants	The President, Mr. Muhammad Murad Arshad, Mr. Sohail Masood and Secretary General.
Approval	Approved.

20. Point discussed.	Approval of minutes of meeting with Mr. Khalid Mahmood Tippu, Commissioner (Gujranwala Division) Punjab Revenue Authority, Gujranwala, held on May 08, 2026.
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Discussion:

The President informed the members that Mr. Khalid Mahmood Tippu, Commissioner, Punjab Revenue Authority (PRA), Gujranwala Division, was invited to discuss tax-related issues being faced by the business community.

He stated that several exporters and industrial units, including Ruby Foam, KM Ashraf, and Silver Star, had received heavy tax demands from PRA, and in some cases, amounts were directly recovered from their bank accounts. The Chamber strongly opposed these actions and raised the matter with higher authorities.

The President explained that PRA had assessed sales tax on the entire freight amount of cargo bills instead of only the service charges, resulting in large tax liabilities for many companies. Several affected companies challenged these assessments in courts, and some obtained relief, while other cases remained pending.

He further shared that PRA maintained that the issue was under judicial consideration and assured that any wrongly recovered amount would be refunded. The President also expressed concern over the recovery procedures adopted by PRA, including direct deductions from bank accounts.

The members noted the matter with concern and stressed the need for fair, transparent, and lawful tax recovery practices.

Participants	The President.
Approval	Approved.

21. Point discussed.	Approval of minutes of meeting with Mr. Shafay Hussain Chaudhry, Minister for Industries, Commerce and Investment Department, Punjab, held on May 12, 2026.
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Discussion:

The President informed the members that a meeting was held with Mr. Shafay Hussain Chaudhry to discuss matters relating to the Sialkot Export Processing Zone (SEPZ). Dr. M. Aslam Dar and Mr. Asghar Ali Rana attended the meeting on behalf of the Chamber.

The President stated that only about 25% of the EPZ had been developed, while the remaining 75% remained vacant. The Chamber's position was that the EPZ should be separated from the PSIC's management structure and operated through a dedicated company or committee, similar to the model adopted for the Tannery Zone. He shared that Mr. Shafay Hussain responded positively to the proposal and expressed no objection to transferring its management to a company-based structure.

Mr. Iqbal Asad inquired how the EPZ in Gujranwala was currently functioning with local companies.

The President explained that the EPZ was originally intended for export-oriented industries

operating under a special regime, where export proceeds remained in foreign currency accounts and several local regulations did not apply. He further informed the members that in Sialkot, three major units, M/s. Anwar Khawaja Industries, M/s. Nizam Sons, and M/s. Forward Sports had established factories in the SEPZ and were satisfied with retaining their existing status.

The President further informed the house that the proposed Sialkot Industrial Zone was also discussed with Mr. Shafay Hussain. He suggested identifying an alternative site instead of the existing 1,400-acre location, which was also the view of Khawaja Muhammad Asif. The Chamber proposed that if the entire site could not be allocated, a smaller area of five to six acres could initially be provided for development.

The President stated that he requested Mr. Shafay Hussain to instruct his department to identify suitable land for the Sialkot Industrial Zone. During the discussion, the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) was contacted and asked to identify approximately 500 acres of land for the project.

Mr. Omer Khalid referred to the Industrial Zone announced by the Chief Minister Punjab and inquired whether it was the same project.

The President confirmed that it was the same initiative and informed the members that two meetings scheduled with the Chief Minister had been postponed.

Mr. Salman Sheikh mentioned that a site near the canal had also been discussed.

Mr. Muhammad Murad Arshad informed the house that two alternative locations had previously been considered; however, major industrial stakeholders did not support those sites. He added that although one of the locations had access to a motorway interchange, the Chamber preferred to proceed with a site that had the support of the industrial community.

Mr. Sohail Masood stated that an Expo Center had also been planned within the proposed Industrial Zone but the project remained pending. He emphasized the need for an Expo Center and urged continued efforts for its establishment.

The President informed the members that he had discussed the matter with Mr. Khalid Rasood, Director General of TDAP. According to the information received, approximately 20 acres of land had been allocated near the University of Technology for development purposes. He stated that further discussions would be held to determine the current status and feasibility of the proposal.

Mr. Omer Khalid requested that the Chamber should continue to follow up on the matter.

Sheikh Muhammad Shahid Inam suggested organizing an exhibition similar to that arranged by the Surgical Association.

The President replied that the primary focus of the Sialkot Chamber remained the promotion and enhancement of exports, and efforts would continue in this direction.

Participants	The President, Mr. Muhammad Murad Arshad, Mr. Salman Sheikh, Mr. Muhammad Iqbal Asad, Mr. Omer Khalid, Mr. Sohail Masood and Sheikh Muhammad Shahid Inam.
Approval	Approved.

22. Point discussed.	Approval of minutes of meeting with Mr. Rashid Iqbal, Chief Executive Officer, Pakistan Britain Business Council, held on May 12, 2026.
Approval	Approved.

23	Point discussed.	Approval of minutes of meeting on visit of H.E. Dr. Oumer Hussein Oba, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ethiopia held on May 12, 2026.
Approval		Approved.

24	Point discussed.	Approval of Report of Seminar on Importance of International Certifications & Government Incentive/Grant Schemes for SMEs held on May 13, 2026.
<u>Discussion:</u> Mr. Sohail Khalid stated that SMEDA had announced a subsidy scheme for companies obtaining certifications such as CE certification. However, he noted that companies often require multiple certifications and compliance-related approvals rather than a single certification, which limited the effectiveness of such schemes. Mr. Omer Khalid informed that during his tenure, SMEDA had launched a certification support program under which companies obtaining certifications were promised a grant of up to Rs. 800,000. He stated that many companies, including his own, had applied for the scheme; however, despite the passage of considerable time, the applications had not been processed. He observed that applicants were repeatedly asked to provide additional documents every few months, causing unnecessary delays. He suggested that the Chamber should write to the CEO or Chairman of SMEDA, requesting the early release of pending grants and the utilization of available funds instead of allowing them to lapse. The President requested Mr. Umair Nisar to brief him further on the matter after the meeting. Mr. Sohail Masood shared that he had discussed the issue with the concerned officials of SMEDA, who informed him that they had exhausted their allocated budget and were unable to process further the subsidy claims. He stated that there was uncertainty regarding whether applicants who had already submitted their cases would receive any reimbursement. He further remarked that SMEDA's policies appeared to change frequently, resulting in a lack of continuity in its support programs. Sheikh Muhammad Shahid Inam clarified the subsidy mechanism and explained that SMEDA's certification support scheme was not based on a fixed grant amount. Instead, the subsidy was linked to the actual cost of the certification obtained by a company. He explained that, in principle, SMEDA reimbursed a certain percentage of the certification cost, subject to the applicable policy and limits.		
Participants		The President, Mr. Omer Khalid, Mr. Sohail Masood and Sheikh Muhammad Shahid Inam.
Approval		Approved.

25	Point discussed.	Approval of Report of Seminar on Technological Advancement in Feedlot Fattening and the Potential of Sialkot's Halal Meat Export Market held on May 18, 2026.
<u>Discussion:</u> The President informed that Mr. Mumtaz Khan, Former Minister for Livestock, had been invited for a meeting and a detailed presentation was delivered on the potential of exporting halal meat and related products. During the session, the possibility of developing a project through the Sialkot Chamber platform was discussed, whereby exporters could collaborate to establish a company for the production and export of halal meat, along with dairy products. The Minister also briefed the participants on the ongoing initiatives and opportunities in the livestock sector. The President noted that the meeting was primarily an introductory and informative session, and no further developments had taken place on the proposal at that stage.		
Participants		The President.
Approval		Approved.

26. Point discussed.	Approval of Report of an Interactive Session with Syed Shabbar Zaidi, on Taxation, Economic Reforms, Export Competitiveness, and Economic Outlook held on May 20, 2026.
Discussion:	
The President informed the members that a seminar was held with Shabbar Zaidi on the country's economy. He said the seminar was successful and informative.	
Participants	The President,
Approval	Approved.

27 Point discussed.	Approval of minutes of meeting on visit of H.E. Ms. Harerimana Fatou, High Commissioner of Rwanda, held on May 20, 2026.
Discussion:	
The President informed the House that the Ambassador of Rwanda visited the Chamber and highlighted Rwanda as a clean, transparent, and business-friendly country, comparable to Singapore. He noted that this was the Ambassador's second visit to the Chamber. Mr. Omer Khalid proposed organizing a Chamber delegation to Rwanda, while Sheikh Muhammad Shahid Inam suggested arranging a combined delegation to both Ethiopia and Rwanda. The President further informed the members that the Chamber had developed strong liaison with the Pakistani Ambassador in Ethiopia and had recently sent 74 complimentary footballs to Ethiopia. Mr. Muhammad Iqbal Asad shared that he had visited Ethiopia last year and that the visit had helped members secure valuable football export orders. After discussion, the House unanimously approved the proposal to organize a business delegation to Ethiopia and Rwanda to explore trade and investment opportunities.	
Participants	The President, Mr. Omer Khalid, Mr. Muhammad Iqbal Asad and Sheikh Muhammad Shahid Inam.
Approval	Approved.

28 Point discussed.	Approval of minutes of meeting with Station Commander and CEO, Cantonment Board Sialkot Cantt held on May 21, 2026.
Approval	Approved.

29 Point discussed.	Approval of minutes of meeting of the Departmental Committee on Membership/Bye-Laws held on May 25, 2026.
Discussion:	
Mr. Salman Sheikh informed the House that 877 Associate Class members and 9 Corporate Class members had been enrolled during the month. While appreciating the increase in membership, he expressed concern over the rapid growth of Associate Class members and suggested collecting additional data, including age groups, business activities, and visa recommendation requests, to better understand their profiles and needs. Mr. Omer Khalid stated that many new companies obtained Chamber membership because banks required a Chamber membership certificate for opening business accounts. Mr. Muhammad Murad Arshad emphasized the need to analyze the growing number of new businesses to forecast future industry trends and guide emerging enterprises through	

strategic planning.

Mr. Bilal Ahmed Khan inquired whether the product line was included in the membership form. The Secretariat confirmed that it was included.

Mr. Sohail Masood stressed the importance of analyzing membership data to distinguish exporters from traders, retailers, service providers, and other businesses. He noted that not all new members were exporters and suggested collecting data to facilitate future forecasting.

The Secretary General proposed the formation of a Sub-Committee to review and analyze membership data.

Sheikh Muhammad Shahid Inam asked whether data regarding the categories of new members, such as exporters, traders, and retailers, was available. He endorsed the views of Mr. Sohail Masood and observed that only a small proportion of new members might be exporters.

Mr. Salman Sheikh clarified that his objective was to obtain accurate data for analysis purposes.

The President informed the House that the line of business was already included in the membership application form.

Mr. Muhammad Iqbal Asad inquired about the action taken against members who had not renewed their membership for five years or more.

The President replied that such members became inactive and their services were suspended.

The Secretariat informed the House that the Chamber had approximately 99,000 Associate Class members, out of which around 15,000 had renewed their membership and were considered active members. It was further explained that while a significant number of new members were enrolled each year, only a portion renewed their membership in subsequent years, whereas the records of non-renewing members was maintained by the Chamber.

The President inquired the Secretariat about the policy.

The Secretariat informed the House that, under a previous Executive Committee decision, company names remained protected for up to ten years even if membership subscriptions were not renewed. After the expiry of this period, such names could be allotted to new applicants.

The President proposed that, subject to the approval of the House, the protection period could be reduced from ten years to five years.

Sheikh Muhammad Shahid Inam stated that many companies conducting successful business operations did not renew their membership regularly but renewed it whenever they required Chamber services after a gap of two to three years.

Mr. Sohail Masood suggested reducing the period to seven years.

Sheikh Muhammad Shahid Inam recommended retaining the existing ten-year period.

Mr. Muhammad Murad Arshad supported this view, stating that internationally a ten-year period was generally recognized for such rights.

Mr. Omer Khalid also suggested continuing the existing practice.

Mr. Muhammad Iqbal Asad raised concerns regarding the availability of company names

for new members.

The Secretariat informed the House that the names had been approved and clarified that the Chamber offered a special fee concession to members renewing their membership for more than one year. Under this concession, only the annual subscription for previous years, as prescribed in the Chamber's Memorandum, was charged.

Participants	The President, Mr. Muhammad Murad Arshad, Mr. Salman Sheikh, Mr. Sohail Masood, Mr. Omer Khalid, Mr. Muhammad Iqbal Asad, Sheikh Muhammad Shahid Inam, Mr. Bilal Ahmed Khan, Sheikh Atiq-ur-Rehman and The Secretariat.
Approval	Approved.

Any Other Point

29. The President informed the House that the Sialkot Chamber, through the Child & Social Development Organization (CSDO), was operating seven schools from the Chamber's platform. He stated that he had personally visited four of these schools and found them to be functioning effectively, providing educational opportunities to underprivileged children in remote and low-income areas.

He further informed that the Chamber was currently contributing Rs. 3.5 million annually to CSDO through members' contributions collected with membership renewal fees. However, this amount was insufficient to meet the organization's budgetary requirements. Therefore, he proposed increasing the annual contribution to Rs. 7 million.

The Secretariat suggested that the required amount could be generated by increasing the membership fee by Rs. 200 for both Associate Class and Corporate Class members.

After detailed deliberations, the House unanimously approved an increase of Rs. 200 in the membership fee for both Associate Class and Corporate Class members.

30. The President informed the House that a documentary video had been prepared on fire incidents that occurred in various factories in Sialkot. He stated that these incidents had caused significant losses and emphasized the importance of creating awareness regarding fire safety. The documentary highlighted the circumstances before the incidents and the preventive measures adopted afterward by the affected factories. He added that the video had been produced from the Chamber's platform to promote greater awareness and preparedness among industrial units. The documentary was then presented to the House.

Mr. Sohail Masood highlighted that Rescue 1122 lacked the capacity to access floors above the fourth floor in high-rise buildings. He stressed the need to enhance its reach to cover six- and seven-storeyed buildings.

The President directed the Secretariat to write to the Director General, Rescue 1122 Lahore, requesting the provision of equipment for high-rise buildings.

Mr. Omer Khalid suggested that the Chamber should prepare and maintain standard factory fire safety layouts and guidelines, enabling members to adopt and implement them without incurring heavy consultancy costs.

Mr. Jawad Khalid informed the House that relevant fire safety information and guidelines had already been circulated to members through email.

Mr. Omer Khalid further emphasized the need to compile the guidelines into a booklet for easy reference by members.

31. Mr. Omer Khalid informed the House that the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan had waived the apostille requirement for obtaining visas for the People's Republic of China. He suggested that a letter of thanks be sent to the concerned authorities.

Mr. Muhammad Murad Arshad informed the House that the Secretariat had already been instructed in this regard.

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

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