

THE SIALKOT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
HELD ON DECEMBER 30, 2025

01. A Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce & Industry was held on December 30, 2025 at 03:00 p.m. at Sheikh Muhammad Shafi Hall 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.

04. The following members attended the meeting:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| • Syed Ahtesham Mazhar | President |
| • Mr. Muhammad Murad Arshad | Senior Vice President |
| • Mr. Waseem Shahbaz Lodhi | -Member- |
| • Mr. Arshad Jamil Chaudhry | -do- |
| • Mr. Haseeb Tahir | -do- |
| • Mr. Jawad Khalid | -do- |
| • Mr. Mehtab Maqsood | -do- |
| • Mr. Mohammad Iqbal Asad | -do- |
| • Mr. Muhammad Abid | -do- |
| • Sh. Muhammad Shahid Inam | -do- |
| • Sheikh Atique-ur-Rehman | -do- |
| • Mr. Sohail Masood | -do- |
| • Ms. Syeda Ayesha Wadood | -do- |

05. Leave of Absence

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------|
| • Mr. Abdul Ghafoor Malik | -Member- |
| • Mr. Omer Khalid | -do- |
| • Mr. Aamer Mahmood | -do- |
| • Mr. Adnan Safdar | -do- |
| • Mr. Khurram Javaid Sethi | -do- |
| • Ms. Kinza Ijaz | -do- |

06. Members who could not attend the meeting.

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------|
| • Mr. Salman Sheikh | Vice President |
| • Mr. Ikram Ul Haq | -Member- |
| • Mr. Bilal Ahmed Khan | -do- |
| • Mr. Hassan Akbar | -do- |

07. Special Invitees

- Mian Muhammad Khalil, Chairman Departmental Committee on Event.
- Mr. Lahshan Khilji, Chairman Departmental Committee on SME
- Malik Naseer Ahmed, Chairman Departmental Committee on Accounts
- Mr. Asif Ali, Chairman Departmental Committee on Sports Activities
- Mr. Khawar Spall, Chairman Departmental Committee on Cantonment/Garrison HQ.
- Mr. Akmal Javed, Chairman Departmental Committee on Banking & Finance.

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

- Haji Sheikh Tariq Mahmood M/s. Rexfit Sports
- Sheikh Mahir Kapur M/s. DK Industries
- Haji Abdul Hameed Ch. M/s. Euro International
- Haji Ashraf Raza, Former Chairman SIMAP
- Mother of Sheikh Khizar, M/s. Sunflex Industry.
- Mother of Raja Saqib Ashfaq M/s. New Mark Ind.

09. Point discussed.	Approval of minutes of meeting of the Executive Committee held on November 28, 2025.
Approval	Approved.

10. Point discussed.	Approval of Statement of Accounts for the month of November 2025 and approval of minutes of meeting of the Departmental Committee on Accounts and Finance to be held on December 24, 2025.
Malik Naseer Ahmed informed the house that the accounts had been thoroughly reviewed by the Committee. He stated that the Committee's report had been duly included with the accounts and. He said that the members might point out any query, objection, or request for clarification during the meeting. Waseem Shahbaz Lodhi offered a suggestion for greater clarity and ease of understanding. He proposed that a brief additional page be incorporated into the accounts, summarizing major or unusual expenditures incurred during the current month, as well as, any new or significant financial matters, in the form of concise key points. Malik Naseer Ahmed clarified that the existing accounts already provided a complete and transparent picture of income and expenditure. He explained that detailed explanations were available through the relevant notes accompanying the accounts. He further elaborated that all expenses including expenditures for the current month, as well as, expenses under various heads such as entertainment, repairs and maintenance, staff salaries, sports activities, and other events had been properly recorded. He emphasized that members were welcome to seek clarification on any significant expenditure. He further informed the meeting that the Committee had examined all vouchers, including those related to entertainment and sports activities. By way of example, he referred to a cricket match for which an advance of Rs. 600,000 had already been released. After completion of the match and submission of bills, the total expenditure amounted to Rs. 857,000. In light of this, the Committee recommended that for all expenditures whether related to cricket matches or any other activities proper supporting documents and formal approvals should be mandatory. The issue of stock disposal was also discussed, and the Committee recommended that such disposal should be carried out strictly in accordance with approved procedure. The President inquired whether an assets register was being maintained. Malik Naseer Ahmed stated that an assets register was being maintained for major assets such as furniture, computers, printers, and similar items; however, minor consumable items were not being recorded, in detail. Mr. Sohail Masood raised concern that publication charges were being collected from members, whereas the bulletin had not been printed for a considerable period. He noted that the bulletin had previously been printed and circulated to members on a quarterly basis but was later discontinued. He suggested that its publication should be resumed. The President responded that instructions, in this regard, had already been issued, and informed the meeting that the bulletin had been printed during the current month, which was presented in the meeting. Sheikh Atiq ur Rehman inquired whether details of Miscellaneous Expenses were specifically mentioned in the accounts. Malik Naseer Ahmed replied that the details were clearly mentioned on page 11, point No. 27 of the accounts, and the same were further explained by him during the meeting.	
Participants	The President, Malik Naseer Ahmed, Mr. Sohail Masood, and Sheikh Atique

	ur Rehman.
Approval	Approved.

11. Point discussed.	Approval of minutes of meeting of the Departmental Committee on Corporate Social Responsibility held on December 03, 2025.
Approval	Approved.

12. Point discussed.	Approval of minutes of meeting of the Departmental Committee on Banking Affairs held on December 08, 2025.
Discussion: Mr. Akmal Javed Khokhar, Chairman of the Committee informed that the following agenda points were discussed during the meeting. Plan of Activities and Strategies (2025–2026): The Committee deliberated on the proposed plan of activities and overall strategies for the year 2025–2026, with emphasis on rationalization and downsizing where required. It was highlighted that policy-level work would be prioritized instead of merely addressing individual complaints. Implementation Status of B2C Framework: The implementation status of the B2C Framework under FE Circular No. 7 of 2020 issued by State Bank of Pakistan was reviewed. The Chairman stressed the need to practically facilitate members, particularly small and new exporters, under the B2C regime. Amendments in TBML/TF Framework: The Committee discussed and proposed amendments in SBP's Framework for Managing Risks of Trade-Based Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing (TBML/TF), specifically regarding the requirement of customer financial statements and tax records. He said that it was noted that instead of reacting to complaints, the Committee intended to proactively engage at the policy level. He requested the members to share policy-level suggestions informally as well, rather than waiting for formal meetings. Member Representation and Policy Advocacy: The Chairman shared that members, including representation from other Associations (Trade Bodies in Sialkot), should be involved so that banking and policy-related issues could be effectively taken up. Follow-up and Coordination: The Committee expressed its intention to follow up these matters rigorously, including at Karachi level, to ensure full recovery and resolution of cases, Insha'Allah. Awareness of Government and Banking Schemes: It was emphasized that many members were unaware of available facilities such as SMA and C schemes, therefore it was proposed that a dedicated session be arranged so members might understand which facilities were currently available and how they could benefit. Outreach and Communication Strategy: Mr. Akmal said that in addition to conducting seminars where 40–50 members participated, it was suggested to use digital platforms such as Facebook and other social media. Short videos, reels, and repeated content dissemination were proposed to ensure continuous awareness and maximum outreach among members. B2C Export Facilitation for Small Exporters: It was noted that although the B2C scheme was introduced about five years ago, its benefits had not been fully realized. Issues faced by small and new exporters, including documentation, customs procedures, and shipment requirements, were highlighted. The Chairman shared practical examples where exporters lacked basic documentation, making facilitation difficult. It was proposed that a dedicated session be held (similar to earlier sessions) to explain B2C procedures, documentation, and compliance requirements. The use of explanatory videos and visual material was recommended to ensure better understanding and wider impact. Mr. Muhammad Murad Arshad stated that the scheme introduced in 2020 had not been found useful so far; however, he appreciated the initiative and adequately responding	

to the queries raised by members. He suggested that other trade bodies should be formally approached through official correspondence to address banking-related issues and to strongly recommend organizing an awareness session at the Chamber. While discussing future plans, he informed the meeting that broader initiatives were under consideration, including the formation of a committee and engagement of young entrepreneurs. He further shared that preparatory work was already in progress and that awareness and outreach activities such as podcasts and oversight sessions would be promoted through the Chamber’s Facebook platform.

Sheikh Muhammad Shahid Inam stated that he had raised the issue of B2C with the State Bank regarding its implementation by banks, as the State Bank had neither arranged an awareness session nor formally forwarded the relevant information to banks.

Mr. Akmal explained the working procedure of the State Bank regarding the implementation of new policies. He clarified that the State Bank uploaded all relevant information and circulars on its official website for stakeholders' reference.

The President requested the Chairman to include Sheikh Muhammad Shahid Inam as a member of the Committee.

Participants	The President, Mr. Muhammad Murad Arshad, Mr. Akmal Javed Khokhar and Sheikh Muhammad Shahid Inam.
Approval	Approved.

13. Point discussed.	Approval of minutes of meeting of the Departmental Committee on SME/Training/E-commerce held on December 11, 2025.
-----------------------------	--

Discussion:

Mr. Lahshan Khilji informed the members that this was the first meeting of the Committee, during which a review of actions taken on the decisions of the previous meeting was carried out. He stated that the Committee had also identified new training requirements for SMEs, and it was anticipated that approximately 9–10 seminars would be organized during the year. He further shared that the Committee was actively working on B2C initiatives in coordination with SMEDA. In this regard, it was planned to take onboard courier companies such as DHL and FedEx to secure special discounted rates for SMEs. He also informed the members that the Committee was in the process of signing an agreement with Alibaba to obtain a discounted package for SME members.

Mr. Waseem Shahbaz Lodhi inquired whether Mr. Khilji had any information regarding the exhibition planned by SMEDA in Lahore and requested that details be shared with the members once available. He further questioned the nature of engagement with DHL, specifically whether it was aimed at onboarding new users or involved special pricing beyond routine chamber-related commerce business. He highlighted the strong need to engage other courier companies, including FedEx and similar service providers, as prevailing courier rates were too high to sustain SME operations. He also pointed out that many exporters had shifted to client-based accounts, which appeared less workable for SMEs. He suggested that if special B2C rates were offered and new startups were included, dedicated mechanisms or platforms should be created so that SMEs could benefit from multiple courier options.

In response, Mr. Lahshan Khilji clarified that the Committee had already worked on securing special rates for new entrants, adding that the primary challenge was verification at the time of opening new accounts. He informed the members that DHL had launched a dedicated online link for “New Entrepreneur SMEs,” particularly for Chambers of Commerce, through which new users could submit their details and receive rate calculations. He also shared that DHL had nominated two representatives to further coordinate and discuss these matters with the Committee.

He recalled that, in the previous meeting, the issue of higher export rates as compared to bucket rates offered by DHL had been discussed. In this context, DHL had proposed a group shipment scheme, under which consignments could be sent at special collective

rates. Mr. Khilji stated that the Committee was actively pursuing this proposal and that it might be required to visit Karachi for meetings with senior DHL officials. He further elaborated that the officials who had visited earlier were National Sales Heads, and that DHL had independently launched the aforementioned initiatives, including the online submission link. He also explained issues related to packaging charges, citing examples where SMEs were charged Rs. 250 for specific box sizes. Additionally, he informed the members that DHL had earlier planned to impose an additional USD 25 utility-related charge, which the Committee successfully negotiated down to USD 10. He said that negotiations were still ongoing and that no final agreement on export shipment charges had yet been concluded.

Mr. Khilji also informed the members that the Committee had engaged FedEx, and that their team was expected to visit next month for further discussions.

Mr. Waseem Shahbaz Lodhi suggested the formation of shipment clusters involving members from different sectors, such as footballs, garments, and surgical goods. He explained that combined shipment volumes through such clusters could help achieve lower weight slabs and more favorable rates from DHL.

In reply, Mr. Lahshan Khilji confirmed that this cluster-based shipment approach had already been proposed to DHL and assured the members that the Committee was actively working on this strategy as part of its ongoing negotiations.

Mr. Lahshan Khilji informed the members that the Committee had already undertaken initiatives in collaboration with SMEDA and a series of seminars had been arranged. He stated that, Insha Allah, these seminars would be presented to the members in the coming months.

He further shared that, as a third initiative, the Committee would again collaborate with SMEDA to organize a seminar next month focusing on family business planning / management of family businesses, particularly in the context of future business development and succession planning.

Participants	The President, Mr. Lahshan Khilji and Mr. Waseem Shahbaz Lodhi.
Approval	Approved.

14. Point discussed.	Approval of minutes of meeting of the Departmental Committee on Research Management for Sustainable Development held on December 17, 2025.
-----------------------------	--

Discussion:

Ms. Syeda Ayesha Wadood informed the members that **Mr. Faizan Haider** was invited in the meeting as a special invitee. She further shared that, after detailed deliberations, the Committee reached the following conclusions and proposals:

- The Committee decided to initiate case studies, starting with M/s Cosmopolitan and M/s Forward Sports, representing Leather and Sports Goods industries respectively, with the objective of developing baseline data and demonstrating feasibility to other members in the areas of carbon foot printing and raw waste material segregation.
- Based on the findings of these two pilot industries, the Committee proposed the establishment of a combined waste collection point, where SME waste could be collected and subsequently channeled to large-scale recyclers such as Midas.
- Furthermore, it was deliberated and agreed to design and circulate structured questionnaires for the textile, leather, and surgical sectors to assess and estimate total waste volumes across these industries.
- The Committee also proposed to organize an awareness seminar for industry members to highlight the economic and operational benefits of waste reduction, sustainability practices, and improved waste management systems.

The President stated that waste generated from factories, particularly leather and fabric waste could be effectively reused. He emphasized that such reuse was carried out in a

hygienic manner and played a significant role in reducing overall waste. He further informed the meeting that reusable waste must be clearly segregated at the source to ensure efficiency and compliance with best practices. In this context, the President shared that he had assigned the Departmental Committee to work on waste reuse and recycling initiatives. Accordingly, the Committee invited Midas, a company engaged in manufacturing fresh garments from waste cloth through recycling to explore practical solutions and feasibility.

Mr. Muhammad Iqbal Asad shared his positive experience with waste reuse and recycling initiatives and expressed his willingness to be included as a member of the Committee. He stated that he possesses sufficient practical experience in this field and offered his full support for future activities of the Committee. During the discussion, reference was also made to Masood Textile of Faisalabad, which was highlighted as a leading textile house that has successfully implemented effective waste management practices. Examples from their operations were cited to demonstrate the practical application and tangible benefits of structured and systematic waste management systems.

The President approved the request of Mr. Iqbal Asad for inclusion in the Committee as a Member.

Participants	The President, Mr. Muhammad Iqbal Asad and Syeda Ayesha Wadood
Approval	Approved.

15. Point discussed.	Approval of minutes of meeting of the Departmental Committee on Surgical Instruments/Cutlery Sector & Allied Industries held on December 20, 2025.
Approval	Approved.

16. Point discussed.	Approval of minutes of meeting of the Departmental Committee on Industrial Safety, Risk Management & Rescue 1122 held on December 24, 2025.
-----------------------------	---

Discussion:

Mr. Jawad Khalid informed the meeting that the need for installing water refilling points near industrial zones was discussed in detail, as delays during fire incidents often occur due to the distant locations of existing refilling facilities. He stated that it was decided to write a formal letter to the concerned authorities for the enhancement of water refilling infrastructure across the city, along with recommendations identifying key locations where such facilities were urgently required, particularly at Aimanabad and Daska Roads. He further added that during the tenure of Malik Abdul Ghafoor, a similar letter had already been written to the Deputy Commissioner (DC).

The President agreed with the proposal and suggested that Saidpur should also be included among the priority locations.

Mr. Waseem Shahbaz Lodhi stated that several large industrial units, such as Silver Star (Daska Road), Forward Sports (Wazirabad Road), and Vision Technologies (Pasrur Road), among others, already had their own water filling points. He suggested that these factories could be requested to declare their filling points for use during fire emergencies affecting other factories.

In response, Mr. Jawad Khalid noted that while such cooperation could be requested, it remained important that a formal letter be issued in line with the Committee's recommendation to address the matter at an institutional level.

The President then inquired whether any other matters had been discussed during the meeting.

Mr. Jawad Khalid replied that the issue of safety measures for factories located within towns and residential areas (mohallas) had also been discussed in coordination with Rescue 1122.	
After deliberations, it was decided that the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and relevant provisions of the applicable Acts related to Rescue 1122 and Civil Defence for industrial units would be circulated among members to facilitate effective implementation and compliance. It was further decided that a seminar would be organized on this subject to enhance awareness and preparedness among members.	
Participants	The President, Mr. Jawad Khalid and Mr. Waseem Shahbaz Lodhi
Approval	Approved.

17. Point discussed.	Approval of report of MOU Signing Ceremony between SCCI & PITAC held on December 02, 2025.
Discussion: The President shared that a delegation of the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SCCI) visited the Pakistan Industrial Technical Assistance Centre (PITAC), Lahore, on December 02, 2025, for the formal signing of a comprehensive Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). He informed the meeting that PITAC was a Federal Government institution of the Government of Pakistan, functioning as a technical training and industrial support institute. The MoU aimed to strengthen institutional cooperation, promote technological advancement, and facilitate industrial modernization, particularly for Sialkot's manufacturing sector. The President further elaborated that PITAC operated as a well-established technical college providing training in electrical, mechanical, and tool-making disciplines, while also offering commercial services. During the visit, PITAC officials expressed their interest in undertaking mold-making and tool development work for surgical and iron-based products on a commercial basis for Sialkot industries. The delegation was given a detailed tour of the entire institution, including workshops and tooling facilities. He remarked that the institution was highly impressive, both in terms of infrastructure and technical capacity, and emphasized that the MoU offered a valuable opportunity for local industries to benefit from cost-effective, government-supported technical services. He suggested that this MoU should be publicized through print and electronic media to maximize awareness and industrial participation.	
Participants	The President
Approval	Approved.

18. Point discussed.	Approval of report of seminar on "Empowering SMEs for Global Trade & E-Commerce through DHL Solutions held on December 04, 2025.
Approval	Approved.

19. Point discussed.	Approval of minutes of meeting of the Departmental Committee on Gloves Industry held on December 05, 2025.
Discussion: Mr. Sohail Masood stated that three key issues were discussed in the Committee Meeting, namely shortage of labour, availability of raw materials, and the shifting of industries to the Sialkot Tannery Zone. Regarding the shortage of labour, he informed the meeting that although certain training initiatives were being undertaken by relevant institutions, the level and scale of such training were inadequate to meet the actual requirements of the industry. The Committee observed that the gloves industry was facing serious production difficulties due to the lack of properly trained manpower. It was therefore recommended that formal requests be made to the concerned institutions to arrange enhanced and targeted training programs, particularly in stitching, cutting, and pattern-making of gloves. The Committee further recommended that other relevant institutions should also be engaged to support and strengthen these specialized training initiatives. On the issue of	

the shifting of industries to the Sialkot Tannery Zone, Mr. Sohail Masood highlighted that several tanneries had received notices from the Departments directing them to shift their units. The Committee recommended that the concerned authorities be requested to grant reasonable time to the tanneries to facilitate their relocation.

The President replied that he was fully aware about the matter and informed the meeting that efforts were being made to reopen tanneries that had been closed. He added that the Deputy Commissioner had extended support and several tanneries had been reopened upon the Chamber's request. He further explained that many owners were initially not serious about shifting. However, the authorities, including the Environment Department, the Deputy Commissioner, and the Commissioner, had become increasingly strict and were closely monitoring how many tanneries had been constructed and shifted to the Tannery Zone.

The President further explained that earlier deadlines, initially up to December 2024 and subsequently extended by two to three months had already been granted. He emphasized that the matter had now reached a critical stage, and tanneries operating within the city limits would be closed if they failed to shift. He stressed that the shifting of tanneries was essential, describing it as a life-threatening issue, as untreated effluent was being discharged into sewerage systems and dumped underground, posing severe environmental and health risks.

Mr. Sohail Masood agreed with the President's viewpoint and said that the tanneries located in residential areas (towns/mohallahs) that lacked proper sewerage systems should be shifted. However, he pointed out that some tanneries faced genuine operational challenges due to the complexity of their production processes.

The President informed the meeting that several large tanneries had already been shifted to the Sialkot Tannery Zone and that these units were also offering job-work facilities, enabling smaller tanneries to carry out their processes through them.

Participants	The President and Mr. Sohail Masood.
Approval	Approved.

20. Point discussed.	Approval of report of 28th meeting of TVET Accreditation & Quality Evaluation Committee at NAVTC Headquarters, Islamabad held on December 05, 2025.
----------------------	---

Discussion:

Mr. Salman Qaisar Mahmood, Deputy Secretary (R&D), informed the Members of the Executive Committee that the 28th meeting of the TVET Accreditation & Quality Evaluation Committee (TA&QEC) was convened to review cases of accreditation and re-accreditation of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutes operating under the Quality Assurance Framework of National Vocational & Technical Training Commission. He stated that a total of 30 TVET institutes were evaluated during the meeting, with particular emphasis on regulatory compliance, continuous quality enhancement, and alignment with recognized international standards. He further informed the Committee that, in acknowledgment of its proactive and sustained contribution to the TVET sector, the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce & Industry was proposed as the private sector nominee for the position of Vice Chairperson, TA&QEC.

At this point, the President inquired whether the evaluated institutes comprised solely of government institutions or if private sector institutes were also included.

Mr. Salman Mir responded that both public and private sector institutes were part of the evaluation process. He added that private institutes had also been accredited by National Vocational & Technical Training Commission in accordance with its prescribed Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

The President then enquired whether the Leather Products Development Institute (LPDI), particularly its gloves-related department, had been accredited under the same

framework.

Mr. Salman Mir responded that although Leather Products Development Institute was not formally accredited under the framework, it remained closely associated with the system, and its management actively participated in the relevant meetings.

The President expressed concern and emphasized that an institution, LPDI should ideally be formally accredited and duly recognized. He noted that such recognition was essential to ensure that qualifications, diplomas, or certifications issued by LPDI carried nationwide credibility. He further stressed that formal accreditation would enable graduates to present their credentials with confidence in major cities such as Lahore and Karachi, thereby enhancing their employability and professional mobility across the country.

The President further requested Mr. Salman Mir to invite Rana Amjad, Project Manager of Leather Products Development Institute (LPDI), for a meeting at the Chamber to discuss the matter in detail.

Mr. Sohail Masood suggested that a visit to LPDI should be arranged; however, the President responded that, as a first step, the Project Manager should be invited to the Chamber before considering any visit to LPDI.

Participants	The President, Mr. Sohail Masood and Mr. Salman Mir.
Approval	Approved.

21. Point discussed.	Approval of minutes of meeting with Ms. Beelam Ramzan, Collector Custom of Sialkot held on December 10, 2025.
-----------------------------	---

Discussion:

The President stated that it was a courtesy visit of the newly appointed Collector Customs, Ms. Beelam Ramzan.

Participants	The President.
Approval	Approved.

22. Point discussed.	Approval of report of meeting of Mr. Lahshan Khilji, Chairman Departmental Committee on SME/Training/Ecommerce with Mr. Fouzan Muhammad, DGM, SMEDA held on December 10, 2025.
-----------------------------	--

Discussion:

Mr. Lahshan Khilji informed the meeting that a follow-up meeting was held on December 10, 2025, with Mr. Fouzan Muhammad, Deputy General Manager, SMEDA. The purpose of the meeting was to review progress on the discussions earlier held on November 18, 2025, with Mr. Muhammad Asim Malik, Project Director, SBCC, concerning the proposed training courses for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).

Mr. Fouzan Muhammad apprised the meeting that SMEDA was planning to organize a "Textile Manufacturers Two-Day Vendor Fair" scheduled to be held on December 26–27, 2025. He suggested that two of the proposed training courses could be incorporated into the said event, namely:

- Digital Marketing for SMEs, covering SEO, Social Media Marketing, and Google Marketing
- E-Commerce Business Setup & Scaling, focusing on platforms such as Daraz, Shopify, Amazon, and Alibaba

The President inquired about the exhibition that had earlier been planned to be held at SBCC.

In response, Mr. Lahshan Khilji explained that it had initially been decided, in coordination with SMEDA, to organize a fabric-focused vendor fair exhibition at SBCC. The objective of

the proposed exhibition was to invite textile manufacturers from Lahore, Faisalabad, and Karachi to exhibit their products, with the aim of addressing fabric-related challenges faced by the textile industry in Sialkot. However, the proposed exhibition could not be arranged. Instead, SMEDA, in coordination with Computer Xpert, organized a domestic-level exhibition. Mr. Waseem Shahbaz Lodhi requested Mr. Lahshan Khilji to obtain details regarding the exhibition planned by SMEDA in Lahore. Accordingly, Mr. Lahshan Khilji requested Mr. Salman Mir to note the matter and obtain the relevant information.	
Participants	The President, Mr. Lahshan Khilji and Mr. Waseem Shahbaz Lodhi.
Approval	Approved.

23. Point discussed.	Approval of minutes of meeting with Mr. Hassan Zulfiqar, Chief Commissioner Inland Revenue, Regional Tax Office Sialkot held on December 11, 2025.
-----------------------------	--

<u>Discussion:</u> The President shared that the Chamber had invited the concerned authorities following the issuance of a large number of notices, totaling nearly three thousand. He explained that when tax returns were filed in October, income tax was collected on the basis of NTR; however, despite this, approximately three thousand notices were subsequently issued. He further informed that a delegation of the Chamber, including himself, visited the Federal Board of Revenue in Islamabad to discuss the matter. During the meeting, the delegation conveyed that this was their first such interaction and requested the authorities to adopt a flexible and considerate approach. The FBR officials responded positively, acknowledged the concerns raised, and assured the delegation that the matter would be handled leniently. Subsequently, the FBR authorities contacted the Chamber and reassured them that the notices should not be taken too seriously. They categorically stated that no action would be taken without mutual understanding and that unnecessary interference would be avoided. As a result of these engagements, the issue was largely resolved to the satisfaction of all stakeholders. The President concluded by expressing gratitude that, following these discussions, the situation had remained peaceful and that no further issues had arisen. Mr. Waseem Shahbaz Lodhi stated that it was also considered appropriate to organize seminars to mobilize and educate members on proper bookkeeping practices. He requested that the Committee should work on it and arrange the seminars. The President also informed that FBR had established two wings one is the policy making and other one is the implementer. The President further shared that during the meeting, the Member (Policy) initially asked the delegation what percentage rate under the Final Tax Regime (FTR) they would consider acceptable. In response, the delegation suggested a rate of one and a half percent, with a maximum ceiling of two percent. He added that no final decision had been made so far; however, it was anticipated that the policy direction would move towards a parallel system of FTR and NTR. Under this proposed arrangement, members, particularly from the SME sector would have the option to remain under FTR if they so wished, while those preferring to shift to NTR could do so. He expressed optimism that both regimes would operate simultaneously to accommodate different business segments. The President also informed the meeting that the Member (Policy) would be visiting on 13–14 January 2026, during which a consultative session on the upcoming fiscal year's budget would be discussed. Ms. Syeda Ayesha Wadood highlighted that employees of the FBR were regularly visiting private doctors' clinics and hospitals to assess income by inquiring directly from patients	
---	--

about the consultation fee charged. She raised concern over this practice and inquired whether there was any formal system in place to educate medical practitioners on tax compliance and proper tax payment procedures.	
The President replied that they could seek guidance from tax advisors who specialize in taxation matters.	
Participants	The President, Mr. Waseem Shahbaz Lodhi and Ms. Syeda Ayeshad Wadood.
Approval	Approved.

24. Point discussed.	Approval of minutes of meeting on visit of Regional Police Officer, Gujranwala and the District Police Officer Sialkot held on December 11, 2025
Discussion: The President informed the Members that the Regional Police Officer (RPO) and District Police Officer (DPO), visited the Sialkot Chamber on a courtesy visit during which a detailed discussion took place on traffic congestion, policing policies, and other law-and-order issues affecting the business community. He emphasized that SCCI had maintained strong and cordial relations with the District Police Office. The President further shared that during a meeting held yesterday, the Chamber signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the DPO, marking a significant step in facilitating export operations. Under the MoU, the police would provide special stickers for export cargo, allowing containers and other vehicles carrying export goods to enter Sialkot district 24 hours a day, both within the city and in peripheral areas, without being stopped. The Chamber had specifically requested that export shipments, particularly those from rapidly developing industries, be treated as emergency consignments. The DPO assured that priority would be given to such export cargo, and the trial implementation of the sticker system would be observed for 7–10 days. If no significant traffic congestion was created, the arrangement would be made permanent. The DPO confirmed that export vehicles would not be stopped anywhere during the trial, and if successful, the sticker scheme was expected to be extended across Punjab and eventually nationwide, with the DPO personally committing to discuss the matter with the Chief Minister of Punjab. Sheikh Shahid Inam commended Faisal Sahib for introducing the department courier service. He noted that although the courier belongs to the department, oversight by the Chamber would ensure proper usage. He observed that if the public or general individuals were to see it, they might not follow the intended procedures voluntarily. However, with Chamber supervision, the process would be much more effective. He also mentioned that, initially, around 300 plates might be issued and inquired about who would manage the process, whether the Chamber or another body. The President clarified that the issuance of these plates would be managed by a committee headed by Haji Tariq Sahib, along with Mr. Azhar Dar DS Sialkot Chamber. Record would be maintained to ensure accountability, and plates would be issued only to designated recipients. He further emphasized that, as the Secretary served as the convener of this committee, the plates would be officially issued by the Chamber. Mr. Waseem Shahbaz raised a concern regarding potential issues for exporters or transporters and stressed that measures should be taken to prevent misuse. The President responded that the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) governing the plates included a clause addressing misuse or any violation would result in FIR registration. The President shared that the DPO provided an overview of the Safe City Project. He requested Mr. Murad Arshad, SVP, to elaborate.	

Mr. Murad Arshad described the Safe City Project as a significant initiative, noting that while the technology had been used in foreign countries for some time, it had now been successfully implemented in Pakistan. He explained that vehicles could be tracked in real-time using their number plates, including location and the person responsible. To demonstrate, the President provided his car number, which resulted in 10–15 images capturing its exact location.

Mr. Arshad highlighted the project's contributions to crime control, including facilitating arrests through its data. He also mentioned the advanced features integrated into the system:

- Thermal imaging rounds and quadcopters for surveillance.
- Emergency systems equipped with telephone booths for immediate response.
- Women's safety measures: A dedicated police branch handles cases of domestic violence. By pressing the emergency button, women can instantly connect online with authorities, enabling real-time reporting and intervention.

Participants	The President, Mr. Waseem Shahbaz Lodhi and Sh. Muhammad Shahid Inam.
Approval	Approved.

25 Point discussed.	Approval of minutes of meeting on visit of a group of Foreign Diplomates from Foreign Service Academy (MOFA) Islamabad held on December 16, 2025.
Approval	

26. Point discussed.	Approval of minutes of meeting of the Departmental Committee on Garrison HQ/ Cantonment Board Affairs held on December 27, 2025.
Discussion: Mr. Khawar Spall informed the Committee that the matter regarding inclusion of police verification as a requirement for Rachna Polo Ground membership for individuals above 60 years of age had been taken up with the concerned authorities. It was recommended that a list of such applicants be provided, and that they be exempted from police verification and related fees. In this regard, a desk was established at Chawinda Ground, where membership cards were issued provisionally on the spot. Col. Siddique extended full cooperation in facilitating this process. The third issue pertained to the same vehicle sticker fee being charged to both residents and non-residents. The Committee members observed that this was not a major issue and therefore did not need discussion at a platform of the Chamber. The notices issued regarding renovation activities and marriage functions inside residential premises were also discussed. The President requested the Chairman to take up the issue of stay of foreign buyers in the Cantonment area, highlighting that the approval process from the concerned authorities was lengthy and time-consuming. In response, Mr. Khawar Spall stated that the matter had already been discussed with the authorities, and the Station Commander had clarified that repeat cases were approved within one week, whereas fresh cases required approximately one month for approval. He further informed that a meeting with Station Commander Brig. Waqar had been scheduled in the following week to further deliberate on the matter. Sheikh Atiq-ur-Rehman inquired about the vehicle sticker fee, to which Mr. Khawar Spall replied that the Cantonment Board had fixed an equal fee for both residents and non-residents. The President appreciated Mr. Khawar Spall for his excellent performance as Chairman of the Committee.	
Participants	The President, Sheikh Atiq-ur-Rehman and Mr. Khawar Spall
Approval	Approved.

27. Point discussed.	Approval of minutes of meeting of the Departmental Committee on Sports Activities held on December 26, 2025.
<u>Discussion:</u> Mr. Asif Ali informed the House that the Committee had recommended the following activities for the year 2026: • To organize a balanced mix of indoor and outdoor sports events throughout 2026, including football, badminton, table tennis, basketball, wrestling, hockey, and traditional games, keeping in view financial feasibility and effective time management. • To prioritize school-level sports activities in collaboration with the Education Department, the District Sports Office, and the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce & Industry, ensuring equal participation of government and private schools. • To encourage female participation in sports by ensuring the availability of safe, secure, and suitable venues, including the utilization of the Starla Sports Complex for indoor female sports events. • To explore collaboration with relevant sports associations (hockey, football, wrestling, etc.) for the revival and promotion of traditional and national sports, subject to feedback and feasibility. • To consider the revival and effective utilization of available sports infrastructure, including school grounds and indoor facilities, and to coordinate with concerned authorities regarding access and maintenance matters. The President suggested that sports events might also be organized at the Sports Complex already established, which was agreed to by Mr. Asif Ali. Mr. Asif Ali shared that Regional Police Officer (RPO) and District Police Officer (DPO) had visited the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce & Industry and proposed a friendly cricket match between the Chamber team and the Police Cricket Team. Sheikh Atiq ur Rehman inquired about the availability of a hockey stadium/ground. In response, Mr. Asif Ali informed the House that a hockey stadium was available on Pasrur Road near Gulshan Iqbal Park Sialkot. A member further added that a new stadium had also been constructed on Daska Road, at the backside of Ali Trading. Malik Naseer Ahmed proposed that, if the house deemed appropriate, a consolidated budget should be prepared for all sports events planned for the entire year. He further stated that after finalization of the budget, allocations should be made accordingly. He highlighted that a Sports & Culture Fund was collected from members as part of the membership fee, and therefore these activities could be planned within the available amount. The House unanimously approved the proposal.	
Participants	The President, Sheikh Atiq-ur-Rehman, Mr. Asif Ali and Malik Naseer Ahmed.
Approval	Approved.

28. Point discussed.	Approval of minutes of meetings of the Departmental Committee on Membership/Bye-Laws held on December 23, 2025.
<u>Discussion:</u> Mr. Sohail Masood informed the House that a total of 712 applications for new memberships were received during the month. He stated that all applications were thoroughly scrutinized by the concerned Committee and, after due verification, were recommended for approval. He further requested approval for the purchase of a large paper crusher to facilitate the proper disposal of old and confidential files. In response, the President suggested that the item be explored in the local market,	

indicating that a suitable paper crusher could be procured at an approximate cost of Rs. 50,000/-.	
Participants	The President and Mr. Sohail Masood.
Approval	Approved.

Any Other Point

29. Sheikh Muhammad Shahid Inam inquired about the status of the badges for Executive Committee members, which had earlier been discussed by the Vice President. The Secretariat informed the House that the Vice President had conveyed that the order had already been placed and that the shipment was expected to be received by next month.

30. Sheikh Atiq-ur-Rehman informed the House that upon exiting the Sialkot–Lahore Motorway towards Sialkot, the U-turn leading into the city was extremely dangerous, particularly at night. He stated that visibility was poor and shared that he had personally witnessed accidents at this location. He emphasized that the matter required urgent attention and suggested the installation of proper cat's eyes to improve nighttime safety.

The President stated that during his recent meeting with the District Police Officer, he was informed that Khawaja Asif had allocated Rs. 20 million for addressing road-related issues. The President further shared that Kashmir Road was being developed as a model road. The President assured that he would also request the concerned authorities to take necessary measures at the identified U-turn location, acknowledging its significance.

31. Mr. Sohail Masood informed the House that he had recently learned that the collection of the Export Development Surcharge (EDS) had been stopped and that exporters were now being advised to apply individually for utilization of the funds. He sought clarification on this new development.

The President explained that the Prime Minister had constituted a special committee to review the collection and utilization of EDS, which had accumulated to approximately Rs. 51 billion. The objective was to ensure transparency and proper utilization through a private sector led board comprising five to ten leading businessmen, in line with international best practices. He appreciated this initiative and noted that it reflected a serious and professional approach toward export promotion.

He informed that previously the committee was headed by the Federal Minister for Commerce, along with the Secretary Commerce, and that in the past EDF funds were perceived to have been utilized by non-export-related sectors, ignoring the fund's original purpose. After reviewing the matter, the committee concluded that stopping the collection was not the correct solution; instead, it recommended that an independent private board should decide on EDF utilization.

Another key recommendation was to allow individual exporting companies to directly benefit from EDF, as large exporters contribute significantly both in exports and in EDF payments, whereas earlier only chambers and associations could access the funds.

The President further informed that, on the committee's recommendations, the Prime Minister announced the immediate suspension of the Export Development Surcharge (EDS) being collected by banks at 0.25%, considering it a burden on exporters. Since then, EDS collection had been suspended and the EDF had been completely frozen. As a result, EDF funds were not being released or utilized for several months, and various ongoing and proposed projects, including those of the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry, had been put on hold.

32. Mr. Sohail Masood inquired about the current status of approval of Section V by SIDC.

In response, Mr. Murad Arshad informed the House that his most recent meeting with the concerned authorities had taken place via Zoom approximately one month before. He

stated that during this meeting, the Secretary appeared extremely dissatisfied and openly expressed apprehension that the summary might be rejected.

Mr. Murad Arshad further explained that despite being repeatedly cautioned that the summary was likely to face rejection, he persistently requested the Secretary to formally forward it, as per the prescribed procedure. He added that the Secretary had initially requested a one-on-one discussion, to which he agreed.

Mr. Murad Arshad informed the House that his last two formal requests submitted to the authorities were as follows:

- That the summary be forwarded through the proper channel as required; and
- That a meeting be arranged with the Chief Minister of Punjab, so that the matter could be presented directly and the concerns of the business community could be properly pleaded at the highest level.

Sheikh Atiq-ur-Rehman inquired about the specific grounds on which approval of Section V was being withheld.

Mr. Murad Arshad stated that the authorities had raised objections primarily on the basis of prolonged non-completion of two major projects, namely SEPZ and STZ. According to the authorities, these projects, referred to as the SEPZ and STZ were considered either failed or excessively delayed, having remained incomplete for a considerable period.

Mr. Murad Arshad clarified that it had been explicitly conveyed to the authorities that the delays were attributable to challenges and constraints on both sides, namely the business community as well as the government, and could not be attributed solely to any one party. He further elaborated that reference was also made to the industrial estate established in 1962, noting that with the subsequent growth of industry over decades, industrial expansion had already taken place over approximately 2,100 to 2,200 acres along all major arteries, including Sialkot Pasrur Road and Kashmir Road. He questioned the rationale of labeling the original 1,400 acres as excessively fertile land, when industrial development had already been allowed and facilitated along these same arterial corridors, which were equally fertile in nature.

33. Mr. Sohail Masood requested that the meeting of the Executive Committee (EC) should commence at 2:30 p.m. instead of 3:00 p.m.

34. Mian Muhammad Khalil informed the House that, under the supervision and guidance of the President, six batches of Social Media Marketing courses were successfully conducted. He stated that 639 participants were formally registered, while several unregistered individuals also attended the sessions. As a result, approximately 1,000 individuals benefited from the initiative and were trained in practical social media marketing skills. He further apprised the House that the President and members of the Executive Committee graciously spared their valuable time to attend the sessions. Representatives from the State Bank of Pakistan also participated at one or two occasions.

Mr. Khalil reported that the initiative received widespread appreciation from participants, who highly valued the Chamber's contribution in providing a free-of-cost, professional learning environment. As a positive outcome, many trainees had since commenced practical work in the field of social media marketing. Mian Muhammad Khalil proposed that successful participants be invited in future Executive Committee meetings to share their success stories. He also explained that a registration fee of Rs. 5,000 was introduced solely to ensure proper batch formation and participant commitment. Upon successful completion of the course, certificates were issued, and the entire registration fee was refunded to participants. However, five participants voluntarily opted not to receive the refund and instead donated the amount to SCCI Med Pharmacy, for which the relevant receipt numbers were duly issued. It was further noted that several participants had since become members of the Chamber, while others were already members, thereby strengthening their long-term association with the Sialkot Chamber.

The House appreciated the efforts of Mian Muhammad Khalil and his team for successfully executing the initiative.

Mr. Waseem Shahbaz Lodhi suggested that it should be circulated among participants that those who were not successful should be encouraged to share the challenges or difficulties they faced during the course. He observed that this feedback could help the Chamber identify possible solutions and improve future training programs.

Mian Muhammad Khalil agreed with the suggestion.

The President inquired from Mr. Khalil about the difficulty in holding the seminar at SBCC, noting that its hall had a larger seating capacity compared to the Chamber's Hall.

In response, Mr. Khalil explained that there was an issue of direct sunlight entering through the glass panels, which caused disturbance to presentations displayed on the projector.

The President advised Mr. Khalil to visit his office the following day so that a joint visit to the SBCC meeting hall could be arranged to resolve the issue.

Mr. Muhammad Arshad suggested that curtains could be installed to control the sunlight, emphasizing that the building belonged to the Chamber and appropriate remedial measures could be undertaken.

35. The President requested Mr. Mehtab Maqsood and Mr. Arshad Jamil Chaudhary to participate actively in the meetings of this Chamber in their capacity as Executive Committee Members.

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