

Fortnightly Bulletin

THE SIALKOT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

ايوان صنعت و تجارت سيالكوك

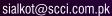
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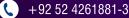
A delegation of Sialkot Chamber of Commerce & Industry led by Mr. Qaisar Iqbal Barya, President SCCI held a meeting with H.E. Dr. Arif Alvi, President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan at Aiwan-e-Sadar Islamabad

















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Mr. Rehan MalikRepresentative





Mr. Lou Xintao President

We established in May 1999. It is one of the earliest companies engaged in the production of hook and loop fasteners in China. It is located in Louta Town, Xiaoshan District, Hangzhou City, Zhejiang Province. The head office occupies an area of more than 10 acres, and now has more than 500 machines of various types, with an annual production capacity of 200 million pairs of meters. The Guangdong branch was established in 2017 and is located in Shatian Town, Dongguan City. It mainly produces medium and high-end Velcro products of various specifications.

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Massage From Mr. Lou Xintao

Message from Mr. Lou We have worked in many of the most demanding and secure environments in the world, and our global reach means that we can support our clients wherever their needs require. We have only objective to ensure our client's mission objectives are achieved with the highest level of capability and assurance and at the lowest possible cost. We have an outstanding relationship with Pakistan at Govt. To Govt. Level and People to People as well and we are committed to promoting this relationship.

Mr. Rehan Malik is our representative in Pakistan based in Sialkot. He is an enthusiast, committed and professional Businessman and already doing very smooth business with him, he can handle this business with his best responsibilities.

Massage From Mr. Rehan Malik

So grateful to Mr. Lou Xintao who appointed me a Representative of Hangzhou Nanfang Fastener Tape Co. Ltd. Here in Pakistan, we offer high-quality products at competitive prices and offer customized option for our valued customers.

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THE SIALKOT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

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WHAT IS INSIDE

- President Message. P-04
- Glimpses of Different Occasions of SCCI. P-24
- Monthly Activities of Sialkot Chamber. P-05



معززارا كين چيبر

الشكالم المناعل كم المراق المالكة الله المالكة المالكة

مزید براں چیمبرمبران PSIC کی جانب سے ایکسپورٹ پراسینگ زون میں پپاٹس کی الاٹمنٹ کی منسوفی کے سلسلہ میں وصول ہونے والے نوٹسر سمیت سیالکوٹ میں بین الاقوامی سطح پر شلیم شدہ کے قیام ، سرجیکل انڈسٹری کو دورجدید کے نقاضوں سے ہم آ ہنگ کرنے حکومت پنجاب کی جانب سے اعلان کر دہ سرجیکل سٹی سیالکوٹ کے جلد قیام ، سیالکوٹ میں بین الاقوامی سطح پر شلیم شدہ مٹریل ٹیسٹنگ لیب کی عدم موجوگی کی بدولت سپورٹس گڈز انڈسٹری کی مشکلات اور فیکٹریوں میں کام کرنے والے ورکرز کی سہولت کیلئے پسرورروڈ پر لیبر کالونی وسوشل سیکیو رٹی ہسپتال اور فیکٹریوں میں کام کرنے والے ورکرز کی سہولت کیلئے پسرورروڈ پر لیبر کالونی وسوشل سیکیو رٹی ہسپتال اور پیش سینس کی مشکلات کو زیر بحث لانے کیلئے صوبائی وزیر برائے انڈسٹریز کو انڈسٹریز انڈسٹریز انویسٹمنٹ ، حکومت پنجاب ، جناب میاں حجہ اسلم اسلام میں اینڈ انویسٹمنٹ ، حکومت پنجاب ، جناب میاں حجہ اسلام اسلام کو تھی چیمبر میوکھی گئیس کر دہ معروضات کو نہ صرف انتہائی دلجمتی کے ساتھ سنا بلکہ انہوں نے بہت جلد درج بالا بیان کر دہ مسائل کو ترجی بنیا دوں پرحل کرنے اور پیش کر دہ تجاویز پرعملدر آ مدے سلسلہ میں اپنے مکمل تعاون کی یقین دہائی بھی کروائی ۔ صوبائی وزیر کی جانب سے حکے بیالائی کے جیمبر ممبران اور حکومتی اداروں پرشمل ایک اعلی سطی کھٹی بھی تھیس دی گئی۔

معززارا کین چیمبر! سیالکوٹ کی برآ مدی انڈسٹری کی فلاح و بہبودوتر قی اوراس کے فروغ کی راہ میں حائل رکاوٹوں اورمشکلات کودور کرنا سیالکوٹ چیمبر کی بنیادی ذمہداری اوراولین ترجیحات میں شامل ہے۔ہم آپ کوکمل یقین دلاتے ہیں کہاس ذمہداری کی انجام دہی کیلئے ہم داے درہے نخے اپنا کردارادا کرتے رہیں گے۔بہت بہت شکریہ

قیصر قبال بریار صدر ایوان صنعت و تجارت سیالکوٹ والسلام

VISIT OF MR. ALI MUAZZAM SYED, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, PIEDMC



On May 29, 2021 a meeting with Mr. Ali Muazzam Syed, Chief Executive Officer, Punjab Industrial Estate Development and Management Company (PIEDMC) was arranged at Sialkot Chamberto discuss the project of Sialkot Industrial Zone. Mr. Qaiser Iqbal Baryar, welcomed the CEO PIEDMC and shared with the guest that the project of SIZ held strategic importance for the city and was vital keeping in view future expansion plans of the industry.

Mr. Ali Muazzam Syed, shared with the house that PIEDMC had been tasked with the execution of the proposed Sialkot Industrial Zone. He briefed the house on the structure and framework of PIEDMC and the previous projects executed. Detailed discussion was held on the proposed project including 1000-acre land at Sambrial, design, payment structure, facilities to be included as per Chamber's proposal and other important factors. It was proposed that at least PKR 5 (B) seed money would be solicited from the Government for acquisition of land. The CEO also stressed on the importance of the approach to the land and said that various options would be considered.

Mr. Qaisar Iqbal Baryar, stressed that all the best features of a modern industrial zone including effluent treatment system, solid waste management, green belts, labor colonies, material testing labs, efficient energy supply system should be incorporated.

It was resolved that PIEDMC would initiate working on Pre-Feasibility Study and Masterplan to be submitted to the Government and that Sialkot Chamber would ensure maximum support for earliest possible completion of the project.

VISIT OF DR. ANDEELA SAHAR FATIMA, CLUSTER MANAGER CDI/PSIC



Dr. Andeela Sahar Fatima, Cluster Manger-Surgical (Cluster Development Initiative, PSIC) visited the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce & Industry on May 29, 2021. Mr. Qaiser Igbal Baryar, President SCCI chaired the meeting; Mr. Babar Iqbal, Mr. Haseeb Bhatti, Mr. Muhammad Ashraf Malik and Mr. Mubashir Wahid also attended the meeting in order to discuss the prospects of project "Establishment of Surgical City" and the feasibility on accredited lab for Industry. President SCCI welcomed the guest and discussed that there was no reliable and accredited lab for the material testing for the surgical industry in Sialkot; therefore, it was a basic requirement for the said industry to sustain in international market with quality products. He mentioned that Government had allocated the budget of Rs. 200 (M) for the said project; whereas, he emphasized that resources should be utilized on the right direction for generating fruitful results.

Dr. Andeela Sahar Fatima, Cluster Manger-Surgical, PSIC thanked and described her working under her designation. She told about the project "Cluster Development Initiative - CDI" under PSIC and elaborated that according to the worldwide model for

cluster developments, it would be primarily required to get in touch with the relevant industrial associations. Therefore, she was also working with SIMAP for her project. She told that a diagnostic study had been conducted in Sialkot Surgical Industry through SIMAP with the help of international consultants to identify bottlenecks. To eliminate those identified issues, three areas chosen to work on the recommendation of SIMAP including Market & Marketing, productivity improvement and exports enhancement through E-Commerce; whereas, the area of capacity building & training to produced skilled labor had been ignored. She said that a Japanese production technique "Five S" had been proposed by the side of PSIC to work for the Surgical Industry. Furthermore, she said that she had a task assigned by the authorities to prepare the feasibility report for an accredited lab under the project of Establishment of Surgical City.



Mr. Haseeb Bhatti, Mr. Babar Iqbal and other Members of SCCI also explained that international rules & regulations for the sale of surgical instruments in different countries and clarified that E-Commerce was not much required by the Surgical Industry. they explained the system of German Institutions to train labor to convert them into Master Craftsman and emphasized that Pakistan should also be focused on skill training. They stressed that all the area, purpose and level of working should be very clear & dynamic of the newly established lab; so that, businesses would not face any objection by the international auditors.

Dr. Andeela Sahar Fatima, Cluster Manger-Surgical, PSIC thanked for the feedback by the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce & Industry in the meeting. She also said that inputs of Sialkot Surgical Industry would be significant to design and refine the project. She told that she had planned further meetings with PCSIR, UNIDO and other organizations to gather more information and refine the working. She welcomed the recommendations by SCCI's side regarding the said projects and feasibility of lab. President SCCI also suggested her to arrange meetings with her team to discuss it all for more precision. Furthermore, he proposed that area should be located for the surgical city within the premises of Sialkot, so that industry could take benefits from that huge initiative.

President SCCI thanked Dr. Andeela Sahar Fatima for her visit to discuss an important matter and thanked all the participants for their inputs. He said that Chamber would work on the said matter and call the series of meeting of stakeholders in order to discuss the requirements of an Accredited Lab as well as the to discuss the establishment of Surgical City to develop a consensus; and final document of recommendations would be shared with her.

VISIT OF DR. ABDUL BARI KHAN, CEO, INDUS HOSPITAL & HEALTH NETWORK HELD



Mr. Qaisar Iqbal Baryar, President SCCI welcomed Dr. Abdul Bari Khan, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of

Indus Hospital & Health Care Network on June 05, 2021 and gave a brief introduction about the achievements of business community of Sialkot such as Sialkot Dry Port Trust (SDPT), Sialkot International Airport Limited (SIAL) and AIRSIAL etc. President SCCI emphasized that the city needed a State-of-the-Art hospital with quality standard, specialized diagnostics, and medical treatment facilities, and emphasized that the hospital should have modern medical equipment and trained staff to treat local public for both routine and emergency cases. He shared that a quality hospital of the stature of Indus Hospital Karachi ought to be established in Sialkot to provide free of cost cutting edge healthcare to the marginalized segment of society.



Dr. Abdul Bari Khan shared his journey and past experiences toward the establishment & development of Indus hospital and health care network which was started from a blood bank. He elaborated about the network consisted of 12 Hospitals (8 Public-Private Partnership), 4 blood centers, 4 physical rehabilitation centers and public primary health care programs in 51 districts of Pakistan with 32 billion Rupees Budget and more than 10,000 employees. He also mentioned the ongoing development projects in Karachi and Lahore hospitals of Indus network. He also appreciated the vision of Sialkot Chamber and its members for taking the initiative and ensured his full support to establish a hospital for local community that would provide indiscriminate economical healthcare to deserving people. Dr. Abdul Bari Khan mentioned that a hub

and support center is required for the project. Moreover, the project required commitment and seriousness otherwise it might lose the trust and credibility in community.

Mr. Qaisar Iqbal Baryar applauded the success story of Dr. Abdul Bari Khan. His discussed the disturbed healthcare system in Sialkot, and also mentioned the ongoing discussion with Al-Shifa regarding establishment of commercial hospital in Sialkot. He further announced 10 acres land as a donation for the establishment of Indus hospital in Sialkot. Furthermore, he also discussed that Sialkot needed an emergency & cardiac center for patients requiring immediate care with supporting facilities and trained staff so that the patients could be stabilized prior moving to other healthcare centers. In the end, Dr. Abdul Bari Khan stated that a team of Primary and Public health care would visit Sialkot and would do the need-based assessment of the district for further action and he also offered his technical assistance for project planning and designing.

VISIT OF H.E.MR. WOUTER PLOMP, AMBASSADOR OF THE KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS TO PAKISTAN



Mr. Qaiser Iqbal Baryar, President SCCI welcomed His Excellency Mr. Wouter Plomp, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Netherlands to Pakistan, Ms. Winnie van der Wal, First Secretary Ms. Sundus Munawar, Policy Officer Economic Affairs, distinguished guests, and members, of the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce & Industry. He appreciated the Netherlands and the

Dutch people for their impeccable reputation in the areas of science, the economy, arts, and sports, and the culture they depict. He expressed his gratitude to the Netherlands for extending support to Pakistan in the areas of poverty reduction, health, gender, education, environment, and promoting the business sectors of the country through programs like CBI. "Pakistan and Netherlands also enjoy substantial economic and trade relations. The Netherlands is Pakistan's important trading and investment partner and I thankfully mention that many Dutch companies are contributing to Pakistan's economy and providing jobs to Pakistanis and further taking interest in investing in our economy" he added. Trade Development Authority of Pakistan, the total trade volume between the two countries is around USD 1.7 (B). However, there is a huge potential to increase this volume of trade with better interactions of private sectors.



He suggested a few measures for expansion of trade between the two countries: Both should facilitate single-country trade exhibitions and encourage frequent exchanges of trade delegations, the procedure for issuance of visas to businessmen should be relaxed, and Promote joint ventures between both the countries. He mentioned that Netherlands-based multinational companies have invested billions of dollars in Pakistan, in various sectors including agriculture, energy, and food; therefore, he suggested pursuing similar investments and joint ventures in the value-added sectors of Sialkot which would benefit both sides

significantly. He said that with Dutch Technology and Pakistani Craftsmanship, we could do wonders in the International markets.

He further shared about the Sialkot Chamber as the representative body of the Private Sector of Sialkot is greatly contributing to the economic development of the country. The city is known for its SME setup fully equipped and capacitated to business collaborations and joint ventures in various industries in Sialkot. He said that the exporters were well versed with rules, regulations, and requirements of international trade, which had resulted in exports from Sialkot, being over USD 2.2 (B) per annum. He briefed about the exceptional work in the Social Sector Development & Welfare of the people.

H.E. Mr. Wouter Plomp, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Netherlands to Pakistan thanked the Office Bearers of SCCI and members of the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce & Industry for the warm welcome and hospitality. He appreciated the Sialkot City as one of the most dynamic cities as we it was also significant because of the birthplace of Allama Iqbal, the great poet and the philosopher. He also mentioned the similarities of the two regions and mentioned that the green fields, fertile land and irrigation system etc. was also the point of attraction and could be the cause of interaction between the two countries. He told about his visit to Okara and Sahiwal to explore the potential of the dairy, livestock and agriculture sector; furthermore, cooperation in Industrial sectors e.g. football, hockey, cricket bats, motor bike shoes and accessories etc. should also be promoted.

In the meeting, members welcomed him with his team and discussed different concerns with them including B2B interaction, single country exhibition, enhancing the role of CBI in Pakistani Industrial Sectors other than surgical, Exchange of business delegation, visa policies and restart of working Netherlands' airline from Sialkot, Pakistan. The Ambassador appreciated the discussion and shared his positive response.

VISIT OF MS.SHARMEELA RASOOL, COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE UNWOMEN



On June 19, 2021, Ms. Sharmeela Rassool, Country Representative, UNWOMEN Pakistan, Ms. Fareeha Ummar, Manager- UNWOMEN, Mr. Anwar Qureshi, Operations Manager-UNWOMEN, Mr. Arshid Mehmood Mirza, Executive Director Baidarie-Sialkot and his team visited the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce & Industry on June 18, 2021 to discuss about the working on women empowerment and a new project "The Initiative for socio-economic empowerment of 300 women home-based workers & 50 women with disabilities in district Sialkot (Punjab) Pakistan" implemented by Baidarie-Sialkot and Funded by the UNWOMEN.

Mr. Khurram Aslam, Senior Vice President SCCI welcomed the guests and applauded the UNWOMEN working throughout with the Sialkot Based NGO "Baidarie" and providing them financial support to implement such projects for women empowerment especially in rural areas. "Women Resource Centre (WRC) of the Sialkot Chamber is already working with Baidarie-Sialkot and had completed many training projects with them to groom the rural women workers" he added. He also announced that the Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry Sialkot had also been formed with dynamic leadership and vision; and he assured that WCCIS would have a productive liaison with Baidarie in the future for such a noble cause.

Ms. Sharmeela Rassool, Country Representative,

UNWOMEN Pakistan thanked the SCCI for the hospitality and discussed the indicators of the economic prosperity of women. She shared the objective of the visit to SCCI and discussed the issues of women in society as well as on economic side. She told about the ranking of Pakistan in particular prospective in one of the lowest countries in the world. She emphasized the potential that had been lost due to the negligence and under-utilization of the women population which was mainly 50% of the total population. She quoted the fact the less than 20% of the women population was working and the rest of them with the huge level of skills, abilities, talent and capacity had been lost due to under-utilization. She discussed the causes of the said phenomenon e.g. locality, cultural factors, opportunities, lack of support to them in terms of finances and resources etc. "It is important to focus on how can we contribute to change the circumstances to make the women stronger financially & socially for their overall growth and economic empowerment" she added. She stressed that to brought some positive changes in women's life, UNWOMEN was working with Baidarie-Sialkot and hoped that Sialkot Chamber of Commerce & Industry would also support the said project in every aspect to ensure the results of the said efforts.



Dr. Khurram Anwar Khawaja, Former President SCCI welcomed the guests and told that the Sialkot Chamber was the right platform to discuss such factors because SCCI was always striving for the growth & development of women as well. He emphasized that SCCI's role in that particular aspect

was clear; he mentioned Women Resource Center (WRC) had been working to strengthen the women business community of the Sialkot, and recently formed the Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry (WCCIS) was also a great example of the same cause. He further elaborated on the role of Khud Kifalat Rozgar Trust (KKRTS) in supplying financial resources to the lower-income people to start or enhance their business activities. He stated that a large number of women had been facilitated by KKRTS via giving them microcredit (Qarz-e-Hasna) to run their business activities. Whereas, Dr. Mariam Nouman, President WCCIS & Chairperson WRC also emphasized that the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce & Industry was an example of Women's Empowerment and mentioned the activities and efforts under WRC for the growth of women entrepreneurs in Sialkot.

Furthermore, she endorsed that under the WRC-Outreach Program with the collaboration of Baidarie-Sialkot was another millstone, through which it could be possible for the Chamber to approach the rural women and to work for their prosperity by enhancing their linkages with industry. She also elaborated the linkages with universities, but she also mentioned that the skills/education provided by the system was not as much required by the Industry; therefore, there was a need to eliminate the gap.

Mr. Arshid Mehmood Mirza, Executive Director Baidarie-Sialkotthanked the SCCI to interact with his team and representatives of UNWOMEN for further collaboration. He gave his remarks on the linkages of Baidarie and SCCI by discussing the projects of mutual understanding. he explained the aspects and plans of working under the said project as well as he expressed hope for the positive coordination by SCCI for implementing the discussed project.

SEMINAR ON DIGITAL MARKETING & ADVERTISING

On 22 June 2021, a Seminar on Digital Marketing was arranged by USAID, wherein Mr. Khuram Aslam, Senior Vice President, SCCI welcomed Mr. Khuram

Shehzad, USAID, and Mr. Usman Latif, Marcom Technologist, a Digital Marketing Consultant, Growth Hacking, Marketing Automation, and Inbound Marketing expert and other participants. He mentioned that such a session was a need for time and E-Commerce is the future of the industry. Mr. Fizan Akbar, Chairman of, SCCI Departmental Committee on SME, briefed the audience about the digital mode of communication, the future of e-commerce, and eventually e-business.

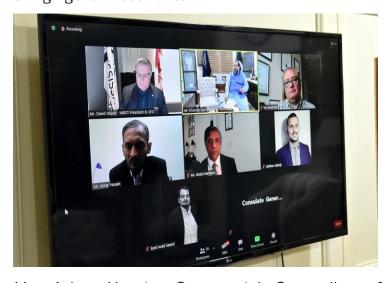


During the Seminar, Mr. Usman Latif gave an introductory presentation on effective digital marketing strategies to boost sales and increase revenue for SMEs in Pakistan utilizing digital media and effective ways of communication. Mr. Shahid Nadeem, Chairman of, SCCI Departmental Committee on Engineering thanked USAID for organizing digital marketing and advertising awareness seminar for members of the Sialkot Chamber. The Senior Vice President assured that the series of E-Commerce will continue to guide the members of SCCI.

WEBINAR BETWEEN SCCI AND MISSISSAUGA BOARD OF TRADE

On 24th June 2021, a webinar was held between the Sialkot Chamber and Canadian Trade Bodies on business opportunities between Pakistan and Canada in all prominent sectors, arranged by Embassy of Pakistan in Canada. H.E. Mr. Abdul Hameed, Consul General of Pakistan in Toronto, Mr. Khuram Aslam, Senior Vice President SCCI, David Wojcik, President Mississauga Board of Trade and

Mr. Azhar Husain, Commercial Counsellor of Pakistan in Toronto participated in the webinar. H.E. Mr. Abdul Hameed, Consul General of Pakistan in Toronto gave the welcome address highlighting the importance of this session for promotion of trade on both sides. He also shared that Consulate General was working to connect the interested business community of both sides. Mr. Consul General said that both sides had the capacity of meet the requirement and his Office will facilitate both sides in bringing the investments.



Mr. Azhar Husain, Commercial Counsellor of Pakistan in Toronto, gave an insight of the trade figures and the opportunities on both sides. He added that the Consulate General of Pakistan was available to facilitate the Business Communities on both side and working to engage business Community on both sides. Whereas, Mr. Khuram Aslam, Senior Vice President Sialkot Chamber, briefed the participants about the Industry of Sialkot and milestones achieved by the Industry of Sialkot. He proposed to President Mississauga Board of Trade, Ontario that an MOU between SCCI and MSBT for future collaborations, exchange of information and delegations should be signed in coming future.

Mr. David Wojcik, President & CEO, Mississauga Board of Trade gave the overview of Trade and working of Mississauga Board of Trade. He appreciated the MOU proposal given by Mr. Khuram Aslam, S.V. President SCCI. Mr. Brad Butt, Vice-President, Government & Stakeholder Relations,

Mississauga Board gave the closing remarks and proposed that a series of such productive sessions should happen more often in future.

VISIT OF H.E. MR. SULJUK MUSTANSAR TARAR, PAKISTANI AMBASSADOR DESIGNATED TO THE KINGDOM OF NETHERLANDS



Mr. Suljuk Mustansar Tarar, Pakistani Ambassador designated to the kingdom of Netherland visited the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce & Industry on July 03, 2021. Mr. Qaiser Igbal Baryar, President SCCI welcomed the guest and discussed about the bilateral relations between both the countries. shared about the Sialkot Chamber as the representative body of the Private Sector of Sialkot is greatly contributing to the economic development of the country. He also told about the industrial sectors of Sialkot and annual exports of the city being over USD 2.2 (B) per annum. He briefed about the exceptional work in the Social Sector Development & Welfare of the people; Sialkot Chamber with active participation & contributions of its members has initiated many welfare projects. He mentioned that the Industrial Sector of Pakistan can immensely benefit from the Netherlands in the fields of capacity building of export and manufacturing sectors and transfer of technology and knowledge base to the SMEs. As per the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan, the total trade volume between the two countries is around USD 1.7 (B). However, there is a huge potential to increase this volume of trade with better interactions of private sectors.



Mr. Suljuk Mustansar Tarar, Pakistani Ambassador designated to the kingdom of Netherland thanked for the warm welcome and hospitality and also acknowledged that SCCI arranged the meeting to discuss the concerns. He said that it was the duty of every mission to promote made-in-Pakistan products in other countries to boost up the country's exports. He endorsed that Prime Minister of Pakistan had a vision to increase exports, so that he was focused to learn about the potential of country's industries and the Netherland's market. He told about the increasing trend in the bilateral trade and foreign direct investment (FDI) by Netherland in last months, due to which he encouraged the interaction with chambers to learn more about the industry and export-oriented products to market those products around the world. He discussed about the GSP Plus, its potential and non-trade barriers. He discussed that mostly the textile related items were exported to Netherland whereas, many other products had a lot of potential over there and Pakistan should explore the market. He welcomed the business community to take facilitation from the Pakistani Embassy in Netherland any time in order to know about the market and increase trade with them.

President SCCI appreciated the points discussed by the guest and told that made-in Sialkot products including sports goods, football, hockey sticks, surgical instruments and leather products etc. had a large potential in Netherland's market. He mentioned the increasing usage of motorbike related items in said market and on the other side; all

those products were the emerging industry of Sialkot. Sheikh Zahid Hameed shared his experience to join the Ambassador's Cup, a sports tournament organized by the Pakistani Ambassador under the Pakistani Embassy in Netherland and suggested that guest would also arrange the same event in future and should engage the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce & Industry.



Mr. Khurram Aslam, Senior Vice President SCCI suggested focusing on exchange of business delegations and single country exhibition should be organized to market the Sialkot's Industry as well as the made-in- Pakistan products on a broader perspective. Furthermore, he discussed that the Netherland's based organization named CBI had done many significant projects and many industrialist related to surgical sectors had been trained by CBI in different traits; he suggested that the linkages between the said institute and industry should be enhanced with the efforts of embassy. In the end of the meeting, Mr. Qaiser Igbal Baryar, President SCCI said that it would be an opportunity to welcome the foreign direct investment in shape of any Netherland based solid waste management company to come and setup a plant to produce energy with that waste in the industrial zone; he suggested that Ambassador would try to create liaison with such entities in order to work with them for the said objective. Office Bearers presented souvenir to the guest as a token of thanks to visit SCCI.

JOINT MEETING OF TRADE BODIES OF SIALKOT



Joint Meeting of all the Trade Bodies of Sialkot was held regarding Implementation of 5% Withholding Sales Tax on Companies against gross value of purchases from Unregistered Persons on July 5, 2021. Mr. Qaisar Iqbal Baryar, President, welcomed the members and informed that Sialkot Chamber and all Trade Bodies of Sialkot had been demanding its abolition for the last two years but despite all assurances, proposed amendment had not been included in the Finance Act 2021.

He emphasized on the amicable settlement through negotiations and there had been an earlier precedent of mutual agreement between the Department and the Chamber regarding purchase formula to calculate Withholding Sales Tax against unregistered purchases but the rate at that time had been 1%, whereas contemporary rate of 5% was prohibitively high and far beyond the capacity of SMEs. He also apprised that a meeting of All Chambers' Presidents with the Prime Minister of Pakistan was scheduled to be held in a while to discuss Budget Anomalies wherein the issue of 5% Withholding Sales Tax on Companies would be discussed to seek exemption for Exporter Companies.

Ch. Ahmed Zulfiqar Hayat elaborated that Sales Tax was a Tax on Consumption, whereas, consumption of the exported goods was not within the territorial jurisdiction of Pakistan; hence, there was no justification for levy of Withholding Sales Tax in the case of Export Companies as there was no principal

Sales Tax liability on Exports. He added that levy of Withholding Sales Tax on Export Companies would increase cost of production and would adversely affect competitiveness of indigenous products in the international market. He said that the same principal had been propounded on every platform but, unfortunately, the issue remained unresolved. After due deliberation and a detailed discussion, it was decided that:

- I) SCCI would hold meetings with the key FBR officials to seek relief for the Exporter Companies.
- Ii) Legal / Expert opinion would be sought to contest the issue in the Court of Law.
- lii) SCCI would organize a press conference at Lahore to highlight the issue of 5% Withholding Sales Tax on Companies through electronic and print media.
- Iv) Options of Protests / Lockdown / No Export Day would be considered to oppose implementation and develop active resistance against levy of 5% Withholding Sales Tax on Exporter Companies.

VISIT OF MS. SADIA SADAF GILLANI CHIEF COMMISSIONER, INLAND REVENUE, REGIONAL TAX OFFICE, SIALKOT



On July 5, 2021 Mr. Qaisar Iqbal Baryar, President, SCCI, visited Revenue, Regional Tax Office, Sialkot and expressed gratitude to Chief Commissioner Inland Revenue, for providing opportunity to discuss issues relating to the export industry of Sialkot. He apprised about the dismal situation faced by the Export Companies of Sialkot due to Notices received from the Tax Department for Deduction and Deposit of 5% Withholding Sales Tax against gross value of

purchases from unregistered suppliers.

He informed that a joint meeting of Trade Bodies of Sialkot had been hosted in SCCI earlier that day to discuss the issue of levy of 5% Withholding Sales Tax on Export Companies. The participants of the meeting showed serious concern on levy of 5% Withholding Sales Tax on Export Companies against purchases from unregistered persons and demanded its immediate withdrawal by the Government retrospectively.

Mr. Qaisar Iqbal Baryar informed that Sialkot Chamber and all Trade Bodies of Sialkot had been demanding its abolition for the last two years but despite all assurances, proposed amendment had not been included in the Finance Act 2021. He informed that participants of the meeting had expressed their resolution to observe Lock Down / No Export Day, if genuine demands of the exporters would not be given due consideration by the Government.

He said that Sialkot Chamber and all Trade Bodies of Sialkot believe in amicable settlement through negotiations and there had been an earlier precedent of mutual agreement between the Department and the Chamber regarding purchase formula to calculate Withholding Sales Tax against unregistered purchases but the rate at that time had been 1%, whereas contemporary rate of 5% was prohibitively high and far beyond the capacity of SMEs.

Ch. Ahmed Zulfiqar Hayat said that the business community was sure that the issue would be solved by exclusion of exporters from the purview of Serial # 4 of 11th Schedule to the Sales Tax Act, 1990, by including proposed amendments in the Finance Act, 2021. However, it was informed later that proposed amendment could not be placed before the National Assembly and representatives of the Trade Bodies were advised to have a meeting with you to agree to a formula to streamline collection of Withholding Sales Tax from Export Companies.

Dr. Ishtiaq Ahmed, Commissioner Inland Revenue,

while responding to the issue highlighted by the participants, informed that purpose of introducing provisions of Withholding Sale Tax by the Government was broadening of tax base but it created problems for Small and Medium sized Companies like in Sialkot as they were not in a bargaining position to force unregistered suppliers to get themselves registered with FBR, resulting in addition of levied Withholding Sales Tax to their cost of doing business. He said that it was not an issue for large sized Companies of Karachi, Lahore and Faisalabad, as they were not only in better bargaining position with the suppliers but also had integrated units allowing substantial value addition within their business premises.

He said that Regional Tax Office was only mandated with implementation of law as legislated by the Parliament and was not in a position to change the law. He said that law had provided exemption to Manufacturers cum Exporters from the provisions of Withholding Income Tax and same exclusion could have been extended in the Sales Tax matters as well, if the legislator had so desired. However, under the present position, tax office was under an obligation to implement 5% Withholding Sales Tax as legislated by the Parliament.

Ms. Sadia Sadaf Gillani, Chief Commissioner Inland Revenue, apprised that they were not empowered to grant exemption to the Export Companies and higher authorities had already disregarded the matter. She said that their professional obligations necessitated overseeing implementation of legislation as passed by the Parliament. She said that Regional Tax Office had always been pro-active to provide facilitation, whenever possible, especially while allowing extension in time period for disposal of notices under section 11(4A) of the Sales Tax Act, 1990, as per advice of Dr. Muhammad Ashfaq Ahmed, Member IR Operations, FBR.

She clarified that she could neither reduce percentage nor grant exemption to the Export Companies but was mandated only to negotiate purchase formula, in the light of an earlier precedent,

to minimize hassle to the Export Companies.

After comprehensive discussion, it was agreed that;

- No fresh notices would be issued by the Tax Department until settlement of the issue between the Department and the Chamber.
- Members would be advised to file Appeals in all such cases where orders had already been passed by the Department.
- Department would discuss proposal of Sialkot Chamber and Trade Bodies, to consider 1% to 3% unregistered purchases for collection of 5% Withholding Sales Tax from Companies, with the concerned FBR Officials to seek approval.

MEETING WITH MR. MUHAMMAD SUALEH AHMED FARUQUI, FEDERAL SECRETARY COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE



A delegation of Sialkot Chamber of Commerce & Industry led by Mr. Khuram Aslam, Senior Vice President SCCI visited Ministry of Commerce and held a meeting with Mr. Muhammad Sualeh Ahmed Faruqui, Federal Secretary Commerce on July 07, 2021. The delegation comprised of Mr. Muhammad Bilal, Mr. Sohail Zafar, Mr. Qasim Malik and Mr. Muhammad Adrees, Executive Committee Members of SCCI. Moreover, Mr. Rafeo Bashir Shah, Executive Director General, TDAP and Mr. Mohammad Ashfaq, Secretary EDF was also present in the meeting. Secretary Commerce warmly welcomed the guests and requested to share the purpose of the visit.

Mr. Khuram Aslam, Senior Vice President SCCI thanked Mr. Muhammad Sualeh Ahmed Faruqui, Federal Secretary Commerce for the hospitality

extended to the delegates. He discussed that Child Labour Elimination Program in Soccer Ball Industry was considered to be very important, but delays in settlement of already approved and released funds had caused difficulties for the project. He requested the Secretary Commerce to direct TDAP authorities to reimburse the amount to the account of SCCI as early as possible as it has paid towards CLEP from its other source. He also requested to direct EDF to release remaining balance for the year 2019. He shared that 20th Finance Committee Meeting of the Board of EDF was held on June 16, 2021, but the issues discussed in that meeting were still pending. He requested to direct EDF staff to accelerate the working, so that issues could be addressed in a timely manner. During discussion, he highlighted that 5% withholding Sales Tax on Exporter Companies against purchases from unregistered persons shouldbe abolished with retrospective effect i.e., from July 1, 2019; therefore, he requested that the description of the Withholding Agent under Serial # 4 of the Eleventh Schedule to the Sales Tax Act, 1990, should be amended to add the words "excluding Export Companies" as void ab initio to provide relief to the exporter companies.

He discussed the difficulties in Legalization/ attestation of their Trade related documents from Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) and requested to pass instructions to attestation staff at MOFA, to process/ attest the documents, already endorsed and attested by Sialkot Chamber, to help the exporters to export to Foreign Countries. He shared the irregularities and delay from SBP and Commercial Banks had caused the DLTL Claims to be marked time-barred and it was stressed that cases time-barred vide previous SROs should be reconsidered. Whereas, Mr. Muhammad Sualeh Ahmed Faruqui, Federal Secretary Commerce discussed all the concerns and replied and assured that he personally asked the concerned authorities to expedite the process of releasing funds for the facilitation of the project. He directed the EDF Secretariat to get the minutes approved and work on it; he furthermore, discussed and responded on all

the discussed matters and assured that he would resolve the concerns to support the Industry.

EXPORT COACHING PROGRAM



Mr. Khuram Aslam, Senior Vice President SCCI presided over a session on "Export Coaching Program" for business community of Sialkot led by Mr. Fizan Akbar, Chairman, Departmental Committee on SME/ Training & Young Entrepreneurs in Sialkot Chamber on July 09, 2021 and July 16, 2021. Mr. Mian Muhammad Khalil, Chairman of Departmental Committee on Event Management and Liaison welcomed the participants and shared his welcoming remarks.

Mr. Fizan Akbar briefed the participants about essential skills required in the setup and establishment of Export oriented business in Sialkot in the first session. He briefed Physical & Virtual Exhibitions, SEO and E-Commerce in the second session. Question/Answer session was also held at the end of the both training Sessions for general awareness and knowledge of members SCCI.

SESSION ON E-COMMERCE, AMAZON, PAYONEER, AND USAGE OF SEO TOOLS

On July 13, 2021, Mr. Qaisar Iqbal Baryar, President, SCCI welcomed the participants for this intensive Seminar which was held in collaboration with E-Commerce Galaxy to educate the existing as well as new exporters of Industry of Sialkot regarding the dynamics of selling their products on E-Commerce platforms mainly Amazon and Ebay. He appreciated the efforts of Ms. Aisha Moriani and her team for their

efforts to recognize Made in Sialkot products on Amazon. An (MOU) was signed between SCCI and E-commerce Galaxy for future collaborations.



Ms. Azka Ameen, Assistant Registrar, SECP gave an introductory presentation regarding company incorporation with SECP using online portal. Team Ecommerce Galaxy gave a detailed presentation on various aspects of working on Amazon for SMEs including account creation, product listing and shipping. Ms. Affaf Noor, Partnerships Manager, Payoneer explained the audience about the payment gateway and integration with various ecommerce and freelancing platforms.

Ms. Ayesha Moriani, Senior Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, Dr Shahzad Yousaf, City of London College, Mr. Urfan Yaqub, Co-Founder & Director E-Commerce Galaxy, Mr. Kumail Nadeem, Deputy Registrar SECP. Mr. Mohsin Muzafar, Country Head Payoneer & his team, Mr. Hassan Shah, Coordinator Ministry of Commerce's Think Tank on Amazon, and representatives from Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB) also participated in the session. A Q/A sessionwere held at the end of the session for general awareness and knowledge of members SCCI.

VISIT OF H.E. MR. HAMID ASGHAR KHAN, AMBASSADOR OF PAKISTAN DESIGNATED TO THE KINGDOM OF MOROCCO AND THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

Mr. Qaiser Iqbal Baryar, President SCCI welcomed His Excellency Mr. Hamid Asghar Khan, Ambassador of Pakistan designated to Kingdom of Morocco and

the Republic of Liberia and all other guests at Sialkot Chamber on July 10, 2021. He shared about the Sialkot Chamber as the representative body of the Private Sector and told about the industrial sectors of Sialkot including Textile, Sports, Sportswear, surgical instruments, leather garments & accessories, motorbike shoes & apparels, musical instruments, martial arts & military uniforms etc. he also quoted that the exports from Sialkot, being over USD 2.2(B) per annum with the efforts of Industry. He briefed about the exceptional work in the Social Sector Development & Welfare of the people; Sialkot Chamber with active participation & contributions of its members has initiated projects. He said that both the countries Morocco and Liberia had a great potential for the products made in Sialkot but there was no potential trade with them. He mentioned that they bought the same products from the Europe but not directly from Pakistan; therefore, it would be necessary to flow the information about Sialkot's Industry to those markets in order to enhance the direct trade with them.



"Footballs and other games are also the significant part of the cultures of morocco as well as Liberia; and the said industry is the specialty of Sialkot. So that with the efforts of Pakistani Embassy, our products can be reached out those markets" he recommended. He also encouraged the Ambassador to find out the opportunities of increasing trade and business with Morocco, Liberia, Tunisia and other nearby regions and should have to collaborate with SCCI.

H.EMr. Hamid Asghar Khan, Ambassador of Pakistan

designated to Kingdom of Morocco and the Republic of Liberia thanked for the hospitality and extended his gratitude for inviting him in Sialkot Chamber. He shared about his working as an Ambassador and his coordination with Government Departments of Pakistan to increase interaction between the countries. "Africa has five regions including east, west, north, south and central having total 54 countries. Groups (10 to 12 countries in each group) are formed and those are the free trade regions" he explained. Furthermore, he suggested that Sialkot Industry should approach those groups and even the most low economy countries and invite their dignitaries to visit Sialkot; he also suggested signing free trade agreement with the African countries' groups to boost up business and trade with them with ease in policies.

He recommended that SCCI should take a step to establish a Display Center for displaying the made-in-Sialkot products to attract African countries and also advised that exchange of delegation should be focused to visit more than one country of Africa in a visit to study and capture the huge market, after pandemic. He told that Africa was very much interested to promote industrialization and welcome the Foreign Direct Investment; so that they could facilitate the investor as per their negotiating powers. z accredited Lab, and Overcoming the Shortage of Trained Workers.

SCCI will communicate names of 8 representatives of the Top Exporter of Surgical Sector to be included in the advisory board for consultation and suggestions in the connection to implement projects MDR, Establishment of Lab, and Overcoming the Shortage of Trained Workers.

VISIT OF THE PROVINCIAL MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIES, COMMERCE AND INVESTMENT, PUNJAB MIAN MUHAMMAD ASLAM IQBAL

On 15th July, 2021 Mian Muhammad Aslam Iqbal, Provincial Minister for Industries, Commerce & Investment, Punjab visited SCCI. Mr. Qaisar Iqbal Baryar, President, Sialkot Chamber of Commerce, and Industry welcomed Mian Muhammad Aslam

Iqbal, Provincial Minister for Industries, Commerce and Investment, Punjab, Dr. Firdous Ashiq Awan, Special Assistant to the Chief Minister of the Punjab on Information and Culture, Ch. Muhammad Akhlaq, Provincial Minister for Special Education, Punjab, distinguished guests, and members of Sialkot Chamber.



He admired the achievements of the honorable Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mr. Imran Khan, and the honorable Chief Minister of the Punjab, Sardar Usman Ahmed Buzdar, to resolve the economic and political issues and promote exports of the country. He briefed the honorable guests about the industrial setup and various social compliance initiatives to exhibit the visionary and progressive approach of the business community of Sialkot. During his address, he particularly highlighted issues for resolution including Withdrawal of notices of cancellation of allotments in Sialkot Export Processing Zone issued by PSIC, Establishment of Sialkot Industrial Zone, Establishment of Sialkot Surgical City, Establishment of Sports Goods Materials Testing Laboratory at SEPZ, and Establishment of Labor Colony and Social Security Hospital / Dispensary at Pasrur Road Sialkot.

Ch. Muhammad Akhlaq, Provincial Minister for Special Education, Punjab, Mr. Muhammad Usman Dar, Special Adviser to the Prime Minister on Youth Affairs and Dr. Firdous Ashiq Awan, Special Assistant to the Chief Minister of the Punjab on Information and Culture extended their gratitude to Mian Muhammad

Aslam Iqbal for working very hard for the improvement of Industry, not only in Sialkot but in the whole of the province of the Punjab.

Mian Muhammad Aslam Igbal informed that purpose of his visit to Sialkot Chamber had been to address the issues and grievances of the business community of Sialkot. He informed that he had been accompanied by the Departmental Heads of all allied institutions of the Industries Department including PSIC, PBIT and TEVTA, to address the issues of the business community, as highlighted by the President in his address, in an effective manner. He briefed on the capacity and performance of the departments working under the authority of Industries, Commerce, and Investment Department. He informed that a comprehensive Punjab Skill Policy had been devised by the Government of the Punjab for the first time, which would be formally announced after approval by the Cabinet. He apprised that Urban Unit had been conducting e-mapping of the industry to have information of the skill requirements of the industry. He said that the existing framework of training by TEVTA had been incapable to provide skilled force as per requirements of the industry; hence, a Competency based Training and Assessment system had been adopted as per international standards to equip the trainees with the right skills.



During the session Rana Abdul Shakoor, DG Industries, delivered a presentation to highlight initiatives of the Government of the Punjab to promote ease of doing business in Punjab.

VISIT OF MR. ABDUL RAZAK DAWOOD, ADVISOR TO PRIME MINISTER ON COMMERCE AND INVESTMENT



One July 17, 2021 Mr. Abdul Razak Dawood, Advisor to Prime Minister on Commere and Investment visited SCCI. Mr. Qaisar Igbal Baryar, President of Sialkot Chamber of Commerce & Industry warmly welcomed the Advisor to Prime Minister on Commerce & Investment, Mr. Abdul Razak Dawood, on his 3rd visit SCCI. The President Chamber extended gratitude to Mr. Abdul Razak Dawood for leading the industry in the global pandemic of COVID-19 and protecting exports. He said that the efforts of the Ministry of Commerce in line with the vision of the Prime Minister were bearing fruits and for the first time in history, Pakistan had been able to achieve the highest exports figures at USD 25.3(B). He added. Mr. Qaisar Igbal Baryar said that Inclusion of Pakistan into Amazon's Approved Seller List, Further Reduction in Raw Material Tariff Lines in Finance Act 2020, Launch of Pakistan Single Window, and Extension in date of filing of Claims under LTLD and DDT Schemes had been the biggest developments for the FY 2020-21 for which Mr. Abdul Razak Dawood and his team deserved all praises.

The President Chamber requested the kind consideration of Advisor on following key points for resolution including Abolition of 5% Withholding Sales Tax on Export Companies, Decrease In Rebate, Recognition Of Beauty And Single-Use Instruments, Child Labour Elimination Program, Enhancement In

Rate of Government Support Packages For Drawback of Local Taxes and Levies (DLTL) Claims, One Time Settlement of DDT And LTLD Time-Barred Claims, establishment of EXIM Bank, Facilitation Required In B2b2c Framework By State Bank, Setting up of E-Commerce Incubation & Training Centres, Permanent Representation of Sialkot Chamber in Edf Board, Setting Up of E-Commerce Incubation & Training Centres, Back-To-Back Letter of Credit For 05 Export-Oriented Sectors, and Legalization of Documents From The Ministry Of Foreign Affairs.

Mr. Abdul Razak Dawood, Advisor to Prime Minister on Commerce, and Investment expressed his gratitude to the members of the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce & Industry for hosting him. He said that he was always appreciative of the Sialkot Chamber for being the most positive trade body in Pakistan. He assured that Government of Pakistan will ensure all possible support in resolution of keys issues of Export Industry highlighted by President SCCI.

VISIT OF H.E. MR. MOHAMMED BELLO ABIOYE HIGH COMMISSIONER OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA TO PAKISTAN



Mr. Khurram Aslam, Senior Vice President SCCI welcomed H.E. Mr. Mohammed Bello Abioye, High Commissioner of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to Pakistan, his team, and members at SCCI on August 09, 2021. He discussed the cordial and political relations of Pakistan and Nigeria and also told about the Nigerian economy. He discussed the cordial relation between both the countries but had not been

translated into strong economic ties as Nigeria does not figure prominently among the trading partners of Pakistan as the total trade volume between the two countries is only limited to around USD 793 (M) as per sources like Ministry of Commerce, Pakistan, and Trade Map. He mentioned that Nigeria was classified as a mixed economy, emerging market and had already reached middle-income status country according to the world bank due to its abundant supply of natural resources especially oil resources, well-developed financial, legal, communications, transport sector and stock exchange.

Senior Vice President suggested active engagements of the Nigerian and Pakistani Chambers, which could act as a resource base for exchanging information. He stressed to strengthen the liaison and trade information of potential buyers of each other's products to identify more and more tradable products, exchange of trade delegations and holding joint trade exhibitions would also help in promoting bilateral trade. He emphasized promoting linkages between the private sector of both the countries; he also requested to share data of tariff and customs duties in Nigeria on products like Surgical Instruments, Sports Goods, Sports Wear, Leather Products, Gloves and Textile along with the Investment Policy of Nigeria for the business community of Sialkot to study in detail and allow them to plan investment in Joint Ventures and other opportunities for increasing trade relations with Nigeria.

H.E Mr. Mohammed Bello Abioye, High Commissioner of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to Pakistan thanked the Office Bearers and leadership of Sialkot Business Community; he applauded the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce for its remarkable role of SCCI to promote the business community. He emphasized that concerns should be focused to enhance bilateral trade between both countries, whereas direct contact should also be increased between people of both sides. He appreciated the Sialkot International Airport and AIRSIAL and said that there was no direct flight between Pakistan and

Nigeria that should be noticed. He mentioned the trade volume of both the country and emphasized that mutual effort should be made to boost up the economic ties. He again appreciated the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce & Industry to play its significant role to enhance the business growth of the city.

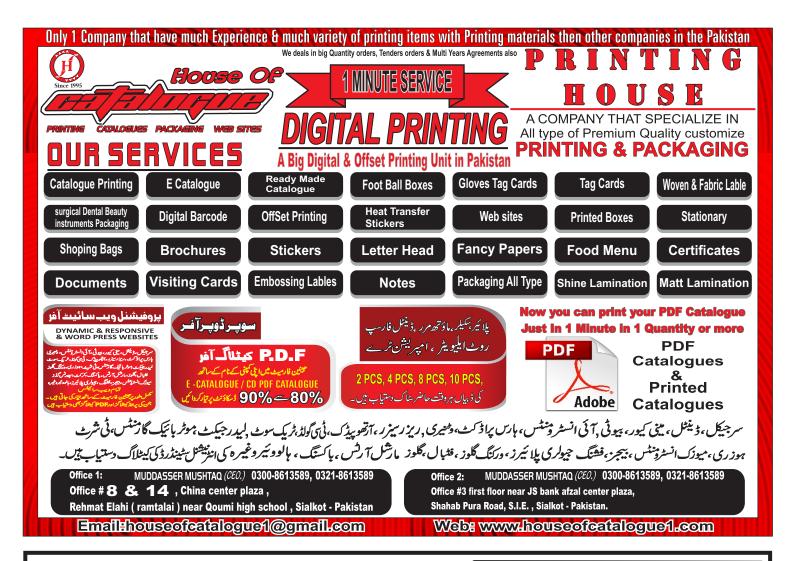
VISIT OF H.E. MR. RIZWAN SAAED SHEIKH, AMBASSADOR OF PAKISTAN TO ORGANIZATION OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION (OIC) IN JEDDAH



On August 20, 2021, H.E. Rizwan Saaed Sheikh, Ambassador of Pakistan to Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in Jeddah called on Mr. Qaisar Iqbal Baryar, President, Mr. Khuram Aslam, Senior Vice President and Mr. Ansar Aziz Puri, Vice President, Sialkot Chamber of Commerce & Industry to discuss Matters pertaining to Trade, Commerce and Investment in OIC Countries.

Mr. Ambassador said that the esteemed Embassy was also planning a trade exhibition during coming year, where participants from OIC countries would also participate. He said that Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry should invite its members to participate in the exhibition to ensure proper representation of the Industry and Pakistan in the event.

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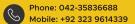
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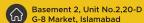
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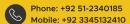
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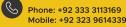
















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- MS Mechanical Engineering
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