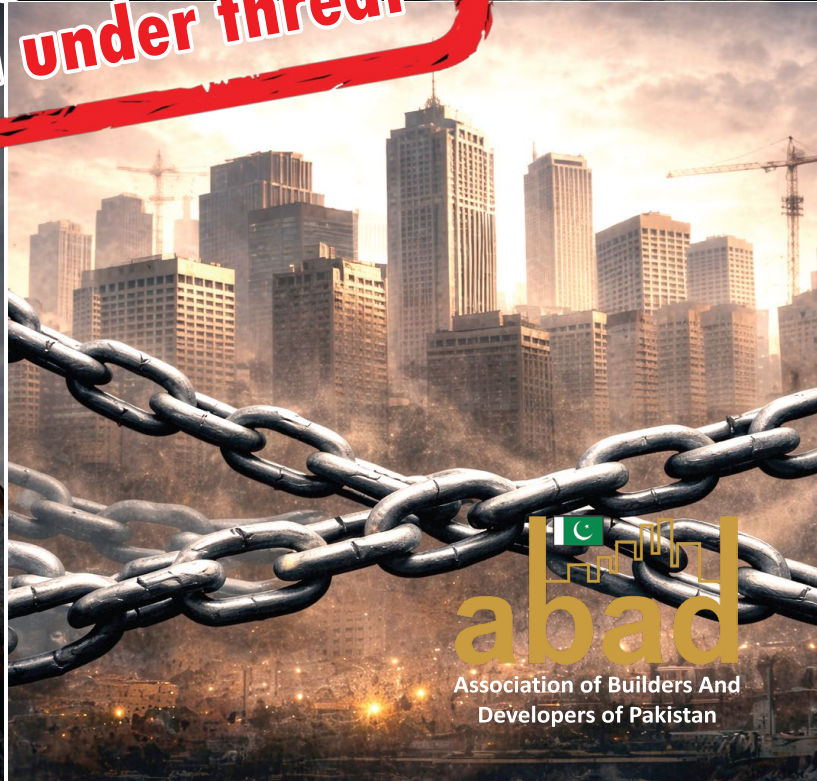


SHELTER

A Publication of Association of Builders & Developers of Pakistan



**Extortion crisis:
Karachi under threat**



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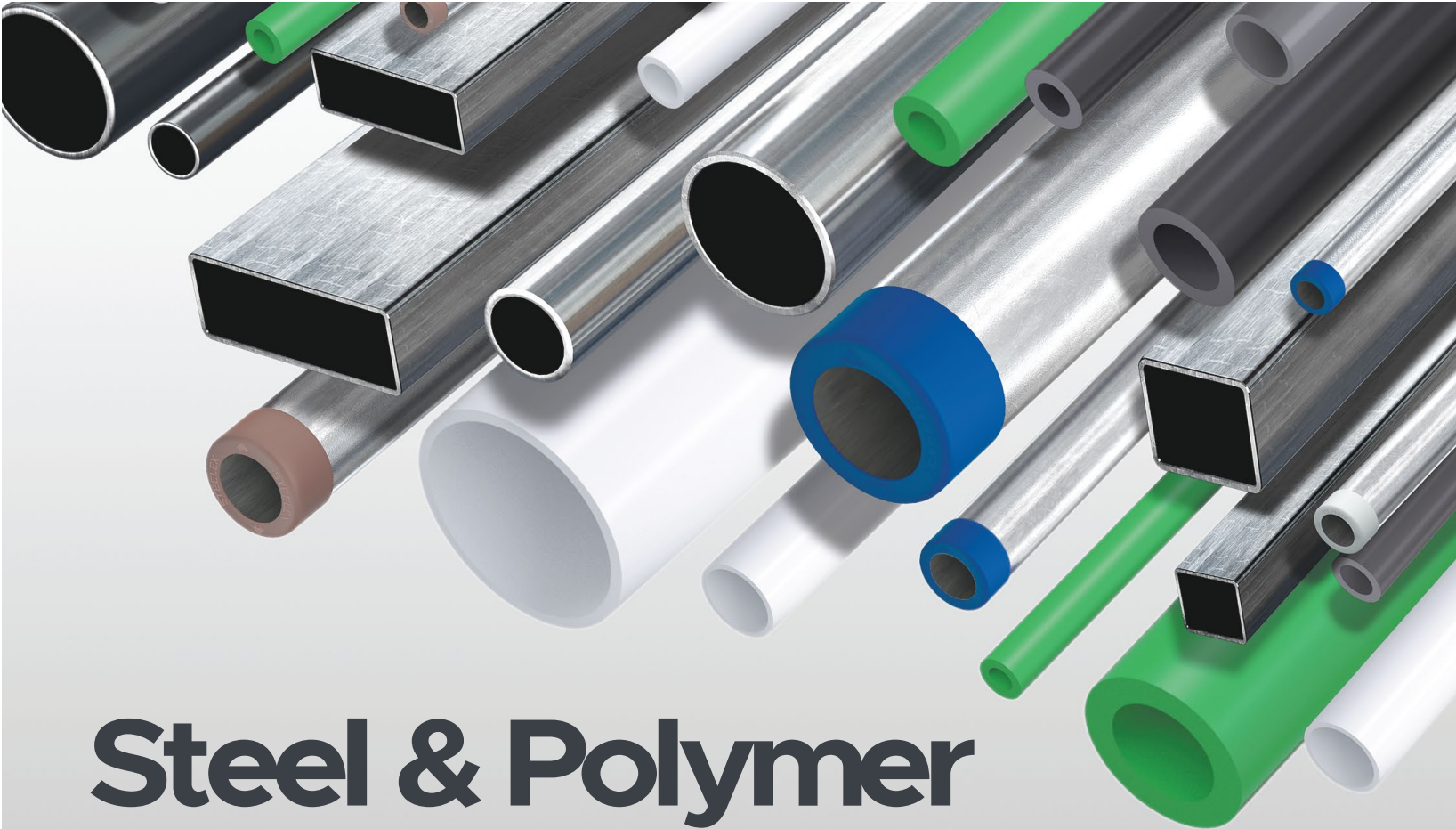
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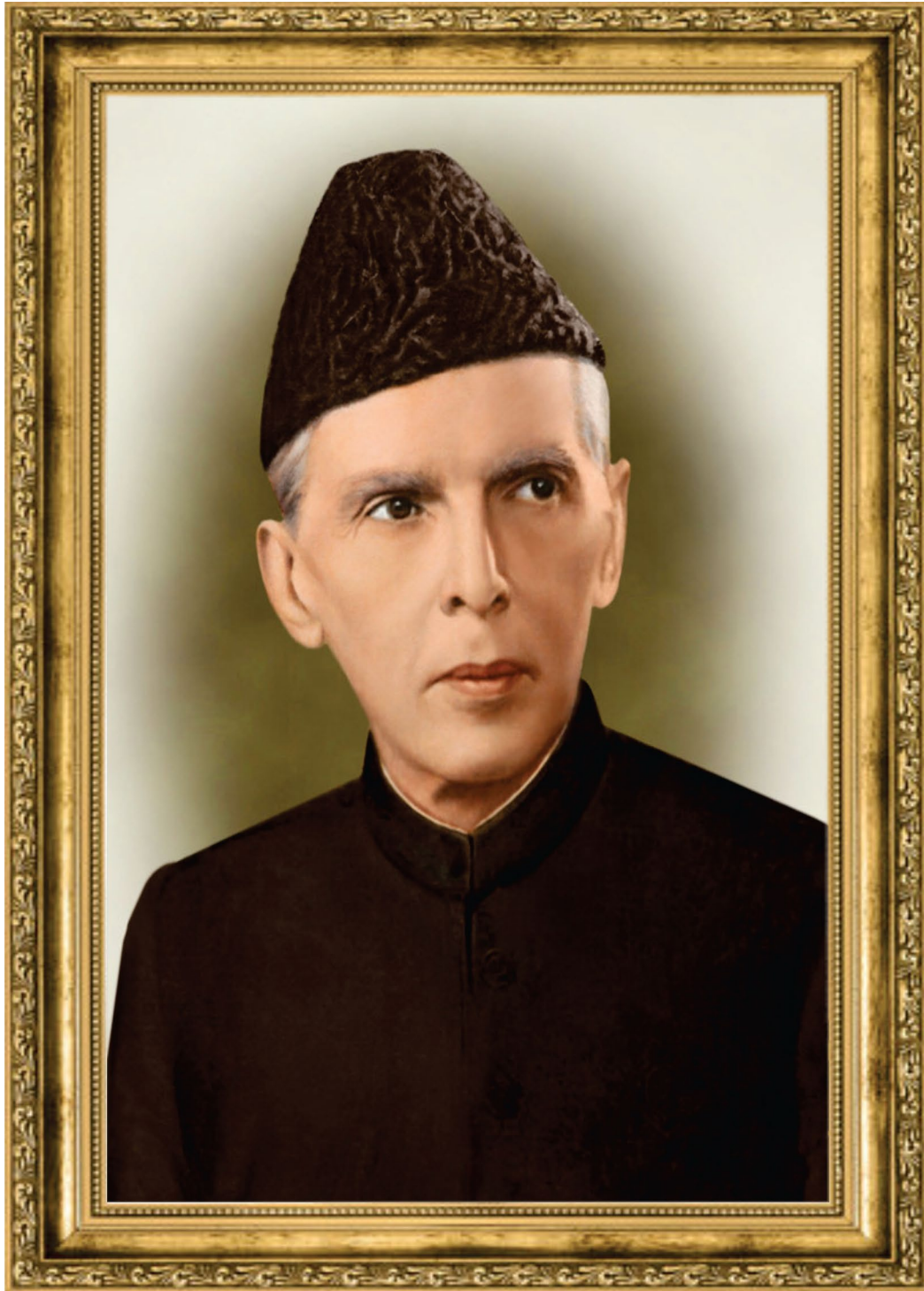
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"Pakistan is proud of her youth, particularly the students,
who are the builders of the nation."

— Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah

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EDITORIAL

ENGR. KALEEM-UZ-ZAMAN KHAN

Managing Editor and Convener
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The hum of cranes and the rhythm of construction sites across Pakistan signal more than urban growth - they reflect a sector poised for change. After years of bureaucratic gridlocks and investor caution, 2025 has shown faint but encouraging signs that reforms are finally taking root. Among the voices shaping this transition is the Association of Builders and Developers of Pakistan (ABAD). While not the ultimate authority, ABAD holds a significant voice in shaping discussions, advocating for policy clarity and providing structure to a sector that often navigates unpredictable terrain.

With over 1,400 members countrywide, the association connects a diverse spectrum of builders and developers. Its role is pragmatic: to encourage government measures that ease regulatory hurdles for bona fide, registered developers, and to promote professionalism and compliance across the industry. In a country where decades of inconsistent policies have dented investor confidence, even a moderately influential body like ABAD can help keep momentum alive, providing a platform for dialogue between authorities and the private sector.

Reforms are beginning to appear, modest but meaningful. Streamlined approvals, targeted financial incentives and tax facilitation for legitimate developers hint at a future where construction could contribute more significantly to GDP and urban development. ABAD's contribution lies in ensuring these reforms are communicated, monitored and implemented effectively, helping smaller developers navigate regulatory complexities and adopt higher standards.

As Pakistan moves into 2026, the expectation is that government policies will become more attuned to the realities of the construction sector. ABAD's engagement - while not all-encompassing - can amplify the impact of these reforms, encouraging investment, promoting sustainable urban planning, and supporting job creation. The association's network may not hold all the keys, but it can serve as a reliable compass in an industry that needs guidance, accountability, and cohesion.

In essence, ABAD is an important player in a larger ecosystem. With careful government collaboration, emerging reforms, and a growing commitment from developers, Pakistan's construction sector has the potential to turn years of latent promise into tangible growth. The path ahead is challenging, but the groundwork laid today could transform construction into a genuine engine for economic progress in 2026 and beyond.

Chairman MESSAGE



M. HASSAN BAKSHI Chairman ABAD

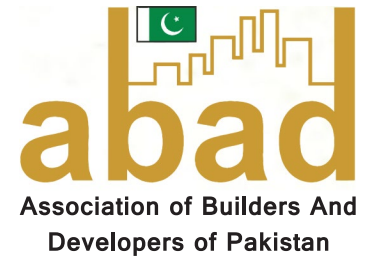
The dust of 2025 has settled, leaving behind both lessons and opportunities for Pakistan's construction industry. The past year underscored the sector's potential to drive economic growth, yet also reminded us of the lingering structural challenges that have shadowed it for decades. While the sector has contributed significantly to GDP, its full potential remains untapped. Internationally, countries like China, Turkey and the UAE have demonstrated that construction can be much more than an industry - it can be a strategic engine for employment, foreign investment and infrastructure modernization.

Pakistan, with its burgeoning population and accelerating urbanization, is poised for a similar leap, provided policies are both visionary and coherent. Persistent hurdles - ranging from inconsistent regulations to bureaucratic bottlenecks - have long tested investor confidence. Restoring this trust is no longer optional; it is essential for transforming construction into a true economic driver. Transparent land acquisition, simplified approvals, and targeted incentives for both domestic and foreign investors could unlock immense growth. In this context, the Association of Builders and Developers of Pakistan (ABAD) plays a critical role. With its extensive network and expertise, ABAD can bridge the gap between private enterprise and policy, ensuring reforms are practical, sustainable, and aligned with industry realities.

As the New Year begins, the government must view construction as more than a passive sector - treating it as a strategic partner in national development. Lessons from international markets, including technology-driven project management, public-private partnerships, and long-term investment incentives, can inform policies adapted to Pakistan's needs. Priorities such as urban planning, housing affordability, and sustainable development should form the backbone of these measures, ensuring lasting economic and social impact.

Ultimately, the construction sector holds the potential to become a cornerstone of Pakistan's economic revival. With aligned incentives, restored investor confidence and close collaboration with industry leaders like ABAD, the country can emulate global examples of construction-led growth. 2026 offers a decisive moment: a chance to turn decades of challenges into opportunities, and to transform construction into a powerful engine for GDP growth, employment and national progress.

A brief view of ABAD



Association of Builders And Developers of Pakistan



The Executive Committee elected Chairman, Senior Vice Chairman, Vice Chairman and Managing Committees and also from each of its two regions i.e., Chairman Southern Region and Chairman Northern Region for a full term of year. The Chairman & Sr. Vice Chairman is elected among Full / Ordinary members and the Vice Chairman from Associate Members and One Chairman each from its two respective.

The Association of Builders & Developers of Pakistan (ABAD) is a national level representative organization of builders and developers, formed in the year 1972 with the aim and objective of unifying and streamlining the construction activities of private sector.

ABAD is registered under the Companies Ordinance, 1984 with Registration No. KAR No. 4967 of 1977-78 and licensed under Trade Organizations Ordinance, 2007 and it's affiliated with the Federation of Pakistan Chamber of commerce and Industry (FPCCI).

Today, ABAD has in its fold more than 1,500 leading construction companies of the country. Most of its members' offices are equipped with up-to-date systems of designing, cost control, project management and latest civil engineering techniques to minimize the cost of construction.

The Elected Office Bearers for the term 2025- 26 are Mr. Muhammad Hassan Bakshi, Chairman; Syed Afzal Hameed, Senior Vice Chairman; Mr. Tariq Aziz Memon, Vice Chairman; Mr. Ahmed Owais Thanvi, Chairman Southern Region Committee; Mr. Shaikh Muhammad Nabeel, Chairman Northern Region Committee (Lahore) and Mr. Abdullah Jan Memon, Vice Chairman Hyderabad Sub-Region Committee.



The principal aims and objectives of ABAD include

- Unifying builders and developers for their collective good.
- Promoting housing industry in the country.
- Providing assistance to the Government in formulating its housing policies and plans.
- Co-coordinating between ABAD members, the Government and other agencies.
- Dealing with problems faced by its members in the execution of their projects.
- Organized research.
- Awareness and training program to promote the science and art of building.
- Working actively for eradication of unethical business practices from the housing and development field.
- Exploring the prospects of large-scale projects in the public sector and then acting as a consortium of ABAD members to secure and execute the projects.

As a representative organization of the country's builders and developers, ABAD has made a valuable contribution in the formulation of National Housing Policy and Sindh building Control Ordinance. It has also played a leading role in securing and increase in the House building Finance Corporation component of housing loans as well as the allocation to HBFC in Federal Budget.

In the provincial capital of Sindh, ABAD has played a pivotal role in procurement of land for its members and also for the issuance of no objection to them by Karachi Development Authority. Other major achievements of ABAD include increasing the covered area of flats, fixation of the selling price of housing units, inclusion of a provision of escalation, simplification of the procedure for the permission to mortgage and registration of leases, increase in the period of completion and streamlining of documentation procedures regularly. Although there is a pressing requirement for houses in the city yet on account of non-availability of infrastructure and other amenities, some schemes cannot be developed due to scarcity, efforts to remove these bottlenecks are continuing on all possible levels. As a socially responsible organization in addition to the above core functions ABAD also extends donations and other kinds of support to deserving institutions and welfare organizations.

A safe shelter to live in is recognized the world over as a fundamental human right and that is the vision behind ABAD's efforts and ventures.

OBITUARY

**"Indeed, to Allah
we belong, and to
Him we shall return."
(Quran 2:156)**



M. Arif Yousuf Jeewa

The Association of Builders and Developers of Pakistan (ABAD) mourns the passing of its former chairman, senior member and a towering figure of Pakistan's construction industry, Mr. Muhammad Arif Yousuf Jeewa, who passed away in Karachi on December 29, 2025. His demise is an irreparable loss not only for ABAD but for the entire builders and developers' community across the country.

Mr. Jeewa was a noted builder, businessman and a charismatic leader whose name became synonymous with credibility, vision and excellence in the construction sector. He began his professional journey in Karachi over three decades ago and went on to establish himself as one of Pakistan's most successful and respected builders and developers. Through decades of hard work, integrity and ambition, he earned recognition as a leading business figure in the industry, delivering numerous landmark projects countrywide.

A core and committed member of ABAD, Mr. Jeewa played a pivotal role in strengthening the association and transforming it into a dynamic and influential platform for builders and developers. He served as Chairman of ABAD during 2017-18 and earlier as Senior Vice Chairman in 2015-16. Under his stewardship, ABAD achieved notable progress, particularly in advocacy, institutional engagement and addressing long-standing issues faced by the construction sector.

His contributions to skill development and institutional capacity building were reflected in his roles as Board Member of the National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC), Member of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Member of the Sector Skill Council of NAVTTTC. He also served the community as former president and Senior Vice President of the Pakistan Memon Jamat (PMJ).

In recognition of his outstanding services, Mr. Jeewa was awarded Gold Medals by former President Mamnoon Hussain and former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif for his contributions to the construction sector. ABAD members will always remember Mr. Arif Jeewa for his steadfast commitment, problem-solving approach and inspirational leadership. The association stands in solidarity with the bereaved family and shares their grief.

ABAD prays that Allah Almighty grants the departed soul the highest rank in Jannah and bestows patience and strength upon his family and loved ones.





EC-RC meeting of ABAD

A joint meeting of the Executive Committee (EC) and Regional Committee (RC) of the Association of Builders and Developers of Pakistan (ABAD) was held on January 6, 2026, at ABAD House to deliberate on key issues concerning the Association and its members.

The meeting was chaired by ABAD Chairman Mr. M. Hassan Bakshi, and attended by Senior Vice Chairman Mr. Syed Afzal Hameed, Vice Chairman Mr. Tariq Aziz, South Region Chairman Mr. Owais Thanvi, former Chairman Mr. Junaid Ashraf Taloo, and senior members including Engr. Kaleem-uz-Zaman Khan, among others.

At the outset, participants offered prayers and expressed condolences over the passing of former ABAD Chairman Mr. Arif Jeewa, who died in Karachi on December 29, 2025. Paying tribute, Chairman described Mr. Jeewa's demise as an irreparable loss for ABAD and the builders and developers' fraternity nationwide, noting that his vision, leadership, and services would be remembered with deep respect.

Proceeding with the agenda, Chairman Mr. Bakshi invited Mr. Ayoob to brief the house on new membership applications. Mr. Ayoob informed members that 20 applications had been received, of which 16 were complete and ready for approval. The remaining four were conditional and would be completed in due course. The names of applicants were read out, and the house was requested to approve the completed applications.

Extortion threats and security concerns

Chairman Mr. Bakshi then briefed the meeting on extortion and threatening calls received by ABAD members.

He stated that following the Association's press conference, six calls were reported, five involving repeated contact with members. All calls originated from international numbers, primarily traced to Iran.

He informed the house that two suspects, identified as Lakho and Ahmed Ali Magsi both reportedly holding red warrant had been flagged. The matter had been taken up by provincial authorities and referred to Interpol through federal channels.



Bylaws and regulatory coordination

Chairman Mr. Bakshi noted that no feedback had yet been received on proposed amendments to the Sindh Building Control Authority (SBCA) bylaws, despite circulation via email and WhatsApp. He requested members to review and respond so the amendments could be finalized and formally submitted.

During this period, law enforcement agencies provided security to ABAD members and advised them to limit public movement. Chairman Bakshi noted that the frequency of calls had since declined, while institutional support had strengthened. Despite this, ABAD continued to urge the federal government to expedite red warrants against the culprits. He disclosed that Interior Minister Mr. Mohsin Naqvi had personally contacted him and assured him that action was underway. Officials involved in registering his FIR had also remained in contact. Chairman Mr. Bakshi urged members who had paid extortion money out of fear to report the matter to ABAD instead of filing individual FIRs, enabling the Association to assess the scale of the issue comprehensively.

Regarding pending SBCA cases, he directed the Secretary General to circulate a message requesting members to share details of their cases. Members facing issues were encouraged to visit ABAD House, where designated SBCA representatives would facilitate them. Former South Region Chairman Mr. Mustafa Shaikhani, as Convener of the relevant subcommittee, would supervise the process.

He said several suspects had been arrested, some injured in encounters, and family members of criminals detained. Preliminary investigations suggested that criminals acted as middlemen, receiving calls from abroad, being paid small amounts, and supplied with drugs. He expressed confidence that the roots of the network would be exposed. He further informed members that Provincial Minister Syed Nasir Hussain Shah had agreed to depute directors to ABAD House, where a dedicated room would be allocated to facilitate coordination and member support.

Membership renewals

Recalling an earlier penalty waiver, Chairman Bakshi proposed extending similar relief to encourage renewals. Under the proposal, the renewal penalty would be reduced from Rs. 15,000 to Rs. 1,500 until September 30, 2026.

He again urged members to report extortion cases, noting that information suggesting possible collusion between builders and extortionists was being tracked.





Members' concerns and skilled development

Mr. Abdul Karim Adhia shared his experience of past threats and cautioned against public confrontations with criminal elements. Chairman Mr. Bakshi responded that the Association must stand firm against extortion, urging members to report cases privately rather than appear publicly, stressing that families were also being targeted.

Anti-corruption notices and oversight

Mr. Nusrat Mirza Chughtai raised concerns regarding notices from the Anti-Corruption Establishment, Sindh, suggesting ABAD issue official letters - clearly endorsed by the Chairman - to prevent harassment. Chairman Mr. Bakshi advised members to formally submit cases, noting that only three had been received so far. He recommended referencing discussions held between the Chairman of ABAD and the Chairman of the Anti-Corruption Establishment in correspondence.

Mr. Nusrat cautioned that any official coordination room at ABAD House must be carefully monitored to avoid misuse or reputational damage, a concern supported by Mr. Sohail Naviwala. In response, Chairman Bakshi assured members that the arrangement would be responsibly managed, with no financial transactions allowed at ABAD House. He reiterated his trust in Mr. Mustafa Shaikhani's oversight. Members expressed support for the initiative, describing it as a positive step for smoother operations. Mr. Shaikhani clarified that no files would be processed at ABAD House; only documentation deficiencies would be identified, while formal processing would remain with SBCA.

Town charges, trade licenses and regulatory issues

Engr. Kaleem-uz-Zaman Khan raised concerns over town rates, advertising charges, and trade license requirements, noting routine issuance of payment vouchers by various departments. The Secretary was directed to write to the relevant Town Nazim, Safora Goth, seeking clarification on advertisement rates. On trade licenses, differing views were discussed. While Chairman Bakshi initially believed the requirement did not apply, Engr. Zaman cited a letter indicating otherwise. Mr. Nusrat and Senior Vice Chairman Mr. Afzal Hameed maintained that ABAD members, being SBCA-registered entities, should not require trade licenses. Chairman Bakshi advised seeking clarification from the Registrar and noted that positive developments were expected in the coming months.

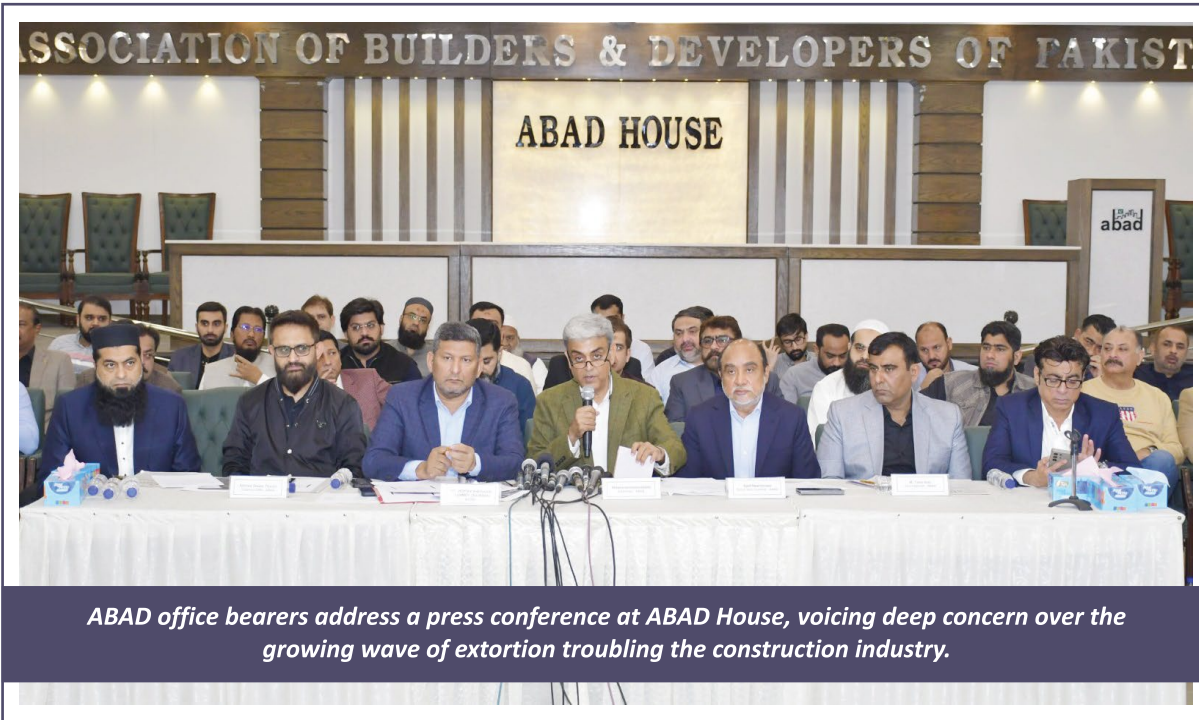
In a lighter segment, Mr. Suleman Salim informed the meeting that ABAD had trained 500 students and requested contractors to engage at least two trainees each. Chairman Mr. Bakshi urged members to accommodate trainees in ongoing projects, and Engr. Kaleem-uz-Zaman Khan committed to supporting the initiative.

Tax and encroachment issues

Mr. Mustafa Shaikhani sought clarity on tax matters and raised concerns about slow progress in encroachment cases. Chairman Mr. Bakshi acknowledged the complexity of longstanding cases involving entrenched corruption, stating that gradual progress was being made.

The meeting concluded with expressions of solidarity with the Chairman and appreciation for the Association's firm stance. A vote of thanks was offered, bringing the meeting to a close.

ABAD CALLS FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION AS EXTORTION THREATS MOUNT IN KARACHI'S REAL ESTATE SECTOR



ABAD office bearers address a press conference at ABAD House, voicing deep concern over the growing wave of extortion troubling the construction industry.

Builders and developers in Karachi say they are under mounting pressure as extortion, harassment and threats intensify, raising alarm across the city's real estate and commercial sectors.



Speaking at a press conference at ABAD House on December 17, 2025, office-bearers of the Association of Builders and Developers (ABAD) outlined the growing risks facing their members and called for urgent intervention to protect businesses, investments and livelihoods.

Chairman highlights cross-border

EXTORTION THREATS

- Extortionists have resorted to firing at ABAD members after initial intimidation failed.
- Threats are being coordinated from abroad, including Iran, Dubai and the Philippines.
- Demands are made in installments, sometimes over four years, and even in Bitcoin.
- Key figures behind these networks include Wasiullah Lakho, Muhammad Ali Magsi, and Jamil Jhanga.
- The chairman urged the Army Chief to leverage Middle East contacts to seek extradition and punish those responsible.
- He warned the situation is existential: “We cannot tolerate this anymore; death is certain one day, so it is better to die today than die daily.”
- Legacy and family continuity are under threat, as younger generations are unwilling to join the business despite ABAD's 60-year history.

Extortion and economic impact

ABAD, which represents more than 1,400 members and is linked to over 70 allied industries, warned that the extortion crisis is undermining Karachi's economic stability and eroding business confidence.

Chairman Mr. Hassan Bakshi said criminal networks are operating with impunity despite being identifiable and traceable. “A handful of people are holding Karachi hostage. Cases are registered, yet effective enforcement remains absent,” he said, questioning why red warrants have not been issued against known suspects.

Former ABAD chairman Mr. Mohsin Sheikhani urged the Army Chief and senior state authorities to intervene decisively, warning that continued inaction could push the real estate sector toward collapse. He stressed that without cross-border coordination and enforcement, the threats would only escalate.



Senior Vice Chairman Mr. Afzal Hameed described the extortion drive as a calculated attempt to destabilise the economy, noting that Karachi's contribution to national revenue has already declined sharply as business activity contracts.

He warned that further damage to the construction and real estate sector would have far-reaching consequences for tax collection, remittances and employment.

ABAD also flagged concerns over governance failures and corruption within state institutions, alleging that some officials facilitate illegal activities.

Mr. Hafeez Aziz, representing the Karachi Chamber of Commerce, supported these claims, saying traders in major commercial hubs are also facing routine extortion demands.

ABAD's leadership cautioned that without immediate measures including issuance of red warrants and a sustained crackdown on organised criminal networks the business community may be left with no option but to suspend operations and stage protest sit-ins to draw national attention to the crisis.



ABAD Chairman praised for 'hitting fours and sixes' in fight against extortion

ABAD Chairman Mr. Hassan Bakshi has been widely praised for breaking the long silence over extortion and threats faced by Karachi's business community, a problem that has persisted for years with little visible action. Speaking to the media in Karachi a day after the ABAD chairman's press conference, senior politician and MQM-Pakistan leader Mr. Farooq Sattar commended the business community - particularly the Association of Builders and Developers (ABAD) - for publicly confronting criminal elements that have been targeting investors and traders.

The ABAD chairman was particularly praised for his forthright stance. Referring to the press conference, Mr. Sattar said the chairman has “come out of the crease and hit fours and sixes. Hats off to Hassan Bakshi,” applauding him for openly naming individuals allegedly involved in threatening builders and developers.

He noted that despite Karachi's outsized contribution to the national economy, its businessmen and investors continue to operate without adequate protection. “Karachi contributes immensely to the revenue of the entire country, yet its business community is left exposed to criminal elements,” he said.

Calling the revelations alarming, he said it was deeply ironic that extortion threats were originating from criminals based abroad while the state appeared unable to take decisive action. According to ABAD, many of those issuing threats are operating from outside Pakistan, including countries such as Iran and Dubai.

Mr. Sattar said ABAD members continue to provide affordable housing and have not abandoned their work despite immense pressure - a commitment he described as commendable. However, he stressed that the disclosures made by the Association were “really serious and shocking.” “Ten people they have identified who are sitting in different countries like Iran and Dubai and giving threats to people from the housing sector in Karachi,” he said, highlighting the scale and coordination of the extortion network.

He further said the ABAD chairman and ABAD's ex-chairman Mr. Mohsin Sheikhan had also revealed that traders from other sectors were being targeted, with extortion demands now being made even in Bitcoin. “The ABAD leadership has named names very clearly and even other traders from different sectors are being forced to pay extortion,” he added.

Praising the traders' resolve, he said the business community had adopted a “come what may” approach by choosing to expose unscrupulous elements rather than remain silent. He concluded by stressing that Karachi's economic engine must be allowed to function uninterrupted. The city, he said, contributes nearly 60% of the country's revenue and around 90% of provincial revenue, yet continues to suffer neglect.

“There is no hearing of its plight, despite what it gives back to the country,” he said.



ABAD delegation meets Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah at CM House on Dec 18, 2025.



ABAD delegation meets

SINDH CM

to discuss extortion and land-grabbing concerns



A delegation of the Association of Builders and Developers of Pakistan (ABAD), led by Chairman Mr. Hassan Bakshi, met with Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Thursday (December 18, 2025) to discuss rising extortion, harassment and land-grabbing issues affecting builders, developers and the broader business community in Karachi.

The meeting was held to highlight the urgent challenges faced by ABAD members and seek coordinated action from the provincial government and law enforcement agencies to safeguard investments, properties and livelihoods.

The ABAD delegation included Senior Vice Chairman Mr. Afzal Hameed, among other office-bearers as well as ex-chairman Mr. Hanif Gohar.

The meeting was attended by Sindh Home Minister Zia-ul-Hassan Lanjar, Karachi Mayor Murtaza Wahab, Chief Secretary Asif Haider Shah, the Chief Minister's Principal Secretary Agha Wasif, Home

Iqbal Memon, Karachi Commissioner Hassan Naqvi and other senior officials.

During the meeting, Chief Minister Shah noted that ABAD officials should have raised complaints regarding extortion directly with him.

He emphasized that no encroachments on land would be tolerated and that clear instructions had already been issued to divisional and district administrations to prevent land grabbing.



ABAD representatives noted that the chief minister had taken strict action against land grabbers a few months ago and following these measures, no new encroachments had occurred on their properties. Both sides agreed to work together to remove longstanding illegal encroachments.

The ABAD delegation provided the chief minister with extortion slips and phone numbers of the perpetrators, briefing him on the ongoing issues affecting builders and developers.

The chief minister stressed that if anyone had issued or paid extortion, complaints should be formally submitted to the Sindh Home Minister. He also requested that names be provided in cases where anyone had been harmed or killed.

ABAD's chairman highlighted that ten extortion cases had been reported over the past year. Police officials updated the meeting on the progress of each case individually.

The CM assured that the provincial government would work closely with ABAD and other trade organizations to improve Karachi's business environment and enhance commercial activity. He directed police to take immediate action on every complaint filed by ABAD.



It was also agreed that, with support from the federal government, action would be taken against extortionists operating from outside the country.

The Sindh Inspector General of Police confirmed that he had met with ABAD office-bearers and that police operations were underway. The Sindh Home Minister added that 50 extortionists had already been arrested and sent to jail. On ABAD's complaint, police had also apprehended three suspects linked to an extortionist operating from abroad.

The meeting concluded with a commitment that police would take strict action on every complaint lodged by ABAD. Chief Minister Shah instructed law enforcement and administrative authorities to address each grievance promptly.

He also said he would coordinate with the federal government to ensure the arrest of extortionists operating from abroad, affirming that extortionists had been eliminated in the past and would be brought to justice again.

ABAD delegation members thanked the chief minister for his personal attention to their concerns. The CM further directed that capable officers be appointed to ensure effective action against the key figures orchestrating extortion from outside Karachi.

Association of Builders And Developers of Pakistan WELCOME TO ABAD HOUSE



Mr. Waqar Ahmed Chauhan, DG NAB (Rawalpindi), Mr. Shakeel Ahmed Durrani, DG NAB (Karachi), and Mr. Ahmed Chinoy visit ABAD House

Delegation of

National Accountability Bureau (NAB)



Visits ABAD HOUSE

A high-level delegation from the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) visited the Association of Builders and Developers of Pakistan (ABAD) House on February 14, 2026, as part of ongoing engagement to address issues faced by ABAD members.

The ABAD side was represented by Chairman Mr. Hassan Bakshi along with other office bearers and senior members of the Association.

The visiting NAB team comprised Mr. Waqar Ahmed Chauhan, DG NAB (Rawalpindi), Mr. Shakeel Ahmed Durrani, DG NAB (Karachi) and Mr. Ahmed Chinoy.

At the outset, Chairman ABAD Mr. Hassan Bakshi highlighted NAB's support for the construction and development industry through institutional reforms aimed at reducing procedural hurdles and ensuring timely resolution of legitimate cases.

Mr. Bakshi noted that NAB representatives had briefed the forum on recent milestones, including the release of disputed land parcels benefiting ABAD members.

Land title disputes were identified as a key challenge, often leading to prolonged litigation. To address this, NAB has introduced a facilitation mechanism allowing ABAD members to seek pre-purchase title verification, enabling informed decisions and minimizing future legal complications.

Both institutions reaffirmed their commitment to accountability and reform. NAB assured ABAD that genuine business concerns would be addressed promptly, aiming to resolve legitimate cases within 30 to 60 days rather than leaving them unresolved for years.

Regular coordination meetings will continue to monitor progress.

Mr. Bakshi highlighted that NAB Rawalpindi had previously facilitated resolution in 22 ABAD-related cases, while other matters were addressed through mutual consultation.

He stressed the importance of ethical practices in the development sector, including adherence to approved allotment capacities, to maintain industry credibility.

He also acknowledged past sector challenges and urged members to recognize mistakes, accept responsibility, and pursue practical solutions.

ABAD chairman referred to a recent meeting with Mr. Rizwan, noting optimism regarding reforms and improvements in land dispute resolution and regulatory approvals within the next three to six months.



Concerns were raised about difficult working conditions within relevant agencies, inefficiencies, and informal costs creating obstacles. Mr. Bakshi emphasized that strong and coordinated support for Karachi's development sector is crucial for boosting GDP, reducing poverty, and expanding employment opportunities.

Former Chairman Mr. Mohsin Shaikhani welcomed participants, stressing that capable and committed officials can address long-standing issues, strengthening public confidence.

He highlighted systemic shortcomings such as housing shortages, unplanned development, law-and-order concerns, and the need for digitization across government departments to improve transparency and efficiency.

Mr. Shaikhani raised concerns about illegal land occupation, extortion, irregular practices, and the lack of audits preventing verification of legitimate transactions. He emphasized strict adherence to regulations, elimination of violations, and the need for stable, long-term policies to support sustainable growth. He also noted Pakistan's significant housing gap compared with countries maintaining surplus capacity, urging continuous institutional reform and accountability.

DG NAB Rawalpindi Mr. Waqar Chauhan welcomed participants, emphasizing that collaborative engagement is essential for implementing uniform rules and regulations. He noted that land possession disputes in Islamabad and Rawalpindi remain challenges but affirmed NAB's commitment to balancing rights of affectees and builders.

Mr. Chauhan highlighted regulatory initiatives on approved housing society layouts, ongoing digitalization and facilitation-focused institutional culture aimed at reducing harassment and unnecessary financial burdens.

DG NAB Karachi Mr. Shakeel Durrani expressed gratitude for the invitation and acknowledged members' questions, noting that some could be addressed immediately while others required further institutional clarity.

He said a provincial-level task force is being formed with formal Terms of Reference to ensure fair treatment of affectees and builders.

Mr. Durrani highlighted recovery of land assets, including state land previously leased without development, with portions allocated for community benefit, such as public parks in Karachi. He reinforced NAB's preventive and advisory mandate alongside investigations and urged continued cooperation and trust from ABAD members.

During the question-and-answer session, Chairman Mr. Bakshi clarified that cantonments fall under “government departments” and explained that previous misallocated land funds totaling Rs. 1.5 trillion had been reassessed by independent valuers.

He noted Bahria Town complaints and other property matters were under verification and could not yet be publicly disclosed. DG NAB briefly remarked on digitalization efforts at BOR.

The session concluded with Senior Vice Chairman Mr. Afzal Hameed delivering a vote of thanks, recognizing participants' efforts and emphasizing the importance of ongoing dialogue, transparency and collective responsibility to strengthen the construction sector and national progress.





ABAD expresses sorrow over the Gul Plaza fire, extends sympathies to affected families, and urges swift investigation and immediate relief for victims.

GUL PLAZA FIRE: ABAD DELEGATION LED BY SR CHAIRMAN VISITS DAMAGED MALL. VOICES SUPPORT FOR TRADERS

The Chairman Southern Region of the Association of Builders and Developers (ABAD), Ahmad Owais Thanvi, along with other office bearers expressed profound grief over the devastating fire at Karachi's prominent commercial hub, Gul Plaza, describing it as one of the most tragic incidents in the city's recent history. The fire not only destroyed around 1,200 shops but also disrupted the livelihoods of nearly 12,000 individuals, causing financial losses estimated in the billions.

Mr. Thanvi shared these remarks during a visit to the affected site alongside a high-level ABAD delegation that included Vice Chairman Mr. Tariq Aziz, Mr. Raheel Rinch, Mr. Moiz Saqib, Mr. Afaque Shaikhani, Mr. Nusrat Mirza, Mr. Mumtaz, and Mr. Rana. The delegation met with affected traders to express solidarity and support. Extending heartfelt sympathy to the impacted traders and families, Mr. Thanvi assured them of ABAD's support during this difficult time, emphasizing that the association stands firmly with those affected.

Highlighting concerns over emergency preparedness, the SR Chairman pointed to delays in rescue operations and the shortage of essential firefighting equipment. He noted that while firefighters made determined efforts under challenging conditions, the lack of water supply and modern resources remains a serious concern for a metropolitan city of Karachi's stature. Mr. Thanvi stressed that the victims of the tragedy are hardworking citizens and taxpayers who have long contributed to the national economy. Leaving such a vital commercial center vulnerable due to insufficient emergency infrastructure, he remarked, is deeply unfortunate and calls for immediate corrective action.



Reaffirming ABAD's commitment, he announced that the association would extend technical and moral assistance for the rehabilitation of the damaged structure. He urged the government to provide immediate financial relief to affected traders and to initiate restoration work on an emergency footing, underscoring the need for swift measures to help the business community recover.



HOW MODERN CONSTRUCTION CAN STRENGTHEN

FIRE SAFETY IN BUILDINGS



Designing for safety: Active and passive measures

Fire protection is generally achieved through a combination of active and passive systems. Active fire safety systems are those that intervene once a fire starts:

- **Fire detection and alarm systems** that alert occupants and authorities at the earliest sign of smoke or flame.

- **Automatic sprinkler systems** that release water to suppress fires in their initial stages.

- **Fire extinguishers and hose reels** placed throughout a building for manual firefighting.

- **Emergency lighting** to ensure exit paths are visible during power loss.

Passive fire safety systems are structural and prevent fire spread or facilitate safe evacuation:

- **Fire-resistant walls and floors** that compartmentalize fires and slow spread.

- **Fire doors** that automatically close to block smoke and flame.

- **Smoke control and ventilation** that keep escape routes clear.

- **Refuge floors or zones** in tall buildings where occupants can safely wait for rescue.

These systems are designed to work together, allowing occupants more time to evacuate and giving firefighters better conditions to manage a blaze.

The tragic fire at Karachi's Gul Plaza on January 17, which raged for nearly two days and claimed more than 70 lives, has reignited conversations across Pakistan about fire safety in buildings. The blaze, which spread rapidly through a multi-story commercial complex housing over 1,100 shops, underscored how quickly ordinary commercial spaces can become deadly in the absence of adequate safety measures, complicating evacuation and firefighting efforts in dense urban environments.

While investigations continue into the precise causes and regulatory circumstances of the Gul Plaza disaster, the devastation has highlighted once again that fire protection cannot be an afterthought in design and construction. For builders, developers and property professionals across Pakistan, fire safety is a cornerstone of quality construction that protects life and property, enhances marketability and aligns with emerging global standards.

The context of fire risk in urban buildings

Commercial and residential buildings have always carried some level of fire risk. Materials stored inside - textiles, plastics, electronic goods - can fuel a fire once it starts. In the Gul Plaza case, combustible stock helped the blaze spread quickly, overwhelming rescue operations and firefighters who battled the inferno over an extended period.

Importantly, fire risks are not unique to Pakistan; all urban centers must contend with the dual challenges of densely built environments and rapid evacuation in emergency conditions. What distinguishes safer buildings from vulnerable ones is how fire risk is anticipated and mitigated through design, systems and maintenance.

The importance of accessible exits

One of the most critical aspects of fire-resilient design is clearly marked and accessible exit routes. In any building, especially those with high occupation like malls or office complexes, multiple escape paths reduce bottlenecks in emergencies. Stairwells and corridors should be protected from smoke, well lit and free of obstructions. Well-designed egress routes are not only a safety feature but also a legal requirement in most national and international codes. Ensuring that exits remain unlocked and accessible during operating hours is part of basic safety planning that enhances occupant confidence and reduces risk.

Codes, standards and compliance

Globally recognized building and fire codes - whether in the International Building Code (IBC), National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards, or regional adaptations - provide detailed guidance on fire resistance ratings, spacing of exits, and performance of fire safety equipment. While technology and materials vary, the principle of life safety remains consistent: keep people safe and maintain escape routes that function under stress.

In Pakistan, regulations administered by bodies such as the Sindh Building Control Authority (SBCA) set minimum standards for construction and safety. Builders and developers who embed fire safety early in project planning - from concept through completion - not only comply with regulations but also reinforce the long-term resiliency and reputation of their properties.

Modern technology, not mandate

It's important to emphasize that not all buildings in Pakistan need the very latest fire-suppression technology to be safe. Modern fire safety equipment should be appropriate to building type, size and occupancy, and can be phased or scaled to fit project budgets. What matters most is that systems are functional, maintained and correctly integrated into the structure.



For smaller or older buildings, practical measures such as upgraded alarm systems, routine safety drills, clearer signage and accessible extinguishers can significantly improve readiness. For larger commercial developments, integrating sprinklers, smoke control and compartmentalization from the design stage offers both enhanced life safety and market appeal.

Shared responsibility and continuous improvement

Fire safety is a shared responsibility among designers, builders, owners and facility managers. Regular training for staff and occupants, periodic inspection of life safety systems, and clear emergency planning contribute to a robust safety culture. In a rapidly urbanizing country like Pakistan, where vibrant commercial hubs are central to economic life, raising fire safety standards is not just good practice, it is essential stewardship of human and financial capital. By proactively incorporating fire protection into every phase of construction and operation, the building sector can help ensure that tragedies like the Gul Plaza fire become increasingly rare, and that all of Pakistan's buildings are safer places to live, work and thrive.



ABAD hosts Three-Day Fire Safety Workshop at ABAD House

ABAD OFFERS EMPLOYMENT TO NEWLY TRAINED STUDENTS THROUGH BUILDERS AND THEIR CONTRACTORS

The Association of Builders and Developers of Pakistan (ABAD) is bridging the gap between training and employment by offering opportunities with builders and their contractors to students trained under its programs. Through its Skilled Workforce Initiative, ABAD has partnered with NAVTTC, the Prime Minister's Youth Program (PMYP), and SIFC to provide hands-on training in trades such as Plumbing, Building Electrician work, AutoCAD, Building Information Modeling (BIM), and Autodesk Revit.

Since its launch, over 500 students have successfully completed these programs, earning certifications recognized both nationally and internationally. ABAD believes that these trained professionals are better equipped to maintain high standards of workmanship, ensuring projects are executed efficiently and with superior quality, compared to unskilled labor. In collaboration with NAVTTC under the PMYP Industry Led Training Program, ABAD has trained students in the following trades: Building Electrician Level 2; Pipe Fitter/Plumbing Level 2; BIM; Revit; and Advanced AutoCAD (Civil/Electrical). These graduates have begun receiving employment offers, reflecting the initiative's success in connecting skilled youth with opportunities in the construction sector.

ABAD is actively urging builders and developers to provide fair stipends and competitive salaries to these graduates. "Providing meaningful work to our trained youth is an investment in the construction sector's future," said ABAD. "By integrating these skilled professionals, projects benefit from improved quality, efficiency, and innovation, while young talent gains sustainable career pathways." The success of the initiative is credited to the ABAD Subcommittee, led by Convener Mr. Suleman Salim, whose guidance and dedication have been central to planning and executing these programs.



“ The ABAD-NAVTC partnership has trained and graduated over 500 trainees for Pakistan's construction industry ”

“These graduates are not just skilled professionals - they represent the future of our construction industry, and it is vital to give them the opportunities to apply their skills and grow,” Mr. Salim added.

ABAD's initiative goes beyond classroom training by actively connecting talent with builders and contractors ready to employ them. By providing meaningful opportunities, ABAD is fostering a workforce that is capable, motivated, and ready to raise the standards of Pakistan's construction sector. This approach ensures that trained youth not only gain skills but also sustainable employment, helping the industry thrive while giving the next generation a platform to build a better future.



NUTECH and ABAD partner to strengthen industry-driven civil engineering education



NUTECH and ABAD collaborate to introduce a workforce-focused BET Civil Technology program.

This collaboration represents a broader vision for sustainable human resource development in Pakistan's construction sector. It aims to:

- Strengthen technical education and develop middle-tier engineering technologists critical for project execution.
- Enhance productivity and quality standards within the construction industry.
- Institutionalize academia-Industry linkages as a standard Practice.

In a landmark move to bolster academia-industry collaboration in Pakistan's construction sector, the National University of Technology (NUTECH) has partnered with the Association of Builders and Developers of Pakistan (ABAD) to enhance the Bachelor of Engineering Technology (BET) in Civil Technology program, launching in Fall 2025.

The partnership underscores ABAD's commitment to developing a workforce aligned with the evolving needs of Pakistan's construction and infrastructure industry. A five-member ABAD delegation, led by Senior Vice Chairman Syed Afzal Hameed, visited NUTECH to formalize the collaboration through a Letter of Intent (LoI) signing. The engagement provided a platform for both institutions to align on a shared vision: producing competent, industry-ready graduates equipped with technical expertise, professional discipline, and hands-on experience.

Pakistan's construction sector is expanding rapidly in scale and complexity, creating a strong demand for professionals who can navigate real-world project environments. Under this partnership:

- Selected BET Civil Technology students will receive industry sponsorship and structured support.
- Students will gain on-site training and internships at active construction projects in Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) and surrounding regions.
- Practical exposure will be integrated with academic learning to ensure graduates are immediately productive upon entering the workforce.

The initiative also introduces a structured post-graduation service commitment aligned with industry requirements, facilitating smoother transitions to employment, providing trained manpower to ABAD member firms, and supporting long-term professional development pathways for graduates.

ABAD's continued advocacy for structured skill development across the construction value chain is reinforced through this partnership, offering a replicable model for future collaborations with academic institutions nationwide.

As Pakistan pursues infrastructure expansion and urban development, the demand for qualified civil technologists is set to rise.

Through this alliance, NUTECH and ABAD aim to produce graduates who are not only academically qualified but also industry-tested and employment-ready, contributing to a stronger, more resilient construction ecosystem.





Delegation of ABAD meets MD SSGC Mr. Amin Rajput to review RLNG policy and discuss members issues.

ABAD-SSGC meeting reviews RLNG policy, discusses pending gas connections



A meeting between the ABAD and Sui Southern Gas Company Limited (SSGC) was held on Thursday, December 1, 2025, at the SSGC office in Karachi to deliberate on policy matters related to gas connections, the transition to RLNG, and issues being faced by builders and developers.

The ABAD delegation was led by Convener SSGC Sub-Committee Mr. Nusrat Mirza Chughtai and included Mr. Mustafa Shaikhani, Mr. Ata ul Khabir, Mr. Ibrahim Habib, Mr. Zuhair Naqvi, Dr. Sajid and Mr. Sohail Khilji. SSGC was represented by Mr. Muhammad Amin Rajput, Managing Director, along with Mr. Fasih and senior officials.

Welcoming the participants, MD SSGC Mr. Muhammad Amin Rajput formally opened the proceedings and briefed the attendees on the prevailing gas policy framework. He explained that SSGC operates strictly in accordance with policies and regulations set by the Federal Government and OGRA. He further informed that, going forward, new gas connections are being provided on RLNG under specific conditions and at a higher tariff, following the government-imposed moratorium on natural gas connections.

Proposal for awareness session at ABAD House

During the discussion, Mr. Mustafa Shaikhani proposed arranging a detailed presentation at ABAD House to brief members on the policy shift from natural gas to RLNG. The proposal received positive support from the MD SSGC, who expressed his willingness to personally deliver a presentation for ABAD members.

Mr. Nusrat Chughtai also endorsed the idea, emphasizing the importance of conducting an awareness session once the moratorium was lifted to ensure clarity among members regarding RLNG policy matters.

Concerns over TBS requirements and cost escalation

Mr. Nusrat Chughtai raised serious concerns regarding the construction and operational requirements of Transmission Booster Stations (TBS).

He highlighted that developers, despite making payments and securing building plan approvals, are later asked to allocate space for TBS and bear additional costs, resulting in significant financial burden.



He also pointed out that SBCA imposes further charges in cases of deviation from approved plans. Mr. Zuhair Naqvi informed the forum that SSGC requires a 20' x 30' space for TBS, along with construction and operational expenses, even though the project in question had already been completed and all units sold in accordance with the approved building plan.

In response, Mr. Rajput suggested identifying nearby projects that require RLNG connections so that the TBS cost could be shared. He advised conducting a survey of the surrounding area and coordinating with housing societies and KDA to explore feasible alternatives. Mr. Zuhair confirmed that he had identified a potential site and would share satellite images with SSGC for evaluation.

Mr. Fasih from SSGC clarified that if a suitable TBS space is unavailable on-site, RLNG would have to be supplied from a distant location, which would significantly increase costs due to longer pipelines and additional materials.

Pre-moratorium payments and pending cases

Several cases involving payments made prior to the moratorium were discussed. Mr. Mustafa Shaikhani informed the meeting that there were only five to eight such cases and requested that RLNG connections be provided without imposing further costs.



Mr. Rajput explained that in such cases, the differential amount for RLNG must be paid, and previously made payments would be adjusted accordingly.

Mr. Ata ul Khabir stated that payments had already been made and partial materials procured, but connections were delayed due to gas unavailability. SSGC clarified that gas is available and that connections would be provided upon payment of revised costs.

The Gulshan-e-Rabia case was also highlighted, where digging work had been completed but reimbursement was pending. SSGC confirmed that the matter had been forwarded to the finance department and was expected to be resolved within a week.

QR code and SBCA coordination

Mr. Nusrat Mirza also raised an issue regarding QR Codes for completion certificates following jurisdictional changes, which resulted in additional charges.

It was suggested that ABAD formally write to SBCA and copy the Chairman ABAD to seek clarification and resolution.

In concluding remarks, Mr. Mirza emphasized that ABAD represents over 1,400 members and requested SSGC to facilitate at least 810 genuine cases. SSGC responded that any deviation from policy must be justified during audits.

ABAD, Landtrack partner to strengthen technology in property sector



Through its partnership with Landtrack.pk, ABAD aims to support knowledge-sharing, facilitate industry dialogue, and accelerate the adoption of technology-led solutions. The collaboration also reinforces ABAD's engagement with major industry platforms such as the upcoming PropTech Convention 2026 and Property Asia Expo 2026, which bring together developers, investors, architects, technology providers, policymakers, and end users.

The Association of Builders and Developers of Pakistan (ABAD) has formalized a strategic partnership with Landtrack.pk to promote technology-driven innovation and collaboration in the country's real estate industry. The partnership was sealed through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at ABAD House on January 20, 2026.

Landtrack.pk is the organizing platform behind the 6th PropTech Convention, a key industry event focused on the growing intersection of property and technology. The MoU signing ceremony was attended by Syed Afzal Hameed, Senior Vice Chairman ABAD; Ahmed Owais Thanvi, Chairman Southern Region ABAD; Atif Arafin, Founder of Landtrack.pk and the PropTech Convention; and Hira Naeem, Convener of the PropTech Convention.

Over the years, ABAD has worked to organize and professionalize a sector that has historically remained fragmented. Representing builders, developers, brokers, and allied stakeholders, the association has promoted best practices, institutional coordination, and policy advocacy. These efforts have contributed to strengthening investor confidence and improving market credibility.

Globally, real estate is increasingly influenced by technology, and Pakistan is gradually aligning with this shift. PropTech solutions are transforming how properties are planned, marketed, financed, and managed, with digital platforms, data-driven systems, and smart construction practices gaining traction. Innovations such as digital land records and online transaction mechanisms are becoming essential to a transparent and efficient real estate framework.

Beyond events, ABAD's involvement contributes to shaping broader conversations around governance, trust-building, sustainability, and digital integration. The MoU with Landtrack.pk represents not just a formal agreement, but a strategic alignment between institutional leadership and technological progress, laying the groundwork for a more transparent, innovative, and sustainable real estate sector in Pakistan.





ABAD delegation engages at Build Asia International Expo

ABAD delegation visits Build Asia Expo

In a related development, an ABAD delegation recently visited the Build Asia International Exhibition & Conference at the Expo Center, Karachi a prominent regional platform for construction and building industry stakeholders. The delegation included Vice Chairman ABAD Tariq Aziz; Chairman Southern Region Ahmed Owais Thanvi; former Chairman ABAD Junaid Ashraf Taloo; former Vice Chairman ABAD Rizwan Adhia; and former Chairmen (Southern Region) Engr. Danish Bin Rauf and Raheel Rinch.

During the visit, the delegation engaged with exhibitors and industry leaders, reviewing the latest materials, innovations, and construction technologies shaping the sector. Their participation highlighted ABAD's continued commitment to remaining aligned with emerging trends, fostering collaboration, and facilitating knowledge exchange for the benefit of its members and the broader industry.

In addition, ABAD Sub Committee for Vocational Training Programs, under its convener Mr. Suleman Saleem, successfully conducted the ABAD-NAVTTTC Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) Certification Program during the exhibition. At ABAD, we are committed to elevating industry standards by ensuring that skills gained through practical experience are formally recognized. Through the ABAD-NAVTTTC RPL Certification Program, experienced professionals were provided the opportunity to convert their on-the-job expertise into nationally recognized certifications.



ABAD – NAVTTTC Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) Certification Program at the Build Asia Exhibition



Implemented in collaboration with industry stakeholders and delivered with the support of Trace Pakistan as the training partner, the program successfully assessed over 120 candidates, achieving an overall success rate of 96% across key construction trades.

This initiative reflects ABAD's continued commitment to strengthening Pakistan's construction ecosystem by bridging industry demand with a certified, competent, and future-ready workforce. Collectively, these initiatives reflect ABAD's long-term vision of promoting transparency, innovation, and sustainability across Pakistan's real estate and construction landscape.



Dr. Fida Bazai, Director General of NAVTTTC Sindh, visited the ABAD stall at the Build Asia Exhibition



ABAD highlights construction and real estate challenges at National Conference on Organized Crime



ABAD Chairman Mr. M. Hassan Bakshi attends a conference on Pakistan's National Strategy against Organized Crime at the Sindh Police Museum, Karachi

ABAD's participation was particularly notable, emphasizing that a safe and predictable business environment is critical for sustaining economic growth and investments.

A conference on Pakistan's National Strategy against Organized Crime was held on November 15, 2025, at the Sindh Police Museum, Karachi, bringing together representatives from law enforcement, business, academia, civil society, media and human rights organizations.

Organized collaboratively by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Country Office Pakistan (UNODC COPAK), the Centre for Governance Research (CGR) and Sindh Police, the event aimed to integrate diverse perspectives into actionable strategies to prevent, control, and mitigate organized crime across the country.

The conference sought to engage the business community, civil society, academia, and media in strategic deliberations, ensuring that government institutions and law enforcement agencies are actively involved in Pakistan's national effort against organized crime. Among attendees were members of the judiciary, senior police officials, and representatives from organizations such as Association of Builders and Developers of Pakistan (ABAD), FPCCI, KATI and KCCI.

OPENING REMARKS

The event began with opening remarks by Mr. Saud Mirza, former IGP Sindh and ex-DG FIA, who stressed the critical need for a collective effort to tackle organized crime. Mr. Mirza highlighted that the participation of stakeholders from multiple sectors reflects the importance of an integrated national approach. Mr. Tariq Khosa, National Consultant for Pakistan's Strategy against Organized Crime, welcomed participants and emphasized that insights from this conference would feed into a comprehensive national strategy report for the Government of Pakistan.

He noted that organized crime remains complex, fragmented across regions, and sometimes compounded by weak governance and limited political will.

He underscored collaboration with 12 Asian and Southeast Asian countries to strengthen preventive and enforcement measures.

Dr. Masooma Hassan highlighted the scale and diversity of organized crime in Pakistan, including kidnapping, human trafficking, land mafia operations, narcotics trafficking, and gender-based violence.

Dr. Hassan cited alarming statistics: over 2,000 cases of missing children in 2024, 25,000 women trafficked in 2023-24, and more than 7,000 women killed in the name of honor between 2021 and 2024.



She stressed the importance of citizen engagement in shaping national strategies and ensuring that those affected by crime have a voice in decision-making processes.

NATIONAL STRATEGY OVERVIEW

Mr. Khosa presented a comprehensive strategic analysis, noting that Pakistan's Criminality Score on the 2023 Global Organized Crime Index (GOCI) stood at 6.03, above the global average of 5.03, while the Resilience Score was only 3.96, below the global average of 4.81.

He outlined criminal markets including drug trafficking, arms proliferation, illicit financial flows, smuggling, extortion, and cybercrime. Particular attention was given to the pervasive operations of the Land Mafia, Water Tanker Mafia, and financial crimes affecting the business sector.

ABAD'S ROLE

A key session, moderated by Mr. Khurram Hussain of the Dawn Group, examined challenges faced by Karachi's business community, particularly extortion, land grabbing, and insecurity. Panelists included ABAD Chairman Mr. Hassan Bakshi, along with representatives from KATI, FPCCI, and KCCI.

Mr. Bakshi highlighted that organized crime significantly undermines business confidence and contributes to a sprawling informal economy. Despite improvements in security, threats like extortion, kidnapping for ransom, and land mafia operations remain prevalent.

Panelists warned that if unaddressed, these issues could push businesses to relocate or increase overseas property investments. Fraud, forgery, and bureaucratic hurdles were identified as additional challenges hampering economic growth. Mr. Bakshi emphasized the necessity of a strong state response to ensure safety and enable business development.

He cited examples where business contributions, such as supporting Karachi's E-Challan system and traffic cameras, received limited follow-up from law enforcement agencies.

The session underscored the urgent need for inter-provincial coordination to tackle organized crime, noting its spillover effects from regions such as Balochistan.

Dr. Ishrat Hussain, former Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan, emphasized that a national strategy is essential for effectively tackling organized crime. Mr. Baitullah Khan of UNODC-COPAK closed the conference, underlining the importance of collaborative efforts and the continued engagement of stakeholders like ABAD and the broader business community.

The conference highlighted the intertwined challenges of organized crime and economic security in Pakistan. ABAD's participation was particularly notable, emphasizing that a safe and predictable business environment is critical for sustaining economic growth and investments.

Across sessions, stakeholders stressed a comprehensive, integrated approach involving government, law enforcement, civil society, business, and academia to mitigate organized crime, protect citizens, and promote sustainable development.

Egyptian company Elsewedy Electric visits ABAD for talks on power and

Construction Solutions



Delegation of Egyptian company Elsewedy visits ABAD House

**ELSEWEDY
ELECTRIC**

The delegation explained that dry-type transformers offer enhanced fire safety, lower maintenance requirements, and environmental advantages, making them suitable for high-rise residential buildings, hospitals, schools, malls, and commercial complexes.

Elsewedy also shared technical details, including international certifications, a production capacity of around 300 units per month, and a service life of 20-25 years.

From a commercial perspective, Elsewedy stated that its pricing is competitive, with no minimum order requirement, and that a local sales and support team in Pakistan ensures after-sales service.

The company emphasized that its visit was aimed at building long-term partnerships rather than a one-time engagement and invited ABAD office bearers and members to visit its facilities.

ABAD welcomed the initiative and expressed interest in further technical and commercial discussions, including detailed cost comparisons and future collaboration, underscoring shared interest in advancing modern and safe electrical solutions for Pakistan's evolving construction landscape.

A delegation from Egyptian electrical equipment manufacturer Elsewedy Electric visited ABAD House on January 19, 2026, to introduce the company and explore opportunities for collaboration with Pakistan's construction and power sectors.

The visit aimed to strengthen business and technical cooperation between Pakistan and Egypt, with a particular focus on modern, safe, and sustainable electrical solutions for urban development.

The meeting was chaired by ABAD Vice Chairman Mr. Tariq Aziz, who welcomed the delegation and briefed them on the role of the Association of Builders and Developers (ABAD).

He explained that ABAD represents registered builders and developers across Pakistan and plays a central role in the country's construction sector.

ABAD members highlighted the growing trend of high-rise developments in major cities and the need for reliable, fire-safe, and low-maintenance electrical systems suited to dense urban environments.

Elsewedy Electric presented an overview of its operations, noting its more than 85 years of experience as a global energy solutions provider. The delegation informed ABAD that Elsewedy already has a manufacturing presence in Pakistan, supplying power transformers to local distributors and utilities, and also exports to international markets.

The company also offers smart meters and has partnered with Siemens, strengthening its technical capacity.

The core of the discussion focused on Dry-Type (Cast Resin) Transformers, which Elsewedy proposed as a safer alternative to traditional oil-filled transformers.

ABAD hosts Religious Leaders from Jamia-tur-Rasheed and Al-Ghazali University



A meeting was held at ABAD House in Karachi on December 24, 2025, bringing together members of the Association of Builders and Developers of Pakistan (ABAD) and representatives from Jamia-tur-Rasheed and Al-Ghazali University.

The meeting was held to discuss the escalating challenges facing Karachi, particularly the rising threats of extortion and land-grabbing, and their impact on the construction sector and the national economy.

It served as both an introductory engagement and a platform for open dialogue on issues affecting builders, developers, and allied industries.

The meeting was chaired by ABAD Chairman Mr. Hassan Bakhshi. Other senior ABAD office-bearers in attendance included Senior Vice Chairman Syed Afzal Hameed, Vice Chairman Mr. Tariq Aziz, Southern Region Chairman Mr. Ahmed Owais Thanvi, former Chairman Mr. Asif Sumsum, and senior member Mr. Mahmood Tabba.

The visiting delegation included Al-Ghazali University Pro-Chancellor Dr. Zeeshan and Jamia-tur-Rasheed Administrator and Al-Ghazali University Chancellor Mufti Abdul Rahim.

ABAD Chairman Mr. Hassan Bakhshi described Karachi as Pakistan's economic engine, but said the city is being paralyzed by extortion networks and land-grabbing mafias.

He revealed that extortion calls are increasingly being made from international numbers traced to Nigeria, Iran, and Dubai.

He added that red warrants have already been issued against two suspects, with efforts underway to secure further warrants against remaining accused within the current year.

Chairman Bakhshi also highlighted that land encroachments are being carried out with the complicity of certain government departments, making it difficult for builders to protect their properties.

“It is easy to confront an individual, but confronting institutions is far more difficult,” he said, warning that any disruption to Karachi's functioning could severely affect the national economy.

Former ABAD Chairman Mohsin Sheikhan joined the meeting via video link and praised Mufti Abdul Rahim's educational initiatives, calling them a service to the nation.

He urged that students should receive not only religious education but also moral guidance.



He also expressed concern over Karachi's declining contribution as the country's leading tax-generating city and requested Mufti Abdul Rahim to raise his voice for the city's welfare.

Senior Vice Chairman Syed Afzal Hameed reaffirmed that ABAD members would neither succumb to extortion nor shift their investments abroad. He said the association would use all lawful means to counter extortion and land-grabbing, emphasizing unity, perseverance, and vigilance as key strategies.

Addressing the gathering, Mufti Abdul Rahim said Pakistan faces serious internal and external challenges that threaten its economic stability. He described the law-and-order situation in Karachi especially extortion and land-grabbing not as isolated criminal acts but as part of broader efforts by hostile forces to destabilize the country economically.

He stressed that Jamia-tur-Rasheed, being a Karachi-based institution, feels a profound responsibility toward the city and its residents. He highlighted ABAD's pivotal role in sustaining livelihoods across Pakistan, noting that millions of people are directly employed in the construction sector, while hundreds of allied industries operate because of the construction ecosystem. "Harming an institution like ABAD is akin to harming the country itself," he said. Mufti Abdul Rahim also emphasized Karachi's national significance, noting that approximately

65% of Pakistan's total revenue is generated from the city. He urged religious scholars, community leaders, and all stakeholders to support ABAD and the construction sector during these challenging times.

He added that leaving the country is not a solution and pledged to use his public credibility and network to help resolve Karachi's long-standing issues. He also highlighted Jamia-tur-Rasheed's community initiatives, including a park dedicated to women and families.

The meeting saw participation from a significant number of builders and developers from across Karachi, reflecting a shared commitment between educational and industry stakeholders to address the city's challenges collaboratively.

The huddle concluded with an interactive question-and-answer segment, in which participants agreed that combating extortion, preventing land-grabbing, and protecting Karachi's economic engine requires coordinated efforts, public awareness, and active involvement from institutions across civic and religious spheres.





KW&SC subcommittee of ABAD holds a meeting with KW&SC officials under the supervision of Vice Chairman ABAD Mr. Tariq Aziz

ABAD holds meeting with KW&SC to discuss Water and Sewerage connection issues

A meeting between the Association of Builders and Developers of Pakistan ABAD and officials of the Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation KW&SC was held on December 05, 2025 at ABAD House to discuss outstanding water and sewerage connection charges for development projects in Karachi. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Syed Tariq Aziz Vice Chairman ABAD and attended by Former Senior Vice Chairman Mr. Ibrahim S Habib along with senior members Mr. Moiz Saqib and Haji Islam Siddiqui.

The KW&SC delegation was led by Mr. Nisar Ahmed Magsi Deputy Managing Director RRG accompanied by Mr. Abdul Rauf Director and other officials. Mr. Tariq Aziz informed that a list of projects reflecting nonpayment of balance amounts had already been shared with ABAD members. Mr. Nisar Ahmed Magsi informed the meeting that during the tenure of late Mr. M Altaf Hussain around 400 NOCs were issued upon payment of only 25% of charges while the remaining amount was unpaid resulting in outstanding dues of approximately rupees 1.4 billion. Mr. Magsi stated that the issue had been discussed with the CEO KW&SC who advised that it be resolved in consultation with ABAD.

He cautioned that continued non compliance could lead to disconnection of existing connections and withholding of new connections. Mr. Abdul Rauf emphasized that no additional connections would be sanctioned unless outstanding dues were cleared. It was also shared that following completion of the K IV project, modern Chinese or German water meters would be installed. Haji Islam Siddiqui raised concerns regarding absence of rebate facilities and non provision of connections to shops suggesting that regularization could increase revenue of KW&SC.

Mr. Ibrahim S. Habib questioned the verification of the default list and pointed out that some projects included did not have water connections. Mr. Magsi clarified that rebate and installment facilities had been provided in the past. He also assured that discrepancies would be rectified and clarified. Furthermore, he responded that a help desk would be established to facilitate builders and developers of ABAD.

Mr. Rauf clarified that the SBCA cannot issue Sale NOCs without a KW&SC NOC, except in the case of high-rise projects. Mr. Ibrahim S. Habib noted that the earlier list of 363 default cases had already been circulated, and that the updated list would also be shared. The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks, with both ABAD and KW&SC agreeing to maintain close coordination to resolve the matter amicably.

Saylani Welfare Trust delegation visits ABAD House



Founder and Chairman of Saylani Welfare International Trust, Maulana Bashir Farooqui Qadri visits ABAD House

A delegation of Saylani Welfare International Trust visited ABAD House on February 17, 2026, where it held a detailed meeting with office-bearers and members of the Association of Builders and Developers of Pakistan (ABAD) to discuss charitable initiatives, social welfare collaboration and long-term development projects ahead of the holy month of Ramazan.

The Saylani delegation was received by an ABAD team led by Chairman Mr. M. Hassan Bakshi, along with Senior Vice Chairman Mr. Afzal Hameed, Vice Chairman Mr. Tariq Aziz, Chairman (SR) Mr. Owais Thanvi, Convener Seminar Sub-Committee Mr. Mehmood Tabba and other senior members of the association.

Mr. Hassan Bakshi thanked the Saylani Welfare leadership, media representatives, digital platforms, and ABAD members for attending. He said the meeting was part of ABAD's long-standing tradition of engaging with welfare organisations ahead of Ramazan, adding that Saylani's senior religious leadership, including Mufti Rahim and Maulana Muhammad Jamil, had also been invited as part of this initiative.

Mr. Bakshi said Saylani's representatives required no formal introduction due to the organisation's widely recognised humanitarian services across the country.

He noted that welfare institutions such as Saylani played a vital role in maintaining social harmony by addressing basic needs and reducing social tensions. He added that several ABAD members were actively associated with Saylani's work, contributing both time and professional services.

Sharing his personal observations, Mr. Bakshi said he regularly visited Saylani facilities and was consistently impressed by the quality of services and essential items being provided free of cost to the public. He urged ABAD members to actively support welfare initiatives, stating that such efforts brought benefits both in this world and the hereafter.



While acknowledging Saylani Welfare's extensive role in social uplift, Mr. Bakshi stressed that ABAD and its members also carried a responsibility to contribute to society. He noted that some members were unable to attend the meeting due to heavy rainfall but expressed appreciation to those who made the effort to be present. He added that Saylani's visit to ABAD House had become an annual tradition, reflecting the close coordination between the two organisations.

Speaking on the occasion, Saylani founder Mr. Bashir Farooqi thanked ABAD's leadership and members for hosting the meeting. He outlined Saylani's humanitarian operations in Pakistan and abroad, including in Syria, Palestine, and Sudan, and said the organisation now maintained offices in several countries worldwide.

Mr. Farooqi said Saylani worked with individuals from diverse professional backgrounds and that managing the collection and distribution of over one billion rupees every month was only possible due to public trust and collective support. He emphasised that faith in Allah remained central to Saylani's mission of serving humanity.

Highlighting Saylani's focus on education, Mr. Farooqi described information technology training as one of the organisation's most impactful initiatives. He said nearly one million children had received IT education through Saylani programmes, adding that skills development could help Pakistan reduce dependence on external financial institutions such as the International Monetary Fund.

He said Saylani's mission extended beyond conventional charity and focused on empowering individuals through education and employment. He outlined the organisation's core priorities as providing quality education to children, reducing unemployment to curb crime and social instability, and ensuring access to healthcare for all, regardless of financial capacity.

Sharing future plans, Mr. Farooqi said Saylani was considering the construction of a multi-storey hospital, with an estimated cost of Rs300 million per floor.

He said the proposed hospital would offer specialised services, including cancer treatment and paediatric care, and appealed to ABAD to support the initiative as a long-term humanitarian investment.

Citing Hadith, Mr. Farooqi said saving a single life was akin to saving all of humanity and added that charity never diminished wealth but instead brought divine blessings. He concluded by stating that Saylani aimed to help Pakistanis and the wider Muslim community achieve self-reliance and freedom from debt.

Concluding the meeting, Mr. Hassan Bakshi praised the installation of RO plants and proposed a formal partnership between ABAD and Saylani to launch similar initiatives, beginning at ABAD and gradually expanding nationwide.

He suggested dedicating one floor of the proposed hospital in ABAD's name as a symbolic contribution, adding that while formal approval from the ABAD Executive Committee would be required, the initiative was both feasible and meaningful. The meeting concluded with a collective prayer for well-being and prosperity for the country, led by Saylani founder Mr. Bashir Farooqi.





Complaint

Sub-Committee



A complaint subcommittee of ABAD convened a meeting to resolve the complaints of members.

The Complaint sub-committee of the Association of Builders and Developers of Pakistan (ABAD) plays a pivotal role in addressing grievances against ABAD members. By fostering open communication between complainants and builders, the committee ensures that disputes are resolved in a transparent, fair, and professional manner, maintaining the trust of all parties involved.

Under the able leadership of Convener Mr. M. Anwar Gagai, sub-committee has made remarkable progress in resolving conflicts and strengthening relationships between builders and allottees. Their dedication to maintaining high industry standards and promoting ethical business practices has been instrumental in facilitating amicable solutions to disputes.

Over the past months, **35** new complaints were received, the sub-committee successfully resolved **10** complaints, with **25** remaining in process or under litigation. The subcommittee also resolved **12** more pending complaints. This timely and efficient handling of complaints highlights the committee's commitment to resolving issues promptly and upholding the integrity of the real estate industry.

The Complaint sub-committee functions as an essential link between ABAD members and various stakeholders, ensuring that all concerns are addressed with fairness and professionalism. Key contributions of the sub-committee include:

Mediation & Conflict Resolution: Facilitating constructive and transparent discussions between complainants and builders to reach mutually agreeable solutions.

Ethical Business Practices: Promoting integrity, fairness, and adherence to due process in all proceedings.

Timely Resolutions: Ensuring quick and effective resolution of complaints to enhance trust among both builders and allottees.

Structured Tracking: Implementing a well-organized system to track, monitor, and resolve grievances systematically.

Special recognition is also given to Mr. Ehteshamullah Malick (Secretary General, ABAD), Mr. Muhammad Shakir (Office Superintendent), and the supporting staff for their exceptional coordination and dedication in efficiently managing complaints.

The association will continue to empower the Complaint Sub-Committee to uphold ethical practices, ensuring a harmonious relationship between builders and allottees.

Progress of Complaint Sub-Committee

Reporting Period:
December 2025 -
February 2026

Total Complaints Received	35
Resolved	10
In-Process	25
Pending complaints Resolved	12

New Membership & Renewal



A glimpse of New membership subcommittee meeting of ABAD under the supervision of Convener Mr. Ayoob, Co-Conveners Mr. Nadeem Jeewa and Mr. Moiz Saqib.

Sub-Committee

In the months of December 2025 - February 2026, the sub-committee reviewed **20** new membership applications.

Following meticulous verification, ratification, and thorough examination of property documents, all **20** cases were successfully recommended and approved by ABAD's Executive Committee.

The New Membership and Renewal sub-committee of the Association of Builders and Developers of Pakistan (ABAD) plays a pivotal role in advancing the Association's mission. As one of ABAD's most active and influential committees, it is instrumental in strengthening and diversifying the organization's membership base.

Under the Convenership of Mr. Muhammad Ayoob, the sub-committee is dedicated to evaluating and approving new members. Their efforts ensure that ABAD continues to grow with credible and qualified professionals from across the industry.

In recent months, ABAD has experienced a steady influx of membership applications from proprietorships, partnerships, and private limited companies. Each application is rigorously reviewed in accordance with the Association's Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

After a comprehensive examination of all submitted documents, the sub-committee presents its recommendations for final approval at the monthly joint meetings of the Executive Committee (EC) and Regional Committees (RC) (SR)/(NR).

Notably, there were no pending or rejected applications due to incomplete documentation, underscoring the committee's efficiency and commitment to transparency.

The sub-committee extends its sincere gratitude to ABAD's office-bearers for entrusting them with this crucial responsibility.

Special thanks are also due to the Secretariat team for their unwavering support and dedication, which have been instrumental in the committee's success.

New Membership Approvals (December 2025 - February 2026)

No. of cases approved	20
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what lies beneath: The science and types of **BUILDING FOUNDATIONS**

Foundations are the most critical part of any structure. They transfer the load of a building safely to the ground and ensure stability, strength, and long service life. A well-designed foundation prevents settlement, cracking, and even structural failure. Depending on soil conditions, load requirements, and construction methods, different types of foundations are used. This article explains some commonly used foundation types and their basic characteristics in a simple and practical way.

Isolated Footing

An isolated footing is one of the most common and simplest types of shallow foundations. It is used to support a single column and spread its load evenly over a wider area of soil. Isolated footings are usually square, rectangular, or circular in shape and are made of reinforced concrete.

This type of footing is suitable where the soil has good bearing capacity and the loads from the structure are relatively moderate. It is widely used in residential buildings, low-rise commercial structures, and small industrial projects. The main advantage of isolated footings is their economy and ease of construction. However, they are not suitable for weak soils or where columns are very closely spaced.

Tube Pile

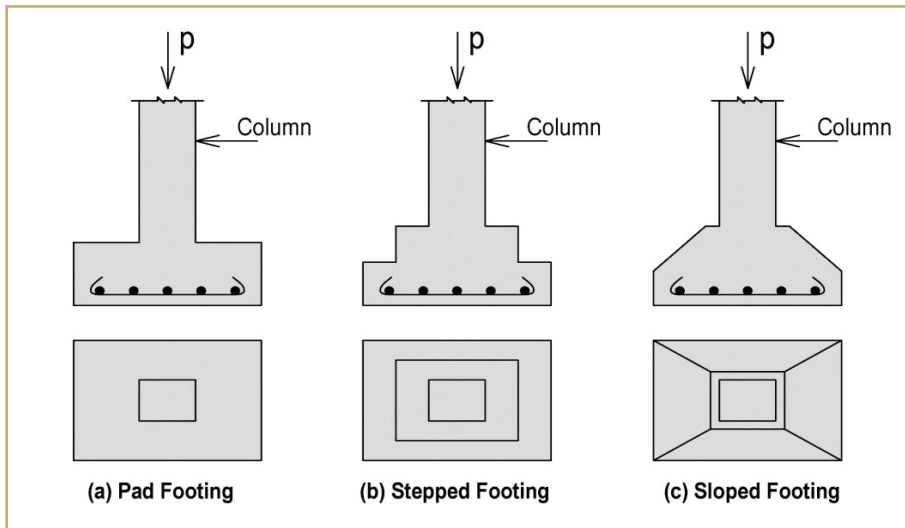
Tube piles are a type of deep foundation made from steel or concrete hollow tubes driven into the ground.

These piles transfer structural loads to deeper, stronger soil layers through end bearing, skin friction, or a combination of both.

Tube piles are commonly used in areas with soft surface soils, marine structures, bridges, and heavy industrial projects.

Because they are hollow, they can be filled with concrete after installation to improve strength and durability.

Their high load-carrying capacity and resistance to lateral forces make them suitable for challenging soil and environmental conditions. However, installation requires specialized equipment and skilled handling.



Concrete is then pumped through the hollow stem of the auger as it is slowly withdrawn, forming the pile without leaving the hole unsupported.

One of the biggest advantages of CFA piles is minimal noise and vibration, making them ideal for urban areas and sites close to existing structures. They also reduce the risk of soil collapse during installation and allow for faster construction.

Precast Pile

Precast piles are reinforced concrete piles manufactured in a controlled environment, usually at a casting yard or factory, before being transported to the construction site. Once delivered, they are driven or placed into the ground using pile-driving equipment.

The main advantage of precast piles is their consistent quality, as they are produced under strict supervision and cured properly. They offer excellent durability and can carry heavy loads. Precast piles are commonly used in high-rise buildings, bridges, and infrastructure projects. However, handling and transportation require care, as the piles can crack if not properly supported. Their length is also limited by transportation constraints, which may require splicing for deeper foundations.

Franki Pile

The Franki pile is a type of cast-in-situ pile known for its high load-bearing capacity. It is constructed by driving a steel tube with a dry concrete plug at its base into the ground. Once the desired depth is reached, the plug is hammered out, forming an enlarged base or bulb at the bottom of the pile.

This enlarged base significantly increases the pile's load capacity, making Franki piles ideal for heavy structures such as high-rise buildings, bridges, and industrial plants. After forming the base, the steel casing is gradually withdrawn while concrete is poured, leaving a solid concrete pile in place. Franki piles are especially effective in loose or variable soil conditions. However, the method involves noise and vibration, which may limit their use in densely populated areas.

Continuous Flight Auger (CFA) Pile

Continuous Flight Auger piles are a modern and efficient type of cast-in-situ pile. They are installed using a long, continuous auger drilled into the ground to the required depth.

CFA piles are widely used in commercial buildings, residential towers, and infrastructure projects. However, careful quality control is essential to ensure proper concrete flow and pile integrity.

Each type of foundation serves a specific purpose based on soil conditions, load requirements, and site constraints. Isolated footings are economical and simple for light structures, while tube piles and precast piles provide strong solutions for deeper and heavier loads.

Franki piles offer exceptional bearing capacity through their enlarged base, and CFA piles provide a quiet, efficient option for modern urban construction.

Understanding the basic characteristics of these foundations helps engineers, builders, and stakeholders choose the most suitable solution, ensuring safety, durability, and long-term performance of structures.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS



Caterpillar Unleashes AI Machines

At CES 2026, Caterpillar launched the Cat AI Assistant, adding AI-powered, voice-activated autonomy to excavators, loaders, and dozers. The system boosts safety, workflow, and operator support, allowing construction sites to operate smarter and more efficiently while retrofitting existing fleets.

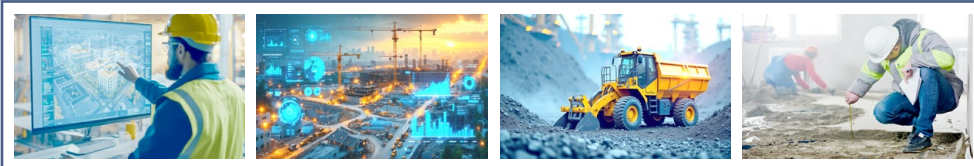
Concrete Gets Smarter

World of Concrete 2026 in Las Vegas will feature 200+ exhibitors showcasing next-gen concrete solutions, repair tech, and materials.

The event highlights automation, durability, and efficiency-driven trends shaping modern masonry and infrastructure projects.

Trimble Honors Tech Trailblazers

The 2025 Trimble Construction Innovation Awards recognized contractors using BIM, robotics, and integrated work flows to cut rework, speed projects, and improve collaboration.



Winners demonstrate how digital tools translate into real efficiency and cost savings on complex sites.



AI Enters Construction Disputes

The American Arbitration Association rolled out an AI system to assist with construction arbitration, accelerating document review and case analysis while keeping human oversight.

The tool promises faster resolutions for disputes, helping projects move forward without costly delays.

Malaysia Showcases Smart Construction

At SFERA 2025, Malaysian contractors demonstrated AR visualization, digital site management and hybrid equipment to boost productivity and sustainability.

The innovations illustrate how local firms are adopting Construction 4.0 technologies to modernize workflows and improve project efficiency.



AI and Data Transform Construction

Emerging trends show predictive AI, robotics, and analytics revolutionizing planning, scheduling, and material handling. These technologies address labor shortages, improve safety, and optimize workflows worldwide.



ABAD WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS



S. #	Name of Company	Joining Date	Type	Mem No.
1.	Waheed Hafeez Constructions & Developers Pvt. Ltd.	06 Jan. 2026	FM	3047
2.	NER Builders & Developers	06 Jan. 2026	FM	3048
3.	Focal Builders & Developers	06 Jan. 2026	FM	3049
4.	Basalt Builders & Developers (Pvt.) Ltd.	06 Jan. 2026	FM	3050
5.	MAM Builders & Developers	06 Jan. 2026	AM	3051
6.	Hiba Group of Companies	06 Jan. 2026	FM	3052
7.	Bridge Town Development	06 Jan. 2026	AM	3053
8.	AZ Properties	06 Jan. 2026	AM	3054
9.	Moazzam Builders & Developers	06 Jan. 2026	FM	3055
10.	SAAR Iconic Tower	06 Jan. 2026	AM	3056
11.	Al-Fakhar Builders & Developers	06 Jan. 2026	FM	3057
12.	Kamran Builders & Developers	06 Jan. 2026	FM	3058
13.	Mega Ventures (Private) Limited	06 Jan. 2026	FM	3059
14.	FAZ Enterprises	06 Jan. 2026	FM	3060
15.	NAZ Builders	06 Jan. 2026	FM	3061
16.	Malik & Fazal Builders	06 Jan. 2026	FM	3062
17.	Seven & Six Builders & Developers	06 Jan. 2026	AM	3063
18.	M.F.K Builders & Developers	06 Jan. 2026	FM	3064
19.	Coral Builders & Developers	06 Jan. 2026	FM	3065
20.	Choice Builders & Developers	06 Jan. 2026	FM	3066

MEDIA COVERAGE



ABAD Chairman Mohammad Hassan Bakshi urges provincial and municipal governments to address public demands during his interview with Shahzaib Khanzada on *Geo News*.



On a *Samaa News* program, ABAD Senior Vice Chairman Mr. S. Afzal Hameed highlighted how persistent extortion threats are crippling the ease of doing business and eroding confidence in the real estate sector.



Vice Chairman ABAD Mr. Tariq Aziz, in an exclusive talk with *Abb Takk News*, urged immediate action against rising extortion cases, acknowledging recent arrests made by security forces after ABAD's complaint.

MEDIA COVERAGE



In an interview with **Bol News**, ABAD Chairman (SR) Mr. Owais Thanvi said constant harassment of builders by criminal elements is stalling construction activity and damaging the industry.



Talking to **Samaa News**, former ABAD chairman Mr. Mohsin Shaikhani said the extortion crisis is forcing developers to leave the country, accelerating brain drain and weakening Pakistan's economic future.



Speaking to **Nukta**, former ABAD chairman Mr. Altaf Tai noted that recurring extortion threats are driving investors away and undermining long-term growth in the construction and development sector.

PRESS I COVERAGE



Builders allege intimidation by 'foreign gangs' amid surge in extortion cases

• Abad says its members are receiving calls from Iran- and UAE-based numbers, demanding up to Rs 50 million in 'protection money' • Says at least 10 builders have formally reported threats • Warns of shutdown from Jan 15 if govt fails to rein in criminal elements • Association's patron seeks army chief's intervention

By Imran Ayub

KARACHI: The country's real-estate developers on Wednesday alleged that the city's business community has been facing an unprecedented rise in extortion and harassment cases from organised criminal gangs, and warned that they will shut down their business activity after January 15, 2026, if authorities fail to curb the unchecked reign of fear gripping the city.

The warning by the Association of Builders and Developers (ABAD) came only two months after the Korangi Association of Trade and

Industry (Kati) and All City Traders Itehad Association had expressed serious concerns about the growing cases of extortion and urged the Sindh government and law enforcement agencies to ensure fool-proof security for traders and

industrialists. Speaking at a press conference on Wednesday, Abad office-bearers accused criminal networks operating both locally and from abroad of systematically targeting builders, developers and businessmen through

extortion calls, threats and shooting incidents. According to Abad Chairman Muhammad Hassan Bakshi, extortion calls have surged over the past five months, with at least 10 of its association members formally reporting threats.

"We are receiving calls from Iranian and Dubai-based numbers, demanding up to Rs50 million in extortion. Those who refuse are shot at. This is not speculation—it is happening on the ground," he said.

He alleged that "known criminals," including Ahmed Ali Maggi, Jameel Chhanga and Wasiullah-Lakho, were openly involved in extortion, land grabbing and intimidation.

He said extortionists even send threatening notes, bearing their names, phone numbers and bank account details, yet no effective action has been taken against them. "Sixty cases are

Builders allege

Continued from Page 13

already registered against Wasiullah Lakho. The question is why is he still free," he said, adding that Abad officials had submitted written complaints to President Asif Ali Zardari, PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhatto-Zardari and Sindh chief minister, leaving "no excuse of ignorance".

"The law and order is not a favour but a constitutional duty of the state. We can't understand how five or six individuals are holding Karachi hostage. They are traceable, they are known, yet they are free. If by January 15 the situation does not improve, Abad will be forced to shut down business in Karachi," he added.

The association's patron-in-chief, Mohsin Sheikhani, said the real estate sector was left with no option but to consider shutting down operations.

The situation, he said, had deteriorated to the point where police appeared "helpless". He appealed "directly to the army chief to intervene, warning that the economy will collapse" otherwise.

"Unless the federal government takes up this issue and red warrants are issued against extortionists, including those operating from Iran, nothing will change. Our properties, investments and even lives are at stake. If the state cannot protect us, how can we continue doing business?" he asked.

Senior Abad member Syed Afaal Hameed said he had never paid extortion and never would, calling the developing situation a conspiracy to sabotage the economy. He asked the authorities to move "before it's too late."

"Karachi's share in national revenue has already fallen from 62 per cent to 50pc. If real estate collapses, remittances and tax collection will also suffer," he added.

Continued on Page 14



Murad promises 'decisive action' against extortionists based abroad

By Tahir Siddiqui

KARACHI: A day after the Association of Builders and Developers (Abad) complained of increasing incidents of extortion in the metropolis, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah held a meeting with a representative delegation on Thursday and assured them that his government would take a decisive action against those involved in orchestrating extortion calls from abroad and land grabbing.

"We have decided, with the support of the federal government, to proceed against those who sit abroad and make extortion calls," he told the delegation.

The delegation, led by Hassan Bakshi, handed over to the CM copies of extortion alphas (patches) they had received, along with the telephone numbers of those demanding protection money from abroad.

A press statement issued from the CM House said that the meeting decided that the police would take strict action on every single complaint lodged by Abad.

"I will also talk to the federal government so that those extortionists sitting abroad can be arrested," the chief minister said. "We had wiped out extortionists from this city before, and we will once again ensure they are brought to account."

Mr Shah said he had listened to Abad's press conference a day earlier and felt the matter should have been brought directly to him instead of being raised in the media.

The Abad delegation included Afaal Hameed, Hanif Gohar and other office-bearers, while Home Minister Ziaul Hassan Langer, Mayor Murtaza Wahab, Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, Home Secretary Iqbal Memon, Karachi Commissioner Hassan Naezy, Inspector General of Police Ghulam Nabi Memon also present.

The IGP briefed the meeting that, on outsiders' complaint, three men linked to an extortionist operating from abroad had been arrested. The chief minister also made it clear that land grabbing would not be allowed anywhere in Sindh. "Under no circumstances can encroachment on land be permitted," he asserted.

The Abad representatives said they were ready to work jointly with the government to remove any old encroachments that might still exist, and a consensus was reached to move forward together in this regard.

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BUSINESS RECORDER

Karachi, Thursday 18 December 2025, 26 Jamadi-us-Sani 1447

ABAD demands action against extortionists, certain FBR officials

RECORDER REPORT
KARACHI: The business community in Pakistan's economic capital is under siege as incidents of extortion have surged to alarming levels, with builders, developers, and traders facing extortion calls from outlawed organization and systematic harassment by the FBR officials.

Leaders of the Association of Builders and Developers (ABAD) on Wednesday warned of potential business shutdowns and sit-ins if immediate action is not taken against extortionists and FBR officials, who have effectively held the city's construction and commercial sectors hostage.

Speaking at a press conference at ABAD House, Chairman Muhammad Hassan Bakshi said that over the past five months, at least 10 ABAD members received extortion demands totaling Rs 50 million through calls originating from Iranian and Dubai-based phone numbers.

"These extortionists issue written slips containing their names, phone numbers, and even bank account details. If the slip is refused, firing begins. Yet no action has been taken against them," Bakshi said, flanked by former chairman Mohsin Sheikhani and other senior office bearers.

The ABAD chairman identified Ahmed Ali Maggi, Jameel Chhanga, and Wasiullah Lakho among those allegedly involved in the extortion racket. He said that Lakho alone has approximately 60 registered cases against him, yet continues operating with impunity.

Following extortion threats to builder Danish Aleem, his employee was killed just a day ago. The Builders and Developers are fearful and waiting for their turn. Our properties are at stake, and there is no one to listen," Bakshi said.

The ABAD claimed that the criminal elements are operating under the patron-

age of what they termed "Fitna-al-Khawarij," with extortionists brazenly conducting operations in broad daylight.

Questioning the efficacy of the Safe City surveillance project, Bakshi asked how many extortionists have been caught across the metropolis. He also alleged that government officials have now joined the land-grabbing mafia, citing a case in New Karachi Sector 14 where an ABAD member's property has been encroached, despite the court orders.

The ABAD leaders also accused the FBR officials of conducting raids, seizing files for months, and then demanding bribes in millions.

Mohsin Sheikhani, Patron-in-Chief ABAD appealed directly to the Army Chief to intervene, warning that business closures would devastate tax collection and the national economy. He demanded the deployment of Rangers along

side builders and the issuance of red warrants against those involved in extortion.

Trader leader Hafeez Aziz corroborated the builders' concerns, stating that although police had sent a red warrant case against Wasiullah Lakho, it remains unimplemented. He alleged that in Jodia Bazaar, traders are being forcibly extorted for amounts ranging from Rs 50,000 to Rs 100,000.

"Ahmed Mugi and Wasiullah Lakho openly claim they do not even listen to the SSP," Aziz said, demanding full protection for the business community and an environment free from fear.

The ABAD has filed complaints with multiple government institutions but claims their grievances have gone unheard. They have now threatened to shut down businesses and stage sit-ins if red warrants are not issued and concrete action is not taken against the extortion network. 7

BUSINESS RECORDER

Karachi, Tuesday 30 December 2025, 9 Rajab 1447

Former Abad chairman Jiwa passes away

RECORDER REPORT

KARACHI: Arif Yusuf Jiwa, former chairman of the Association of Builders and Developers and former vice president of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry, died after a prolonged battle with cancer.

Jiwa, a prominent figure in Pakistan's construction sector, had been working on various construction projects in Islamabad in recent years while undergoing cancer treatment.

His body was transported from Islamabad to Karachi, where his funeral prayer was offered late at night at the Rahman Mosque in New Hayat Housing Scheme. He was laid to rest in a local graveyard.

Abad Chairman Hassan Bakshi, former Chairman Mohsin Sheikhani, and other members of the association paid tribute to their former leader.

"Arif Jiwa played a key role in the stability of business individuals in the construction sector and the promotion of the best construction activities in the country," Abad members said in a statement. "His contributions to the construction sector will always be remembered."

SM Tanveer, patron-in-chief of the United Business Group, along with UBG President Zubair Tufail, Chairman Khalid Tawab for the Sindh region, Secretary-General Hanif Gohar, spokesperson Gulzar Feruze, and core committee members Malik Khuda Baksh and Tariq Haleem, expressed deep sorrow over Jiwa's passing.

FPCCI President Atif Ikram Sheikh, Senior Vice President Saqib Fayaz Magon and Vice President Aman Pancho also conveyed their condolences. 12



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