SHELTER

A Publication of Association of Builders & Developers of Pakistan

- Iran-US Tensions Hit Construction
- Plot Conversion Barrier Removed
- Section 7E of ITO Declared Unconstitutional

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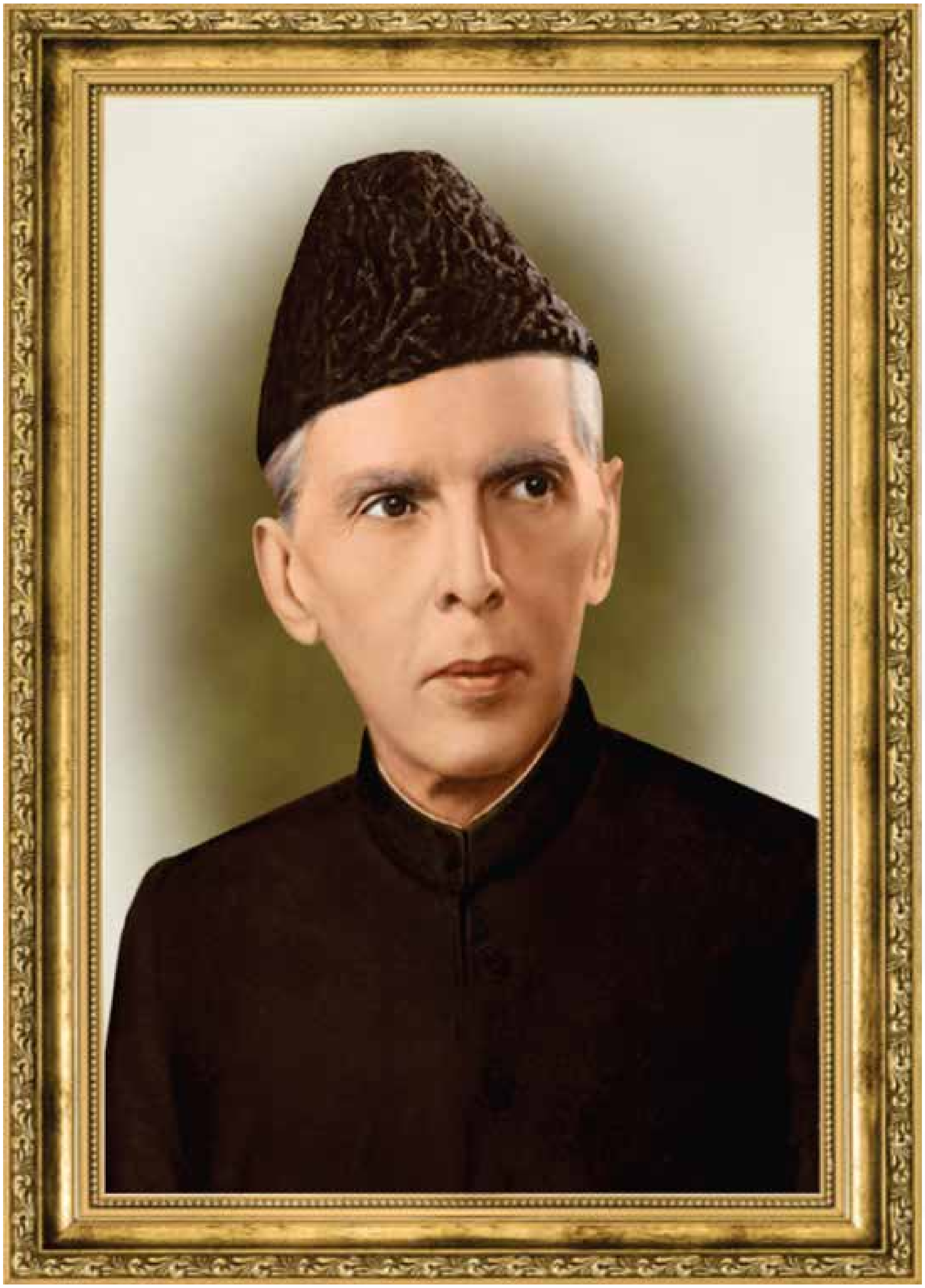
Association of Builders And Developers of Pakistan



"You are free; you are free to go to your temples, you are free to go to your mosques or to any other places of worship in this State of Pakistan".

—— **Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah**

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March - June 2026

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ABAD SECRETARIAT

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We encourage our readers to send us their suggestions and write-ups.

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EDITORIAL

ENGR. KALEEM-UZ-ZAMAN KHAN

Managing Editor and Convener
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The world today stands at a delicate juncture, where economic uncertainty, geopolitical tensions, and climate challenges are converging to reshape global realities. Instability in key regions, coupled with fluctuating energy markets and ongoing supply chain pressures, continues to challenge economies already managing inflation and slower growth. In this climate, industries worldwide are reassessing strategies to build resilience and adapt to shifting conditions.

The construction sector, inherently sensitive to global developments and economic cycles, has been significantly affected. Rising fuel costs, material delays, and higher logistics expenses have driven project costs upward. Investors are exercising caution, while developers navigate the dual challenge of sustaining profitability and meeting evolving market demands. In Pakistan, these global pressures intersect with domestic economic constraints. Reliance on imported energy and materials increases vulnerability to external shocks. Currency fluctuations, high inflation, and elevated financing costs have collectively strained the construction ecosystem. Key materials such as cement, steel, and imported fittings have become more expensive, complicating project planning and execution. Procedural delays and regulatory bottlenecks further affect efficiency and investor confidence.

Despite these challenges, the construction sector remains a vital driver of economic activity. It generates employment and supports a wide network of allied industries. Demand for housing - especially affordable housing - continues to grow, fueled by rapid urbanization and population expansion, offering a pathway for sustained development. To succeed in today's dynamic environment, builders and developers have a unique opportunity to lead the way with smart, future-ready strategies. Innovation isn't just a buzzword, it's a practical tool: modern construction technologies, digital project management, and efficient design solutions can streamline workflows, cut costs, and boost productivity.

For Pakistan's construction industry, the future is about adaptability and vision. Builders who embrace change, invest in innovation, and prioritize sustainability will not only deliver projects efficiently, they will shape cities, create vibrant communities, and set new standards for excellence. With determination, creativity, and a forward-looking mindset, the sector can transform today's uncertainties into tomorrow's growth, building a resilient and thriving construction landscape that benefits everyone involved.

Chairman
MESSAGE

M. HASSAN BAKSHI
Chairman ABAD

Global uncertainty is reshaping industries, and construction is no exception. Rising tensions in the Middle East have sent ripples through energy markets, disrupting supply chains and creating unpredictability in oil and gas prices. For energy-importing countries like Pakistan, these fluctuations have added new layers of economic pressure, affecting everything from industrial operations to project financing.

Construction, by its nature, is highly energy- and resource-intensive. Surges in fuel and electricity costs, coupled with higher transportation expenses, are driving up budgets across projects worldwide. From raw materials like cement and steel to machinery operation and on-site logistics, every component of a project feels the impact. For developers, this means tighter margins, extended timelines, and the constant need to adapt to evolving costs and availability.

In Pakistan, the situation is compounded by domestic energy constraints and infrastructure inefficiencies. Unstable power supply and outages force builders to rely on backup generators or costly alternative fuels, slowing progress and straining budgets. At the same time, import-dependent construction materials face delays and price volatility due to global market pressures, making project planning increasingly complex. Yet, these challenges are prompting the sector to innovate. Energy efficiency is no longer optional - builders are exploring solar-powered solutions, efficient machinery, and green building practices to mitigate dependence on volatile energy sources. Incorporating sustainable materials and technologies not only reduces costs in the long term but also aligns projects with global environmental standards, enhancing both competitiveness and resilience.

Innovation extends beyond energy. Digital construction tools, advanced project management software, and precision planning are helping developers optimize resources, reduce waste, and maintain productivity despite rising costs. Forward-thinking developers are leveraging these solutions to maintain timelines, protect margins, and deliver quality outcomes even under pressure. Ultimately, navigating today's uncertainties requires collaboration. Stronger coordination between government bodies, financial institutions, and construction stakeholders can ensure smoother approvals, incentivize sustainable practices, and improve access to financing.

By embracing efficiency, sustainability, and innovation, Pakistan's construction sector can turn current challenges into opportunities, building projects that are not only resilient today but future-ready for a world defined by change and unpredictability.

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Association of Builders And Developers of Pakistan

A brief view of ABAD

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 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 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.

AL KISWAH
BUILDERS & DEVELOPERS

(Quran 2:156)

"Indeed, to Allah we belong, and to Him we shall return."

OBITUARY

The Association of Builders and Developers of Pakistan (ABAD) expresses its profound grief and heartfelt sorrow over the passing of the mother of Mr. Amin Shaikhani, Mr. Ejaz Shaikhani, Mr. Awais Shaikhani, and Mr. Amir Shaikhani, and the mother-in-law of Mr. Muhammad Hanif Memon, Mr. Mohsin Shaikhani, as well as respected members of the construction fraternity Mr. Iqbal Dhangra and Mr. Javed Abdul Sattar, who passed away on Thursday, 14 May 2026, at a hospital.

Her demise is an irreparable loss for the entire family, as well as for relatives, friends, and all those whose lives were touched by her warmth, grace, and dignified presence.

She will be fondly remembered for her kindness, compassion, wisdom, and unwavering commitment to her family, values, and principles.

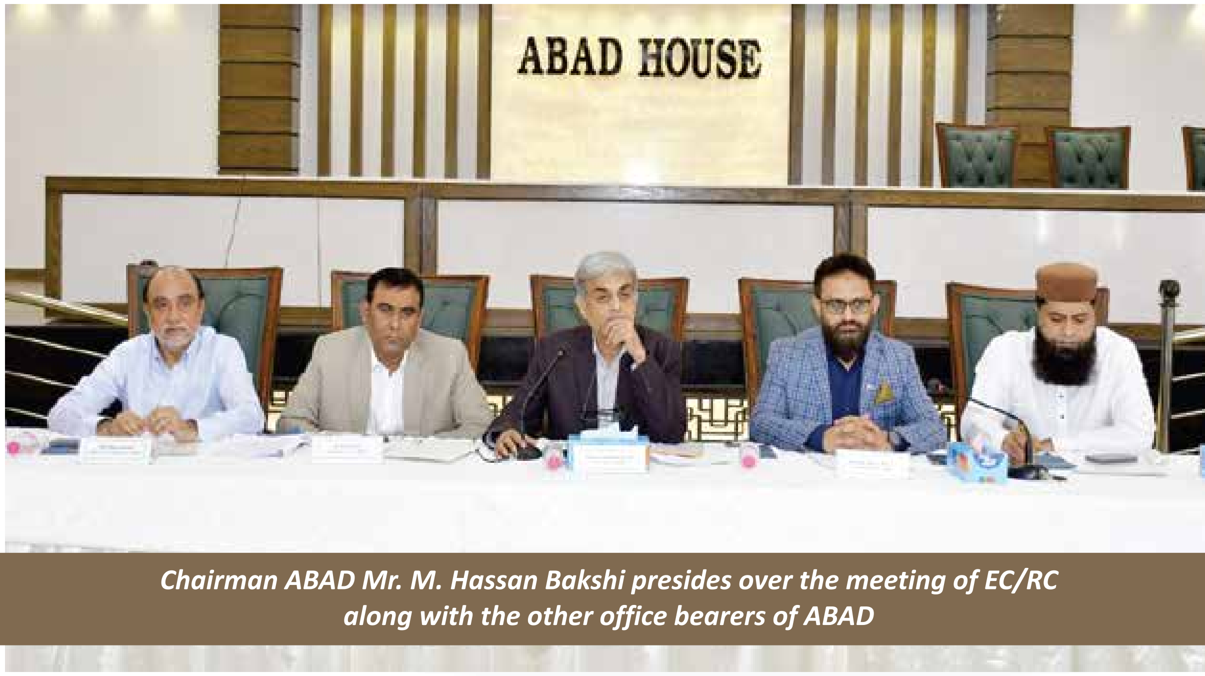
On behalf of the Chairman ABAD, Senior Vice Chairman, Vice Chairman, Chairman Southern Region, members of the Executive Committee, and the entire ABAD fraternity, we extend our deepest condolences and sincere sympathies to the bereaved families in this moment of profound grief.

May Almighty Allah (SWT) grant her eternal peace, and elevate her ranks in Jannat-ul-Firdous.

We also pray that Allah grants patience, strength, and courage to the bereaved family to bear this immense loss. Aa'meen.

Executive Committee Regional Committee

EC-RC Meeting



Chairman ABAD Mr. M. Hassan Bakshi presides over the meeting of EC/RC along with the other office bearers of ABAD

The Executive Committee (EC) and Regional Committee (RC) of the Association of Builders and Developers of Pakistan (ABAD) met at ABAD House on June 9, 2026 to review key industry developments, including recent tax relief measures, housing finance initiatives, legal challenges facing the construction sector, membership matters and steps to protect builders from alleged encroachments and unlawful actions.

The meeting, chaired by ABAD Chairman Hassan Bakshi, was attended by Senior Vice Chairman Afzal Hameed, Vice Chairman Tariq Aziz, Southern Region Chairman Owais Thanvi and other senior members.

Among the major issues discussed was the recent Federal Constitutional Court judgment declaring Section 7E of the Income Tax Ordinance, which imposed tax on deemed income from immovable property, unconstitutional. Members also reviewed relief secured by ABAD from the Supreme Court regarding the withdrawal of restrictions on commercial construction, although the written order is still awaited.

Mr. Bakshi said the current ABAD leadership had actively pursued industry-related tax reforms and legal relief. He noted that tax under Section 236K had been reduced to 2.5%, while exemptions under Section 236C had been extended to certain sublease transactions where the relevant tax requirements had been fulfilled.

The meeting also reviewed the launch of the Prime Minister's “Apna Ghar” housing initiative. Mr. Bakshi informed members that subsidised housing finance of up to Rs10 million would be available under the scheme, which is expected to support home ownership and stimulate activity in the housing sector.

Members were briefed on a potential five-month exemption under Section 111 of the Income Tax Ordinance that may be included in the budget. According to Mr. Bakshi, the proposed measure would allow individuals to bring funds into Pakistan through prescribed banking channels, including Roshan Digital Accounts, without inquiries regarding the source of funds.

The committee also discussed the need to strengthen the housing industry and position it as a major contributor to economic growth. Referring to recent gains in the stock market, Bakshi said improving investor confidence should be leveraged to support the construction sector. He proposed establishing a committee comprising experienced professionals, including former bureaucrats and policymakers, to formulate a comprehensive roadmap for industry development.

On membership matters, Convener New Membership M. Ayoob informed the meeting that 22 applications had been received. Of these, 17 were approved, four were granted conditional approval and one was recommended for honorary membership. The committee also considered a proposal to grant honorary membership to the Sindh High Court Bar Association (SHCBA). Bakshi said closer coordination with the legal fraternity would help address industry-related disputes and facilitate smoother engagement on regulatory and legal matters. Members discussed the proposal and noted that the request had been made specifically by the SHCBA.

A separate discussion focused on the conditional membership application of Noor Constructor & Developers. Members raised concerns over inconsistencies regarding the classification of a Hyderabad-based project, which was described in documentation as commercial but was reportedly residential.

The chairman directed that clarification be sought from the applicant and relevant authorities before a final decision is made. The committee also reviewed disciplinary matters involving several members.

Mr. Ayoob informed the meeting that a number of long-pending complaints had remained unresolved despite previous opportunities for settlement. The committee decided to suspend four member firms and issue final notices requiring them to address outstanding complaints within a specified timeframe.

MEMBERSHIP EXPULSION

In another case, members voted in favour of expelling Green Leaves Builders & Developers after the company had remained under suspension for six months without resolving pending issues. The committee decided that failure by suspended members to comply with directives could result in referral of cases to relevant government departments.

The meeting acknowledged recent law-enforcement action in an extortion case involving suspects Lakho and Ahmed Ali Magsi. Mr. Bakshi welcomed the issuance of red warrants against the accused, describing it as a significant development resulting from coordinated efforts by authorities and sustained follow-up by ABAD.

A substantial portion of the meeting focused on concerns raised by members regarding property disputes, alleged encroachments and enforcement actions despite court orders.

HARASSMENT FACED BY ABAD MEMBER

The chairman briefed members on a complaint filed by builder Mr. Ashfaq Shaikhani, who alleged violation of a court stay order, unlawful interference and an attempted takeover of property in Karachi's Scheme 33 area. According to the chairman, authorities had initially reached the site intending to demolish structures but later withdrew. However, legal ambiguities regarding the stay order remained under review. He stressed the importance of members remaining vigilant in protecting their legal rights and pursuing remedies through appropriate legal channels.

Members discussed several other cases in which builders claimed that court orders were not being properly enforced. Concerns were raised over alleged attempts to occupy or interfere with properties despite ongoing legal proceedings. Mr. Bakshi said ABAD had formally approached relevant government departments and institutions to seek protection for members and ensure enforcement of lawful court orders. He warned that if members continued to suffer losses because of administrative failures, the association would consider further legal action against responsible officials and agencies.

He said ABAD would continue highlighting such issues publicly and may organise peaceful demonstrations where necessary to draw attention to members' grievances. While acknowledging shortcomings within the regulatory framework, he emphasized that all disputes must ultimately be resolved through due process and the rule of law.

The discussion also examined ABAD's engagement with government authorities. Some members questioned the practice of publicly recognising officials who they believed had failed to address industry concerns. In response, Bakshi defended the need for continued engagement with government institutions, arguing that constructive liaison remained essential for resolving members' problems. At the same time, he urged builders to ensure compliance with applicable laws and regulations, stressing that the industry must minimise violations while protecting its legitimate interests.

ABAD members also highlighted the role of the association's response committee, which provides assistance when builders face disputes or enforcement actions. Members were encouraged to promptly report incidents so that the committee could assess the situation and coordinate an appropriate response. Concluding the meeting, the leadership reiterated its commitment to pursuing legal, regulatory and policy reforms aimed at strengthening the construction and housing sector while safeguarding the rights of members. The committee agreed to continue engaging with policymakers, regulators and other stakeholders to address industry challenges and support sustainable growth in the sector.

ABAD DELEGATION JOINS PM AT LAUNCH OF NATIONWIDE 'APNA GHAR' HOUSING SCHEME

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif launches PM Apna Ghar Program

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on April 30, 2026, launched the "Apna Ghar Scheme," a subsidised housing initiative aimed at low- and middle-income families, at a ceremony attended by key stakeholders including representatives of the Association of Builders and Developers of Pakistan (ABAD).

Among those present were ABAD Senior Vice Chairman Mr. S. Afzal Hameed, Vice Chairman Mr. Tariq Aziz, Chairman (NR) Sheikh Muhammad Nabeel, former chairmen Mr. Mohsin Sheikhani, Mr. Hanif Memon, Mr. Hanif Gohar and Former Chairman (NR) Mr. Sultan Gohar and members including Mr. Affan Qureshi, along with senior government officials, lawmakers and industry representatives.

Speaking at the launch event in Islamabad, Mr. Sharif said providing affordable housing was a top government priority, describing access to shelter as a "fundamental and sacred duty" of the state. Under the scheme, eligible applicants can obtain loans of up to Rs10 million on concessional terms to construct houses of up to 10 marla. The repayment period is set at 20 years, with a 5% markup for the first 10 years, followed by market-based rates thereafter.

The government has set a target of financing 50,000 homes in the first year, with plans to expand to 500,000 homes over the next four years. The total financing envelope is estimated at Rs3.2 trillion.

PM Shehbaz Sharif said the scheme would be implemented nationwide, including in Islamabad, all four provinces, Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Kashmir, and added that he would personally review its progress on a monthly basis to address bottlenecks and ensure timely disbursements.

He also urged banks to actively participate, saying top-performing lenders would be recognised with national awards on August 14, while those falling short would face strict action. Highlighting the broader economic impact, the prime minister said the construction sector plays a key role in driving growth, supporting multiple industries and creating jobs.

Housing Minister Riaz Hussain Pirzada said the scheme was the result of a year of consultations and effort, describing it as a major relief initiative for citizens seeking home ownership. PM Shehbaz Sharif formally inaugurated the program and distributed loan cheques to successful applicants at the ceremony.

Address by Mr. Mohsin Sheikhani

In his remarks, former ABAD chairman Mohsin Sheikhani credited the government and state institutions for improving Pakistan's international image following recent regional developments, including tensions with India and diplomatic engagement on the Iran conflict.

Against this backdrop, he stressed that housing remains a critical pillar of economic activity but said the sector has not received policy priority commensurate with its importance. “Housing is a basic necessity and a key driver of the economy, yet it has not been supported to the extent required,” he said.

He underscored the urgency of expanding affordable housing, noting that Pakistan has faced a persistent supply gap for over a decade. Citing discussions at a World Bank forum more than 10 years ago, he said the housing shortfallthen estimated at 10 million unitshas continued to widen due to insufficient supply.

Building on this, Mr. Sheikhani emphasised the need for accessible financing frameworks to enable home ownership. “Facilitating loans for housing can have a lasting impact, as families remember such support for generations,” he said, describing current initiatives as a significant step forward.

Turning to urban planning, he advocated for vertical development in major cities to address land constraints. “Globally, large urban centres have adopted vertical growth.

Expanding horizontally is not sustainable as land availability declines,” he said, adding that clear financing mechanisms and regulatory procedures are essential.

He also called for targeted improvements in tax policy to incentivise housing construction, particularly in addressing the supply shortfall. In this context, he urged reforms within the Federal Board of Revenue to ease pressures on businesses, noting that enforcement practices can at times create uncertainty within the private sector.

Emphasising collaboration, Mr. Sheikhani said alignment between the government and private stakeholders would accelerate progress. “If the private sector works alongside the government, achieving development goals will become significantly easier,” he said. He further pointed to structural challenges within development authorities, including the Capital Development Authority, Karachi Development Authority, Lahore Development Authority and Malir Development Authority, calling for institutional reforms and greater efficiency.

In particular, he highlighted the importance of digitization, saying modernizing land records and approvals systems is crucial for improving transparency and facilitating bank financing. He cited examples from Dubai and the United Kingdom, where end-to-end digital processes have streamlined approvals, payments and refunds without the need for in-person interaction.

Turning to regional development, Mr. Sheikhani highlighted the strategic importance of Gwadar, urging the government to finalize policies, including tax incentives, to accelerate investment. “Advancing Gwadar's development at this stage is critical, as it represents a key component of Pakistan's future economic trajectory,” he said.

ABAD Chairman welcomes PM initiative

In a statement following the launch, ABAD Chairman Muhammad Hassan Bakshi - currently on an official visit to China - welcomed the prime minister's “Apna Ghar Scheme,” describing it as an important and positive step for public welfare and the national economy.

He said the provision of housing loans on easy instalments for citizens seeking to build or purchase homes or apartments is a highly commendable initiative that will help fulfil the dream of home ownership for middle- and lower-income groups. Expanding on its impact, Mr. Bakshi said the scheme offers equal opportunity to young people, both men and women, and urged citizens to take full advantage of what he described as a “golden opportunity.”

He added that the program would not only boost the housing sector but also support the broader economy, given the construction sector's linkages with multiple industries and its role in job creation.

Drawing comparisons with international markets, he noted that in developed regions such as the United States, Europe and the Middle East, housing loans are typically offered at low interest rates of around 5%.

In Pakistan, he said, a similar fixed rate of 5% has been introduced for loans of up to Rs10 million for a period of 10 years, calling it a significant facilitation.

He further explained that under the scheme, buyers of homes or apartments worth up to Rs10 million would be required to make a 10% down payment, with the remaining 90% financed through banks.

Mr. Bakshi also welcomed the government's directive requiring banks to decide on loan applications within 15 dayswhether approval or rejectionto prevent unnecessary delays for applicants.

He noted that Pakistan currently faces a housing shortage of around 12 million units and expressed hope that the scheme would play a meaningful role in addressing the crisis, ushering in a new phase of construction and development in the country.

ABAD's Hyderabad delegation meets

SINDH IRRIGATION MINISTER

discusses development and regulatory issues

ABAD Hyderabad Vice Chairman Mr. Abdullah Jan Memon met Sindh Minister for Planning, Development and Irrigation Mr. Jam Khan Shoro at his office in Karachi

A delegation of the Association of Builders and Developers (ABAD), Hyderabad Sub-Region, met Sindh Minister for Planning, Development and Irrigation Mr. Jam Khan Shoro at his office in Karachi, where they discussed issues facing builders in Hyderabad, including the city's master plan, proposed new building bylaws and broader urban development challenges. The delegation was led by ABAD Hyderabad Vice Chairman Mr. Abdullah Jan Memon and comprised representatives from the association.

During the meeting, participants highlighted concerns over the Sindh Building Control Authority's proposed bylaws, particularly the need for region-specific regulations, and raised various civic issues affecting Hyderabad's development. Mr. Shoro briefed the delegation on ongoing and planned development projects in the city, including major road infrastructure initiatives aimed at improving traffic flow and public convenience. These include the Ring Road, canal roads, Autobahn Road, the route from Alamdar Chowk to the National Highway, Abdul Sattar Edhi Road, and the long-delayed Benazir Bhutto flyover.

He also outlined key water supply projects, including the construction and planning of five filter plants in Hattri, Qasimabad, Hussainabad, Latifabad, Kohsar and Sarmast, along with the expansion of the Ghanghra Mori filter plant. On sewerage, Mr. Shoro highlighted a major project to channel Hyderabad's wastewater into the Karo Ghungro drain, as well as a plan to pump rainwater from Wadhu Wah downstream to improve drainage and mitigate urban flooding.

The minister emphasized the importance of sustained engagement with stakeholders from the construction sector and expressed his commitment to addressing industry-related concerns at both provincial and local government levels.

As the meeting concluded, the ABAD Hyderabad delegation presented a commemorative shield to Mr. Shoro.

Major milestone for ABAD as legal barrier on Karachi plot conversion removed

For years, Karachi's real estate sector operated in a state of hesitation - projects delayed, investments paused and planning decisions shadowed by legal uncertainty. Now, ABAD's sustained efforts have borne fruit, as that uncertainty finally begins to lift.

The Federal Constitutional Court's decision to remove the ban on the conversion of residential plots for commercial and recreational use in Karachi has been welcomed by ABAD as a long-awaited correction, one it says restores confidence to an industry central to the city's economic and urban growth.

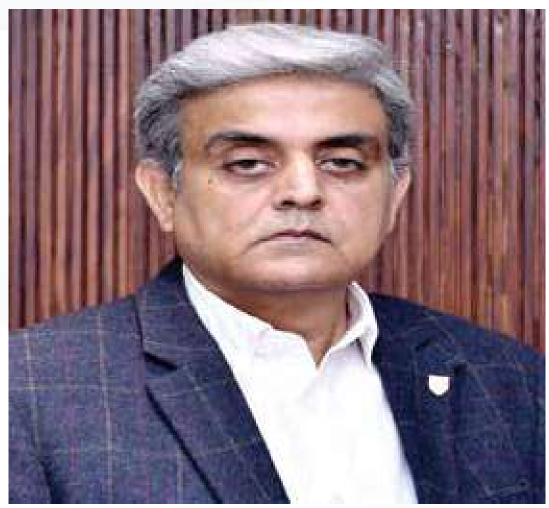
A two-judge bench on May 12, 2026, set aside the earlier restriction that had blocked such conversions, while firmly preserving protections for amenity land, including parks, hospitals, schools, mosques, playgrounds, and graveyards - spaces the court reaffirmed must remain untouched.

ABAD also maintains a clear line on amenity protection, reiterating its support for safeguarding public-use land as a core principle of balanced urban planning.

The dispute dates back to 2019, when a sweeping ban was imposed on conversions across Karachi, triggering years of regulatory ambiguity. ABAD says the fallout was felt across the sector: stalled development pipelines, weakened investor sentiment and a gradual drift toward uncertainty in formal planning systems.

Chairman ABAD

M. Hassan Bakshi



“The ruling marks a key shift, as prolonged uncertainty had stalled development and dented investor confidence, underscoring the need for stable, predictable regulations to support long-term growth.”

A DECISION THAT RESTORES CLARITY.
A FUTURE THAT MOVES FORWARD.

For ABAD, the ruling marks more than a legal adjustment. It is a necessary restoration of predictability in a sector where long-term investment depends on clarity rather than shifting interpretations.

Chairman M. Hassan Bakhshi said the decision brings essential regulatory certainty back into focus, arguing that prolonged uncertainty has historically disrupted development activity and eroded investor confidence.

The Association has consistently maintained that unpredictable policy environments do not merely slow construction - they reshape it, often pushing activity outside formal frameworks while discouraging structured, compliant development.

Legal Efforts

ABAD's Legal Affairs Convener Mr. Ibrahim Habib played a key role, with his consistent efforts and resolve helping secure long-overdue relief for builders and developers - reflecting ABAD's steady drive for practical sectoral solutions.

The Association also welcomed another recent judicial development affecting the business and property sectors. The Federal Constitutional Court (FCC) declared Section 7E of the Income Tax Ordinance (ITO), 2001, unconstitutional and struck it down in its entirety. The court ruled that all actions, notices and pending recoveries initiated by the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) under the provision were unlawful, declaring the section void from its inception. ABAD said the decision reinforces the importance of legal certainty and a predictable regulatory environment for investment and economic activity.

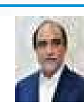
Voices From the Industry

I appreciate ABAD's consistent efforts, including its representation on major national platforms, which helped lead to the lifting of the ban on the conversion of residential plots in Karachi, and I am confident that further relief will follow in the future.

— S.M. Tanveer
UBG Patron-in-Chief

This decision is welcoming, but such prolonged restrictions should not recur in the future, as sustained growth in the construction sector depends on stable, predictable, and investor-friendly regulatory policies.

— Mohsin Sheikhani
Former Chairman ABAD

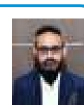


The restoration of a clear legal position is a welcome step that will help restore stability and improve long-term planning for developers and investors.

— Syed Afzal Hameed
Senior Vice Chairman ABAD

A consistent regulatory environment is essential for growth, and this ruling helps re-align the market with transparent and formal development practices.

— Tariq Aziz Memon
Vice Chairman ABAD



This is a positive development for Karachi's urban future, as it supports structured growth while ensuring that development remains within a proper legal framework.

— Ahmed Owais Thanvi
Chairman Southern Region

This decision is a positive step toward restoring confidence in Karachi's development sector. Clear and consistent regulations create an environment where responsible builders can plan, invest, and contribute to sustainable urban growth.

— Kaleem-Uz-Zaman Khan
Convener Shelter Magazine


ABAD proposes long-term policy and tax reforms for construction sector

The Chairman of the Association of Builders and Developers (ABAD), Muhammad Hassan Bakshi, has proposed a comprehensive structural overhaul of the country's construction and real estate tax framework to drive economic stability.

He made these suggestions during a detailed interview with a renowned Urdu daily ahead of the upcoming federal budget presentation. Mr. Bakshi emphasized that the government must urgently pivot toward a long-term, consistent policy environment. He stressed that such policies must be formulated in active consultation with essential stakeholders, including builders, developers, buyers, and allied industries, to avoid the detrimental effects of ad-hoc fiscal planning.

Restructuring income and advance taxes

Mr. Bakshi strongly urged the government to repeal the current tax mechanism under Section 7F, which levies a burdensome 10% to 15% tax on net income. Instead, he recommended restoring the previous fixed-area tax regime under Section 100D. A standardized, square-foot-based tax allows builders to accurately calculate liabilities in advance, ensuring ease of doing business and effectively eliminating discretionary corruption by tax officials. Furthermore, the ABAD Chairman outlined specific adjustments for advance tax regulations:

Section 236C: Mr. Bakshi argued that because building and development constitute core corporate operations, income from sub-leasing must be treated purely as business income. Consequently, Section 236C should not apply to these transactions.

Section 236K: To sustain documentation without discouraging buyers, the 1.5% advance tax collected at the time of purchase should be reduced to 0.25%, given that no real capital appreciation occurs at the exact time of purchase.

Reforming CGT exemptions and rental income

ABAD Chairman strongly criticized the recent abolition of the CGT holding-period exemption, which currently penalizes long-term investors by taxing properties sold even after decades. He demanded the reinstatement of the law where tax liability completely expires after a five-year holding period.

To stimulate the rental market, Mr. Bakshi proposed a flat 15% tax on rental income. This rationalization would discourage the practice of maintaining dual agreements to evade exorbitant rates, ultimately boosting state revenue.

Broadening the tax net over higher rates

Warning that cumulative tax rates have reached an unsustainable 50%, Mr. Bakshi noted that further hikes would trigger a severe investment crisis and widespread business closures. He concluded that the government and the IMF must collaboratively focus on expanding the tax net to target non-taxpayers, rather than repeatedly penalizing existing compliant taxpayers.

Iran-US tensions shake Global Construction

The ongoing Iran-United States conflict has created ripple effects across global markets, pushing up energy prices, disrupting shipping routes and increasing costs across the construction industry worldwide, according to industry reports and economic analyses. While no major construction shutdown has been directly attributed solely to the conflict, analysts say the sector is among the most exposed to geopolitical shocks due to its reliance on energy-intensive materials, global logistics networks and long supply chains.

The most immediate transmission channel has been oil and fuel prices. Disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz a critical shipping lane for global crude flows have contributed to volatility in energy markets, which directly affects construction costs through diesel, asphalt, steel and cement production.

According to industry analysis, higher oil prices increase the cost of almost every major construction input because materials such as cement, glass, steel and petrochemicals are highly energy-intensive to produce. Transport costs have also risen as shipping insurance premiums and freight rates increase in response to regional instability.

Global construction costs under pressure

Construction sectors in multiple regions, including the United States, Europe and parts of Asia-Pacific, have reported rising input costs and project uncertainty linked to geopolitical tensions in the Middle East.

A report by industry analysts noted that construction input costs in the U.S. have risen more than 40% since 2020, with continued upward pressure from fuel volatility, metals prices and supply chain disruption linked to the Iran conflict.

In Europe, construction activity has also weakened amid broader economic uncertainty and inflationary pressures tied partly to Middle East instability, with firms reporting rising costs for fuel, transport and imported materials.

Analysts say commercial construction is particularly exposed because of its dependence on imported steel, aluminium, copper and specialised components, many of which are sensitive to energy prices and global logistics disruptions.

Materials most affected

The construction industry's vulnerability stems from its dependence on commodities that are closely tied to energy markets. Rising crude prices increase the cost of producing:

- Cement and concrete
- Steel and aluminium
- Glass and roofing materials
- Asphalt and road surfacing
- Plastics, insulation and piping

Petrochemical-based materials are especially affected because they are derived directly from oil and natural gas feedstocks. Even small fluctuations in crude prices can significantly impact downstream construction inputs.

Transport and logistics costs have also risen due to higher diesel prices and rerouting of shipping lanes away from conflict-sensitive areas. In some cases, contractors have reported longer lead times for imported components and increased volatility in project pricing.

Supply chain disruption and project delays

Beyond pricing pressures, supply chain delays have become a growing concern for developers and contractors. Shipping disruptions through Middle Eastern corridors have led to longer delivery timelines for key materials and equipment, particularly for large infrastructure and energy projects.

Some reports indicate that long-lead items such as electrical transformers, cooling systems and construction machinery are facing extended delays, adding uncertainty to project schedules and budgets. In certain sectors, including data centre construction, material costs have risen by as much as 20% in recent months due to shortages and logistical bottlenecks linked to geopolitical instability.

Contracting models shifting under pressure

In response to volatility, construction firms in several markets are increasingly shifting away from fixed-price contracts toward cost-plus or escalation-based agreements. Contractors say unpredictable material pricing makes it difficult to lock in long-term bids without significant financial risk.

Industry bodies have also reported that developers are becoming more cautious, with some projects delayed or scaled down due to uncertainty over future input costs and financing conditions.

Wider economic spillovers

The construction sector is also being indirectly affected by broader macroeconomic consequences of the conflict, including inflationary pressures and tighter monetary policy in some economies.

Higher energy prices have contributed to inflation in transport, manufacturing and consumer goods sectors, which in turn affects construction demand and investment decisions. In some markets, this has led to slower residential construction activity and weaker commercial real estate pipelines.

Long-term outlook

Analysts caution that the longer the geopolitical tensions persist, the more entrenched cost pressures could become across the global construction industry. Persistent disruption in the Strait of Hormuz or related shipping routes would continue to amplify energy costs, which remain the single most important input driver for construction inflation.

At the same time, some markets may benefit temporarily from regional supply reallocation, as trade routes shift and certain suppliers gain competitive advantage. However, experts say these gains are likely to be uneven and short-lived. Overall, the sector remains highly sensitive to geopolitical risk, with the Iran-US conflict reinforcing how quickly regional tensions can translate into global construction cost inflation and project uncertainty.

ALTAF TAI
Builders & Developers

Interview by:
SHELTER TEAM

ALTAF TAI
Former Chairman ABAD

- Founder of Altaf Tai Builders & Developers
- Former Chairman ABAD
- Served as Convener & Co-Convener in several sub-committees of ABAD
- Member of Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI)

Altaf Tai is widely regarded as a dynamic and forward-thinking figure within Pakistan's real estate and construction landscape, with a longstanding association with the Association of Builders and Developers (ABAD) that reflects both continuity and commitment to the industry.

He served as Chairman of ABAD for the 2022-23 term, a period during which his leadership was broadly acknowledged by members, who appreciated his dedicated approach and consistent efforts in advancing the association's collective agenda.

His tenure was marked by active engagement and a strong sense of responsibility toward institutional progress. He had earlier also served as Chairman, Southern Region in 2017-18, further underscoring his sustained involvement in ABAD's organizational framework.

With over two decades of experience in the construction sector, Mr. Tai has built a solid professional reputation as a builder and developer, completing a number of notable projects under his company, Tai Builders and Developers, across various parts of Karachi. His work reflects both scale and an evolving understanding of urban development needs.

Within ABAD, he has played an influential role in key sub-committees, contributing his insight to policy discussions and decision-making processes. He has served as Convener of the Sindh Board Cantonment Authority and Co-Convener of the FBR Sub-Committee, where his input has been valued for its practical perspective and industry grounding.

Beyond his professional pursuits, Mr. Tai is also known for his philanthropic engagement, with his commitment to social welfare initiatives earning recognition and respect among ABAD members and the wider community.

> *"My advice to young professionals is to stay ethical, keep learning, and protect your credibility — because in the construction industry, your reputation is your strongest currency."*
>
> *— Altaf Tai*

Roshan Business Centre 3

Roshan Finance Centre

QUESTION/ANSWER SESSION

Q1: From your experience, what major transformations have you seen in the construction sector?

Altaf Tai: The transformation has been quite extraordinary. When I started, construction was mostly manual, with limited access to modern tools and slower project timelines. Today, rapid urbanization has reshaped demand, and the industry has embraced advanced machinery, new materials, and efficient project management systems. While technology has greatly enhanced productivity, challenges such as inconsistent policies and bureaucratic hurdles continue to hold the sector back.

Q2: As a senior figure in the construction industry, what core values have guided your leadership and business decisions over the years?

Altaf Tai: Integrity, quality, and trust - these three values define everything I do. Over the years, we've built a reputation on transparency and delivering what we promise. Thousands of satisfied clients stand as proof of that. In construction, a reputation takes decades to build but can be lost in an instant, so protecting that trust is crucial.

Q4: What key government reforms are needed for sustainable growth in the construction industry?

Altaf Tai: The first is policy consistency - frequent shifts discourage investors. The second is transparency and speed in the approval process, which remains painfully slow. Third, urban planning must align with infrastructure development - water, sewage, roads, and transport systems should grow in tandem. And finally, we need tangible incentives for green and sustainable construction; that's the future of this industry.

Q5: How do you see technology and innovation shaping the next decade of Pakistan's construction sector?

Altaf Tai: Technology is no longer optional it's essential. From 3D modeling and digital design to environmentally friendly materials, innovation increases efficiency, reduces waste, and raises quality standards. The challenge is that many still see technology as an expense rather than an investment. In reality, it pays for itself over time through precision and sustainability.

Q6: How have your ABAD sub-committee roles shaped your leadership approach?

Altaf Tai: They've broadened my understanding of how interconnected the construction ecosystem really is. For instance, a delay in utility connections can be just as disruptive as a court dispute. Working across different committees helps me see issues holistically and push for integrated solutions that bring long-term stability to the industry.

Q7: What advice would you offer to young professionals aspiring to build a career in construction?

Altaf Tai: Stay ethical, be patient, and never stop learning. This field demands more than technical knowledge - you need to understand its legal, financial, and regulatory aspects as well. And above all, protect your credibility. In this business, your reputation is your strongest currency.

Roshan Residencia

Roshan Residencia

Khadija Arcade

KDA, ABAD agree to boost coordination to address Karachi construction sector issues

Delegation of ABAD meets KDA representatives to discuss builders concerns

The Karachi Development Authority (KDA) and the Association of Builders and Developers of Pakistan (ABAD) have agreed to strengthen coordination to address longstanding regulatory and administrative challenges facing the city's construction sector, officials said.

The understanding was reached during a meeting at the KDA Civic Centre between Director General KDA Asif Jan Siddiqui and an ABAD delegation led by Chairman Muhammad Hassan Bakshi, Senior Vice Chairman Syed Afzal Hameed and Chairman (SR) Ahmed Owais Thanvi.

According to a statement, both sides discussed delays in project approvals, procedural bottlenecks and other operational issues that developers say are affecting investment and slowing housing projects in Karachi.

ABAD representatives stressed the need for a more efficient regulatory framework, arguing that timely approvals and smoother processes are essential for sustained urban and real estate growth.

The KDA director general assured the delegation of full cooperation and directed relevant departments to take immediate and long-term steps to resolve industry concerns, while maintaining closer coordination with ABAD to improve response times.

Both sides agreed on establishing a more structured mechanism for regular engagement to reduce delays and improve efficiency in the approval process, with the aim of creating a more business-friendly environment for the construction sector.

The DG KDA also briefed the delegation on ongoing administrative reforms, including digitisation of records and improved data management systems, aimed at increasing transparency and streamlining public services.

The meeting also reviewed the issue of encroachments on KDA land, with officials reaffirming action against illegal occupation and measures to secure reclaimed properties.

The meeting concluded with both sides pledging continued cooperation to support housing development and improve Karachi's broader urban planning framework.

A delegation of the Sindh High Court Bar Association (SHCBA), led by President Mr. Haseeb Jamali accompanied by his cabinet members, visited ABAD House

Delegation of Sindh High Court Bar Association visits ABAD House

A delegation of the Sindh High Court Bar Association (SHCBA), led by President M. Haseeb Jamali, visited ABAD House on May 23, 2026, to discuss institutional cooperation between the legal fraternity and the construction industry. The meeting also served as a courtesy call following the election of the new SHCBA leadership and focused on legal, regulatory and development challenges, including issues affecting housing schemes such as the Gulshan-e-Sharaf Faridi Housing Project.

The session was chaired by ABAD Chairman M. Hassan Bakshi and attended by Senior Vice Chairman Afzal Hameed, Vice Chairman Tariq Aziz Memon, and Chairman Southern Region Owais Thanvi. The SHCBA delegation included Vice President Tariq Ali Jakhrani, Honorary Secretary Fareeda Mangrio, Honorary Treasurer Naimatullah Shah, and other cabinet members. Proceedings opened with the recitation of the Holy Quran.

Welcoming the delegation, Mr. Owais Thanvi congratulated the SHCBA leadership and said stronger coordination between lawyers and developers was essential to address shared regulatory and institutional challenges. ABAD Chairman Hassan Bakshi said regular engagement between the two bodies would help improve understanding of issues affecting the construction sector and the broader economy. He said prolonged litigation in property-related disputes remained a major constraint on development activity, often delaying projects and discouraging investment. Mr. Bakshi said cases frequently remained pending for years, contributing to land grabbing and encroachment while complicating matters for genuine stakeholders.

He called for judicial reforms to improve efficiency, transparency and access to justice. He highlighted operational challenges faced by developers in areas such as Malir and North Karachi, and urged the legal fraternity to support lawful development and investment. Proposing a structured mechanism for engagement, Bakshi suggested the formation of a joint ABAD-SHCBA coordination committee to resolve disputes through consultation.

He also called for broader governance reforms, including digitalisation of government departments to reduce delays, curb corruption and improve transparency. Mr. Bakshi noted that the construction sector has extensive economic linkages, saying more than 72 allied industries depend on its performance. As a gesture of cooperation, he said ABAD would consider nominating a Bar representative to its Executive Committee.

SHCBA highlights legal reforms, housing concerns

SHCBA Honorary Secretary Fareeda Mangrio thanked ABAD for the invitation, saying the interaction reflected the importance of dialogue between institutions operating in overlapping sectors. She said legal disputes often required cooperation among stakeholders due to their complexity and multi-dimensional nature. Mr. Mangrio said litigation was sometimes necessary to ensure transparency in development projects, citing major infrastructure schemes such as the K-IV project as examples where judicial oversight protected public interest.

She welcomed ABAD's proposal for Bar representation in its Executive Committee and assured SHCBA's support in legal and litigation-related matters. She said the judiciary was working to modernise case management through digitisation, including scanning and archiving of records. Mr. Mangrio also requested ABAD's assistance regarding the Bar Association's housing society and suggested facilitating membership opportunities for legal professionals in development schemes. SHCBA President M. Haseeb Jamali described the meeting as a constructive step towards cooperation between two key institutions.

He acknowledged challenges faced by builders and developers and supported the proposal for a joint coordination committee to address issues through consultation. Mr. Jamali said the judiciary was facing a rising caseload, underscoring the need to expand judicial capacity to ensure faster disposal of cases, particularly property disputes. Referring to the Gulshan-e-Sharaf Faridi Housing Project, launched in 1993, he said development constraints had affected parts of the scheme and invited ABAD members to participate in its future development.

He also stressed the importance of creating opportunities for young lawyers and strengthening engagement between the legal and construction sectors. Mr. Jamali presented several proposals to enhance cooperation, including coordination with the Sindh Building Control Authority (SBCA) on its online portal, structured retainership opportunities for lawyers, and improved facilitation for legal professionals in real estate projects.

He also proposed allocating a 10 percent share in builders' projects for lawyers on instalment-based payment plans, along with concessional booking and payment facilities, and continued institutional collaboration on matters of mutual interest. Concluding the meeting, ABAD Senior Vice Chairman Mr. Afzal Hameed said land grabbing and encroachment remained major concerns for the construction industry.

He urged the legal fraternity to support efforts to expedite litigation and strengthen enforcement mechanisms. Mr. Hameed said ABAD had already approached the government to establish dedicated judicial benches for land and encroachment disputes to improve case disposal and reduce delays.

DHA MULTAN

delegation visits ABAD House

Delegation of DHA Multan visits ABAD House to brief ABAD members on development prospects in DHA Multan

A delegation from the Defence Housing Authority (DHA) Multan visited ABAD House on April 20, 2026, to brief members on ongoing development in DHA Multan and explore opportunities for investment, joint ventures and collaboration in the real estate sector. The ABAD side was represented by Chairman Muhammad Hassan Bakshi, accompanied by Vice Chairman Tariq Aziz, Chairman (SR) Ahmed Owais Thanvi, and other members.

The DHA Multan delegation was headed by Brig. Kashif Naeem Khan Burki (ADHA/Project Director), along with Col. Muhammad Naveed Khaliq (Director Commercial & Joint Venture), Khuwaja Muzaffar Mehmood (Deputy Director Commercial & Joint Venture), Nasir Ahmed Khan (Director Marketing), and Major Zubair Nasir (Officer Incharge Karachi Sub Office). At the outset of the meeting, Mr. Bakshi noted that ABAD includes leading figures from Pakistan's business and construction sectors, with members also active internationally in markets such as Dubai and Saudi Arabia.

He stressed the importance of retaining capital within Pakistan by encouraging local investment, employment generation, and improved business conditions. He also highlighted challenges such as weak institutional performance and lengthy litigation processes, noting that court cases often take over two decades to resolve. He called for urgent judicial and structural reforms to improve the investment climate.

Brig. Kashif Naeem Khan Burki briefed the participants on DHA Multan's progress, stating that the project has seen significant development as of April 2026.

He said the DHA Multan region has an estimated population of around 5 million, while the broader surrounding area covers eight districts with nearly 28 million people, most of whom depend on Multan as a central hub.

He informed that out of 28 sectors, 14 have already been developed. However, he pointed out a key gap in large-scale social infrastructure, particularly the absence of a major shopping mall and a large hospital, and expressed interest in ABAD taking up such projects.

Chairman Mr. Bakshi asked whether similar large developments existed outside DHA Multan, to which members responded in the negative. It was noted that real estate activity in Multan strengthens once visible development begins, and investors typically enter with 15-20% down payments, completing construction within three to four years.

A proposal was made suggesting ABAD consider acquiring 15-30% of available inventory for joint development. Mr. Bakshi compared DHA Multan's scale with Karachi, noting DHA constitutes a significant portion of the city's development landscape. He also inquired about construction trends, with members confirming that vertical development such as ground-plus-three or ground-plus-four structures is still limited in Multan. The price of a 120-square-yard plot was shared at approximately PKR 2.5 million.

Mr. Tariq Aziz asked about potential allocation for collaboration, to which Brig. Kashif responded that around 100-200 plots could be made available. He added that occupancy in the golf area stands at around 40-45%, and that 150 houses have already been constructed and are nearly sold out, with plans for an additional 250 units. It was shared that DHA Multan is a fully gated and secure community, with strong buyer interest from affluent local residents and overseas Pakistanis, particularly from the Middle East. Members also confirmed that major brands are already operating within the project, enhancing its commercial value.

On regulatory matters, Brig. Kashif explained that DHA itself strictly oversees building approvals in line with bylaws. He added that pricing varies by location, and there are currently no restrictions on building height or floors in certain areas.

Mr. Bakshi proposed a joint venture model where ABAD could handle development while DHA manages sales. Brig. Kashif agreed that such collaboration is feasible, while another official suggested that a detailed feasibility plan and plot list be shared for further evaluation.

Mr. Tariq Aziz further proposed that ABAD should be allowed to name any jointly developed scheme, to which DHA representatives agreed, provided “DHA Multan” remains part of the final name.

It was also noted that gas supply is expected to be available in certain sectors soon. Mr. Bakshi suggested that 3-4 JV models be prepared ahead of ABAD's planned visit to Multan in May and emphasized the need to expedite construction timelines from three to four years to around one year for ABAD members.

He also requested DHA Multan to assign a dedicated focal person at the brigadier level for continuous coordination with ABAD to address operational issues. The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks, followed by an exchange of mementos and shields between both delegations.

NUTECH delegation meets ABAD to discuss INDUSTRY-ACADEMIA cooperation plan

Delegation from the NUTECH-IST Industry Support Consortium visited ABAD House to strengthen collaboration between academia and industry

A delegation from the National University of Technology (NUTECH) and the Institute of Space Technology (IST) visited ABAD House on April 20, 2026, to introduce the NUTECHIST Industry Support Consortium, a joint initiative aimed at resolving industrial challenges through structured academiaindustry collaboration. The ABAD side was represented by Chairman Mr. Hassan Bakshi and included Vice Chairman Mr. Tariq Aziz, Sub-Region Chairman Mr. Owais Thanvi, Convener Vocational Training Mr. Suleman Salim, and other members. The visiting side comprised senior officials from NUTECH and IST, including Brig. Syed Adnan Qasim (Retd), Brig. Atif Ali, Hashaam Tariq, Syed Intisar Jafri, Salman Noor Siddiqui, and Shahmeer Kausar.

At the outset, the visiting team recalled prior engagements with Karachi's industrial sector and explained that the Consortium, formalised through an MoU between NUTECH and IST in February 2026, is designed to provide end-to-end, research-based solutions to industry problems, particularly in construction and allied sectors. Officials outlined a structured model beginning with identification of industry issues, followed by feasibility studies, timelines, stakeholder monitoring, prototype development, testing, and commercialisation. The framework includes a money-back assurance mechanism to strengthen industry confidence.

Chairman Mr. Bakshi raised concerns over around 400 dangerous and vulnerable buildings in Karachi and suggested modern structural assessments before demolition. The delegation confirmed that drone-based structural health monitoring can assess whether buildings require repair, rehabilitation, or demolition. They also highlighted expertise in smart infrastructure and industrial cybersecurity. A pilot project was proposed involving the assessment of a single building, which could later be expanded citywide. ABAD members welcomed the idea as a practical starting point.

The issue of rising construction costsestimated at Rs7,000 to Rs8,000 per square footwas also discussed. The delegation said cost optimisation through improved materials, efficiency, automation, and technology is a core objective of the Consortium.

Concerns were raised about limited access to training due to distance barriers. NUTECH officials said they are expanding training access through partnerships and new centres, including a proposed facility in Korangi.

Chairman Bakshi noted ABAD's ongoing collaboration with NAVTTC, under which 500 students have been trained, and expressed interest in integrating similar programmes under the Consortium.

The delegation welcomed broader inclusion of industry and training institutions. The meeting concluded with both sides agreeing to strengthen collaboration.

South African Trade delegation visits ABAD House to discuss Investment Opportunities

South African Trade delegation visits ABAD House to Explore Investment Opportunities and Strengthen Bilateral Collaboration

A trade delegation from the South African Development Community (SADC) visited ABAD House on April 18, 2026, to discuss prospects for enhancing trade and investment cooperation with Pakistan. SADC is a regional intergovernmental organization comprising 16 Southern African countries, aimed at promoting economic integration, sustainable development, and regional collaboration across member states.

The visit was organised under the PakistanSADC Chamber Trade Foundation as part of efforts to strengthen economic linkages between Pakistan and African markets through dialogue, conferences, and business networking initiatives.

The ABAD side was represented by Chairman Muhammad Hassan Bakshi, Vice Chairman Mr. Tariq Aziz, Senior Chairman Mr. Owais Thanvi, along with Dr. Hani, Abdul Karim Adhia, and Mr. Affan Qureshi.

The visiting delegation was led by Ms. Noor Afshan Baloch (President Balochistan and Central Women Wing), Mr. Syed Moiz (Senior Vice President Central), and included several members from diverse business and professional backgrounds.

At the outset of the meeting, Ms. Baloch noted that Africa presents significant untapped opportunities for Pakistan, particularly in sectors such as textiles, pharmaceuticals, and allied industries, and stressed the importance of aligning these sectors to expand Pakistan's economic footprint.

The delegation delivered a detailed presentation on trade and investment opportunities in the SADC region, highlighting that while countries like India have already established a strong presence in African markets, Pakistan has yet to fully capitalise on similar opportunities. They emphasised that the current global environment presents a favourable window for Pakistan to expand its engagement. Discussions also focused on the upcoming 2nd Pakistan Africa Trade Summit, with emphasis on cross-sector collaboration.

The delegation said the objective of the visit was to engage key stakeholders and build momentum for the event. Participants also discussed operational challenges such as difficulties in Letters of Credit (LCs), which were described as a major constraint affecting trade flows. The delegation reaffirmed its commitment to facilitating both ABAD members and the wider Pakistani business community in South Africa.

Concerns were raised regarding the need for practical outcomes rather than exploratory dialogue alone. Members highlighted the importance of clarity on investment facilitation, legal frameworks, taxation, and ease of doing business in African markets. In response, the delegation stated that South Africa offers a relatively stable, business-friendly environment with strong infrastructure and financial systems. It was also noted that the country serves as a gateway to the wider SADC region, including Zimbabwe, Botswana, Mozambique, Namibia, and others, and is part of key economic blocs such as SADC and BRICS.

Members also pointed out that China and India already have a strong presence in Africa, while Pakistan's representation remains limited. The delegation acknowledged this gap and emphasised the need to build stronger institutional and business linkages.

ABAD representatives stressed the importance of legal safeguards, land security, regulatory clarity, and protection against issues such as documentation disputes or unlawful practices, stating that investment decisions require full confidence in the operating environment.

Chairman Muhammad Hassan Bakshi, who joined later in the meeting, sought clarity on whether the initiative was focused on attracting foreign investment into Pakistan or encouraging outbound investment. He was informed that the objective is bilateral investment promotion. However, he emphasised that, at this stage, priority should remain on attracting investment into Pakistan and developing domestic projects with foreign participation.

He also asked for details regarding currency stability, historical exchange trends, and the overall business environment in South Africa. Mr. Moiz responded that the South African economy has remained relatively stable, with the rand showing historical fluctuations but operating within an established financial system.

Discussions also touched upon ongoing and proposed projects, including collaborations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, educational institutions, and healthcare-related developments in Karachi. The delegation highlighted that several initiatives are in early stages of development.

Chairman Bakshi noted that a phased and cautious approach would be necessary and suggested prioritising domestic investment opportunities before expanding outward. He also emphasised the potential of Pakistan's construction and real estate sector for international collaboration, particularly in tourism-linked development and infrastructure growth.

It was agreed that ABAD would further evaluate the proposals and remain engaged with the delegation on upcoming initiatives. The visiting side extended invitations to ABAD leadership for the upcoming conference scheduled at Karachi Gymkhana on May 13, 2026, and briefed participants on broader summit plans.

The meeting concluded with a mutual commitment to strengthening trade relations, enhancing business linkages, and exploring practical avenues for sustainable investment cooperation between Pakistan and African markets, followed by a formal vote of thanks.

UNITED BUSINESS GROUP
delegation visits ABAD House to discuss economic outlook and industry challenges

Delegation of UBG meet ABAD office bearers and members during their visit at ABAD House

A delegation of prominent business leaders visited ABAD House in Karachi on Wednesday, May 13, 2026, for discussions on the economic outlook, policy reforms, and challenges facing the construction and wider business sectors, with an emphasis on strengthening coordination between key trade bodies.

The delegation was led by United Business Group (UBG) Patron-in-Chief and KATI leader Mr. S. M. Tanveer, accompanied by United Business Group Chairman Mr. Khalid Tawab and former ABAD Chairman and United Business Group Secretary General Mr. Muhammad Hanif Gohar.

They were received by a senior ABAD delegation headed by Chairman Mr. Hassan Bakshi, along with Senior Vice Chairman Mr. Afzal Hameed, Vice Chairman Mr. Tariq Aziz, Chairman (SR) Mr. Owais Thanvi, and other members. In his remarks, Chairman ABAD Mr. Hassan Bakshi thanked the United Business Group delegation and described Mr. S. M. Tanveer as a seasoned business leader with long-standing engagement in the business community. He also acknowledged the contributions of his family to the trade and construction sectors, noting their leadership roles in industry bodies. Mr. Bakshi said ABAD's progress reflected sustained efforts by its leadership and members. He highlighted recent policy steps, including the withdrawal of the 7E tax and the lifting of the commercialization ban, calling them positive developments for the construction sector. He urged consistent, consultative and business-friendly policies.

He stressed that Karachi remained Pakistan's economic engine and said national stability was closely linked to the city's performance. He called for stronger engagement between policymakers and the business community to address structural industry challenges.

He also noted ABAD's transparent electoral system and said its representatives should have greater participation in federation-level decision-making. He appreciated Mr. Shahid Kahiri for his long administrative services to the association.

Address by Mr. S. M. Tanveer

During his address, Mr. S. M. Tanveer thanked Chairman ABAD Mr. Hassan Bakshi and Mr. Muhammad Hanif Gohar for hosting the meeting. He also acknowledged the presence of United Business Group President Mr. Zubair Tufail, Korangi Association of Trade and Industry President Mr. Ikram, and other business leaders. Mr. Tanveer stressed the need to promote young leadership, saying Pakistan's economic future depended on empowering the younger generation. Referring to reports about Mr. Mohsin Sheikhani's mother's illness, he offered prayers for her recovery.

On the economic situation, he said nearly 80 industries were either shutting down or operating at minimal levels due to high taxation, regulatory complexity and policy inconsistency. He said these pressures had significantly reduced industrial activity. He added that high interest rates over the past two years had shifted capital toward the banking sector, which he said discouraged productive investment. On the construction sector, he said the industry was under strain but assured full support from the United Business Group for ABAD's efforts.

He praised ABAD's advocacy role, including its contribution to the withdrawal of the 7E tax and abolition of Federal Excise Duty, adding that further relief measures were being pursued. He welcomed government housing initiatives, saying they could help revive the sector, though he noted that federal-level support was still awaited despite provincial allocations. Referring to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, he said discussions were ongoing and development activity was progressing. Expressing optimism, Mr. Tanveer said he expected economic conditions to improve after the upcoming federal budget.

He added that engagement between ABAD leadership and state officials had raised hopes of greater focus on Karachi's economic issues.

He said industries expected meaningful relief in the budget and reiterated his commitment to supporting the business community. Outlining future planning, he said FPCCI and United Business Group were developing a five-year economic roadmap aimed at creating around 20 million jobs in Pakistan, requiring about USD 30 billion in investment.

He said consultations were ongoing with stakeholders for long-term reform and investment planning.

Concluding his remarks, he said the purpose of such engagements was to keep members informed about ongoing initiatives and the broader economic vision.

Chairman ABAD Mr. Hassan Bakshi thanked Mr. S. M. Tanveer for his visit and remarks. As a gesture of appreciation, he presented him with a bouquet and commemorative shield. The meeting concluded with a formal vote of thanks.

ABAD & K-Electric strengthen collaboration to Streamline New Connection process for Builders

ABAD hosted a session with K-Electric teams to address technical and procedural challenges in obtaining new connections

The Association of Builders and Developers of Pakistan (ABAD) has deepened its collaboration with K-Electric to address the challenges faced by builders and developers in obtaining new electricity connections and resolving distribution-related issues. The initiative aims to create a more transparent, efficient, and investor-friendly system for Karachi's construction and housing sector.

A key milestone was a meeting between ABAD office bearers and K-Electric CEO Mr. Moonis Alvi, where concerns over delays in new connections, technical issues, distribution problems, and load shedding were discussed. K-Electric assured full cooperation and agreed to establish a dedicated mechanism for ABAD member complaints.

Following this, K-Electric formed a committee and directed relevant departments to hold regular meetings at ABAD House. As part of this arrangement, the utility's New Connection and Distribution Teams visit ABAD House every Tuesday on an alternating basis to review pending cases, receive new complaints, and provide updates on ongoing applications.

The ABAD K-Electric Subcommittee, under the convenership of Engr. Danish Bin Rauf, actively coordinates with K-Electric to facilitate members and ensure timely resolution of issues related to connections, distribution networks, and load shedding. The meetings are attended by ABAD office bearers, Convener Engr. Danish Bin Rauf, and K-Electric Consultant Engr. Idrees, who work closely with relevant departments to improve coordination and streamline processes.

This continued collaboration reflects the shared commitment of ABAD and K-Electric to support the construction industry by reducing delays, improving service delivery, and facilitating smooth execution of development projects across Karachi.

As part of ongoing efforts to improve coordination between the construction industry and utility providers, ABAD organized a comprehensive technical meeting with K-Electric's Scheme Design, Commercial Services, and Corporate Customer Experience teams on June 9, 2026, at ABAD House.

The session addressed technical and procedural challenges in obtaining new electricity connections while promoting a more efficient and transparent approval process.

ABAD members received detailed guidance on Switch Room requirements, Design Book standards, New Connection (NC) case processing, and design deviations. The initiative sought to enhance understanding of technical requirements, improve communication, and minimize project approval and implementation delays.


The K-Electric Sub-Committee of ABAD holds weekly meetings with K-Electric officials.

The session was chaired by ABAD Chairman Mr. M. Hassan Bakshi and attended by Senior Vice Chairman Mr. Afzal Hameed, Vice Chairman Mr. Tariq Aziz, Chairman (SR) Mr. Owais Thanvi, Subcommittee Convener Engr. Danish Bin Rauf, and a large number of ABAD members. Representing K-Electric were Mr. Abubakar Ismail (Director), Mr. Farukh Zaman, Mr. Sameer Ul Haq Siddiqui (GM), Mr. Shahnawaz Ismail, Mr. Nasir Abdul Qader (DGM), and Mr. Adeel Ahmed Siddiqui.

During the presentation, K-Electric officials outlined key factors delaying New Connection applications: non-compliance with substation and switch room location standards, incomplete or partially constructed projects, Design Book deficiencies, inaccurate load assessments, missing technical documentation, and Point of Supply (POS) planning issues in multi-storey and commercial developments. They emphasized that such deficiencies often cause repeated revisions and significantly prolong approvals.

Complaints Status of Load Shedding & New Connection

Total Number of Meetings	33
Total Complaints Received	55
Total Complaints Resolved	35
Complaints In Progress	20


A delegation from K Electric visited ABAD House to thank and appreciate ABAD's office bearers efforts for their biweekly meetings, which have been instrumental in resolving issues

The session concluded with an interactive Q&A, during which ABAD members raised practical concerns and sought clarification on technical and regulatory matters. ABAD's Technical Advisor urged K-Electric to review current load assessment criteria, noting that rising tariffs and greater use of energy-efficient technologies have considerably reduced consumption patterns.

He also recommended revisiting city load threshold criteria in line with the revised NEPRA Consumer Service Manual, including categorizing Karachi into at least two zones. Senior Vice Chairman Mr. Afzal Hameed appreciated K-Electric's regular visits to ABAD House, noting these engagements have played an important role in resolving pending cases and removing procedural bottlenecks.

Reaffirming their shared commitment, both ABAD and K-Electric pledged to continue streamlining processes, enhancing customer facilitation, and fostering a transparent, efficient, and investor-friendly environment for Karachi's future development projects.

Meeting on
Sindh Building Control Authority (SBCA) Bylaws

ABAD Office Bearers hold a meeting to discuss amendments in the Mr. SBCA by-laws

A meeting was held at the Association of Builders and Developers of Pakistan (ABAD) House on April 13, 2026, to discuss recent amendments to the Sindh Building Control Authority (SBCA) bylaws, focusing on additional parking requirements in public sale projects and other regulatory changes impacting the construction sector.

The meeting was chaired by ABAD Chairman Mr. Hassan Bakshi and attended by Senior Vice Chairman. Syed Afzal Hameed, Vice Chairman. Tariq Aziz, Chairman (SR) Ahmed Owais Thanvi, and other senior members. SBCA Sub-Committee Convener. Mustafa Sheikhani informed participants that SBCA had abolished the 65-degree angle provision and increased certain fees by 45 percent. He noted that new bifurcation measures had been introduced without adequate consultation with stakeholders, raising concerns over transparency and procedural clarity.

Chairman ABAD Mr. Bakshi said a committee, including. Asif Sumsum, Sohail Naviwala and others, had been formed to review the amendments and engage SBCA. ABAD leadership unanimously opposed the amendments in their current form, stressing that regulatory changes must be made only after stakeholder consultation. Members expressed disappointment that SBCA issued amendments unilaterally, despite earlier discussions being limited mainly to fire safety issues.

Mr. Bakshi said ABAD would invite relevant authorities for dialogue to resolve issues and address administrative concerns. He added that even the minister had agreed that unilateral regulatory actions should be avoided. Mr. Anwar OK criticized the proposed 41 percent increase in parking requirements, calling it impractical, especially for low-cost housing projects.

He also opposed the separation of public and visitor parking categories, terming it unworkable on ground. The Chairman urged members to ensure compliance on their own side and avoid violations of approved plans, including the earlier 65-degree angle provision. He stressed strict adherence to regulations and greater transparency in construction practices.

He expressed hope that upcoming regularization policies would help address longstanding sector issues and said builders should not fear bureaucratic pressure if compliant. Mr. Bakshi added that while SBCA suggested ABAD submit alternative proposals, the association's stance remained that the amendments should first be withdrawn and then jointly reviewed.

The meeting concluded with members demanding that no future notifications be issued without ABAD's consultation. Mr. Sheikhani urged members to thoroughly review the amendments so ABAD could prepare a unified response.

ABAD attends meeting on long-term solution for Hazardous Buildings

ABAD attends high-level meeting on long-term solution for hazardous buildings in Sindh.

A high-level meeting was held at the Commissioner Office Karachi under the chairmanship of Sindh Minister for Local Government, Syed Nasir Hussain Shah, to develop a long-term strategy for addressing the issue of hazardous and dilapidated buildings across Sindh. The meeting brought together senior government officials and stakeholders to chart a coordinated way forward, focusing on public safety, regulatory reform, and sustainable urban redevelopment.

The meeting was also attended by ABAD Chairman Mohammed Hassan Bakshi, Senior Vice Chairman Syed Afzal Hameed, the Commissioner Karachi, the Director General of the Sindh Building Control Authority (SBCA), deputy commissioners, and other senior officials.

The Minister stressed that protecting human lives and property remains the government's foremost responsibility. He called for a clear, practical, and transparent legal framework to deal with the growing risk posed by unsafe structures in urban areas. He also highlighted ongoing efforts to modernize the system through digitalization, aimed at making building approvals, inspections, and enforcement more efficient and accountable.

Representing the builders' community, ABAD Chairman Mr. M. Hassan Bakshi presented a revised draft amendment bill along with recommendations prepared by the association. The proposal focused on a workable framework for rebuilding and rehabilitating dangerous structures while balancing the rights and concerns of residents, property owners, and developers. The Minister directed the DG SBCA to share the draft with all committee members so their input could be incorporated before the next meeting.

The committee also reviewed progress on demolition work against identified dangerous buildings. Officials informed the meeting that several unsafe structures had already been brought down, while remaining cases were being actively pursued. The participants also discussed involving private contractors and technical experts to ensure demolition work is carried out more quickly, safely, and professionally.

ABAD further suggested identifying and consolidating mergeable plots to support vertical redevelopment projects, emphasizing the need for clear legislation to avoid disputes and enable smooth implementation in the future.

In his concluding remarks, the Minister assured all stakeholders of full government support and reiterated that decisions would be taken through consultation and consensus.

ABAD, SSGC discuss streamlining new gas connection process

ABAD delegation meets senior SSGC officials to discuss measures for streamlining the New Gas Connections process

The Association of Builders and Developers of Pakistan (ABAD) held a meeting with senior officials of Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) at the SSGC Head Office on April 7, 2026 to discuss policy matters, procedural bottlenecks, and technical challenges associated with obtaining new gas connections for residential and commercial projects.

The ABAD delegation was led by Chairman M. Hassan Bakshi and included Vice Chairman Tariq Aziz, Chairman Southern Region Ahmed Owais Thanvi, Former Chairman Altaf Tai, Convener SSGC Sub-Committee Nusrat Mirza Chughtai, and other members of ABAD. The SSGC team comprised senior officials Kashif Siddiq, Syed Fasihuddin, Muhammad Riaz, and Pervez Ahmed.

Opening the discussion, Mr. Nusrat Mirza Chughtai, Convener of the ABAD SSGC Sub-Committee, outlined the objectives of the meeting and requested the SSGC team to provide a comprehensive briefing on policies governing new gas connections, application procedures for builders' projects, and the issues affecting the timely processing of cases. ABAD Chairman Mr. Hassan Bakshi highlighted that delays in obtaining new gas connections continue to pose significant challenges for the construction sector.

He noted that such delays not only disrupt project completion schedules but also create inconvenience for buyers and investors awaiting possession of their properties.

Mr. Bakshi proposed that SSGC organize a dedicated technical and policy briefing session for ABAD members at ABAD House. The session would enable builders to better understand regulatory requirements, documentation procedures, and recent policy updates while providing an opportunity to discuss their concerns directly with SSGC officials. The proposal was welcomed by the SSGC team, and both sides agreed to hold the session at ABAD House on April 15, 2026.

During the meeting, SSGC officials explained that new gas connection applications, including RLNG connections, are processed through Customer Facilitation Centers upon submission of complete documentation.

While the service line installation is generally completed within 45 days after approval, the overall process under the revised 2026 policy framework is expected to take three to six months, subject to technical feasibility and fulfillment of all administrative requirements.

A major issue raised by ABAD concerned the continued registration of utility connections in the builder's name even after the sale and transfer of residential or commercial units. Mr. Bakshi explained that when occupants default on gas bills or violate regulations, the liability often remains attached to the builder, resulting in developers being unfairly classified as defaulters despite having transferred ownership and possession of the property.

Supporting the concerns raised by ABAD, Mr. Mustafa Shaikhani pointed out that unless the actual occupants of a property are formally registered with SSGC, the legal and financial responsibility for the utility connection continues to rest with the original owner or developer.

He emphasized that the existing policy requires careful review so that liability is assigned to the actual consumer rather than the builder, thereby protecting developers from unnecessary financial obligations and legal complications after the transfer of ownership.

The discussion also focused on the lengthy verification process for new gas connections. Nusrat Mirza Chughtai noted that ownership verification is already carried out by several authorities, including the Sindh Building Control Authority (SBCA), yet SSGC verification often causes delays. He proposed a defined verification timeline of 15 days to one month to expedite approvals. SSGC representatives acknowledged that incomplete or fraudulent documentation can slow the process.

Mr. Bakshi suggested provisional certification for ABAD members' projects and the introduction of an online portal for document submission and verification to enhance transparency and efficiency. SSGC welcomed these proposals and requested ABAD to submit a formal recommendation for review by its legal department. The Chairman further proposed a joint meeting between the legal teams of ABAD and SSGC to develop a mutually acceptable framework.

The meeting concluded with a review of pending member cases and an assurance from SSGC that new connections would be processed according to policy, while technical constraints such as low gas pressure and pipeline capacity would be addressed where necessary.

In response to ABAD's concerns, SSGC officials clarified that an existing mechanism allows utility connections to be transferred to individual owners. Builders can initiate the process by submitting a complete list of occupants along with the required supporting documents to the Sales Department, after which the cases are processed in accordance with the prescribed procedures.

Pakistan Britain Business Council
delegation visits ABAD House

Pakistan Britain Business Council (PBBC) delegation visited ABAD House to discuss investment opportunities and strategic collaboration in the real estate sector.

A delegation from the Pakistan Britain Business Council visited ABAD House on Saturday, 9 May, 2026, and held a meeting with the Chairman of the Association of Builders and Developers of Pakistan (ABAD), Mr. Hassan Bakshi.

The delegation was led by Mr. Adeel Khan, Director of Trade & Investment (UK) at the Pakistan Britain Business Council. He was accompanied by Mr. Barry John Harwood, Chief Executive Officer of Harwood Partnerz and a corporate trainer.

From ABAD, the meeting was attended by Chairman Southern Region Mr. Owais Thanvi and Regional Committee member Mr. Abdul Ghaffar, alongside Chairman ABAD Mr. Hassan Bakshi, who received the delegation and led the engagement.

The meeting focused on exploring avenues to strengthen cooperation between relevant stakeholders in the construction and real estate sectors. Both sides discussed potential opportunities for joint ventures and increased collaboration aimed at supporting long-term sectoral growth.

Participants also exchanged views on improving engagement between industry representatives and international partners, with an emphasis on facilitating knowledge sharing and investment facilitation. The discussion highlighted the importance of structured partnerships in promoting sustainable development within the housing and construction ecosystem.

The delegation and ABAD leadership also discussed broader trends affecting the real estate sector, including the need for enhanced coordination between domestic institutions and international business networks. Opportunities for expanding business linkages between Pakistan and the United Kingdom were also considered within the context of growing trade and investment relations.

It was noted during the meeting that greater collaboration between industry bodies and international stakeholders could contribute to improved project development, capacity building, and innovation in construction practices.

The meeting concluded with mutual interest in maintaining ongoing dialogue and exploring practical mechanisms for future cooperation. Both sides expressed commitment to continuing engagement in order to identify areas of shared value and promote sustainable growth in the real estate sector.

Complaint Sub-Committee

Complaint subcommittee meeting under the leadership of Chairman ABAD Mr. Hassan Bakshi, Chairman (SR) Mr. Owais Thanvi and Co-Convener Mr. Ayoob.

The Complaint Sub-Committee of ABAD continues to play a vital role in safeguarding trust within the real estate sector by ensuring fair and transparent resolution of grievances against members. Acting as a bridge between builders and allottees, the committee promotes constructive dialogue and practical solutions, reinforcing confidence across the industry.

Led by Convener Mr. M. Anwar Gagai, the sub-committee has demonstrated consistent progress in resolving disputes while fostering stronger relationships between stakeholders. Its commitment to ethical practices and professional integrity remains central to its operations, enabling amicable settlements and minimizing prolonged conflicts.

During the review period, the sub-committee received **48** new complaints, out of which **19** were successfully resolved, while **01** remain under process or litigation. In addition, **28** previously pending cases were cleared, reflecting the committee's efficiency and proactive approach. The steady resolution rate underscores ABAD's dedication to accountability and timely redressal mechanisms.

Beyond dispute resolution, the committee continues to strengthen its structured case management system, ensuring that each complaint is tracked, reviewed, and addressed with due diligence. Its focus on mediation, transparency, and timely action has significantly contributed to enhancing trust between builders and allottees.

The success of the Complaint Sub-Committee is further supported by the dedicated efforts of the Secretariat, whose coordination ensures smooth handling of cases. Their behind-the-scenes contribution remains integral to the committee's effectiveness.

As ABAD moves forward, the Association remains committed to empowering the Complaint Sub-Committee to uphold ethical standards and maintain a balanced, trustworthy relationship between all stakeholdersan essential foundation for a resilient and responsible real estate sector.

Progress of Complaint Sub-Committee

Reporting Period: March 2026 - June 2026

Total Complaints Received	48
Resolved	19
In-Process	01
Pending complaints Resolved	28

Also resolved 12 more complaints that were pending prior to March 1, 2026

New Membership & Renewal Sub-Committee

A glimpse of New membership subcommittee meeting under the convenership of Mr. Ayoob and Co-Convener Mr. Nadeem Jeewa & Mr. Moiz Saqib.

The New Membership and Renewal Sub-Committee of the Association of Builders and Developers of Pakistan (ABAD) plays a vital role in advancing the Association's mission and strategic objectives. Recognized as one of ABAD's most active and impactful committees, it is instrumental in strengthening, expanding, and diversifying the organization's membership base.

Under the convenership of Mr. Muhammad Ayoob, the sub-committee is committed to the thorough evaluation and approval of new membership applications. Its diligent efforts ensure that ABAD continues to grow by welcoming credible, competent, and qualified professionals from across the construction and development sector.

In recent months, ABAD has witnessed a steady influx of applications from proprietorships, partnerships, and private limited companies. Each submission is carefully scrutinized in strict accordance with the Association's Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

Following a comprehensive review of all required documentation, the sub-committee presents its recommendations for final approval at the monthly joint meetings of the Executive Committee (EC) and Regional Committees (RC) (South Region/North Region).

New Membership Approvals
(March 2026 - June 2026)

No. of cases approved	**42**

Between March - June 2026, the sub-committee reviewed a total of **42** new membership applications. After meticulous verification, ratification, and detailed examination of all relevant documents, including property records, all **42** applications were successfully recommended and subsequently approved by ABAD's Executive Committee.

Notably, there were no pending or rejected cases due to incomplete documentation, reflecting the sub-committee's efficiency, diligence, and commitment to transparency.

The sub-committee extends its sincere appreciation to ABAD's office-bearers for entrusting it with this important responsibility. It also acknowledges the invaluable support of the Secretariat team, whose dedication and professionalism have significantly contributed to the committee's continued success.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Dubai Launches Robot-Built Villa Initiative

Dubai Municipality has announced an international challenge to construct the world's first fully robot-built residential villa, Gulf Today reported. The project aims to promote innovation, sustainability, and advanced construction technologies while strengthening Dubai's position as a global smart-city hub. Officials stated that the initiative will involve leading robotics and AI companies from around the world.

Construction executives downplay Iran war cost impact

Major U.S. builders said during recent earnings calls that rising fuel prices caused by the Iran war had pushed up some input costs, but that they had sufficient hedging and procurement strategies to manage the impact. Most executives said they remained confident about project pipelines, particularly in the data centre and energy infrastructure sectors.

18 startups selected to test AI for New York transit

The Transit Tech Lab announced that 18 companies had been chosen from 150 applicants to conduct proof-of-concept trials across five New York Metropolitan Area transit agencies, including the MTA and NJ Transit. Over half are developing AI and autonomous technologies. Proposals include a railcar defect detection system, an AI procurement tool and a trackside imaging platform.

US startup launches largest robot data factory

Boston-based Tutor Intelligence launched Data Factory 1 in Watertown, Massachusetts housing 100 semi-humanoid robots across a 35,000-square-foot facility. The robots generate roughly 10,000 hours of real-world training data weekly. The MIT spinout, which raised $34m in Series A funding, describes the facility as the largest of its kind in the United States.

US Army Corps awards $2bn military resilience contract

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers awarded a 10-year, $2 billion multiple-award contract on 17 April to 14 firms for energy resilience and infrastructure projects at military installations nationwide. Awardees include Hensel Phelps, Tutor Perini, Parsons Government Services and Honeywell International. The contract covers design-build and design-bid-build services through April 2026.

ABAD Welcomes
New Members

abad
Association of Builders And Developers of Pakistan

Type	Joining Date	Mem No.	Name
FM	28 Mar 2026	3067	CAREWELL Builders & Developers (Pvt.) Ltd.
FM	28 Mar 2026	3068	OMEGA BRANDS (Pvt.) Ltd.
AM	28 Mar 2026	3069	DAAMIN ESTATE & Builders
FM	28 Mar 2026	3070	OVATION PARTNERS
FM	28 Mar 2026	3071	SARIM & CO.
FM	28 Mar 2026	3072	VOGUE Builders & Developers
FM	28 Mar 2026	3073	BESTONE Builders & Developers (Pvt.) Ltd.
FM	28 Mar 2026	3074	MODERN Alpha residency
AM	28 Mar 2026	3075	ELEVATE Constructions
FM	28 Mar 2026	3076	MINJRA Builders & Developers
FM	28 Mar 2026	3077	DR. ZIAUDDIN HOLDINGS
FM	28 Mar 2026	3078	ZM Associates
FM	28 Mar 2026	3079	ASHAAB Builders & Developers
FM	28 Mar 2026	3080	BUDDY Constructions
FM	28 Mar 2026	3081	JIWANI Properties
FM	28 Mar 2026	3082	ATOM Builders & Developers (Pvt.) Ltd.
FM	28 Mar 2026	3083	MOULVI Builders & Developers (Pvt.) Ltd.
FM	28 Mar 2026	3084	MAISON Builders & Developers
AM	28 Mar 2026	3085	S.A.B Builders & Developers
AM	28 Mar 2026	3086	IMD Builders & Developers
FM	09 Jun 2026	3087	ROOTS Builders & Developers

ABAD Welcomes

New Members

Association of Builders And Developers of Pakistan

Type	Joining Date	Mem No.	Name
AM	09 Jun 2026	3088	HYCON Builders & Developers
AM	09 Jun 2026	3089	BGM Builders
FM	09 Jun 2026	3090	RSMA Enterprises Pvt. Ltd.
FM	09 Jun 2026	3091	ROOMI ZAMAN Builders & Developers
FM	09 Jun 2026	3092	ALLAH RAKHA Builders
FM	09 Jun 2026	3093	M & K Builders & Developers
FM	09 Jun 2026	3094	MOONLIGHT Associates
FM	09 Jun 2026	3095	CENTRIC GAZDAR Builders & Developers
FM	09 Jun 2026	3096	AIM 168 Builders & Developers
FM	09 Jun 2026	3097	BRIGHTLINE Associates
AM	09 Jun 2026	3098	TG Properties
AM	09 Jun 2026	3099	BA Builders & Developers
FM	09 Jun 2026	3100	USTAAD G Builders
FM	09 Jun 2026	3101	ZABEEL Builders & Developers Pvt. Ltd.
AM	09 Jun 2026	3102	AAV Builders & Developers
FM	09 Jun 2026	3103	NEXGEN Builders & Developers
FM	09 Jun 2026	3104	FATTANI Builders & Developers
FM	09 Jun 2026	3105	F.A UNITY Builders & Developers
FM	09 Jun 2026	3106	AL-MAHA Builders & Developers
AM	09 Jun 2026	3107	SINDH HIGH COURT Bar Association Honorary Membership
FM	09 Jun 2026	3108	NOOR Constructor & Developers

MEDIA
COVERAGE

Chairman ABAD M. Hassan Bakshi expressed optimism about the budget in an interview with ***Dawn News***, saying Pakistan has strong growth potential.

Senior Vice Chairman ABAD Syed Afzal Hameed, speaking on ***Samaa News***, called for a long-term housing policy and a fair tax regime to attract investment and strengthen the real estate sector.

In a conversation with ***Ajj News***, ABAD Southern Region Chairman Owais Thanvi welcomed lifting of the commercial plot conversion ban, calling it a boost for construction and investment.

Mr. S. M. Nabeel, Chairman Northern Region of Association of Builders and Developers of Pakistan, speaking on ***Dunya News,*** said high property taxes are hurting real estate and urged cuts to revive investment, curb capital flight and boost jobs.

MEDIA
COVERAGE

Former ABAD Chairman Mohsin Shaikhani called for consistent housing policies, digitalization, and industry support to tackle Pakistan's housing shortage and promote affordable housing during a show on ***ARY News***.

Former ABAD Chairman Altaf Tai, speaking on ***C21 News***, said the government recognises builders and developers as a key industry and expects a pro-construction stance with relief for real estate.

Speaking on ***Ajj News***, Former ABAD Vice Chairman Abdul Karim Adhia welcomed the removal of commercialization restrictions, saying it would spur Karachi's real estate growth and attract investment.

Mr. Danish Bin Rauf, Former Chairman SR ABAD, told ***Ajj News*** that Pakistan's real estate sector is regaining confidence, with rising interest in major cities and potential of overseas investor incentives.

PRESS | COVERAGE

Pakistan **OBSERVER**

ABAD commends diplomatic efforts in ceasefire

STAFF REPORTER

Muhammad Hassan Bakhshi, Chairman of the Association of Builders and Developers (ABAD), has praised Pakistan's leadership for helping facilitate a ceasefire involving the United States, Israel, and Iran, calling it a "major achievement for global peace." Bakhshi extended congratulations to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, crediting Pakistan's mediation efforts for easing tensions between the countries.

He said the country's proactive diplomacy helped avert a broader global crisis and highlighted Pakistan's growing influence on the international stage. "The way Pakistan's leadership demonstrated wisdom and used its influence to reduce tensions between two major countries has enhanced the country's prestige worldwide," Bakhshi said, emphasizing that the development reflects positively on Pakistan's diplomatic approach.

He added that the restoration of peace would benefit not only regional stability but also economic activity, describing it as a "breath of fresh air" for markets.

According to him, improved security conditions could restore investor confidence and help accelerate trade and economic growth through more secure trade corridors.

Bakhshi further noted that Pakistan's diplomatic engagement signals a positive image globally and expressed hope that the current leadership would continue to play a constructive role in resolving regional and international conflicts.

He said Pakistan has demonstrated both strong defense capabilities and the potential to emerge as a global advocate for peace under the present leadership. He concluded that the country's role in fostering dialogue and stability could open new avenues for international cooperation and strengthen its position in global affairs.

Business Recorder, Karachi
Wednesday, May 13, 2026

FCC lifts ban on conversion of residential plots to commercial plots

TERENCE J SIGAMONY

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Constitutional Court has lifted the ban on the conversion of residential plots to commercial and recreational use in Karachi, granting significant relief to builders and developers.

A two-judge bench headed by Justice Aamer Farooq on Tuesday disposed of the case, setting aside a previous ruling that had prohibited the conversion of residential plots into commercial properties in the city.

The bench clarified that amenity plots, including parks, hospitals, schools, mosques, playgrounds, and graveyards, cannot be used for commercial or residential purposes.

During the hearing, Justice Aamer remarked that the Court would not interfere in the functioning of institutions such as the Sindh Building Control Authority (SCBA)."If any institution violates the law, the relevant forum or the High Court can be approached," said Justice Aamer.

He further said that the affected parties also have the right to file appeals against the High Court decisions. Justice Aamer also said that the Court's suo motu power no longer exists and emphasized that laws are already in place to address violations of building regulations.

The court expressed its expectation that town planning authorities will perform their duties with integrity and in good faith. By withdrawing the earlier restrictive decision, the Federal Constitutional Court has cleared the path for legal commercial activity while reiterating that this shift should not serve as an obstacle to legitimate regulatory oversight. The bench concluded that while the ban on category conversion is lifted for private plots, the protection of communal and public land remains a priority for the urban landscape.

Justice Arshad Hussain remarked that any official found violating the law would face legal action. "Courts cannot make laws; they can only ensure their implementation," Justice Aamer added.

A two-member bench of the Supreme Court in January 2019 had imposed a complete ban on conversion of residential and amenity plots into commercial spaces in Karachi and directed the authorities concerned, including cantonment boards, to review all such conversions allowed by them in the provincial capital.

THE NEWS
Friday, May 15, 2026

'Excessive taxation has crippled construction sector'

By our correspondent

'Excessive...

Continued from page 1

BUSINESS RECORDER
Karachi, Friday 1 May 2026, 13 Ziqaad 1447

ABAD welcomes PM's Apna Ghar Scheme

RECORDER REPORT

BUSINESS RECORDER
Karachi, Friday 10 April 2026, 21 Shawwal 1447

Lanjar informs business community

Operations against land mafias will be accelerated

RECORDER REPORT

PRESS | COVERAGE


The Financial Daily

20-April-2026

International

Gwadar Port: Shaping 21st century business & economics


THE DAILY JANG KARACHI

روزنامہ جنگ کراچی

آباد کا رہائشی پلاٹوں کی کمرشل میں تبدیلی کی پابندی ختم کرنے کے فیصلے کا خیر مقدم


Daily QAUMI AKHBAR Karachi

روزنامہ قومی اخبار کراچی

آشیانہ اسکیم کیلئے قرض کی حد 35 لاکھ سے بڑھا کر ایک کروڑ روپے کرنا عوام کیلئے امید کی نئی کرن ہے حسن بخشتی


DAILY NAWA-I-WAQT KARACHI

روزنامہ نوائے وقت کراچی

پاکستان SADC چیمبر ٹریڈ فیڈریشن اور آباد کا اشتراک


DAILY EXPRESS

روزنامہ ایکسپریس کراچی

آشیانہ اسکیم کے لیے قرض کی حد بڑھانا احسن اقدام ہے، چیئرمین آباد

abad

ASSOCIATION OF BUILDERS AND DEVELOPERS OF PAKISTAN

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