

SPECIAL REPORT OF INAUGURATION TREE PLANTATION

And

KITAB PROJECT COMMUNITY LIBRARY



&



The DICE Forum launched tree plantation drive and KITAB community library project at the Sundas Foundation's Thalassemia Centre in F9 Fatimma Jinnah Park Islamabad.

06 May 2026



CONTENTS

Speeches & Messages Pages 01- 05

Minister of State Law & Justice, Barrister Aqeel Malik

Ambassador of Bulgaria, Mrs. Irena Gancheva

Chairperson the DICE Forum, Aliya Agha

Director Sundas Foundation, Air Vice Marshal (R) Aftab Hussain

President of IFWA, Mrs. Nompumelelo Abu-Basutu, Wife of Ambassador of Zimbabwe

Distinguished Presence

High Commissioner of South Africa Mr. Rudolph Pierre Jordaan

Counsel General Ghana Omer Shahid Butt

Counsel General of Kyrgyzstan Kashif Mehar

Event Coverage Photos Pages 09-17

Ribbon Cutting

Arrival

Inauguration of KITAB Project

Visit of Pakistan Thalassema Center

Inauguration Seminar

Tree Plantation

Empowering Young Minds

Press Pages 18-33

- The News
- Pakistan Observer
- Parliament Time
- Metro Times
- Timeline
- Kohinoor Television
- Times International News Service
- Daily Digital Post
- Kashmir Link
- Urdu Time
- Pindi Today
- Sehpehar
- Jagta Textila
- The World Ambassador
- Daily Big Digit

BARRISTER AQEEL MALIK

Minister of State Law & Justice



Minister of State for Law and Justice Barrister Aqeel Malik highlighted the importance of collective action in addressing climate change, promoting education and strengthening community welfare while speaking at the inauguration ceremony of the KITAB Community Library Project and tree plantation drive organised by the DICE Forum. He appreciated the environmental performance presented by children at the event, describing it as a powerful reminder of the urgency of climate change and the need for greater public awareness and action.

The minister praised the leadership of Aliya Agha and the DICE Forum for initiating a timely project ahead of the monsoon season, noting that such efforts reflected the importance of collaboration between government institutions, civil society, the diplomatic community and overseas Pakistanis. He said meaningful partnerships were essential to tackling shared challenges and supporting humanitarian causes, particularly those focused on children and vulnerable communities.

Barrister Aqeel Malik also acknowledged the work of Air Vice Marshal (R) Aftab Hussain and the Sundas Foundation, expressing admiration for the services being provided at the Thalassemia Centre. He assured support from both his personal and governmental capacity, including assistance in legal, legislative and collaborative initiatives, as well as efforts to connect organisations with companies for corporate social responsibility partnerships. Speaking about the KITAB Community Library Project, the minister described libraries as spaces where ideas, learning and opportunities grow. Referring to Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah's vision on education, he stressed that expanding access to knowledge was vital for national progress.

Addressing environmental concerns, he referred to the devastating floods of 2022 and 2025 and warned that Pakistan remained highly vulnerable to climate-related disasters. He emphasised the importance of tree plantation and environmental conservation, particularly in preserving Islamabad's natural beauty and the Margalla Hills. Concluding his remarks, he urged young people to remain engaged in social and environmental initiatives, stating that small collective efforts can lead to meaningful and lasting change.

Her Excellency Ambassador Irina Gancheva highlighted the importance of education, compassion and environmental responsibility while addressing the inauguration ceremony of the KITAB Community Library Project and tree plantation drive. She appreciated the efforts of the organisers for bringing together initiatives that promote knowledge, social welfare and sustainability under one platform.

The ambassador described the KITAB project as an inspiring initiative that reflects the transformative power of books and learning. She noted that books serve as gateways to imagination, empowerment and progress, particularly in a country like Pakistan where millions of children remain out of school. Stressing the importance of reading in the modern digital age, she said that while technology and artificial intelligence provide instant access to information, books remain an irreplaceable source of deep and meaningful knowledge.

Drawing parallels with Bulgaria's own history, Ambassador Gancheva shared how literature, education and scholars helped preserve Bulgarian identity, language and culture during centuries of foreign rule. She also highlighted Bulgaria's traditions of celebrating teachers, writers, scientists and cultural heritage, saying that the values behind the KITAB project strongly resonated with her country's experience.

The ambassador also reflected on her visit to the Sundas Foundation Thalassaemia Centre, describing it as a reminder of the importance of compassion, healthcare and support for vulnerable communities. Concluding her remarks, she emphasised the urgency of addressing climate change and praised the tree plantation drive as a simple yet impactful step towards protecting the environment and creating a sustainable future.

MRS. IRENA GANCHEVA

Ambassador Bulgaria



ALIYA AGHA

Chairperson The DICE Forum



The DICE Forum inaugurated its Tree Plantation Drive and the KITAB Project at the Sundas Foundation premises in F-9 Park, Islamabad, bringing together diplomats, community leaders, development practitioners, and children to promote environmental sustainability and access to education.

Pakistan's forest cover remains below five percent and continues to face pressure from population growth, urbanisation, and unsustainable use of natural resources. The tree plantation drive was presented as a meaningful step towards cleaner air, healthier communities, and greater climate resilience. The event also introduced the vision of the DICE Forum, a platform built around four core pillars: Diplomacy, Inclusion, Climate Action, and Education. Representatives emphasized the importance of dialogue, inclusive development, climate responsibility, and education as essential foundations for sustainable progress in Pakistan.

A key highlight was the launch of the KITAB Project, aimed at establishing libraries and reading spaces within underprivileged and informal community schools. Organisers drew attention to Pakistan's growing learning crisis, where millions of children remain out of school and many struggle with basic reading skills. The project was described as a practical and evidence-based initiative designed to bridge educational access and quality gaps through affordable community libraries and reading programmes.

Participants also visited the Sundas Foundation's thalassemia care facility, reinforcing the importance of inclusive healthcare and social development in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The youths participation is crucial and a strong message about engaging younger generations in climate awareness and community responsibility via engagement through arts.

Air Vice Marshal (R) Aftab Hussain expressed gratitude to the distinguished guests, diplomats and participants for attending the inauguration ceremony, stating that their presence reflected solidarity and support for children battling thalassemia every day. He also appreciated the efforts of the DICE Forum for promoting diplomacy, inclusion, climate action and education, describing such initiatives as essential bridges for social progress and community development.

Highlighting the work of the Sundas Foundation Thalassemia Centre, he shared that the organisation took over the facility nearly a decade ago and is currently serving around 700 thalassemia patients and 110 haemophiliac children from Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, former FATA regions, Swat and Jhelum. He explained that the foundation provides medicines, blood transfusions, testing and investigations despite growing financial and operational challenges.

Air Vice Marshal Hussain noted that the monthly cost of treatment per patient has increased significantly from around Rs30,000 to nearly Rs100,000 over the past few years, with annual expenses reaching approximately Rs80 million. He credited philanthropic individuals and organisations for helping sustain these services during difficult economic conditions.

He emphasised that the organisation's mission extends beyond treatment towards preventing thalassemia in Pakistan. In this regard, he highlighted the installation of a new thalassemia testing machine to identify carriers and patients, stressing that carrier screening and awareness are critical to preventing the birth of children with the disease.

AIR VICE MARSHAL (R) AFTAB HUSSAIN

Director

Sundas Foundation





**MRS.
NOMPUMELELO
ABU - BASUTU**

**President of IFWA
Wife of Ambassador
of Zimbabwe**

It is truly a pleasure to be part of today's meaningful initiative.

First, I would like to commend The DICE Forum for the remarkable work it is doing. The KITAB (books) Project stands out as a unique and well-conceived initiative. It reflects deep understanding of the connection between education, community development for long-term sustainability.

Second, what I find especially inspiring is the way this initiative brings together environmental action and youth engagement. Addressing climate change is one of the defining challenges of our time, and involving young people in meaningful ways.

The children performed a beautiful skit which carried a powerful message: protecting nature is a shared responsibility.

I would also like to acknowledge the inspiring work being carried out here for thalassaemia patients by the Sundus Foundation.

It has been an honour to participate in this initiative, and I sincerely commend all those who have made it possible.

Thank you.

RIBBON CUTTING



KITAB community library project launched by the Dice Forum. Minister of State for Law and Justice, Barrister Aqeel Malik, was the chief guest. Honorable Ambassador of Bulgaria Mrs. Irena Gancheva, High Commissioner of South Africa Mr. Rudolph Pierre Jordaan, Counsel General Ghana Omer Shahid Butt, Honorary Counsel General of Kyrgyzstan Kashif Mehar, Aliya Agha Chairperson the DICE Forum and Air Vice Marshal (R) Aftab Hussain, Director Sundas Foundation



The DICE Forum launches tree plantation drive at the F-9 Fatima Jinnah Park Sundas Foundation Thalassaemia Center, Islamabad. Dignitaries planting the first tree.







KITAB LIBRARY

Inauguration

#Education 4 SDGs



HEALTH

Visit of Pakistan Thalassemia Center Managed by Sundus Foundation

3 SDG



Lunch box being given by
Mr. Rudolph Pierre Jordaan
High Commissioner of
South Africa



Lunch box being given by
Minister of State Barrister
Aqeel Malik



Lunch box being given by
Ambassador of Bulgaria,
Mrs. Irena Gancheva

INAUGURAL SEMINAR



Minister of State Barrister
Aqeel Malik



Ambassador of Bulgaria
Mrs. Irena Gancheva



Chairperson The DICE
Forum Aliya Agha



Director Sundas Foundation, Air Vice
Marshal (R) Aftab Hussain



Nigar Nazar, Author



Master of Ceremony Hina Mehreen





Guests

TREE PLANTATION # 3 SDG



Tree Plantation by
Minister of State Barrister
Aqeel Malik and
Ambassador of Bulgaria



Tree Plantation by
Mr. Rudolph Pierre Jordaan
High Commissioner of South Africa



Tree Plantation by
Mr. Omer Shahid Butt
Honorary Counsel General Ghana



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COVERAGE IN PRESS

Accross Pakistan

Plantation drive, library project launched to promote sustainability, education

Our correspondent

Islamabad

In a step towards promoting environmental sustainability and access to education, the DICE Forum organised a tree plantation drive and the inauguration of the KITAB community school library project here on Wednesday.

Minister of State for Law and Justice Barrister Aqeel Malik was the chief guest on the occasion.

Ambassador of Bulgaria Mrs. Irena Gancheva, High Commissioner of South Africa, Mr. Rudolph Pierre Jordaan, wife of Ambassador of Zimbabwe Mrs. Nompumelelo Abu-Basutu IFWA president, Counsel General Ghana, Omer Shahid Butt, Honorary Counsel General of Kyrgyzstan, Kashif Mehar and Air Vice



Marshal (r) Aftab Hussain, Director Sundas Foundation thalassemia center attended the event. Aqeel emphasised the need to integrate education, environmental stewardship and social responsibility as key pillars of national development.

He said such initiatives play an important role in shaping informed, responsible citizens and fully supported from the government.

Referring to climate change, he noted that Pakistan remains among the countries most vulnerable to its impacts and stressed the need for sustained and practical action to address environmental challenges.

Chairperson of the DICE Forum Aliya Agha underscored Pakistan's climate vulnerability, noting that forest cover remains below five per cent and continues to face pressure from population

growth and resource use.

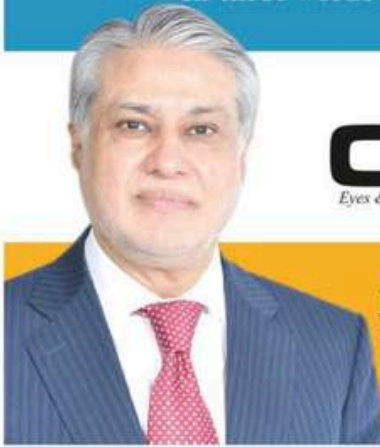
She said the plantation drive symbolised a commitment to environmental resilience, while the KITAB project aimed to promote reading culture and expand access to learning resources for underprivileged children.

Ambassador of Bulgaria Irena Gancheva highlighted the interconnected importance of knowledge, compassion and environmental protection. She appreciated the KITAB initiative, stressing the continued relevance of reading and education in an era increasingly shaped by artificial intelligence and advanced technologies.

Air Vice Marshal (r) Aftab Hussain said the initiative represented an investment in both environmental well-being and intellectual development.

“In three words I can sum up everything I’ve learned about life: It goes on.”

Robert Frost



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PAGE 08

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Ishaq Dar
DPM and Foreign Minister

PAGE 12

Actress on her mother’s controversial opinions

Sadia Faisal
Television Actress

◀ BACK

DICE Forum launches tree plantation drive, opens community library

ZUBAIR QURESHI

In a significant step towards promoting environmental sustainability and expanding access to education, the Diplomacy, Inclusion, Climate and Education (DICE) Forum on Wednesday organized a tree plantation drive and inaugurated the Kitab Community School Library Project at the Pakistan Thalassaemia Centre managed by the Sundas Foundation in Islamabad.

The initiative brought together policymakers, diplomats, social sector leaders and members of civil society, underscoring the growing importance of linking education, environmental stewardship and community welfare with practical grass-roots action.

Minister of State for Law and Justice Barrister Aqeel Malik, who attended as chief guest,



Minister of State for Law and Justice Barrister Aqeel Malik, Ambassador of Bulgaria to Pakistan Mrs. Irena Gancheva, HC of South Africa Mr. Rudolph Pierre Jordaan and other guests taking part in a tree plantation activity here on Wednesday.

emphasized the need to integrate education, environmental responsibility and social consciousness as key pillars of national development. He said such initiatives play a vital role in shaping informed and responsible citizens and assured full government support for efforts aimed at community uplift.

Quoting Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the minister reaffirmed that education remains fundamental to national progress. Referring to climate change, he noted that Pakistan remains among the countries most vulnerable to environmental impacts and stressed the need for sustained, practical measures to address emerging climate challenges.



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Back Page

Chairman Rana Mashhood Announces Major Initiatives for Gilgit-Baltistan Youth
Back Page



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DICE Forum Launches Tree Plantation and KITAB Library Project with International Diplomats

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD :

In a step towards promoting environmental sustainability and access to education, a tree plantation drive and the inauguration of the KITAB community school library project organized by the DICE Forum at Sundas Foundation in Islamabad on Wednesday.

Minister of State law and justice, Barrister Aqeel Malik was the Chief guest. Ambassador of Bulgaria Irena Gancheva, High Commissioner of South Africa, Rudolph Pierre Jordaan, wife of Ambassador of Zimbabwe Nompumelelo Abu-Basutu IFWA president, Counsel General Ghana, Omer Shahid Butt, Honorary Counsel General of Kyrgyzstan, Kashif Mehar and Air Vice Marshal (R) Aftab Hussain, Director Sundas Foundation thalassaemia center attended the event.

Minister of State for Law and Justice Barrister Aqeel Malik emphasized the need to integrate education,



environmental stewardship and social responsibility as key pillars of national development. He said such initiatives play an important role in shaping informed, responsible citizens and fully supported from the government.

Quoting Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the Minister reaffirmed that education is fundamental to national progress. Referring to climate change, he noted that Pakistan remains among the countries most vulnerable to its impacts and stressed the need for sustained and practical action to address environmental challenges. Chairperson of the DICE Forum Aliya Agha, in her opening remarks,

underscored Pakistan's climate vulnerability, noting that forest cover remains below five per cent and continues to face pressure from population growth and resource use. She said the plantation drive symbolised a commitment to environmental resilience, while the KITAB project aimed to promote reading culture and expand access to learning resources for underprivileged children.

Ambassador of Bulgaria to Pakistan, Irena Gancheva, in her remarks, highlighted the interconnected importance of knowledge, compassion and environmental protection. She appreciated the KITAB initiative, stressing the continued

relevance of reading and education in an era increasingly shaped by artificial intelligence and advanced technologies. She also emphasised compassion in relation to the thalassaemia centre and referred briefly to global responsibility in addressing climate change.

Air Vice Marshal (R) Aftab Hussain, Director of the Sundas Foundation Thalassaemia Centre, said the initiative represented an investment in both environmental well-being and intellectual development. He also highlighted the burden of thalassaemia in Pakistan and called for greater awareness and preventive screening.



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DICE Forum Launches Tree Plantation, Library Project in Islamabad

METRO TIMES

Islamabad: In a step toward promoting environmental sustainability and access to education, the DICE Forum organized a tree plantation drive and inaugurated the KITAB community school library project at the Sundas Foundation in Islamabad on Wednesday.

Minister of State for Law and Justice, Barrister Aqeel Malik, attended the event as the chief guest. Among the distinguished participants were Ambassador of Bulgaria to Pakistan Irena Cancheva; High Commissioner of South Africa Rudolph Pierre Jordan; Nompumelelo Abubasutu, wife of the Ambassador of Zimbabwe and IFWA President; Consul General of Ghana Omer Shahid Butt; Honorary Consul General of Kyrgyzstan Kashif Mehar; and Air Vice Marshal (R) Aftab Hussain, Director of the Sundas Foundation Thalassemia Centre.

Addressing the ceremony, Barrister

Aqeel Malik emphasized the need to integrate education, environmental stewardship, and social responsibility as key pillars of national development. He stated that



such initiatives play a vital role in shaping informed and responsible citizens and assured full government support.

Quoting Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the minister reaffirmed that education is fundamental to national progress. Referring to climate change, he noted that Pakistan is among the countries most vulnerable to its impacts and stressed the need for sustained and practical measures to address environmental challenges.

Chairperson of the DICE Forum,

Aliya Agha, in her opening remarks, highlighted Pakistan's climate vulnerability, noting that forest cover remains below five percent and continues to face pressure

due to population growth and resource consumption. She said the plantation drive symbolizes a commitment to environmental resilience, while the KITAB project aims to promote a reading culture and expand access to learning resources for underprivileged children.

Ambassador of Bulgaria to Pakistan, Irena Cancheva, underscored the interconnected importance of knowledge, compassion, and environmental protection. She appreciated the KITAB initiative and stressed the

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Air Vice Marshal (R) Aftab Hussain, Director of the Sundas Foundation Thalassemia Centre, stated that the initiative represents an investment in both environmental well-being and intellectual development. He also highlighted the burden of thalassemia in Pakistan and called for greater awareness and preventive screening.

The initiative, organized by the DICE Forum at the Pakistan Thalassemia Centre managed by the Sundas Foundation, brought together policymakers, diplomats, and civil society representatives to highlight the importance of education, environmental protection, and community welfare.

Planting Trees, Spreading Knowledge: DICE Forum Promotes Sustainability and Learning.

By Web Desk | May 1, 2026 | Latest News, Pakistan



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Sustainability and Learning :

Islamabad – 6 May 2026 (Staff Reporter) : In a step towards promoting environmental sustainability and access to education, a tree plantation drive and the inauguration of the KITAB community school library project organised by the DICE Forum at Sundas Foundation in Islamabad on Wednesday.



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Minister of State for Law and Justice Barrister Aqeel Malik emphasized the need to integrate education, environmental stewardship and social responsibility as key pillars of national development. He said such initiatives play an important role in shaping informed, responsible citizens and fully supported from the government.

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The initiative, organised by the DICE Forum, at the Pakistan Thalassaemia center managed by Sundas foundation brought together policymakers, diplomats and civil society representatives to highlight the importance of education, environmental protection and community welfare.

The Chief guest and the dignitaries also planted trees at the occasion. The initiative reflected a focus on practical, community-level solutions, complementing broader policy discussions such as Breathe Pakistan initiative taking place at higher levels.

The event concluded with a call for collective efforts to strengthen education, environmental protection and community-based initiatives.



07-05-2026



DICE Forum Marks Milestone with Tree Plantation Drive and Library Project at Sundas Foundation

(TNS)

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07-05-2020



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ڈاؤن فورم کی شجرکاری مہم اور کتاب منصوبہ، سندس فائڈیشن میں علم و ماحول دوستی کا پیغام

ساؤتھ افریقہ، بلغاریہ اور زمبابوے کے سفارتکاروں اور حکومتی شخصیات کی شرکت



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07-05-2026

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چیف ایڈیٹر:
رانا عمران لطیف

Daily **SAPEHER TIMES** Islamabad Rawalpindi

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دنیا بھر میں سب سے زیادہ پڑھا جانے والا آن لائن اخبار

Daily JAGATA TAXILA

چیف ایڈیٹر: **ملک آفتاب حسین گجر**

روزنامہ **جاگتا ٹیکسلا**

خبر وہ ہو جو حقیقت پر مبنی ہو

ہم نہیں گے آپ کی آواز

جلد نمبر 2 حصہ المبارک 08 مئی 20 ذوالقعدہ 25 بیساکھ 1447ھ 1472 شمارہ نمبر 348

E-PAPER

ڈاٹس فورم کی سنگ میل تقریب، سندس فائڈیشن میں شجرکاری مہم اور لائبریری منصوبے کا افتتاح وزیر مملکت برائے قانون و انصاف پیر سٹر عقیل ملک تقریب کے مہمان خصوصی تھے بلخاریہ، ساتھ افریقہ اور زمبابوے کے سفارتکاروں سمیت حکومتی شخصیات کی شرکت، پائیدار ترقی کے عزم کا اظہار



اسلام آباد (آفتاب گجر سے) ماحولیاتی پائیداری اور تعلیم تک رسائی کے فروغ کی جانب ایک اہم قدم کے طور پر ڈاٹس (ڈی آئی سی فورم) کے زیر اہتمام سندس فاؤنڈیشن اسلام آباد میں بدھ کے روز شجرکاری مہم اور "کتاب" کمیونٹی اسکول لائبریری منصوبے کا افتتاح کیا گیا۔ تقریب کے مہمان خصوصی وزیر مملکت برائے قانون و انصاف پیر سٹر عقیل ملک تھے۔ اس موقع پر بلخاریہ کی سفیر اریٹا گانچو، جنوبی افریقہ کے ہائی کمشنر رودولف جیٹر جوڈا، زمبابوے کے سفیر کی اہلیہ ٹوپھیلیلو اوبوہا سوٹو، آئی ایف ڈی بیو اے کی صدر، کھانا کے اعزازی قونصل جنرل عمر شاہد بٹ، قرقزستان کے اعزازی قونصل جنرل کاشف مہار اور اریٹو اؤس مارشل (آفتاب حسین، ڈائریکٹر سندس فاؤنڈیشن ٹھیلیسیا سینٹر نے بھی شرکت کی۔ وزیر مملکت برائے قانون و انصاف پیر سٹر عقیل ملک نے اپنی گفتگو میں تعلیم، ماحولیاتی ذمہ داری اور سماجی شعور کو قومی ترقی کے بنیادی ستون قرار دیتے ہوئے کہا کہ ایسی سرگرمیاں باشعور اور ذمہ دار شہریوں کی تشکیل میں اہم کردار ادا کرتی ہیں اور حکومت ان کی عمل حمایت کرتی ہے۔ انہوں نے قائمہ معظم محمد علی جناح کے قول کا حوالہ دیتے ہوئے کہا کہ تعلیم قومی ترقی کی بنیاد ہے۔ انہوں نے ماحولیاتی تبدیلی کے حوالے سے کہا کہ پاکستان ان ممالک میں شامل ہے جو اس کے اثرات سے سب سے زیادہ متاثر ہیں، لہذا اس چیلنج سے نمٹنے کے لیے مسلسل اور عملی اقدامات ناگزیر ہیں۔ ڈاٹس فورم کی چیئر پرسن عالیہ آغا نے اختتامی خطاب میں پاکستان کی ماحولیاتی کمزوریوں پر روشنی ڈالتے

ہوئے کہا کہ ملک میں جنگلات کا رقبہ پانچ فیصد سے بھی کم ہے اور آبادی کے دبا اور وسائل کے استعمال کے باعث یہ مزید کم ہو رہا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ شجرکاری مہم ماحولیاتی چلک کے عزم کی علامت ہے جبکہ "کتاب" منصوبہ بچوں میں مطالعے کے فروغ اور تعلیمی وسائل تک رسائی بڑھانے کے لیے ہے۔ بلخاریہ کی سفیر اریٹا گانچو نے اپنے خطاب میں علم، ہمدردی اور ماحولیاتی تحفظ کی اہمیت کو اجاگر کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ موجودہ دور میں مصنوعی ذہانت اور جدید ٹیکنالوجی کے باوجود کتاب اور تعلیم کی اہمیت برقرار ہے۔ انہوں نے ٹھیلیسیا سینٹر کے حوالے سے ہمدردی اور عالمی ذمہ داری پر بھی زور دیا۔ ایٹو اؤس مارشل (آفتاب حسین، ڈائریکٹر سندس فاؤنڈیشن ٹھیلیسیا سینٹر نے کہا کہ یہ اقدام ماحولیاتی بہتری اور فکری ترقی دونوں میں سرمایہ کاری کے مترادف ہے۔ انہوں نے پاکستان میں

TWA THE WORLD AMBASSADOR



Education Meets Environment: Diplomatic Leaders Join DICE Forum's Sustainability Drive

Minister Aqeel Malik joins diplomats at Sundas Foundation to launch a tree plantation drive and the KITAB library project for environmental and educational growth.

ALISHA ARID
May 6, 2026 • 2 min read



ISLAMABAD – The DICE Forum launched a landmark dual initiative on Wednesday, May 6, 2026, combining environmental sustainability with educational access through a tree plantation drive and the inauguration of the KITAB community school library project. Hosted at the Sundas Foundation in Islamabad, the event brought together high-ranking government officials and the international diplomatic corps to address Pakistan's urgent climate and literacy needs.



Minister of State for Law and Justice, Barrister Aqeel Malik, served as the Chief Guest, emphasizing that education and environmental stewardship are the essential pillars of national development. The Minister underscored the government's full support for grassroots initiatives that shape responsible citizenship and combat the nation's increasing climate vulnerability.

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National Progress Through Education and Climate Action

During his address, Barrister Aqeel Malik invoked the vision of Qaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, reaffirming that education remains the fundamental engine of progress. He highlighted that Pakistan remains one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change, necessitating immediate and sustained practical action.

Chairperson of the DICE Forum, Aliya Agha, provided sobering context regarding the nation's ecological state. She noted that:

- Pakistan's forest cover currently remains below five per cent.
- Rapid population growth is placing unprecedented pressure on natural resources.
- The KITAB project is designed specifically to foster a reading culture among underprivileged children.



International Support for Local Solutions

The event saw significant participation from the global community, including Ambassador of Bulgaria Irena Gancheva and South African High Commissioner Rudolph Pierre Jordaan. Ambassador Ganchevalauded the KITAB initiative, noting that traditional reading and education remain vital even as artificial intelligence transforms the modern landscape.



Air Vice Marshal (R) Aftab Hussain, Director of the Sundas Foundation Thalassaemia Centre, linked environmental health to physical well-being. He used the platform to call for greater awareness regarding thalassaemia screening in Pakistan, framing the DICE Forum's work as a holistic investment in the country's future.

A Greener Future for Islamabad

The ceremony concluded with the Chief Guest and attending dignitaries planting saplings on the foundation grounds. This initiative aligns with broader national efforts, such as the Breathe Pakistan initiative, focusing on community-level solutions to urban environmental challenges.

The gathering of policymakers and civil society representatives ended with a collective pledge to strengthen the intersections of education, environmental protection, and community welfare.

07-05-2026

 **Daily BIG DIGIT**

DICE Forum Marks Milestone with Tree Plantation Drive and Library Project at Sundas Foundation

(TNS)

Islamabad : In a step towards promoting environmental sustainability and access to education, a tree plantation drive and the inauguration of the KITAB community school library project organised by the DICE Forum at Sundas Foundation in Islamabad on Wednesday. Minister of State law and justice, Barrister Aqeel Malik was the Chief guest. Ambassador of Bulgaria Irena Gancheva, High Commissioner of South Africa, Rudolph Pierre Jordaan, wife of Ambassador of Zimbabwe Nompumelelo Abu- Basutu IFWA



president, Counsel General Ghana, Omer Shahid Butt, Honrary Counsel General of Kyrgyzstan, Kashif Mehar and Air Vice Marshal (R) Aftab Hussain, Director Sundas Foundation thalassemia center attended the event. Minister of State for Law and Justice Barrister Aqeel Malik emphasized

the need to integrate education, environmental stewardship and social responsibility as key pillars of national development. He said such initiatives play an important role in shaping informed, responsible citizens and fully supported from the government. Quoting

Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the Minister reaffirmed that education is fundamental to national progress. Referring to climate change, he noted that Pakistan remains among the countries most vulnerable to its impacts and stressed the need for sustained and practical action to address environmental challenges. Chairperson of the DICE Forum Aliya Agha, in her opening remarks, underscored Pakistan's climate vulnerability, noting that forest cover remains below five per cent and continues to face pressure from population growth and resource use. She said the plantation drive symbolised a commitment to environmental resilience, while the KITAB project aimed to promote reading culture and expand access to learning resources for underprivileged children.



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