



#KhiLF

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Literature in a Fragile World

This year's KLF brings together voices against the backdrop of a world in flux, and celebrates literature's enduring power to connect, challenge, and remind us of our shared humanity. By giving space to reflection and dialogue, the festival seeks to strengthen the very threads, cultural, creative, and communal, that hold us together.

6, 7, and 8 February 2026

Beach Luxury Hotel, Karachi

PROGRAMME

SCAN FOR
KLF PROGRAMME



THE FESTIVAL IS FREE AND OPEN TO ALL





About the Producer and Organizer

Oxford University Press (OUP) is a department of the University of Oxford. It furthers the University's objective of excellence in research, scholarship, and education by publishing worldwide. OUP Pakistan is committed to promoting the reading culture and to improving the intellectual content of life in Pakistan. It has an extensive school and college textbook publishing programme which addresses the need for books that are both of high quality and specific to the environment. It has gained a reputation for publishing well-researched academic and general books which are considered to be authoritative and definitive works on Pakistan. OUP Pakistan also provides digital learning resources designed to meet the learning needs of the contemporary user.

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DISCLAIMER
The Festival retains the right to modify the programme at any time.
The opinions expressed during individual sessions are solely those of the participants.



17TH Karachi Literature Festival

Beach Luxury Hotel, Karachi




INAUGURATION

Friday 6 February 2026

4.00 p.m. – 4.30 p.m. Arrival of Guests

TIMINGS	MAIN GARDEN
5.00 p.m.	WELCOME SPEECH BY THE FESTIVAL ORGANIZER Arshad Saeed Husain Managing Director, Oxford University Press Pakistan
5.15 p.m.	CHIEF GUEST H.E. Murad Ali Shah Chief Minister, Sindh
5.25 p.m.	REMARKS by GUESTS OF HONOUR Lance Domm British Deputy High Commissioner
5.30 p.m.	Alexis Chahtahinsky Consul General France KEYNOTE SPEECHES by
5.35 p.m.	Senator Sherry Rehman Former Federal Minister for Climate Change
5.55 p.m.	Nasir Abbas Nayyar Writer, critic, columnist
	BOOK AWARDS KLF-Getz Pharma English Fiction Prize KLF-Getz Pharma Urdu Prose and Poetry Prize
	PERFORMANCE Performance by Nighat Choudhry and Kathak Souls: Rhythm of Traditions through Poetry and Movement
MC	Ayesha Tammy Haq
	PANEL DISCUSSIONS
	MAIN GARDEN
7.00 p.m. – 7.45 p.m.	Jinnah's Vision for a Plural Pakistan Javed Jabbar in conversation with Ayesha Tammy Haq
7.45 p.m. – 8.00 p.m.	Introduction to <i>JINNAH</i> - The Film by Jamil Dehlavi
8.00 p.m.	FILM SCREENING: Jinnah
	JASMINE
7.00 p.m. – 8.00 p.m.	سنڌي مشاعرو Sadarat: Madad Ali Sindhi Nizamat: Naseer Mirza Adal Soomro, Sahar Imdad Hussaini, Attiya Dawood, Niaz Panhwar, Bakhshan Mehranvi, Saabhiyan Sangi, Sher Mehrani, Amar Pirzado, Shahnawaz Ghoto, Masroor Pirzado, Naseer Soomro
	AQUARIUS
7.00 p.m. – 8.00 p.m.	Documentary Screening: W.R.A.P. (We Really are Pakistan): From Screen to Stage followed by Live Performance by Rappers from Gizri Moderator: Saba Karim Khan
	ROOM 007
7.00 p.m. – 8.00 p.m.	Book Discussion: <i>Matisse in Morocco: A Journey of Light and Color</i> by Jeff Koehler Jeff Koehler in conversation with Nilofur Farrukh



	Main Garden	Jasmine Hall	Aquarius Hall		Room 007	Society Suite	Tulip Hall
11.00 a.m. – 12.00 noon	LITERATURE وہ نام بس اک نقش تھا پانی پہ ہوا کا جدید بلوچی شاعری کا معمار: عطا شاہ Ishaque Khamosh, Waheed Noor, Mujahid Barelvi MODERATOR: Zahida Raees Raji	LITERATURE BOOK DISCUSSION 32 Onkar Road by Syed Shabbar Zaidi Syed Shabbar Zaidi, Syed Salim Raza, Syeda Zaidi MODERATOR: Rashid Masood Alam	LITERATURE BOOK LAUNCH Voices of Valour: A Tribute to Christian Defenders of Pakistan by Noel Khokhar Noel Khokhar and Javed Zia MODERATOR: Neda Mulji		LITERATURE BOOK LAUNCH Language, Gender and Power by Shahid Siddiqui Shahid Siddiqui and Baela Raza Jamil MODERATOR: Anita M. Weiss BOOK LAUNCH Book Launch: Reimagining Education in Pakistan: Contemporary Challenges & Creative Choices by Shahid Siddiqui MODERATOR: Faisal Bari	LITERATURE 11.30 a.m. – 12.00 noon. Poems from the Edge of the World Ryan J. Davidson in conversation with Ilona Yusuf	YOUTH PAVILION انابواکی کہانیاں with Zara Mumtaz
12.15 p.m. – 1.15 p.m.	PUBLIC INTEREST Evolving Power Dynamics in South Asia Ikram Sehgal in conversation with Huma Baqai	LITERATURE ہر عہد، عہدِ اقبال Walid Iqbal, Nasir Abbas Nayyar, Sarwat Mohiuddin MODERATOR: Mujahid Barelvi	LITERATURE BOOK LAUNCH Shattered Lands: Five Partitions and the Making of Modern Asia by Sam Dalrymple Sam Dalrymple in conversation with Aliya Iqbal-Naqvi		LITERATURE Telling Her Story: Women in Print, 1960s Onward Tazeen Hussain, Veera Rustomji, Maniza Naqvi MODERATORS: Madeline Clements and Nillofur Farrukh	LITERATURE BOOK LAUNCH اوسفر ڈکے روز و شب از محمدی نیکم Zehra Ahmad and Zainab Masud MODERATOR: Sheema Kermani Reading of excerpts by Shama Askari BOOK LAUNCH نئی پرائی روسی کہانیاں از ڈاکٹر نجم بٹ Najam Butt and Zarminae Ansari MODERATOR: Hoori Noorani	YOUTH PAVILION اُجھرتے ستارے Singing the Stories of Our World Performances by selected school children who participated in the Obhartay Sitaray competition. Hafsa Abdul Hafeez, Emaan Mahar, Syed Muhammad Kashif, Saman Nafees, Shahmeer Murtaza MODERATOR: Zara Shaheen Awan
1.30 p.m. – 2.00 p.m.	LITERATURE BOOK LAUNCH جاڈو بھیا از عمید نذیر Sameena Nazir in conversation with Wusatullah Khan	LITERATURE BOOK LAUNCH Progressive Laws in Patriarchal Societies: Lessons from Pakistan by Sara Malkani Sara Malkani and Nazish Brohi MODERATOR: Farieha Aziz	LITERATURE BOOK LAUNCH گل دو گانہ by Syed Kashif Raza Syed Kashif Raza and Nasir Abbas Nayyar MODERATOR: Salman Sarwat		LITERATURE BOOK LAUNCH A Beautiful Despair - The Art and Life of Meher Afroz edited by Nillofur Farrukh Nillofur Farrukh in conversation with Aquila Ismail	LITERATURE BOOK LAUNCH Soliloquies? Existing on Earth On The Sea & Samandar Paar by Tariq Alexander Qaiser Tariq Alexander Qaiser and Wajid Jawad MODERATOR: Nasira Zuberi	YOUTH PAVILION Learn SEO with Abdul Hadi
2.15 p.m. – 3.15 p.m.	PUBLIC INTEREST Why Institutions Matter? The Story of Meezan Bank Ishrat Husain, Irfan Siddiqui, Syed Amir Ali, Arif Habib MODERATOR: Sibtain Naqvi <div>  Meezan Bank The Provider Islamic Bank </div>	LITERATURE Oral History: Embodied Memory and the Construction of Narrative History Sam Dalrymple in conversation with Framji Minwalla	LITERATURE دیکھنا تقریر کی لذت: ڈاکٹر عارفہ سیدہ زہرا کی یاد میں Zehra Nigah, Saif Mahmood, Anita M. Weiss, Zarminae Ansari MODERATOR: Kazim Saeed		EDUCATION Beyond the Classroom: The Future of Learning Faisal Mushtaq, Zeeshan Hasan, Ali Anwarzada, Muniza Shaikhali MODERATOR: Faisal Bari	LITERATURE BOOK LAUNCH 2.15 p.m. – 2.45 p.m. Misspelled Constellations: A Poetic Cartography of Karachi by Sorina Zainea Sorina Zainea in conversation with Peerzada Salman BOOK LAUNCH 2.45 p.m. - 3.15 p.m. The Missing Prayer by Ammar Aziz Ammar Aziz in conversation with Ilona Yusuf	YOUTH PAVILION From Silence to Strength: Empowering a Deaf Child to Thrive in Society-A session by Deaf Reach Institute
3.30 p.m. – 4.30 p.m.	CULTURE How Stories Change the World? Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy in conversation with Anoushey Ashraf	LITERATURE کدھر سے آیا کدھر گیا وہ: بنیاد ناصر کاظمی Iftikhar Arif, Khurshid Rizvi, Asghar Nadeem Syed, Nasira Zuberi MODERATOR: Mehboob Zafar	PUBLIC INTEREST Sufi Karachi: Sufi Traditions in our Times Atiya Khan, Sarwat Mohiuddin, Babar N. Sheikh, Rizwanullah Khan MODERATOR: Mehr F. Husain		LITERATURE Poetry in Fragile Times Sophia Bano, Urooj Mirza, Moeen Faruqi, Shireen Haroun, Khushro Mumtaz, Harris Khalique, Zimran Gill, Ayesha Owais, Ayesha Faisal Malik MODERATOR: Ilona Yusuf	PUBLIC INTEREST Layered Resilience: Honour, Violence & Grassroots Resistance in Pakistan Anita M. Weiss, Sara Malkani, Farieha Aziz MODERATOR: Nazish Brohi	YOUTH PAVILION بچپن کے گیت، عمر بھر کی یادیں Songs, Stories, and Memories from Sohail Rana's Music for Children with Nazia Zuberi Hassan and Saeed Ahmed
4.45 p.m. – 5.45 p.m.	PUBLIC INTEREST Fixing the Fundamentals: Pakistan's Economic Resetn Ishrat Husain, Muhammad Ali, Asad Umar, Miftah Ismail, Zeelaf Munir MODERATOR: Muhammad Azfar Ahsan	LITERATURE زہرا نگاہ سے گفتگو Zehra Nigah in conversation with Harris Khalique	PUBLIC INTEREST ڈرامہ: روایت یا تبدیلی Bee Gul, Zafar Mairaj, Zanjabeel Asim Shah, Nameer Khan MODERATOR: Bakhtawar Mazhar		LITERATURE Fiction at the Edge of Nature Laline Paull in conversation with Christie Marie Lauder	LITERATURE انعام ندیم کے تراجم: عالمی ادب اردو میں Saari Kahaniyaan aur Ek Tees Saala Aurat by Inaam Nadeem and Nasir Abbas Nayyar MODERATOR: Iqbal Khursheed	YOUTH PAVILION Where Ideas Come From: A Dialogue for Young Readers with Saman Shamsie and Rumana Husain
6.00 p.m. - 7.00 p.m.	PUBLIC INTEREST Pakistani Fashion in the Age of Visibility Ziad Bashir, Rizwan Beyg, Mushk Kaleem, Zahir Rahimtoola, Erica Robin MODERATOR: Maliha Rehman	LITERATURE BOOK LAUNCH Ik Zamana Khwab Ka by Obaidullah Aleem Iftikhar Arif, Ghazi Salahuddin, Syeda Tehseen Fatima MODERATOR: Peerzada Salman	LITERATURE Book Talk: How To Think About AI: A Guide For The Perplexed by Richard Susskind Richard Susskind in conversation with Ayesha Tammy Haq		PUBLIC INTEREST Daring to Dream: From Karachi School Girl to World Bank Judge Mahnaz Malik in conversation with James Neish	LITERATURE BOOK LAUNCH Coming Back: The Odyssey of a Pakistani Through India by Shueyb Gandapur Shueyb Gandapur, Mohsin Syeed, and Shiraz Hasan MODERATOR: Mehr F. Husain	YOUTH PAVILION From books to Skills: What Today's Students Really Need by Tarib Ahmed (Robotics)
7.15 p.m. - 8.15 p.m.	CULTURE Usman Mukhtar in conversation with Maliha Rehman Followed by Film Screening: Chikkar	LITERATURE مشاعرہ Sadarat: Iftikhar Arif Nizam: Nasira Zuberi Kishwar Naheed, Khurshid Rizvi, Shahida Hassan, Mehboob Zafar, Khalid Moin, Syed Kashif Raza, Kashif Hussain Ghire, Dilawar Ali Aazar, Peerzada Salman, Naina Adil, Abdul Rehman Momin <div>  Dawlat Bank </div>	CULTURE فقط ذوق پرواز: *Yeh Hail Yari Muqaddas Abdul Rasheed, Hammad Rana, Ali Akbar Soomro, Mehreen Baloch MODERATOR: Sabeer Ahmed		CULTURE Theatre: An Urdu Adaptation of Thomas Mann's The Transposed Heads Muhabbat Sar Ta Sar Written & Directed by Khaled Anam <div>  SPONSORED BY GOETHE INSTITUT </div>	PUBLIC INTEREST Cricket Tragics: Four Fans and a World Cup Rehan Shaikh and Raaheen Mani MODERATORS: Omar Shahid Hamid and Owais Tohid	

	Main Garden	Jasmine Hall	Aquarius Hall		Room 007	Society Suite	Tulip Hall
11.00 a.m. – 12.00 noon	EDUCATION Inter-School Debate: Literature Today: Elitist or Essential? Jury: Muneeza Shamsie, Salman Tarek Kureshi MODERATOR: Onaissa Imtisal Abbasi	PUBLIC INTEREST Invisible Frontlines: Women and Children’s Health in the Times of Climate Change Azra Fazal Pechuho, Murad Moosa Khan, Neha Mankani, Muneera Alavi MODERATOR: Hareem Sumbul Bari	CULTURE یہی سستی ہے لیاری Waheed Noor, Asghar Dashti, Shabbir Hussain Baloch, Madiha Shaikh, MODERATOR: Umair Razzaq		PUBLIC INTEREST متن سے آواز: نئے اردو ادب کا آغاز Wajid Jawad and Farhan Ashraf MODERATOR: Yasmeen Sultana Farooqui	LITERATURE Why Jane Austen still Speaks to Us? Laline Paull, Faisal Nazir, Aisha Hassan MODERATOR: Zarmina Raza	YOUTH PAVILION
12.15 p.m. – 1.15 p.m.	PUBLIC INTEREST کراچی کی پچھری: عوام اور پولیس Mazhar Abbas, Sharjil Kharal, and Aquila Ismail MODERATOR: Omar Shahid Hamid	EDUCATION Reimagining Higher Education: Prospects & Challenges Pervez Hoodbhoy and Farid Panjwani MODERATOR: Faisal Bari	LITERATURE جیلہ ہاشمی: سحر و سخن کی آبرو Noor ul Huda Shah, Najeeba Arif, Sameena Nazir, Arshad Waheed MODERATOR: Raza Naeem		PUBLIC INTEREST Pakistan: Conversations with History Shehzad Ghias Shaikh and Ghazi Salahuddin	LITERATURE Emerging Writers: Shaping Tomorrow’s Expression Aisha Hassan, Z. D. Jabbar, Shueyb Gandapur MODERATOR: Nusrat Khawaja	YOUTH PAVILION Writing with Art: An Introduction to Calligraphy by Hifza Asif, Umama Haider, Umamah Rizwan Qalam Kahani
1.30 p.m. – 2.00 p.m.	LITERATURE BOOK LAUNCH انتخابِ کلام: شان الحق حقی compiled by Rauf Parekh Rauf Parekh and Shayan Haqqee MODERATOR: Najeeba Arif	LITERATURE BOOK LAUNCH Pakistan Cricket Chronicles 1948-2024 by Afzal Ahmed Afzal Ahmed and Qamar Ahmed MODERATOR: Salman Faridi	LITERATURE BOOK LAUNCH بیادِ دینہن Translated by Nasir Ijaz Jami Chandio and Arshad Waheed MODERATOR: Inaam Nadeem		LITERATURE گھرانہ گائیکی: ماضی، حال اور مستقبل Aqeel Abbas Jafri and Sharif Awan in conversation with Ammar Aziz	LITERATURE BOOK LAUNCH چمکا گلیوں کا (Kaurashi, Kolachi, Kurrachee) by Qamar Bharoocha Bana Sabiha Imani, Stephan Andrew, Qamar Bharoocha Bana MODERATOR: Samya Kadri Paracha	YOUTH PAVILION
2.15 p.m. – 3.15 p.m.	CULTURE خط و کتابت Yousuf Bashir Qureshi Kay Sath	PUBLIC INTEREST Woman of Substance Nasreen Jalil in conversation with Mazhar Abbas	EDUCATION Keeping Education Human in the age of AI Pervez Hoodbhoy, Farid Panjwani, Anjum Halai, Zeeshan Hasan MODERATOR: Malahat Awan		LITERATURE Future Shock: Dystopia in a Dystopian World Laline Paull, Bina Shah, Ryan J. Davidson MODERATOR: Christie Marie Lauder	LITERATURE BOOK LAUNCH 2.15 p.m. - 2.45 p.m. Diwan e Ruh Series: Book I and II by Zainab Jabbar Z. D. Jabbar in conversation with Aliya Iqbal-Naqvi BOOK LAUNCH 2.45 p.m. - 3.15 p.m. Book Launch: When the Fireflies Dance: A Novel by Aisha Hassan Aisha Hassan in conversation with Nusrat Khawaja	YOUTH PAVILION Think, Share, Grow: Learning as a Team by Amna Milton
3.30 p.m. – 4.30 p.m.	LITERATURE BOOK LAUNCH Rebel English Academy by Mohammed Hanif Mohammed Hanif in conversation with Sanam Maher	LITERATURE BOOK LAUNCH عر مجھے لکھتی ہے by Kishwar Naheed Kishwar Naheed, Syed Jaffar Ahmed, Noorul Huda Shah, Najeeba Arif MODERATOR: Fazil Jamili	CULTURE Short Film Screening: Screen Locked Alyy Khan, Khalid Hasan Khan, and Atabik Mohsin MODERATOR: Murad Moosa Khan		EDUCATION Improving Student Learning Outcomes through Public–Private Partnerships Arshad Saeed Husain, Faisal Bari, Amin A. Hashwani, Salma Alam MODERATOR: Baela Raza Jamil	LITERATURE BOOK LAUNCH Dream Work of Lisa D by Adrian Husain Moeen Faruqi, Salman T. Kureshi, Adrian A. Husain MODERATOR: Ayesha Tammy Haq	YOUTH PAVILION Story by Brothers Grimm, Hansel & Gretel, Dramatised and Directed by Uzma Sabeen, Allrounder Theatre
4.45 p.m. – 5.45 p.m.	PUBLIC INTEREST Media in the Emerging World Order Ghazi Salahuddin, Azhar Abbas, Owais Tohid, Nadia Naqi MODERATOR: Amber Rahim Shamsi	PUBLIC INTEREST Hope, Faith, and the Miracle of Survival A Talk by Zafar Masud Introduction: Sibtain Naqvi and Amin A. Hashwani	LITERATURE کوئی تلاء کہ ہم بتلائیں کیا از عین ادب Dramatic Readings by Ali Mazhar and Usman Qureshi		EDUCATION Empowering the Educator: From Teacher Training to Teacher Transformation Baela Raza Jamil, Anjum Halai, Fatima Dar, Palwasha Badar Jalalzai MODERATOR: Shahid Siddiqui	CULTURE Conversations: The Guimet Museum, Paris and The Gulgee Museum, Karachi Nicolas Engel in conversation with Amin Gulgee	YOUTH PAVILION Learn Kathak and Contemporary Dance with Nighat Chaudhry
6.00 p.m. – 7.00 p.m.	PUBLIC INTEREST Pakistani TV Drama: Adakari, Hidayatkari ya Kahani? Ahmad Ali Akbar, Saife Hasan, Aina Asif, Zhalay Sarhadi, Alyy Khan MODERATOR: Raju Jamil	CULTURE Screening of 2025-26 Banff World Tour Presented by the High Commission of Canada, Pakistan SPONSORED BY 	PUBLIC INTEREST The Great KLF Debate: Will AI take over? Betterment or Detriment Pervez Hoodbhoy, Faisal Mushtaq, Umar Ahsan Khan, Faiza Yousuf MODERATOR: James Neish		LITERATURE Karachi Between the Lines Muneeza Shamsie, Maniza Naqvi, Zain Saeed MODERATOR: Nusrat Khawaja	LITERATURE BOOK LAUNCH Gulgee Museum: The Handbook Amin Gulgee in conversation with Niilofur Farrukh	YOUTH PAVILION Fankar Gali: A Creative and Interactive Theatre Drama Workshop with Atif Badar



17TH Karachi Literature Festival

Beach Luxury Hotel, Karachi

CLOSING CEREMONY

Sunday 8 February 2026

TIMINGS

MAIN GARDEN

7.15 p.m.

KEYNOTE SPEECHES BY

Mohammed Hanif

British-Pakistani writer and journalist

Khurshid Rizvi

Scholar and Poet

VOTE OF THANKS BY

Daniel Arsenault

Counsellor (Political, Economic & Public Affairs), High Commission of Canada

VOTE OF THANKS BY THE FESTIVAL ORGANISER

Arshad Saeed Husain

Managing Director, Oxford University Press Pakistan

MC

Ayesha Tammy Haq

8.15 p.m.

Qawwali

by Hamza Akram Qawwal & Brothers

FULL DAY EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE FESTIVAL

Author signings | Book fair | Food court

SCAN BELOW TO VIEW THE
UPDATED KLF PROGRAMME



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