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Editor: Asim Khan.

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Email address: dquettavoice@gmail.com
Website: www.quettavoice.com

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QUETTA VOICE

President Zardari Reaffirms Commitment to Peace and Development in Balochistan During Meeting with Nawab Changez Khan Marri

NEWS DESK:

President Asif Ali Zardari has reaffirmed the federal government's commitment to ensuring lasting peace, political stability, and accelerated development in Balochistan during a meeting with Balochistan Assembly member Nawab Changez Khan Marri.

Discussions also centred on enhancing counterterrorism efforts, maintaining law and order, expanding access to essential public services, and ensuring the timely execution of development schemes aimed at improving the quality of life for residents of Balochistan.



President Asif Ali Zardari during a meeting with Balochistan Assembly member Nawab Changez Khan Marri.

ber Nawab Changez Khan Marri at Bilawal House in Karachi. The high-level meeting focused on the security situation in Balochistan, ongoing development projects, public welfare initiatives, and the province's overall political landscape. Both leaders reviewed measures taken by the federal and provincial governments to strengthen peace, improve governance, and promote sustainable socio-economic development across the province.

President Zardari on the key challenges facing the people of Balochistan, the province's development priorities, and local initiatives designed to promote peace, stability, and economic progress. President Zardari stressed the importance of strengthening public welfare programmes and accelerating development projects, reiterating the government's resolve to support the prosperity and long-term stability of Balochistan.

Balochistan Home Minister Visits Family of Martyred Session Judge Abdul Hakeem Kakar, Vows Swift Justice

QASEEM SHAH:

QUETTA: Balochistan Home Minister Mir Ziaullah Langau visited the residence of the martyred Session Judge, Abdul Hakeem Kakar, to offer his heartfelt condolences and pay respects to the grieving family. During his visit, Minister

the families of our martyrs alone, and every possible support will be provided to them."

Paying tribute to the late judicial officer, the Home Minister emphasized that Session Judge Abdul Hakeem Kakar's dedicated service and sacrifice for justice would always be remembered.



Langau offered Fateha for the departed soul and met with the bereaved family members, expressing solidarity on behalf of the provincial government. "We stand shoulder to shoulder with the martyred judge's family during this immensely difficult time," said Langau. "The government will not leave

Addressing the security situation, Langau strongly condemned the attack, stating that such acts of terrorism are completely intolerable. He assured the public and the victims' family that law enforcement agencies are actively pursuing the perpetrators and that those responsible will be brought to justice swiftly.



File Photo: Security sources say forces destroyed multiple militant hideouts, recovered weapons and explosive material

Security forces kill 16 terrorists in Operation Al-Azm in Balochistan

NEWS DESK:

Security forces have killed 16 terrorists in ongoing intelligence-based operations under Operation Al-Azm in Balochistan, where multiple militant hideouts have also been destroyed and weapons and explosives recovered, security sources said on Sunday. The intelligence-based operations have been launched in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks in the area. Earlier, security forces launched Operation Shahban after terrorists attacked the Mangi Dam Police Station.

A district sessions judge and his security guard were also killed after unidentified armed men opened fire on their vehicle on the national highway in Mastung, while an additional sessions judge and another person sustained serious injuries.

The sources said counterterrorism operations were continuing in several parts of the province, including Kili Kundi Umrani, Khad Kucha and

Mastung, where the group referred to by the state as Fitna al-Hindustan had suffered heavy losses.

Fitna al-Hindustan is the term used by the state for terrorists belonging to the banned Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) and other militant groups operating in the province.

According to the sources, security forces destroyed multiple militant hideouts and ambush positions during the operation and recovered weapons and explosive material from the sites. The sources added that operations would continue until terrorism is eliminated from Balochistan and peace and order are fully restored.

On Friday, Chief of Defence Forces and Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir expressed a resolve to dismantle terrorist infrastructure in Balochistan, saying consistent efforts by security forces and law enforcement agencies, backed by the steadfast support of the people, would bring lasting peace

to the province. Munir said, "Targeted operations against Fitna al-Khawariz and Fitna al-Hindustan will continue with full resolve until the menace of terrorism and its abettors are eliminated from Pakistan."

UNSC confirms rise in TTP attacks from Afghanistan. Terrorism has significantly increased in Pakistan, particularly in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, in recent days. The rise in terrorist activity has led to growing concerns over the security situation in these regions. In response, security forces have been conducting intensive operations to counter the threat, targeting terrorist groups.

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC), in a report released in February, also drew attention to a series of attacks by the banned Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) against Pakistani security forces and projects linked to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). "On September 16, 2025, the BLA ambushed a Pakistani mili-

tary convoy patrolling the corridor, killing 32 troops. While counter-terrorism operations by Pakistan restricted the BLA's operational space, it remained active."

The report added that some member states reported that the BLA collaborated with the TTP and ISIL-K through shared training camps and resources, coordinating attacks and meetings between commanders. Some member states assessed that there was neither an association nor growing ties between the BLA and Al Qaeda or ISIL.

It further highlighted that various groups in Afghanistan had acquired modern weapons and equipment through cross-border smuggling and black-market trade. "TTP used advanced assault rifles, night-vision devices, thermal-imaging devices, sniper systems and drone attack systems. Most of these were provided by the de facto authorities in conjunction with weapons permits and travel documents," it said.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi Meets Balochistan CM Sarfraz Bugti in Quetta to Boost Security & Police Capacity

QASEEM SHAH:

QUETTA: In a major effort to bolster security and counterterrorism infrastructure across the province, Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi met with Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti in Quetta today.

The two leaders co-chaired a high-level security meeting to review the overall law and order situation and map out a comprehensive strategy for long-term regional stability.

During the session, Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti briefed the Interior Minister on current security operations, ongoing counterterrorism initiatives, and future security roadmaps aimed at safeguarding citizens and vital state assets.

Upgrading Balochistan Police and CTD Infrastructure. A major decision emerging from the meeting was the immediate commitment to strengthen the capacity and operational readiness of the Balochistan Police and the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD).

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi assured the provincial government that the Federal Ministry of Interior will provide



Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi met with Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti in Quetta today.

all necessary financial, technical, and logistical resources to modernize law enforcement agencies.

"The federal government stands firmly behind Balochistan to ensure sustainable peace," stated Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi. "Executing the peace restoration master plan quickly and effectively is a top priority."

Naqvi stressed that combating terrorism requires adopting modern technology, enhancing intelligence-sharing, and consulting experienced former police chiefs of Balochistan to build an adaptable defense strategy. He added that federal and

provincial authorities are aligned with total unity to maintain the state's writ.

Zero Tolerance for Terrorism and Focus on Youth Empowerment

Echoing the federal commitment, Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti stated that the state will maintain a proactive stance against anti-state forces and will yield to no external or political pressure.

"We will remain a step ahead on every front in the fight against terrorism," said CM Bugti. "The writ of the state will

be established at all costs, leaving no sanctuary for terrorists."

Beyond kinetic operations, Bugti emphasized that restoring peace requires investing in human capital.

The Chief Minister outlined provincial priorities centered on empowering local youth through positive socio-economic opportunities, merit-based hiring, technical skill development, and education.

"Peace, development, and economic growth are deeply linked," Bugti noted. "With federal collaboration, we will ensure rapid progress on both the security and development fronts across Balochistan."

QUETTA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

Forced Marriage in Islam: A Clear Violation of Women's Rights and Human Dignity

By Musavir Durrani:

Forced marriage remains one of the most damaging cultural practices in parts of the Muslim world today. Despite being justified in the name of honor, tradition, or family unity, Islam itself strictly forbids forcing any woman, or man, into a marriage they do not want. Islamic teachings make consent the core of marriage, while coercion makes a marriage batil (invalid).

The Qur'an clearly forbids forced marriages. Allah states in Surah An-Nisa: "O you who believe, it is not lawful for you to inherit women against their will."

(Qur'an 4:19) This verse was revealed to abolish the jahiliyyah practice of controlling or forcing women into marriages.

Islam replaced oppression with dignity, choice, and responsibility. Prophetic Example: Forced Marriages Declared Invalid.

A woman once came to the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)



complain that her father had married her without her permission. The Prophet (PBUH) gave her the full right to reject or accept the marriage, proving that consent is mandatory.

Hadith References: Sahih al-Bukhari, Hadith 5138.

Sahih Muslim, Hadith 1419. These narrations all confirm that the Prophet (PBUH) allowed the woman to annul her forced marriage.

One narration even states that she chose to remain married but wanted to teach women that fa-

thers have no right to force their daughters. Parents Can Advise, But They Cannot Force. Islam highly respects parents, but marriage choice is not their right. They can guide, suggest, and advise, but they have ab-

solutely no power to force their child into marrying someone. Even if parents think they "know what is best," they cannot override the choice of their daughter or son. The final decision always belongs to the person getting married.

Statements such as: "If you don't marry this one, who will marry you?," "You have no choice," "Do it for family honor," "You must obey your parents." These are pure emotional manipulation, and Islam does

not allow it. Emotional or Psychological Pressure is Also Haram. Forced marriage is not only when someone is physically pressured. Even emotional, mental, or family pressure counts as force. Any Nikkah done under fear, pressure, or

threats is invalid (Batil) in Islam. This ruling is based on multiple hadith in which the Prophet (PBUH) annulled

marriages done without consent.

Modern Forced Marriages, A New Way of Burying Women Alive. Before Islam, Arabs used to bury baby

girls alive. Today, many scholars say: "We no longer bury women in the ground, we bury their dreams on the day of their Nikkah."

When a girl is forced into a marriage, pressured emotionally, or told she has no other choice, we destroy her life while she is still alive. This is the new form of burying women alive, and Islam came to end this injustice completely.

Forced marriage has no place in Islam. It is against the Qur'an, against the Sunnah, and against the dignity that Islam gives to every woman and man. Parents must love, support, and guide, but never control or force marriage decisions. "Allah gave women this right, and no one can take it away".

Mothers: The Real Strength Behind Every Nation

By Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi:

Motherhood remains one of the most powerful and transformative forces in human civilization. Across cultures, religions, and nations, mothers symbolize love, sacrifice, resilience, and unconditional support. On International Mother's Day, the world reflects on the extraordinary role mothers play in shaping families, strengthening societies, and building nations.

A mother is a child's first teacher and lifelong guide. Before formal education begins, it is the mother who introduces values such as kindness, discipline, compassion, honesty, and respect.

The moral foundation of every society is first built within homes, where mothers nurture the character and emotional well-being of future generations. Their influence extends far beyond family life and directly impacts the social, cultural, and national fabric of a country.

In today's fast-changing world, where societies face growing social divisions, emotional stress, and moral uncertainty, the importance of mothers has become even more significant. Mothers are not merely caregivers; they are the guardians of social values and the backbone of stable communities. No nation can achieve sustainable peace, development, or prosperity



without strong families, and strong families are built by empowered and respected mothers.

In Pakistan, motherhood holds deep cultural, religious, and emotional significance. From an early age, children are taught the timeless principle that paradise lies beneath the feet of mothers.

This teaching reflects the immense respect Islam and Pakistani traditions place on maternal sacrifice and care. Across the country, countless mothers dedicate their lives to securing a better future for their chil-

dren, often placing the needs, education, and comfort of their families above their own dreams and ambitions.

The mothers of Pakistan have consistently demonstrated courage and resilience during some of the nation's most difficult moments.

Whether during natural disasters, economic hardships, or times of conflict, mothers remained the emotional strength of their families and communities. The mothers of soldiers and martyrs deserve particular recognition for their extraordinary sacrifices. Their patience, dignity,

and unwavering courage remind us that patriotism is first nurtured within homes before it is witnessed on battlefields.

In Balochistan, motherhood reflects a unique story of endurance and resilience. Women in many remote and underserved areas continue to face serious challenges, including limited access to healthcare, education, and basic facilities.

Despite these hardships, mothers across the province continue to raise their children with dignity, strength, and hope. Their determination

and sacrifices deserve acknowledgment not only on Mother's Day but throughout the entire year.

The way a society treats its mothers often reflects its moral and social condition. Respecting mothers should not be limited to symbolic celebrations, flowers, or speeches once a year. Genuine respect requires practical action. It means ensuring quality healthcare for women, better educational opportunities for girls, maternity protections in workplaces, financial security for families, and safe environments where women

can thrive with dignity.

There is also an urgent need to recognize the emotional and invisible labor carried by mothers. In countless households, mothers work tirelessly from morning until night without recognition or appreciation. Their sacrifices are often overlooked simply because they are made quietly and consistently. Yet behind nearly every successful individual stands a mother who sacrificed her comfort, sleep, ambitions, and personal well-being for the future of her children.

Modern research

increasingly highlights that emotional and mental well-being begins within the home. Children raised in stable and loving environments are more likely to become responsible, confident, and compassionate citizens. Mothers play a central role in creating that environment. Their guidance during uncertainty, patience during hardship, and prayers during difficult times leave life-long impacts on their children's character and future.

At the same time, motherhood should never become synonymous with exhaustion or isolation. Families and communities must actively support mothers and share responsibilities within households. Raising children and managing family life should not remain the burden of women alone. A truly progressive society is one where mothers receive emotional, social, and institutional support alongside respect and appreciation.

International Mother's Day also serves as a reminder to remember mothers who are no longer with us. Their teachings, sacrifices, and prayers continue to guide our lives long after their departure. Many people realize the true value of a mother only after losing her presence. This occasion encourages individuals to express gratitude, love, and care while they still have the opportunity.

In an age dominated by technology and digital communication, family structures and human relationships are rapidly changing. Despite these transformations, the warmth, sincerity, and emotional security provided by a mother remain irreplaceable. No institution, technology, or social system can substitute the comfort and strength that a mother gives to her children.

As the world celebrates International Mother's Day, societies must move beyond ceremonial messages and seriously reflect on their responsibilities toward mothers. Respect for mothers should be visible in public policies, social attitudes, and everyday behavior. Children must be taught from an early age to honor their mothers not only through words but through actions, by listening to them, supporting them in old age, and standing beside them during difficult moments.

The true strength of nations does not emerge solely from economic growth, military power, or political systems. It begins within homes, where mothers nurture honesty, resilience, compassion, faith, and humanity in future generations. Every successful civilization has been built upon the sacrifices of mothers whose names may never appear in history books, yet whose influence shapes the destiny of nations.

Chenab flood level eases from medium to low; PMD forecasts more rain in upper parts of Punjab from July 29

NEWS DESK: Chenab continued to witness flooding on Sunday, but with flow eased from medium to low, as the Met Office forecast a fresh rainfall spell from July 29 in the upper catchments of all major rivers, as well as Islamabad, upper Punjab and northern parts of the country.

The Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) in Punjab said in a statement issued on Sunday morning that while the rivers in the province continued to flood due to rain, the flow in the waterways had remained stable in the past 24 hours.

It added that there was low-level flooding in the Indus River at Kalabagh, Chashma, and Taunsa waterworks, with water flow being recorded at 334,000 cusecs at Kalabagh, 370,000 cusecs at Chashma and 313,000 cusecs at Taunsa around 6am.

In the Chenab River, the flooding situation was subsiding, reaching a low-level flood at Marala, Khanki, Qadirabad, and Trimmu barrages, the authority added. At Marala, the water flow was 143,000 cusecs, 138,000 cusecs at Khanki, 135,000 cusecs at Qadirabad, and 184,000 cusecs at Trimmu as of 6am, the PDMA said.

A low-level flood also persisted in the Ravi



River at the Balloki and Sidhni headworks, with 81,000 cusecs at Balloki and 60,000 cusecs at Sidhni, it said, adding that the water flow at Shahdara in the Ravi River remained normal.

Water flow in Sutlej and Jhelum rivers was also at normal levels, it said.

PDMA added that there was a medium flood situation in Narowal's Basantar Nullah while a high-level flood persisted in Wazirabad's Phalko Nullah, with a flow of 5,000 cusecs.

The PDMA statement also carried the authority's director general's appeal to citizens residing in the floodplains to immediately evacuate to safer places, adding that the provincial government had made all necessary arrangements for affected areas.

"All basic facilities and medicines will be provided in the flood relief camps," the DG was quoted as saying.

In a separate statement, the PDMA said that 115mm of rain was recorded in Noorpur Thal, 107mm in Gujranwala, 94mm in Gujrat, 68mm in Narowal, 65mm in Mandi Bahaudin, 52mm in Sialkot Airport, 46mm in Okara, 40mm in Jauharabad and 38mm in Sargodha during the last 24 hours.

Meanwhile, Lahore received 37mm of rainfall, Mangla 37mm, Jhelum 32mm, Sheikhupura 28mm, Hafizabad and Kasur 27mm, Chakwal 20mm, Bahawalnagar 18mm and Khanewal 16 mm, the spokesperson said.

"A total of 450 mm of rain was recorded in Lahore over a period of 5 days," the statement

said, adding that Rawalpindi, Faisalabad, Multan, Attock, Murree and Bahawalpur also received rainfall.

According to the statement, PMD's control room and district emergency operation centres remain on high alert.

It also raised caution regarding the risk of flooding in rivers and canals in low-lying areas due to rain, as well as landslides in mountainous areas such as Murree. Heavy rain may also damage mud-brick houses, it added.

The authority advised citizens to contact the PDMA helpline 1129 — in case of an emergency.

On Saturday, at least seven people, including two children, were killed and 20 others injured in rain-related incidents across Punjab.

According to

KP Governor Kundi says over 1,300kg of explosives used in Tank checkpoint attack

NEWS DESK: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi on Sunday said that more than 1,300 kilograms of explosives were used in the recent attack on a Tank checkpoint that resulted in the martyrdom of 15 people, including 14 security personnel.

The governor made the remarks while speaking to journalists at the Regional Police Office in Dera Ismail Khan after attending a security briefing on the law and order situation in the region.

DI Khan's District Police Officer (DPO) Ziauddin Ahmad and Tank DPO Abdul Samad Khan were also present on the occasion.

Kundi described Friday's attack on the Manji Khel checkpoint in Tank as a tragic incident in which he said personnel of the Pakistan Army, police and the forest department embraced martyrdom in the line of duty.

More than 1,300 kilograms of explosives had been used in the attack, he said, adding that it showed the scale and sophistication of the terrorism threat.

The KP governor called for a unified national response to terrorism, saying the federal and provincial governments, security forces and the public must stand together to counter militant threats and ensure lasting peace in the province.

He said Pakistan

internal and external security challenges and the country's security forces continued to make sacrifices to protect national sovereignty and to ensure public safety.

He said India was using Afghan territory through terrorist groups to destabilise Pakistan, while claiming that weapons abandoned in Af-

ghanistan by international forces were frequently being used in terrorist attacks inside Pakistan, particularly in KP.

Kundi said the people of the province and the country's security forces had demonstrated remarkable resilience and that attacks such as the one in Tank could not weaken the morale of either the forces or the public.

"I met the injured personnel, and their courage and determination are commendable," he said.

The governor said he would convey the

recommendations presented by the regional police to the federal government, as well as raise with Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and the provincial government the matter of scaling up compensation and support packages for injured security personnel.

He said the welfare of the families of martyrs

was a collective responsibility and assured them of continued support.

Calling for closer coordination between Islamabad and Peshawar, Kundi said the provincial government should work shoulder to shoulder with the federal government in the fight against terrorism.

He stressed the need to intensify intelligence-based operations across KP and said he would discuss the matter with the chief minister. He reiterated that restoring peace in KP and the wider region re-



according to the military's media affairs wing. The Inter-Service Public Relations said the attempt, however, was swift and decisively foiled by security forces, who eliminated 12 terrorists. It said the attackers then rammed an explosive-laden vehicle into the perimeter wall and infrastructure at the checkpoint, which was seriously damaged by the impact of the resulting blast. It took place as KP continues to face terrorism, with security forces foiling a suicide bombing in South Waziristan district and killing four terrorists.

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PTI slams govt over Rs1.8bn package for bureaucrats

NEWS DESK: The PTI on Saturday criticised the government for continuously increasing fuel prices while simultaneously allowing a Rs1.8 billion special allowance package for top bureaucrats who already receive free fuel.

PTI Information Secretary Sheikh Waqas Akram said ordinary Pakistanis were subjected to a six-day petroleum monsoon that drove petrol to Rs335.18 and diesel to Rs383.46 per litre.

He observed that the rulers have perfected a dual system: free fuel and luxuries for the elite, and daily fuel bombs for the public.

Agriculture, transport and industry are being systematically executed under the excuse of international markets.

"PTI demands the immediate rollback of the six-day cumulative

hike, a sharp cut in the Rs80 per litre petroleum levy and the overall Rs1.7 trillion levy target, and the complete scrap of the disastrous daily pricing mechanism," Mr Akram said.

He added that Rs1.8 billion bureaucratic benefit package should be cancelled.

On the agricultural front, Mr Akram called the government's sudden decision to import 1.1 million metric tonnes of wheat the most transparent fraud.

After claiming a bumper harvest of over 29m tonnes against a domestic consumption of 27m tonnes, he said the sudden shortage and the mysterious disappearance of 4.5m tonnes raised questions of monumental incompetence.

"PTI demands full transparency on production and stock figures, an immediate foren-

sic audit of the missing 4.5m tonnes, the declaration of an agricultural emergency, cancellation of unnecessary imports, and an immediate announcement of next season's minimum support price," he said.

In Sindh, Mr Akram accused the provincial government of reducing the Sindh Public Service Commission's 2024 exam results to a political marketplace.

demanding an independent forensic audit and the cancellation of tainted results.

In Azad Kashmir, he condemned what he described as the ruling alliance's pre-poll theatrics. Dispatching 10 electric buses adorned with Maryam Nawaz's photographs, funded by Punjab taxpayers, constitutes open electoral bribery and a mockery of the election code, Mr Akram said.

"During the investigation, it emerged that an entire misinformation network was operating through bot farms," Tarar said, adding that the network was used to spread "anti-state con-

tent" targeting Pakistan, its institutions, the government, the armed forces and the army chief.

According to the minister, investigators traced much of the promoted content to campaigns surrounding the

broader conspiracy rather than a campaign for the rights of Kashmiris.

He also questioned why the group had not participated in the democratic process if it genuinely represented public interests.

Referring to previous protests in Azad Kashmir, Tarar accused the committee of encouraging violence, creating law and order problems and taking the law into its own hands by

Suspect arrested over India-linked digital influence campaign: Tarar

NEWS DESK: Federal Information Minister Attaulah Tarar on Sunday said that investigators had uncovered an India-linked digital propaganda network aimed at spreading misinformation and anti-state content in Pakistan, a social media campaign related to the Joint Action Committee (JAC) in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) was funded from across the border.

Addressing a press conference in Islamabad, Tarar said security agencies had recently arrested a person providing digital marketing services whose activities had links to India.

He revealed investigators found that payments for promoting and amplifying social media content in Pakistan were made through payment gateways originating from India.

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He also questioned why the group had not participated in the democratic process if it genuinely represented public interests.

Referring to previous protests in Azad Kashmir, Tarar accused the committee of encouraging violence, creating law and order problems and taking the law into its own hands by

blocking roads and organising armed demonstrations.

The minister stated authorities now possessed "irrefutable evidence" linking the campaign to India.

"There should no longer be any doubt that

weaving technical investigations had traced the payments.

"All the payments for the Joint Action Committee's social media content were coming from India, and this has been established through technical data," he said.

He further stated that investigators had recovered WhatsApp conversations between the arrested suspect and an Indian operator discussing payments, targeted viewership and account settings.

According to Tarar, payments were transferred in small amounts to avoid detection by financial monitoring systems.

He also revealed that forensic investigators had traced the origin of several online accounts to India despite the use of virtual private networks (VPNs).

"When a VPN masks a user's location, the device itself can still be identified during forensic analysis."

That is how these India-based accounts were detected," he said.



its links lead to India, and we now have undeniable evidence," he said.

Tarar said that social media campaigns supporting the JAC were financed from India, re-

looking ahead, four broad scenarios are possible. "The first is renewed escalation through missile exchanges, proxy warfare, cyber operations and maritime disruptions. This would increase regional instability and threaten the global economy without producing lasting security for any party."

The second is a prolonged "cold peace," characterised by deterrence, sanctions and intermittent crises. While preferable to open war,

it would leave the Middle East trapped in strategic uncertainty," he said, adding:

"The third is a comprehensive political settlement addressing the nuclear issue, sanctions, maritime security and regional confidence-building. Such an agreement would require difficult compromises from both Washington and Tehran and remains the only durable path to peace."

He said: "The fourth, and in my view, the most promising, is the gradual emergence of an inclusive regional security architecture. Yet such a framework should include Iran, Saudi Arabia, the Gulf states, Iraq, Turkey, Egypt and other regional actors, supported by external powers rather than dominated by them. Confidence-building measures, military communication channels, maritime security arrangements and economic cooperation should become the foundations of this new order," he said.

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Police get notice on bail plea in foreign women's case

NEWS DESK: A special court (anti-rape) on Saturday issued a notice to Defence C police on a post-arrest bail petition filed by one of the suspects in two foreign women's abduction and rape case. The suspect filed the petition under Section 497 of CrPc.

Advocate Salman Shahid argued on behalf of the petitioner/suspect that his client had been falsely implicated in the case due to defective, selective and unfair investigation. He said no specific allegation or role had been attributed to the petitioner in the FIR. The counsel pointed out that the petitioner was a member of the janitorial staff at the

property allegedly used for the alleged occurrence narrated in the FIR. He said no incriminating evidence of the petitioner's presence at the alleged occurrence had been presented by the police, he added.

The lawyer asked the court to release the

petitioner on bail as there was no need to keep him behind bars. After hearing initial arguments, the court issued a notice to the prosecution for July 28.

Initially, the police had arrested four suspects, including one related to a senior political figure, in the case. Later, they arrested three more suspects, including the present petitioner.

While presenting his paper on "Beyond the Iran-US War: Changing Dynamics of Power in the Middle East and the Search for a New Regional Security Architecture," Mr Durrani, who also served as ambassador to the United Arab Emirates and Special Representative of Pakistan to Afghanistan, said: "At the same time,

'Military superiority no longer guarantees political success'

NEWS DESK: Former Ambassador of Pakistan to Iran Asif Ali Khan Durrani has said the recent conflict between Iran and the United States has highlighted one fundamental reality that military superiority no longer guarantees political success.

Speaking at a seminar organised by the Pakistan Institute of International Affairs (PIIA) here on Saturday, he pointed out: "The United States remains the world's foremost military power, while Israel retains overwhelming conventional military superiority in the region. Yet neither has been able to compel Iran to abandon its strategic posture."

While presenting his paper on "Beyond the Iran-US War: Changing Dynamics of Power in the Middle East and the Search for a New Regional Security Architecture," Mr Durrani, who also served as ambassador to the United Arab Emirates and Special Representative of Pakistan to Afghanistan, said: "At the same time,

Iran has demonstrated remarkable resilience but has paid a heavy economic and human price. The lesson is clear. Modern wars may destroy infrastructure, but they rarely eliminate political systems or resolve deep-rooted strategic disputes.

"This reality makes diplomacy not a matter of choice but of necessity. The United States has no doubt placed the Islamabād Memorandum under severe strain. Nevertheless, its

importance should not be underestimated. It demonstrated that diplomacy can halt escalation even after intense military confrontation. The challenge now is to transform a fragile ceasefire into a sustainable political process addressing the underlying causes of conflict," Ambassador Durrani.

A message of Durrani says Iran-US war has become a defining moment in the evolution of a new Middle Eastern order.

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He also revealed that forensic investigators had traced the origin of several online accounts to India despite the use of virtual private networks (VPNs).

"When a VPN masks a user's location, the device itself can still be identified during forensic analysis."

That is how these India-based accounts were detected," he said.

Referring to previous protests in Azad Kashmir, Tarar accused the committee of encouraging violence, creating law and order problems and taking the law into its own hands by

blocking roads and organising armed demonstrations.

The minister stated authorities now possessed "irrefutable evidence" linking the campaign to India.

"There should no longer be any doubt that

weaving technical investigations had traced the payments.

"All the payments for the Joint Action Committee's social media content were coming from India, and this has been established through technical data," he said.