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Global Bitcoin Partnerships Gain Momentum as El Salvador and Pakistan Leaders Meet

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In a move highlighting the growing global interest in decentralized finance, leaders from El Salvador and Pakistan met to strengthen cooperation on Bitcoin initiatives, focusing on energy, education, and economic development.

El Salvador's President Nayib Bukele recently welcomed Pakistan's Minister of Crypto, Bilal Bin Saqib, for a strategic meeting centered around Bitcoin development. The two discussed shared goals around Bitcoin mining, the creation of sovereign digital reserves, and education efforts aimed at familiarizing citizens, particularly the youth with financial innovation. This meeting signals deepening ties between the two countries, looking to challenge global financial norms and embrace digital currency solutions for national growth.

El Salvador has led the charge in state-level adoption of Bitcoin (BTC), having declared it legal tender in 2021, an unprecedented move. Since then, the Central American country has amassed over 6,240 BTC through its national holdings, valued at more than \$400 million. Notably, El Salvador has also pioneered clean Bitcoin mining operations using geothermal energy from the Tecapa volcano, generating around \$29 million to date. This green initiative remains one of the only government-run crypto mining programs worldwide.

In terms of education, the Bukele administration has launched several programs to build public awareness and literacy around Bitcoin. This includes the “What Is Money?” curriculum, now part of public schools for students aged 7–13, and the “Mi Primer Bitcoin” (My First Bitcoin) initiative. For older students, the CUBO+ scholarship offers a university-level track in blockchain and Bitcoin fundamentals an aggressive push to embed digital finance into the country’s future workforce.

Pakistan, while late to the game, is now actively moving toward a legal and regulatory framework for Bitcoin. In March, the South Asian nation announced plans to legitimize Bitcoin and other digital assets as part of its broader economic strategy. Minister Saqib emphasized that Pakistan’s youthful, tech-savvy population presents a major opportunity. “We want to attract international investment because Pakistan is a low-cost, high-growth market with 60% of the population under 30,” he said during the meeting.

The meeting in El Salvador follows earlier conversations in Pakistan between Minister Saqib, Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb, and MicroStrategy Executive Chairman Michael Saylor. That discussion explored how Bitcoin could serve as a hedge against inflation and a tool for broader economic empowerment in Pakistan.

While global institutions remain skeptical or outright hostile to Bitcoin, smaller and more agile nations are increasingly seeing potential in the digital currency’s decentralized nature. It’s not just a financial experiment; it’s a bid for sovereignty in a global system dominated by inflationary fiat currencies and centralized control.

Though not without risk, these partnerships indicate that alternatives to the traditional banking model are no longer theoretical. With leaders like Bukele and Saqib at the helm, Bitcoin may soon be more than a speculative asset; it could become a cornerstone of modern statecraft.