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## Pakistan, US Renew Push for Trade and Investment

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Pakistan and the United States have pledged to strengthen bilateral trade and investment ties, reportedly marking a new phase in their economic engagement.

The commitment was reaffirmed during a meeting between Finance Minister Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb and U.S. Embassy Chargé d’Affaires Natalie Baker in Islamabad. The discussion focused on the recently negotiated trade agreement, which both sides stated is intended to encourage greater economic collaboration and attract foreign investment into Pakistan.

Aurangzeb described Pakistan’s economy as showing signs of improvement, citing Moody’s recent upgrade of the country’s credit rating. The minister noted that all three leading international rating agencies have provided more positive outlooks, a development he attributed to ongoing economic reforms.

He outlined new tariff reforms designed to liberalize trade and promote export-led growth. Recalling his recent visit to Washington, Aurangzeb said he met U.S. Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick and U.S. Trade Representative Ambassador Jamieson Greer, where discussions concluded with a reaffirmation of both sides’ interest in enhancing bilateral economic cooperation.

The agreement covers several priority areas, including energy, mining, information technology, cryptocurrency, infrastructure, and digital services. The finance minister noted that these measures could potentially facilitate U.S. investment in Pakistan’s infrastructure, energy, and mineral sectors.

Natalie Baker welcomed the reforms and highlighted Washington's interest in furthering business ties. She mentioned the interest of U.S. companies in supply chains, production, energy, critical minerals, and oil exploration. According to Baker, these initiatives aim to strengthen bilateral trade and long-term private sector partnerships.

Both parties reiterated their commitment to implement the agreements. The discussions emphasized practical steps to support business environments, strengthen investor confidence, and encourage growth in emerging sectors such as digital technologies and renewable energy.

The renewed engagement occurs as Pakistan seeks to boost foreign direct investment and consolidate its economic recovery. The government expects that U.S. collaboration may help attract capital, technology, and market access.

For Washington, deeper economic ties with Islamabad present opportunities in strategic sectors and contribute to regional economic connectivity. Both sides highlighted energy security, digital infrastructure, and mining as potential areas for expanded cooperation.

### Why This Matters

The agreement reflects an effort to support Pakistan's economic development through foreign partnerships. With reforms underway and renewed U.S. engagement, Pakistan is positioning itself to attract investment that could contribute to growth and trade in the region.