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## Bilawal Meets Trump Aide to Discuss Regional Cooperation

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Islamabad — Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari met U.S. Presidential Aide Ricky Gill on Thursday at Zardari House in Islamabad, discussing bilateral cooperation, regional stability, and trade ties.

The meeting was also attended by U.S. chargé d'affaires Natalie Baker and First Lady Aseefa Bhutto Zardari. According to details, the discussion covered a range of diplomatic and economic issues, focusing on fostering mutual understanding and long-term engagement between Pakistan and the United States.

Bilawal expressed appreciation to former U.S. President Donald J. Trump for his “decisive role” in easing recent tensions between Pakistan and India. He noted that continued dialogue between the two nations remains vital for regional peace.

Ricky Gill, who serves as Senior Director for South and Central Asian Affairs at the U.S. National Security Council, reaffirmed Washington’s commitment to constructive engagement with Pakistan on shared interests, including security cooperation and trade partnerships.

Sources described the exchange as cordial and productive, with both sides emphasising the importance of open diplomatic channels. No formal agreements were signed during the meeting, but participants indicated that discussions would continue through established diplomatic avenues.

Observers note that Gill’s visit reflects the broader intent of the U.S. administration to strengthen ties with South Asian nations and maintain dialogue on matters impacting regional stability. His role includes advising on policy approaches toward South and Central Asia and representing U.S. interests in strategic discussions.

The meeting follows recent outreach by senior Pakistani leaders to enhance economic cooperation with global partners, particularly in light of evolving geopolitical developments in the region.

While the conversation was private, PPP sources said it focused on pragmatic, forward-looking cooperation rather than political rhetoric. Both parties reaffirmed their interest in pursuing areas of mutual benefit, particularly in trade, investment, and counterterrorism coordination.

The visit concluded without a press conference, but a statement released later by the PPP media cell reiterated the importance of maintaining strong diplomatic ties between Islamabad and Washington.