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Pakistan's Diplomatic Reset Gains Western Recognition

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Field Marshal Asim Munir's approach to foreign policy is gaining recognition from Western observers, with *The Economist* recently highlighting a marked improvement in Pakistan's diplomatic posture. The UK-based publication praised Munir's efforts in steering Pakistan's international relations towards greater stability and strategic relevance.

In its coverage, *The Economist* drew attention to recent developments indicating a shift in US-Pakistan relations. While the exact details of diplomatic engagements remain largely

behind closed doors, American officials have acknowledged Islamabad's contributions in counter-terrorism and regional security.

Notably, US Central Command (Centcom) chief General Michael Kurilla, during a June statement, referred to Pakistan as a “phenomenal partner” in the fight against terrorism. He specifically cited Pakistani operations in Balochistan and the dismantling of militant networks associated with the Islamic State as major successes.

The Economist also noted renewed discussions in Washington around enhancing trade and defense cooperation with Pakistan. Senior US officials reportedly confirmed that talks are underway regarding the potential supply of military equipment, including night vision systems and armored vehicles, to support Pakistan's counter-insurgency operations.

In contrast to previously strained ties, the article suggests that Washington may be softening its stance on issues that were once contentious, including Pakistan's missile development program. This reflects a broader trend of recalibration in bilateral ties, possibly driven by shared security interests in South Asia and the Middle East.

The publication also quoted Pakistan's Director General of Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), Lieutenant General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry, who stated that Field Marshal Munir is “well-versed” in Western diplomatic norms, despite not receiving formal military training in the US or UK.

While the article contrasts current US-Pakistan relations with the growing economic and diplomatic challenges faced by India, it refrains from framing the shifts as zero-sum. Rather, it suggests a nuanced realignment, with Pakistan reemerging as a relevant partner in Washington's regional strategy.

This evolving dynamic coincides with Islamabad's ongoing efforts to boost its global image, strengthen trade partnerships, and deepen strategic dialogue with Western powers.

Although long-standing issues remain, the tone from Washington appears more constructive than in previous years, a sign that Pakistan's diplomatic overtures under Field Marshal Munir may be bearing fruit.