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## US-Pakistan Trade Talks Advance as Dar, Rubio Tackle Tariffs

July 29, 2025

– Categories: Politics & Government



In a pivotal phone call on July 28, 2025, Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar and United States (US) Secretary of State Marco Rubio discussed trade tariffs and bilateral relations, building on their recent Washington meeting. With the US as Pakistan's largest export market, these talks aim to secure a fair trade agreement before an August deadline, boosting economic ties and addressing regional concerns.

The conversation followed a productive meeting in Washington, D.C., on July 25, where Dar emphasized Pakistan's desire for a "stable and expanded" relationship with the US, according to Pakistan's Foreign Office. The focus on tariffs is critical, as the US accounts for approximately \$5 billion in Pakistani exports annually. Originally set to take effect in July, the tariffs have been deferred to August, creating a tight window for negotiations. Dar highlighted Pakistan's appeal as a destination for US businesses, stressing opportunities in trade, investment, and sectors like agriculture and technology. Rubio echoed the sentiment, expressing interest in expanding commercial ties, particularly in critical minerals, as noted by State Department Spokesperson Tammy Bruce.

Beyond trade, the leaders addressed regional security and counterterrorism. Dar praised President Donald Trump's efforts in promoting global peace, especially amid Pakistan-India tensions, while Rubio acknowledged Pakistan's sacrifices in the fight against terrorism. The Foreign Office reported that both sides discussed Afghanistan, with Rubio agreeing on the need to resolve issues surrounding US military equipment left there. This dialogue underscores a shared commitment to stability, with Pakistan's role as a non-permanent United Nations Security Council member for 2025-2026 adding weight to its global stance.

Pakistan's proactive approach was further evident as Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb headed to the US to finalize the Pakistan-US Trade Dialogue, aiming for a mutually beneficial agreement. Commerce Minister Jam Kamal Khan also met with exporters to strategize responses to US tariff policies, reinforcing Pakistan's resolve to protect its economic interests. These talks signal a robust effort to strengthen US-Pakistan ties, prioritizing free-market principles and regional cooperation over bureaucratic overreach, with both nations poised to benefit from a balanced trade framework.