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## Pakistan and Indonesia Deepen Strategic Defence and Economic Cooperation

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Pakistan and Indonesia have taken decisive steps toward enhancing their bilateral partnership, with high-level meetings in Islamabad signalling a mutual commitment to expanded cooperation in defence, economic ventures, and regional stability. This renewed engagement marks a strategic alignment between two influential Muslim-majority nations seeking to reinforce their shared values and security interests amid a shifting global order.

Indonesia's Defence Minister, Lieutenant General (Retired) Sjafrie Sjamsoeddin, met with Pakistani Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif during his official visit to the country.

The discussions underscored Jakarta's interest in not just strengthening defence ties, but also exploring joint ventures in defence production, a crucial area for Islamabad as it aims to enhance its self-reliance and industrial capabilities. The meeting also revived momentum behind the Pakistan-Indonesia Defence Cooperation Agreement, a framework meant to institutionalize collaboration in military training, technology transfer, and co-production initiatives.

Prime Minister Sharif, in reaffirming Pakistan's commitment to deepening ties, highlighted the potential for broader economic engagement and increased strategic cooperation. He emphasized that both nations share a long-standing relationship rooted in religious and cultural harmony, reinforced by consistent support for one another at global forums. With trade and investment being key components of the evolving partnership, there is growin anticipation of collaborative initiatives that could benefit both economies, particularly in sectors like infrastructure development, halal trade, and energy.

Later in the day, General Sjamsoeddin also met with Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff, Field Marshal Asim Munir, at General Headquarters. According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the two sides exchanged views on regional defense dynamics and military-to-military cooperation, reaffirming the strategic nature of their defense relationship. As geopolitical alliances in the Asia-Pacific and South Asia continue to evolve, Pakistan and Indonesia's deepening ties send a clear message about their shared vision for regional peace and mutual resilience. With defense industries around the world shifting focus toward self-sufficiency and innovation, this partnership could well position both nations as emerging players in the regional security and defense production landscape.