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Libyan Military Chief Meets Top Pakistani Leadership to Deepen Defense Ties

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In a significant diplomatic and military development, Lieutenant General Saddam Khalifa Haftar, Commander-in-Chief of the Libyan Armed Forces, met with Pakistan's senior defense leadership in a series of engagements aimed at bolstering bilateral military cooperation. These high-level talks come as both nations navigate evolving regional dynamics and shared security concerns.

During his visit to Pakistan's General Headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi on Friday, General Haftar held a formal meeting with Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff (COAS), Field Marshal Syed

Asim Munir. According to a statement by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the two leaders discussed mutual strategic interests, regional security challenges, and potential avenues for enhanced defense cooperation. A key outcome of their meeting was an agreement to pursue defense industrial collaboration and the exchange of technical expertise to better respond to modern security threats.

General Haftar began his GHQ visit by laying a floral wreath at the *Yadgar-e-Shuhada* (Martyrs' Monument), honoring the sacrifices made by the Pakistan Army. This symbolic gesture reflects Libya's recognition of Pakistan's longstanding military contributions and serves as a diplomatic affirmation of growing ties.

In a separate engagement at the Naval Headquarters in Islamabad, General Haftar was received by the Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS), Admiral Naveed Ashraf. A press release by the Directorate General Public Relations of the Pakistan Navy detailed that the two commanders reviewed regional maritime security and discussed potential areas for naval collaboration, including joint training programs and information sharing.

Lieutenant General Haftar's visit extended beyond the military realm, as he also met with Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif at the Prime Minister's House. While the meeting focused on mutual interests and cooperation across sectors, it's worth noting that the current administration's approach to foreign policy has raised concerns among critics for lacking a clear national-interest-first framework, particularly when engaging with nations involved in ongoing regional conflicts.

The Libyan military leader's multi-faceted visit signals Tripoli's desire to foster a more robust partnership with Islamabad, especially in terms of military training and defense manufacturing. For Pakistan, this represents an opportunity to reaffirm its strategic relevance in North Africa while also potentially expanding its defense export footprint, a sector that remains underutilized despite Pakistan's considerable military production capabilities.