**PRESS RELEASE**

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Office of Assistant Director Media

Dated:- 13-04-2023

Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran, H.E. Mr.Seyyed Mohammad Ali Hosseini called on Minister for Defence, Khawaja Muhammad Asif in Islamabad today.

The Defence Minister expressed his appreciation for cordial and fraternal ties nourished by centuries old religious and cultural affinities. He stated the Pakistan is grateful for Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei’s strong and unwavering support for the just struggle of the people of Jammu & Kashmir.

While expressing the importance of Joint Border commission (JBC) the Federal Minister said that Pakistan has taken all necessary measures in domain of border management and joint efforts in this regard.

Khawaja Muhammad Asif expressed that Pakistan welcomes Iran-KSA rapprochement. It is a positive move for peace and stability in Persian Gulf and Strait of Hurmouz.

Moreover, Minister for Defence highlighted the importance of regional cooperation in achieving long lasting peace in Afghanistan after Taliban takeover of Kabul.

Ambassador of Iran, H.E. Mr.Seyyed Mohammad Ali Hosseini, appreciated Pakistan’s defence capabilities and opined that two countries have potential for extensive collaboration in the field of defence and for energy cooperation.

            Both sides aimed at extensive collaboration in various areas of common interest including security, joint counter terrorism measures and ensuring regional economic connectivity.

\*\*\*\*\*