

Oil and gas exploration, Bahrain urged to facilitate Pak oil, gas cos' participation

ISLAMABAD: Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed bin Mohamed Al Khalifa concluded his two-day visit to Pakistan after holding talks with civil and military leadership on issues of mutual interest.

At the last day of his visit, the Bahraini foreign minister called on President Dr Arif Alvi, Prime Minister Imran Khan and Chief of Army Staff Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa.

According to the media office of Presidency, President Dr Arif Alvi while talking to the visiting Bahraini foreign minister stressed the need for expanding bilateral trade between the two countries. The President highlighted the need for closer cooperation between the chambers of commerce of the two countries. He underlined that Bahrain can import food grains, fresh vegetables, fruits, dairy and meat products, textiles, leather goods, furniture, and surgical instruments from Pakistan. He urged Bahrain to facilitate participation of Pakistan's public and private oil and gas companies in exploration of oil and gas in Bahrain. He also highlighted the opportunity for Bahrain to invest in the development of Pakistan's tourism industry.

The President expressed his pleasure at signing of agreement on military cooperation in June 2018, which covers all areas of defence and reiterated Pakistan's desire to further enhance bilateral collaboration in the field of defence. He also said that Pakistan can play a mediatory role to bridge the differences between the Gulf countries.

The foreign minister of Bahrain appreciated the constructive role of Pakistani Diaspora in the economic development of Bahrain. He further said that investing in Pakistan is investing in the common future of both the countries.

The President underscored the need of prioritizing the employment of Pakistan's skilful workforce in Bahrain.

The foreign minister of Bahrain also called on Prime Minister Imran Khan, according to a brief statement of the PM House. No further details were shared except that Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi was also present during the meeting.

Meanwhile, according to Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the Bahraini foreign minister called on COAS General Qamar Javed Bajwa at General Headquarters (GHQ). During the meeting, the matters of mutual interest including security situation in the region were discussed, it stated, adding that the visiting dignitary acknowledged and appreciated Pakistan's contributions for conflict prevention in the region and also pledged to keep working for better relations between the two brotherly countries.

Earlier on Monday, Foreign Minister Shaikh Khalid held talks with Foreign Minister Qureshi during which the two sides also signed a Protocol on Avoidance of Double Taxation and Prevention of Fiscal Evasion, to further promote bilateral trade and investment relations.

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