

29 JAN 2001

Bahrain-Arrival

BAHRAIN PM ARRIVES FOR THREE-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT

SEPANG, Jan 29 (Bernama) -- The Prime Minister of Bahrain Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman Al-Khalifa arrived here today for a three-day official visit to Malaysia.

Shaikh Khalifa, who was accompanied by a 55-member delegation including four ministers, was accorded a red carpet welcome at the KL International Airport's Bunga Raya Complex.

On hand to receive him was Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Shaikh Khalifa then inspected a guard-of-honour mounted by 103 officers and men from the First Battalion Royal Malay Regiment. The central band of the Royal Malay Regiment played the national anthem of both countries.

Shaikh Khalifa was then introduced to members of the Malaysian cabinet, senior government officials and foreign diplomats.

The visit is at the invitation of Dr Mahathir who visited Bahrain in 1997.

Both leaders are scheduled to hold talks at the Prime Minister's office in Putrajaya today prior to leading their respective delegation for discussions on ways to enhance bilateral cooperation.

They are also expected to discuss regional and international issues of mutual interest.

Malaysian and Bahrain are expected to sign a memorandum of understanding to establish a joint commission which will pave the way for greater economic cooperation, among others, between the two countries.

Shaikh Khalifa and his delegation arrived in Penang on Saturday for a private visit.

Bahrain, whose capital is Manama, is an archipelago of low-lying islands located in the Arabian gulf on the eastern shore of Saudi Arabia.

Frequently called the "Pearl of the Arabian Gulf", Bahrain has a history of more than 5,000 years of civilisation with a stable and prosperous government.

-- BERNAMA

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