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Bahrain-Visit

MALAYSIA, BAHRAIN TO SIGN MoUs, ACCORDS DURING PM's VISIT

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 30 (Bernama) -- Bahrain and Malaysia will sign two memorandums of understanding (MoUs) and three agreements during the two-day visit of the Bahraini Prime Minister Shaikh Khalifa Salman Al Khalifa here beginning tomorrow, the Foreign Ministry said.

Khalifa and his Malaysian counterpart Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will sign the MoUs, one for the establishment of a Malaysian Trade and Distribution Centre and the other for developing Islamic banking and finance in Bahrain.

"Malaysia attaches importance to this visit as it believes that the visit would further strengthen and enhance the bilateral relations and economic cooperation between the two countries," Wisma Putra said a statement today.

Bahrain and Petronas, the national petroleum corporation, will also sign two oil exploration and production-sharing agreements involving two blocks in Bahrain's eastern offshore area.

The third agreement will be signed between Malaysia's Tekno Logam Sdn Bhd and its Bahraini counterpart Tekno Logam Company to establish a manufacturing plant in Bahrain to produce gaskets and metal pipe connectors, among other things.

The products are to cater for the West Asian petroleum and petrochemical industries, Wisma Putra said, forecasting ample opportunities to increase trade between the two countries given the market potentials there.

As of August this year, trade between the two countries stood at RM224.8 million and was in Bahrain's favour.

Aluminium products accounted for half of Bahrain's exports to Malaysia while Malaysia's exports, totalling RM68.4 million, mainly comprised timber products.

Khalifa, who last visited Kuala Lumpur in January this year, will also have an audience with the Deputy Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Mizan Zainal Abidin of Terengganu besides holding bilateral talks with Dr Mahathir.

Four ministers are part of his 60-member entourage this time around.

He leaves for Bangkok on Thursday.

-- BERNAMA

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