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Relations, Diaspora, and Pearl Revolution: Causes, Goals, Concessions and Situations

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Relations

Good. \$. 7b trade oil imports of \$. 5b; bilatreal coop in Edu and vocational training; eco and technical coop; IT agreement

Diaspora

Presence of nearly 400,000 Indian nationals out of a total of 1.2 million

residents in Bahrain is an important aspect of India's bilateral relations with

Bahrain. 65 - 70 % are unskilled or semi-skilled. Only occasional complaints.

Pearl Revolution

Causes

Sunni minority rule, Corruption, discrimination against Shias, unemployment, slow pace of democratization

Goals

Constitutional monarchy, Resignation of King Hamad, rewriting the Constitution, ending economic and human rights violations, Deportation of foreign mercenaries, equality for Shias, fair elections, freedom

Concessions

- Establishment of the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry and the National Dialogue, 1,000 Bahraini dinars (approx. US \$ 2,600) per family, increased social spending
- Government of Bahrain decided to invite representatives of
- expatriates to participate in the National Dialogue which started on 2 July

2011. Accordingly six Indian Associations got invitations

Situation

- Report expected on Oct 31,2011

- National Dialogue-Bahrain's largest Shiite opposition group Al-Wefaq said it planned to pull out of a national dialogue. It was given only 35 seats in 300.
- Al-Wefaq, is planning a large-scale demonstration.

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