
Pakistan to welcome Russian role in Iran gas pipeline : PM.

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Prime Minister of Pakistan said on Thursday that his country would welcome Russian participation in the multi-billion Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) gas pipeline project.

"Pakistan will welcome Russian participation in India-Pakistan-Iran gas pipeline project through investment in laying the pipeline," Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz told a joint news conference with his Russian counterpart Mikhail Fradkov after their talks in Islamabad.

"The IPI project is under discussion and all stakeholders are moving in the right direction and he discussed the project with Russian Prime Minister in talks," Aziz said.

"Both the sides also agreed to promote trade ties and considered to use Iran as a corridor between the two countries for this purpose," the Pakistani Prime Minister said.

To a question he said matter of Iranian nuclear issue also came under discussion and Russia was of the opinion that Iran has the right to use its nuclear program under IAEA for peaceful purposes.

He said Pakistan and Russia have common approach on the nuclear non-proliferation.

He said they also discussed regional issues including Afghanistan and relations, China, India and Iran besides ways and means to bring peace in Middle East by resolving the outstanding issues.

He said they also discussed energy cooperation between the two countries including exploring of oil, gas and coal and hydel power generation.

Responding to a question the Russian Prime Minister said he also discussed Kashmir issue with Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz besides other issues with India and during the meeting Aziz briefed him about the results of his visit to India and talks with Manmohan Singh.

The Russian Prime Minister expressed satisfaction over the result of his meeting with his Pakistani counterpart and said both sides also agreed to broaden their cooperation in the areas of scientific, technological and cultural cooperation.

"Russia believes that in future both the countries need regular consultations for expanding ties with Pakistan".

He said that he has discussed with Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz to build cooperation to combat terrorism and stressed the need for enhanced cooperation in this regard to respond the challenges.

Fradkov stressed the need to intensify work on reactivation of Inter-Governmental Commission to further expand and cement bilateral ties.
