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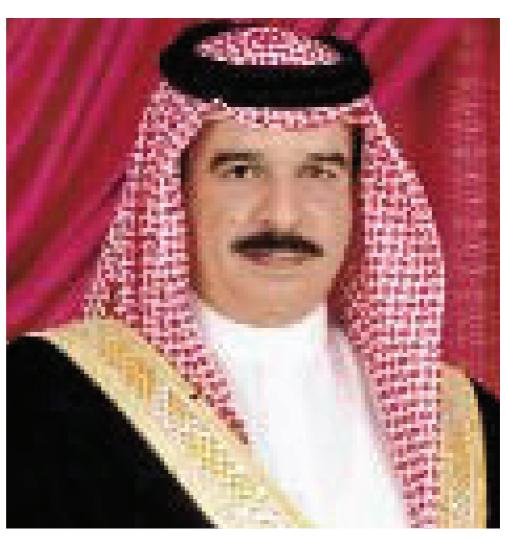
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Gulf States play a strategic role in the region

by Helene Rang



H.M. King Hamad bin Isa al-Khalifa of the Kingdom of Bahrain

NAII- UND MITTI OST-VIRIN E,V, GERMAN VEAR AND MIDDLE EAST ASSOCIATION

Jägerstr. 63 A / D, D-10117 Berlin Phone:+49 (0)30 - 206410-0 Fax.: +49 (0)30 - 206410-10 Email: numov@numov.de Internet: www.numov.de M. King Hamad bin Isa al-Khalifa of the Kingdom of Bahrain, embarked on his first official visit to Berlin from October 26th until October 29th 2008.

H.M. the King met with German Chancellor H.E. Dr. Angela Merkel, the German Federal President Dr. Horst Köhler and the German Foreign Minister H.E. Dr. Frank-Walter Steinmeier.

The talks addressed the strategic role played by the Gulf States for peace and stability in the region and called for a deepening of relations with the European Union, as well as emphasised the hope that the negotiations between the EU and the Gulf Cooperation Council on a free trade agreement will be brought to a speedy conclusion. The talks centred on the international financial

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