

INTERNATIONAL

# THE NEWS

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**ISLAMABAD:** Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif witnessing the exchange of documents at signing ceremony of LNG import agreement between private companies of Pakistan and Qatar at the PM House, Thursday.

## PM lauds role of private sector in LNG import

**Khalid Mustafa**

**ISLAMABAD:** Welcoming the investment by private sector in LNG sector, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif here on Thursday said that the government had created the policy framework and investor-friendly environment for more private investment into Pakistan in LNG infrastructure and supply side.

The premier stated this while attending the ceremony held in PM House to commemorate first-ever LNG supply deal for 20 years for which an agreement has been concluded between Pakistan's private company -- Global Energy Group with Qatargas Company, Furrukh Qayyum, CEO of the said private company told The News.

The petroleum minister said that one of the first and foremost challenges of the government, when his party came into power, was the energy shortages.

The chief executive of Pakistan said that Pakistan now had a constrained deficit of 3 billion cubic feet per day, which requires both public and private LNG projects and initiatives.

The ceremony was held at the Prime Minister's House. Qatari delegation was led by Saad Sherida S J Al-Kaabi, President and CEO, Qatar Petroleum, Khalid Khalifa Al-Thani, CEO, Qatargas, and senior management of Qatargas, along with federal ministers and senior government officials of Pakistan, and heads of diplomatic mission attended the ceremony.

In addition to Qatargas, other parties supporting LNG supply into Pakistan with Global Energy Group also attended the ceremony, including ExxonMobil, Total, Hoegh LNG, STFA and Standard Chartered Bank.

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