

## HM King decree for SIO reform

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His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa issued Decree (61) of 2025 restructuring the Social Insurance Organisation (SIO), based on a proposal of the Minister of Finance and National Economy and following the approval of the Cabinet.

The decree defines SIO’s governance, outlines mandates for actuarial, legal, communications, insurance, operations and pensioners’ affairs, repealing the Decree (79) of 2019.

The Minister of Finance and National Economy shall implement the decree, which takes effect from the date of issuance and will be published in the Official Gazette.

## Bahrain condolences with King Salman

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His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, sent cables of condolences to King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, following the passing of Her Royal Highness Princess Abta bint Abdulaziz bin Abdulrahman Al Saud.

## Global success

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His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, extended his congratulations to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa on the Kingdom’s achievement of securing first place in the 2025 Microsoft Showcase Schools Program.

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## HM King bolsters Bahraini-Russian ties



His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa underscored the strength of Bahraini-Russian relations and the shared interest to strengthen and expand them across all fields to serve the aspirations of both nations and peoples. HM the King was speaking as he received a gift of two rare Siberian Gyrfalcons from Russian President Vladimir Putin. The gesture reflects the strong ties between His Majesty and President Putin and underscores the commitment to further strengthening Bahraini-Russian relations. The gift was presented during HM King Hamad’s reception at Al Sakhir Palace of His Excellency Alexey Skosyrev, Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Bahrain, accompanied by Ivan Alexandrovich Kushch, Director of the Department of International Cooperation and Climate Change at the Ministry of Natural Resources of Russia, and Shukhrat Razakov, General Director of the Kamchatka Falcon Centre. His Majesty the King expressed appreciation to President Putin for the valuable gift and for his role in advancing the historical relations and joint cooperation between the two countries. The delegation conveyed to His Majesty the greetings and best wishes of President Putin for Bahrain’s continued progress and prosperity. HM the King requested the delegation to convey his greetings and best wishes to HE President Putin and the Russian people, wishing them further development and advancement. The Russian Ambassador and officials expressed gratitude to His Majesty for the generous hospitality.

# Heavenly Harmony

HRH Crown Prince shares Bahrain’s message of coexistence with H.H. Pope Leo XIV

● Bahrain showcased as interfaith model

● HRH highlights freedom of worship

● Vatican ties reaffirm shared values

Mahir Haneef

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His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, met His Holiness Pope Leo XIV during an official visit to the Vatican City State and the Italian Republic on Monday, delivering Bahrain’s message of peace and coexistence to one of the world’s most influential religious centres.

His Royal Highness reaffirmed that Bahrain, under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, stands as a living model of tolerance



As part of HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister’s official visit to the Vatican City State and the Italian Republic

His Royal Highness met with His Holiness Pope Leo XIV

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister:

Affirmed the Kingdom’s commitment, under the leadership of HM the King, to strengthening bilateral relations with the Vatican City State

and respect among faiths. HRH emphasised that the Kingdom’s identity is shaped by freedom of worship, mutual respect, and its historic commitment to openness and dialogue among civilisations and cultures.

Highlighting that the presence of mosques, churches, and

temples across the Kingdom reflects its deep-rooted spirit of peace, His Royal Highness noted that Bahrain’s social fabric embodies coexistence in practice.

His Royal Highness outlined the Vatican’s leading role in promoting religious coexistence and understanding and in advancing

global solidarity between faiths, underscoring the importance of continued dialogue between nations that champion compassion and peace. HRH expressed appreciation to His Holiness Pope Leo XIV for his humanitarian efforts in advancing coexistence, tolerance, and harmony across

societies.

During the meeting, His Royal Highness conveyed the greetings and best wishes of His Majesty King Hamad to His Holiness, who reciprocated with warm wishes for Bahrain’s continued progress and prosperity.



Bahrain stands out in the Gulf for allowing mosques, churches, and temples to operate openly, often in the same areas, symbolising a legacy of coexistence and interfaith dialogue.

- Highlighted that the presence of mosques, churches, and temples in Bahrain reflects the Kingdom’s spirit of peace and harmony, and its historic commitment to openness and dialogue among civilisations and cultures.
- Outlined the Vatican’s leading role in promoting religious coexistence and understanding, and in advancing global solidarity between faiths.
- Expressed his appreciation for the efforts of His Holiness in advancing the values of coexistence, tolerance, compassion, and peace.

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