



**Registration opens to volunteers for COVID-19 vaccine trials**

TDT | Manama

Registration is now open to those interested in volunteering for the third phase of clinical trials of the inactive coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine, the Ministry of Health announced yesterday.

A total of 6,000 volunteers over the age of 18 will be accepted for the trials.

Those wishing to take part can register on the national volunteering platform volunteer.gov.bh, the ministry said.

A medical team will review the applications and prospective volunteers will have to undergo a health evaluation before joining the clinical trials.

The trials being carried out in Bahrain are in parallel with those currently taking place in the UAE, while other countries are also expected to join in the near future.

The Health Ministry indicated that this third phase has been approved by the National Health Regulatory Authority, and expressed its hope for the trials' success.

The phase three trials in Bahrain will be conducted over 12 months, and they follow the success of the first two phases held across China.

The potential vaccine, enlisted by the World Health Organisation, has been developed by Sinopharm CNBG, the world's sixth largest producer of vaccines.

**Royal praise for BDF in virus fight**

HM the King hails brave servicemen, medical teams for great contributions in battling COVID-19 pandemic



HM the King speaks with senior officials at Al Safriya Palace yesterday

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the Supreme Commander, praised yesterday the Bahrain Defence Force (BDF) for their great contributions to efforts in fighting and containing the coronavirus (COVID-19) disease.

HM the King said this as he received at Al Safriya Palace BDF Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa and a number of senior officials.

HM King Hamad said that the BDF—through the National Taskforce to Combat COVID-19 led and supervised by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister—have played their role with efficiency and distinction.

HM the King expressed his sincere appreciation to the BDF for providing well-equipped facilities that make available the latest health supplies and for ensuring the best preventive and treatment services, thanks to their highly qualified distinguished medical personnel.

HM the King valued high-

**Bahrain is always keen to provide the requirements for a decent life for citizens, and all care for residents, as they are partners in building the nation.**

HIS MAJESTY KING HAMAD BIN ISA AL KHALIFA

ly the "fruitful and valuable" efforts made by the Supreme Council of Health (SCH) president and national taskforce chairman Lieutenant-General Dr Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdulla Al Khalifa.

HM King Hamad requested the SCH chief to convey his greetings and appreciation to all health sector affiliates, as well as to the medical and nursing professionals working on the frontlines of the COVID-19 fight, for their dedication in providing the best health care and treatment to citizens and residents.

In this context, HM King Hamad affirmed Bahrain's constant keenness to provide

the requirements for a decent life for citizens, as well as giving all care to residents, as the Kingdom's people are partners in building the nation.

HM King Hamad also praised the great enthusiasm shown by volunteers in the clinical trials for a COVID-19 inactivated vaccine, which are being conducted in Bahrain in cooperation with those in charge of the project from the sisterly UAE and the initiative partners from China.

HM the King said that the participation of 6,000 citizens and residents in these experiments is a source of pride, and extended thanks to them for their noble humanitarian stance.

HM the King lauded the continuous development and progress witnessed by the BDF in the fields of armament and military installations in its various branches.

HM King Hamad further expressed pride in the BDF's brave servicemen for the lofty patriotic duties they are undertaking, in service of the cherished homeland at various work sites with high efficiency, loyalty, sincerity, distinctive courage, and high morale.

**HRH the Crown Prince chairs executive committee meeting**

**Edict issued regulating shared financial services at Finance Ministry**

HRH the Crown Prince issued an edict yesterday regulating shared financial services at the Ministry of Finance and National Economy.

The edict sets the regulatory framework for shared financial services, including secondment procedures, processing payroll and benefits disbursement, as well as disciplinary procedures.

This edict is pursuant to what was stipulated in the decree restructuring the Finance Ministry.



HRH the Crown Prince during the executive committee meeting

TDT | Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister chaired yesterday the 338th meeting of the Government Executive Committee, held remotely.

The committee discussed the latest developments on measures to combat the coronavirus (COVID-19).

**COVID-19 takes two lives; active cases rising again**

TDT | Manama

The coronavirus (COVID-19) took the lives of two men in Bahrain yesterday, the Ministry of Health announced.

The deceased included a 68-year-old Bahraini and a 53-year-old expatriate, bringing the total number of virus-related deaths in the Kingdom to 165.

Meanwhile, the Health Ministry announced early this morning that out of 11,231 COVID-19 tests conducted yesterday, 407 new cases were detected.

These included 155 expatriate workers, 249 contacts of active cases, and three travel-related cases.

There were also 295 additional recoveries from the virus yesterday, bringing the Kingdom's total number of discharged individuals to 41,504.

The total number of current active cases continued its recent rise and is now at 3,135, with 38 in critical condition and 97 receiving treatment.

The total tests conducted in Bahrain increased to 923,342.



**A SHOT IN THE DARK?**

**Russia registers coronavirus vaccine**

AP | Moscow

Russia became the first country yesterday to officially register a coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine and declare it ready for use, despite international skepticism.

President Vladimir Putin said that one of his daughters has already been inoculated, while emphasising that vaccination will be voluntary, The AP reports.

Putin emphasised that the vaccine underwent the necessary tests and has proven efficient, offering a lasting immunity from the coronavirus.



**The Russian vaccine has been named "Sputnik-V"—a clear reference to the dramatic Soviet launch of the world's first space satellite in 1957**

However, scientists at home and abroad have been sounding the alarm that the rush to start using the vaccine before phase three trials—which normally last for months and involve thousands of people—could backfire.

Speaking at a government meeting yesterday, Putin said that the vaccine has undergone proper testing and is safe.

"I would like to repeat that it has passed all the necessary tests," he said. "The most important thing is to ensure full safety of using the vaccine and its efficiency."

The Russian leader added that

one of his two adult daughters has received two shots of the vaccine, saying: "She has taken part in the experiment."

Putin said that his daughter had a temperature of 38 degrees Celsius on the day of the first vaccine injection, and then it dropped to just over 37 degrees the following day. After the second shot, she again had a slight increase in temperature, but then it was all over.

"She's feeling well and has a high number of antibodies," Putin added. He didn't specify which of his two daughters—Maria or Katerina—received the



Putin speaking during a government meeting yesterday

vaccine.

Russian authorities have said that medical workers, teachers and other risk groups will be the first to be inoculated. Russia's health ministry noted that the vaccine is expected to provide immunity from the coronavirus for up to two years.

**BAHRAIN COVID-19**

- TOTAL CASES: 44,804
- ACTIVE CASES: 3,135
- DEATHS: 165
- DISCHARGED: 41,504
- NEW CASES: 407
- CRITICAL: 38

210 fils (includes VAT)

