

## HRH the Crown Prince participates in vaccine trials

TDT | Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, participated yesterday in the phase three COVID-19 vaccine trials, which are underway in the Kingdom.

The clinical trials are being conducted in collaboration with Abu Dhabi-based G42 Healthcare using a vaccine developed by Sinopharm CNBG, the sixth-largest producer of vaccines in the world.

Up to 6,000 volunteers will participate in the trials, selected from those who meet the required medical criteria. The

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HRH PRINCE SALMAN BIN HAMAD AL KHALIFA

clinical trial involves administering a vaccine to the selected

volunteers, in order to study the effectiveness of antibody production and its protection against the virus.

HRH the Crown Prince commented: “Today I was privileged to stand together with our vaccine volunteers, each one of them determined to play their part in working to protect others, not just at home in our Kingdom, but right across the globe.

“This global crisis requires a global response. In Bahrain, we are proud to say we have stepped forward and shouldered responsibility, first in sharing in treatment and testing best practice, and now in support of safe vaccine testing and development.”

## Bahrain-German relations discussed



Shaikh Khalid with Ambassador Boeckmann

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His Majesty the King's Diplomatic Affairs Advisor Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Khalifa received in his office at Gudaibiya Palace yesterday German Ambassador Kai Thamo Boeckmann.

The ambassador praised the Kingdom's signing of the Declaration in Support of Peace with Israel, describing it as a historic strategic step that will further promote the efforts of achieving security, stability, and prosperity in the region.

Shaikh Khalid expressed thanks to the ambassador and commended the stances of Ger-

### Jewish community representative received

His Majesty the King's Diplomatic Affairs Advisor Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifa received Jewish community representative in Bahrain Ibrahim Daoud Nonoo. The advisor praised Nonoo's remarkable patriotic stances and his support for the policy of HM King Hamad, expressing pride in the Jewish commu-

many in supporting Bahrain.

He also lauded the ambassador's efforts to achieve the goals of the two friendly countries

nity's contributions in various fields, which characterises Bahraini society as a civilised model for co-existence and openness.

Nonoo expressed his appreciation for the advisor's keenness to communicate with all sects of the society, in a way that contributes to strengthening the development and prosperity of the Kingdom.

in broadening prospects of bilateral cooperation in various fields, and bolstering growing friendly relations.

## First evidence of human life in Arabia uncovered

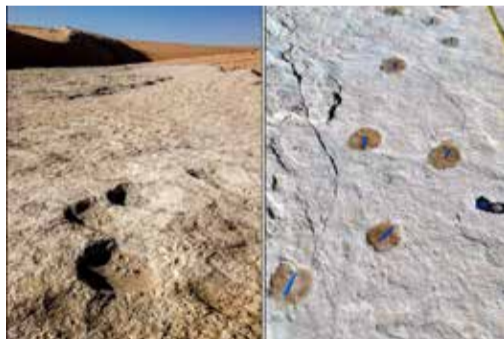
TDT | Manama, Riyadh

A group of Saudi Arabian and international archaeologists, supported by Saudi's Heritage Commission, have uncovered ancient human and animal footprints, dating back more than 120,000 years, in Tabuk, northern Saudi.

The groundbreaking discovery represents the first scientific evidence of human life on the Arabian Peninsula, providing a rare glimpse into the ancient ecosystem that existed alongside the area's human inhabitants.

The discovery was made by the Green Arabia Project—a joint collaboration between Germany's Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History, the University of Oxford in the UK, the University of Queensland in Australia, King Saud University in Riyadh, the Saudi Geological Survey, and Aramco, overseen by the Heritage Commission.

Heritage Commission CEO Dr Jasir Alherbish said: “Discoveries such as these help us to con-



Some of the footprints discovered

textualize the kingdom's history, allowing us to better understand the journey of our forebears from ancient civilisation to where we are today.

“The kingdom boasts some of the region's richest heritage spanning thousands of years, and this discovery demonstrates what can be learned from Saudi's diverse landscape.”

## Royal mountaineering team arrives in Nepal for momentous trek



The Bahrain team with Nepal officials upon their arrival

Agencies | Manama, Kathmandu

A mountaineering team featuring members of Bahrain's elite Royal Guard servicemen arrived in Nepal yesterday, expedition organisers said.

The 18-member party were given permission to climb the 8,163-metre Mount Manaslu and the 6,119-metre Mont Loubuche.

Mingma Sherpa, of Seven Summit Treks, was quoted as saying that the team, which includes three Britons, would

quarantine in a Kathmandu hotel for a week before flying via helicopter to the climbing base camp.

More than 50 Sherpas will take part in the expedition, he added.

The Bahrain Royal Guard team is also planning to climb Mount Everest next year.

The only other team with a permit for the autumn season is an all-Nepali expedition planning to summit 7129-metre Mount Baruntse.

Nepal re-opened its moun-

tains, including Everest, in late July ahead of the autumn climbing season and in anticipation of international flights resuming in mid-August.

But a jump in virus infections in recent weeks saw the government delay allowing flights. Limited international flights resumed this month, but only for citizens and foreign diplomats.

Nepal is home to eight of the world's 14 highest peaks, and foreign climbing expeditions are a major source of local revenue.

## BKS denies tickets sale claims

We have not purchased or sold any tickets: BKS officials

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Bahrain Keraleeya Samajam (BKS) has denied allegations published by a newspaper and posted on social media that it has fully purchased Gulf Air tickets, defeating the purpose of an “air bubble” meant for Indians across the country.

“We have not purchased or sold any tickets,” BKS president P V Radhakrishna Pillai and general secretary Varghese Karakkal told The Daily Tribune.

“As part of our assistance to the Indian community during the COVID-19 pandemic, we had facilitated inbound flights to support the people who were on the verge of losing their jobs due to visa expiry.

“We had received around 1,700 requests much before the bubble agreement, which came into effect this week.

“Out of this, in collaboration with our travel partners Bahrain International Travels and Al Amal travels, around 800 people arrived in Bahrain through six inbound Gulf Air flights to date.

“Five of these flights came before the air bubble agreement and one flight on September 15.

“Gulf Air is expected to bring the remaining 500 passengers in the upcoming flights.”

BKS officials denied claims that the Gulf Air flights in the India-Bahrain sector from September 14 to 18 were converted



Pillai

to chartered flights for the convenience of as many as 2,200 passengers who paid money to BKS.

“Applications for necessary sanctions from government authorities for bringing these passengers were filed long back and were awaiting approvals,” BKS officials clarified.

“All these arrangements were made well before the air bubble agreement. On September 11, Gulf Air agreed with our airline partners to carry these pending passengers on their upcoming flights. BKS has neither sold tickets nor engaged in any commercial activity.

“All the arrangements were done in collaboration with Bahrain International Travels and Al Amal Travels, where-in necessary assistance was provided from our side,” they said.

The officials added that any money collected is not meant for BKS; rather, it is for Gulf Air through BKS' travel partners, and BKS have not issued any receipts other than prior-

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**We had extended our help based on humanitarian grounds when normal scheduled international flights between India and Bahrain were suspended.**

BAHRAIN KERALEEYA SAMAJAM

ity slips. Individual receipts can be arranged from the respective travel agents, if required, they added.

Since air bubble agreement had come into place, BKS have completely stopped facilitating chartered flights.

“We had extended our help based on humanitarian grounds when normal scheduled international flights between India and Bahrain were suspended,” the officials noted.

BKS, established in 1947 by a group of visionaries, is today one of the oldest and largest leading socio-cultural bodies in Bahrain.

Under the “air bubble” arrangement between Bahrain and India, carriers from both countries are permitted to operate a specified number of flights between Bahrain and India and carry passengers of specific predetermined categories.

## Three more COVID-19 deaths, alarming 841 new infections reported

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The coronavirus (COVID-19) took three lives in Bahrain yesterday, while a whopping 841 new active cases were reported by the Ministry of

Health.

The deceased were three male expatriates, aged 42, 44 and 66. Their passing brought the virus-related death toll in the Kingdom to 216.

The ministry expressed its

sincerest condolences to the victims' families.

Meanwhile, the ministry announced that it had conducted 12,299 tests yesterday, and the number of new cases was among the highest single-day

totals registered in the Kingdom.

The fresh infections included 124 expatriate workers, 716 contacts of active cases, and one travel-related case.

Their detection brought the

overall total cases in Bahrain, ever since the first case was reported in February, to over 62,000 at 62,484—just one day after the count surpassed the 61,000-mark.

There were also 613 new

recoveries, bringing the discharged total to 55,444.

The total active cases rose to 6,824—140 of which are receiving treatment with 38 in critical condition. Tests conducted rose to 1,288,374.