

# COVID-19 battle just got powerful

Bahrain second in world to authorise Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine use

## ● NHRA gives Emergency Use Authorisation

● Decision follows a review undertaken by NHRA of all available data

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Bahrain has become the second country in the world after the United Kingdom to approve the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for emergency use creating a historic moment in the fight against COVID-19. The National Health Regulatory Authority (NHRA) in a statement announced giving an Emergency Use Authorisation (EUA) of the vaccine against the coronavirus (COVID-19).

The approval allows citizens outside the trials to have the opportunity to get immunised against the COVID-19.

The vaccine will be made available to treat the elderly and people with chronic diseases and other groups identified by the Ministry of Health, the NHRA statement said.

The decision follows a study carried out by the NHRA and vaccination committee at the Ministry of Health on the information provided by Pfizer regarding vaccine safety and effectiveness.

The vaccine is also the second



Representative picture

approved by the Kingdom for Emergency Use against COVID-19.

Earlier in November, Bahrain authorised a Chinese experimental Covid-19 vaccine made by Sinopharm for emergency use.

No confirmation, however, is available on the number of doses of vaccine ordered.

The British government has said it would purchase 40 million doses of the vaccine, with its delivery starting next week.

Dr Maryam Al-Jalahma, CEO of NHRA, said, "The approval of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine will add a further important layer to the Kingdom's national Covid-19 response, which has strongly prioritised to protecting the health of all citizens and residents during the pandemic."

Al Jalahma said the authority held intensive sessions in the past two months to study the documents submitted by the company on the vaccines manufacturing quality and result of safety analysis.

The authority said it also held meetings with the company's team in the United States of America and its representatives to learn about the medicine.

The vaccine usage depends on several factors including quality, safety, effectiveness, target groups as well as dosage and vaccinating system.

Those meeting the set criteria will receive the vaccine at a centre designated for vaccination.

### Historic moment

Lindsey Dietschi, Pfizer Gulf

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DR MARYAM AL-JALAHMA, CEO OF NHRA

Cluster Lead said; "Today's Emergency Use Authorization of Bahrain marks a historic moment in the fight against COVID-19."

"This authorisation is a goal we have been working toward since we first declared that science will win, and we applaud the National Health Regulatory Authority in Bahrain for their ability to conduct a careful assessment and take timely action to help protect the people of Bahrain."

Earlier this week, the UK approved Pfizer and its German partner BioNTech's Covid-19 vaccine for emergency use



Pfizer has cited clinical trial data to indicate that an efficacy rate of 95 per cent for its mRNA vaccine

## Bahrain nominates Shaikha Mai to the helm of UNWTO



Shaikha Mai met in Cairo Arab League Secretary-General Ahmed Abul Gheit and Egyptian Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Dr Khalid Al-Anani.

● She is currently on tour to meet leading officials as part of her campaign to the post

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Bahrain has announced the nomination of Shaikha Mai bint Mohammed Al-Khalifa to the position of Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO).

The nomination, Bahrain said, is in recognition of her achievements in the sector of sustainable tourism and her pivotal role in promoting cultural tourism.

Shaikha Mai is currently the president of Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (BACA).

She is currently on tour to meet leading officials as part of her campaign to the post.

She met in Cairo Arab League Secretary-General Ahmed Abul Gheit and Egyptian Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Dr Khalid Al-Anani.

Shaikha Mai has outlined her vision and strategy, which consist of seven axes to advance this vital sector globally,



The naming of the new Secretary-General for the 2022-2025 will take place at the twenty-fourth session of the UNWTO General assembly to be held in Morocco in September/October 2021.

with a focus on activating its role in achieving development and reaching the United Nations sustainable development goals.

The term for the current Secretary-General will expire on 31 December 2021.

Zurab Pololikashvili, a Georgian politician and diplomat, is the current Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organization. He is in the position since 1 January 2018 after being elected by the 22nd Session of UNWTO General Assembly.

## Virtual reality centre at GAA, wheelchairs for disabled

Tender board opens 73 bids received for 15 tenders

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The Gulf Aviation Academy in the Kingdom is looking forward to establishing a virtual reality training centre amid the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

The academy which offers an extensive range of training programmes for all aviation personnel including pilots, cabin crew and ground staff is now establishing a virtual reality training centre.

The centre has also placed a tender for the purpose, which was opened by the tender board to analyse the bids received.

Atyaf Esolutions Co is the sole bidder for the contract and quoted BHD 591,503.690 to take up the job.

The details emerged as Bahrain's Tender board, the independent regulatory body charged with overseeing government tendering and bidding practices, opened 73 bids received for 15 tenders.



Picture courtesy of Tender board

### 75 wheelchairs

Ministry of Labour and Social Development, according to a tender, is aiming to supply 75 wheelchairs for persons with disabilities.

A tender place for the purpose attracted two players. Bahrain Handicap Services quoted BHD 145,392.850 - the highest- and Gulf Health Services quoted BHD 77,475.000, the lowest amount.

### Advertising in capital

The capital municipality is auctioning various advertising sites in the city. The rental and operation of LED type boards for five years received five bidders. BHD 79,366.000 quoted by Al Nasher Promotion Advertising was the lowest and BHD 152,628.000 quoted by Bahrain Media was the highest.

The municipality also placed a tender for the rental and opera-

tion of 21 advertising locations for which for received bids. Bahrain Media quoted the lowest amount (BHD 38,231.000). Two others tenders by the capital municipality were for the rental and operation of lamp post type advertisements. Each contract found three takers.

### Annual maintenance at Ministry

Ministry of Information Affairs was looking for a contractor to do annual maintenance service of UPS and Standby Diesel Generators for two years at the ministry premises. The tender found a single bidder who quoted BHD 61,208.900 to take up

the work.

Another tender by the Information Affairs was for providing A/C, Plumbing and Electrical Managed Professional Maintenance Services for all MIA Premises, Ras Hayyan and Outside. Eight bids received for this tender. BHD 297,000.000- the lowest amount- was quoted by Al Kooheji Technical Services.

The committee also opened a tender for the Electricity and Water Authority regarding supplying the units of the integrated control system, for which received two bids. Likewise, a tender by the Central Stores Department of the Electricity and Water Authority for purchas-

ing insulating oil for electrical transformers found four interest parties. Moreover, the committee received 15 bids for a tender by the Education and Training Quality Authority seeking information technology services by providing employees to work with the authority.

### Catering in Rome

In the aviation sector, the committee opened three tenders for Gulf Air, the first was for the supplying amenities for Falcon Gold passengers, for which received six bids. The second tender was for appointing a vendor to provide smart market tools, for which received three bids.



Established in 2002 by Legislative Decree No: 36, the Tender Board is an independent, regulator of government procurement practices in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

**BD279.8 million**

In the first quarter of 2020, the board awarded 372 tenders, after evaluating 1,639 bids, valuing around BD279.8 million