

Bahrain made the right choice

Bahrain ordered 1 million doses of Pfizer's highly successful vaccine months ahead in August

● **Pfizer and BioNTech aim emergency use authorisation**

● **National Medical Taskforce identified the vaccine's potential**

TDT | agencies

The highly effective coronavirus vaccine candidate of Pfizer and BioNTech, for which Bahrain placed an order for 1 million doses, is on the verge of getting US emergency approval.

Reports say Pfizer and BioNTech are to submit an emergency use authorisation for its vaccine candidate known as BNT162b2.

If the FDA authorises, the vaccines can be immediately distributed.

The news came as Manaf Al Qahtani, a member of National Medical Taskforce for Combating the Coronavirus, revealed that Bahrain made an order for the vaccine last August.

The order, Al Qahtani said, is for 1 million doses.

The final analysis of trial conducted by Pfizer found that its vaccine was 95 per cent effective in preventing infections, even in older adults, and caused no serious concerns.

Emergency use authorisation, or EUA, from the FDA, is not the same as a full approval. A EUA allows products to be used under particular circumstances before



Bahrain's order for vaccine followed a decision by the National Taskforce for Combating COVID-19, which is keeping a keen eye on related development going on around the world

MANAF AL QAHTANI, A MEMBER OF NATIONAL MEDICAL TASKFORCE FOR COMBATING THE CORONAVIRUS



Manaf Al Qahtani, a member of National Medical Taskforce for Combating the Coronavirus (file)

Getting a piece of the action

Covid-19 vaccines, top four by confirmed number of doses ordered*, to November 12th 2020



Sources: Duke Global Health Innovation Centre; press reports

Courtesy of the Economist



The Pfizer vaccine is particularly complicated, since it must be stored at minus 75 degrees Celsius, and doctors' offices and pharmacies typically do not have freezers that go that low.



that low.

Al Qahtani said Bahrain is also in continuous contact with the other players who are developing potential Covid-19 vaccines.

Bahrain is now holding a Phase 3 clinical trial for a potential COVID-19 vaccine candidate by China's Sinopharm.

Sinopharm's chairman told media this week that nearly a million people have now received their vaccine for emergency use.

India's Modi to speak at G20

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Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be attending the Summit where the focus will be on "an inclusive, resilient, and sustainable recovery from the COVID-19."

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, a staunch Trump defender, will be present in Saudi Arabia during the Summit.

It was unclear whether Trump will speak at the event alongside world leaders, many

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of whom have already congratulated his rival, President-elect Joe Biden.

Top of the Group of 20 major economies' agenda is a COVID-19 action plan and measures to stem the pandemic's impact on global economies, including debt relief for the poorest



Narendra Modi

G20 nations have contributed more than \$21 billion to combat the pandemic, including production and distribution of vaccines, and injected \$11 trillion to "safeguard" the virus-battered world economy, organisers said.

Last week, G20 finance ministers declared a "common framework" for an extended debt restructuring plan for virus-ravaged countries, but campaign group Action Aid described the measure as "woefully inadequate".

India, Saudi resolve incorrect map issue

● **Saudi Arabia swiftly moved to handle the issue**

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India and Saudi Arabia have resolved the issue of the wrongful depiction of India's territorial boundaries on the 20 Riyal banknote that was introduced to commemorate the Kingdom's presidency of the G20 summit.

According to India Today TV, the currency has been "withdrawn" and the printing of it has been "stopped".

Saudi Arabia swiftly moved to handle the issue after Indian envoy to Riyadh Ambassador Aus-



Picture courtesy of India Today TV

af Sayeed, on October 28, lodged a protest against the wrongful depiction of India's external boundaries on the map printed on the 20 Riyal banknote. The map excluded the undivided Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh from India.

The new banknote featured King Salman and the G20 Saudi summit logo on one side, with a world map highlighting G20 countries in a darker shade on the other.

The map showed the whole of Jammu and Kashmir, includ-

ing Pakistan-Occupied-Kashmir (PoK) which includes Gilgit-Baltistan, as a separate territory altogether.

Addressing a media briefing on Thursday, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said, "We had taken up the matter of incorrect depiction of the Indian boundaries with the Saudi authorities and we have taken it up both here in New Delhi as well as in Riyadh. We have been informed by the Saudi authorities that they have noted our concerns in this matter."

Sources have told India Today TV that the matter has been handled and the currency which was meant to be a "souvenir and not for circulation, has been withdrawn."

Brawl: Court gives man one year suspended jail term



Picture courtesy of Al Ayam

● **Forensic report said the victim suffered a 10 per cent permanent disability**

TDT | Manama

A one year suspended jail term is awarded to a man found guilty of attacking and causing permanent disability to another during a brawl.

The accused, a Bahraini man, in his fifties, received a stay on the execution of the sentence for three years.

Incidents leading to the case occurred on 28 December 2019.

Court files say both the men got into a fight with the first accused inflicting injuries to the second accused, causing

him permanent disability.

A forensic report said the victim suffered a 10 per cent disability, as a result of the fight.

The quarrel took place at the Rashid Equestrian Club, where both the accused own stables and visited the club frequently.

Reportedly, a dispute occurred between the men back then, with them taking the issue to the CEO of the club.

From there both of them went to the car park, where they entered into an altercation, and ended up attacking each other.

The attack resulted in the second accused suffering a 10 pc disability on his hand, according to medical records.

Both of them also blamed each other for starting the fight.