

Customs Affairs, BCCI sign 'service level' agreement

● Providing latest services and reinforce ties to all partners

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The Customs Affairs and the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) have signed a "service level" agreement for modern customs services for clients.

Customs President Shaikh Ahmed bin Hamad Al Khalifa and First Deputy BCCI Chairman Khalid Mohammed Najibi attended the signing ceremony.

The Customs President asserted that Customs Affairs continues to provide the best customs solutions and practices. He said the agreement aims to provide the latest services and reinforce ties to all partners.

The agreement aims to provide information on customs laws that may contribute to developing the efficiency of services provided to local exporters and importers and to develop a plan for exchanging data and periodic reports between both parties in addition to achieving common goals and enhancing confidence between them to provide services to each other.

Deputy BCCI Chairman asserted the vital role of Customs Affairs in serving the private sector, which is reflected in the promotion of the Kingdom's economic growth.

He pointed out that the continuous communication between the BCCI Chamber and Customs Affairs reflects the extent of cooperation and mutual trust to achieve the desired strategic goals.

Eight Asians held for drugs

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Eight Asians of the age group 31-41 were arrested in four separate cases for possessing various narcotics.

This was announced by the Anti-Narcotics Directorate of the General Directorate of Criminal Investigation and Forensic Science.

Investigation into received cases led to identifying and arresting the suspects.

The narcotics were seized, and legal proceedings were taken to refer the cases to the Public prosecution.

'New booster shots' call as Covid cases rise again

Due to coronavirus, two people have passed away in the Kingdom in the last week

Zahra Ayaz
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The Ministry of Health has announced that a newly developed Pfizer-BioNTech coronavirus (Covid-19) booster vaccine will be made available at primary healthcare centres across Bahrain from yesterday.

According to sources, the ministry encourages those interested in receiving the booster shot to head directly to their primary healthcare centre without the need to register.

The newly developed bivalent vaccine will be administered as a booster shot and targets the original virus strain and the omicron variant to provide broad protection against Covid-19 and its mutations.

The list of primary health centres and the Pfizer-BioNTech bivalent booster shot is now available on the Ministry of Health's website <https://healthalert.gov.bh>.

The approval of the new



Public safety against Covid-19 remains a top priority

vaccine was taken following a study conducted by the NHRA and the Kingdom's Vaccination Committee at the Ministry of Health, with the support of the study conducted by Pfizer, on the vaccination's quality, safety and efficacy.

Two Covid-19 deaths were reported in the past one week as the death number reached 1,536 yesterday. As of now, there are 1,078 active Covid-19 cases in the Kingdom.

Kingdom's success in containing the spread of the Covid-19 has been attributed to early preparations, high vaccination coverage and continued provision of basic health services by national cadres.

The World Health Organization (WHO) a few weeks ago launched a case study on the Kingdom's battle victory against Covid-19 at a special event, which was attended by WHO Regional Director for the East-



Omicron-tailored shots made by Pfizer have already been given the green light by several countries, including in the US for adults and, more recently, for children as young as five years.

ern Mediterranean, Dr Ahmed bin Salem Al Mandhari along with health Dr Jaleela Hasan.

Dr Jaleela highlighted the importance the 'One Spirit Rule' to turn challenges into opportunities. "Vaccines were offered to citizens and residents free of

charge in line with the concept of welfare state. We are always in the best efforts to ensure the provision of sustainable health services."

The National Medical Taskforce for Combating Covid-19 Pandemic has been urging all those eligible for second or subsequent booster doses to take them without any hesitation.

Booster doses, the Taskforce said, are crucial to raising the immunity and protecting an individual, his family and community from the virus and its variants. "It is crucial to continue strengthening our commitment to precautionary measures to limit the spread of the Covid-19 virus."

The Kingdom's existing success against the pandemic is attributed to its vaccination milestones and preventive measures adopted by the Ministry of Health.

Although it is not mandatory, health authorities have been advising people to wear masks in the public

Primary healthcare centres to administer Covid-19 procedures

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From December 4, all Covid-19-related testing and vaccination will be administered at primary healthcare centres around the Kingdom, following the closure of the drive-through testing facilities and the vaccination centre in Sitra Mall.

This was announced by the National Medical Taskforce for Combating the coronavirus (Covid-19) yesterday.

The Taskforce added that all Covid-19 triaging and treatment will be centralised at the 'Sehati' building at the Salmaniya Medical Complex, and the make-shift

facility operating at the Bahrain International Hospital will be closed. The Taskforce will also stop publishing the daily statistics report.

Head of the National Medical Taskforce for Combating the coronavirus, Lt General Dr Shaikh Mohamed bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, stressed that the health sector will continue to monitor global developments related to the virus, including the implementation of epidemiological surveillance tools.

The decision has been made after closely following statistics and trends related to hospitalisation rates for Covid-19 patients.

Court upholds 10-year jail term for arsonist

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The High Criminal Court of Appeal upheld a 10-year prison sentence for a young man who set three cars and a house on fire.

Public Prosecution charged the defendant for deliberately setting fire three cars owned by two victims on June 20, 2022. The fire then spread to

the house located in East Riffa, endangering people's lives and property.

On June 18, 2022, the defendant resolved to burn the vehicles of one of the two victims due to a personal dispute. He located the victim's house after making inquiries and made plan to burn his cars.

The defendant admitted that on the next day, he prepared



the necessary tools: a large flask to be filled with gasoline and a backpack containing pieces of cloth and a lighter. He took a taxi to a gas station in Awali area and filled the flask with gasoline at a value of BD4.

On the day of the incident, he arrived early and waited for an hour, watching the residential area to ensure that it was free of passersby. Then the defendant

poured gasoline over the first victim's car, lay down pieces of cloth and set them on fire with a lighter.

The flames spread to the victim's two cars, and a third car belonging to the second victim, which was damaged from the back. The fire also surrounded parts of the victims' home which housed their families and children aged between five and 12 years.

Agreement-signing ceremony



Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority signed an agreement with Abdul Rahman Kanoo International School to host the school's Model United Nations on the 24th and 25th of February 2023. The signing ceremony took place on the side lines of the three concurrent events which took place in Exhibition World Bahrain during opening week.

Praise for researcher



HM the King's Media Advisor Nabeel bin Yagoob Al Hamer received researchers Mohammed Saleh Al Marashda and Abdurraheem Mahmood Abdurraheem who offered him copies of their Master's theses. Al Hamer lauded the efforts exerted by the researchers and hailed the commitments of young Bahrainis to serving the Kingdom in various ways and to reinforcing its status in several areas and specialties. The researchers thanked the media advisor for his support and motivation to pursue further academic studies and researches.