

ICAI offers chartered accountancy course

BAHRAINIS and other foreign nationals can now enroll for the chartered accountancy course offered by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI).

New rules were announced during the two-day 14th Annual International Conference of the Bahrain Chapter of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (BCICAI) that concluded last week and was held under the patronage of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce.

BCICAI vice-president Aniket Talati said the changes will open doors for Bahraini and other foreign nationals to now take up the course which they could not do earlier. In addition, students can

undergo training or articleship required to become a CA at firms globally instead of just in India.

Key speakers at the event included ICAI president Dr Debashis Mitra, Beyon Money chief executive Roberto Mancone and a virtual address by India's Roads and Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari.

Topics covered included growth of digital remittances and cybersecurity concerns.

The event concluded with a motivational talk by noted TV star and dancer Sudha Chandran.

"We had an action-packed two days and the response from delegates has been terrific," said BCICAI chairperson Sharmila Shet.



■ Dr Mitra, sixth from left, with other officials at the event

Bahrain's success story in tackling Covid highlighted

By REEM AL DAAYSI

BAHRAIN'S success story in combating the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic was highlighted during a major regional medical conference in the kingdom yesterday.

However, despite the low number of active Covid-19 cases, there are between 150,000 to 200,000 people in Bahrain suffering from long-Covid symptoms, according to a senior Bahraini medic.

Infectious Diseases Consultant and Microbiologist at the BDF Hospital and National Taskforce for Combating Covid-19 monitoring committee head Lieutenant Colonel Dr Manaf Al Qahatani was discussing the major developments and phases in tackling the pandemic at Manama Health 2022 (Exhibition and Conference).

The four-day event, which concluded yesterday, was held under the patronage of Supreme Council of Health chairman Lieutenant General Dr Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, at the Gulf Hotel Convention Centre.

Around 130 international speakers and 70 exhibitors including hospitals, pharmaceutical companies, universities, training institutes and government entities took part.

"During any pandemic you need to project when you're going to have the peak, the status quo and the endemic phase," said Dr Al Qahatani.

"To establish an out-patient programme you need to start when the ICU admissions are below 20 per cent and the overall admissions be less than 10pc," he added.

"The rationale behind the out-patient programme is to provide therapeutic treatment to prevent complications and not overwhelm hospitals.

Focus on investment opportunities

INVESTMENT opportunities between Bahrain and Egypt in the medical sector and further collaboration between the two nations in the field of unified procurement of medication were among key recommendations which emerged following the conclusion of the four-day Manama Health 2022 (Exhibition and Conference).

Following were the recommendations:

- Work to remove any obstacles facing trade

"We have been lucky by segregating Covid-19 and non-Covid cases; in other countries general hospitals were overwhelmed by cases and they had to suspend major services."

"In Bahrain, we never stopped elective procedures in the early phases of the pandemic."

He said Bahrain saw a surge of Covid-19 cases during three specific phases.

"We had three big waves: Alpha (which arrived from the UK by 2020-end), Delta (from April 2021 to August 2021) and Omicron (from the beginning of De-

cember 2021 to date).

"The biggest surge we had was during Omicron."

During the Alpha phase, less than 20 per cent of Bahrain's eligible population was vaccinated, which went up to 80pc during the Delta phase and 80pc during the Omicron phase by which time 79pc to 80pc had also received the first booster shot.

"Bahrain is currently in the endemic phase - the pandemic isn't over as variants continue to emerge and the virus mutates - and strategies are in place to tackle this."

An endemic phase is when a

exchange between Egypt and Bahrain in the pharmaceutical and medical supplies sector;

- Present investment opportunities in both Bahrain and Egypt in the medical sector;

- Increase exchange visits and trade missions between companies and factories operating in the fields of medical manufacturing in Egypt and Bahrain to consolidate economic relations and present latest findings in the industry;

- Create a partnership in the field of man-

aging hospitals and primary health care centres in both countries;

- Increase co-operation between government agencies in both countries in the field of unified procurement of medicines.

- Ensure the international forum - Manama Health - is held annually in the presence of experts, official and medical companies to discuss co-operation and signing of agreements between Bahrain and Egypt.

in the lowest levels of hospitalisation and deaths during the Omicron phase despite having the highest level of infections.

"As of today I can say that around 45pc of the entire population had at least one episode of infection, and around 9pc of those had more than one infection as our re-infection rate in Bahrain is 9.1pc."

"We have the lowest ICU admission and hospitalisation and most of the people who are infected are at home."

"We reached this stage because 82pc are vaccinated and of those 80pc have received at least

disease spreads in a community at the normal or expected level.

"In Bahrain, we have the lowest hospitalisation - below 1pc - and the lowest ICU admission for almost six months. Currently, we have only two patients in the ICU and 13 Covid-related admissions despite the fact that we have the most transmissible variant," added Dr Al Qahatani.

"Vaccinations, social distancing and therapeutics are the public health tools that lower the severity of the pandemic."

He said that during mid-2021 Bahrain started implementing the out-patient programme resulting

in the lowest levels of hospitalisation and deaths during the Omicron phase despite having the highest level of infections.

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one booster dose."

The medic said that most of the patients prefer an out-patient clinic aimed at preventing and monitoring the long-Covid, which, he reaffirmed, is a true syndromic disease.

People with post-Covid (or long-Covid) can display a wide range of symptoms that last more than four weeks or months after infection including fatigue, fever, difficulty in breathing, chest pain, heart palpitations, sleep problems, dizziness, brain fog, headache and depression or anxiety.

"We anticipate that there are between 150,000 to 200,000 people in Bahrain who might suffer from long-Covid and if we don't provide a dedicated programme we will be stuck."

"We are the first country in the region to start an out-patient clinic in May 2021 as we needed to get ahead of this real and existing problem before it explodes."

"Those who had one Covid-19 infection are at risk of developing long-Covid and that is the reason behind the out-patient clinic - to capture these cases, study them and respond accordingly."

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■ Royal Academy of Police (RAP) Commander Brigadier Fawaz Al Hassan chaired a coordination meeting to design training courses to improve law

enforcement and reform justice capabilities. Concerned representatives attended. He asserted that the meeting was held as part of the National Plan for Human Rights

2022-2026, the first objective of which assigns RAP to organise such courses. He valued the co-operation of concerned partners for the success of the plan.