



Bahrain

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# Achievements are praised

BAHRAIN has witnessed great social work achievements, says Labour and Social Affairs Minister Abdalnabi Al Sho'ala.

"Without the support of the government, societies, companies and the national sectors, we could not have done anything," he said.

"And of course we can't forget the role of the dedicated and hard working officials and staff at the ministry's social affairs department."

One of the biggest achievements in 1997, was for Bahrain to win the first place

## ● Government role 'crucial'

in the human development sector.

Mr Al Sho'ala added: "Several social and development projects have been opened during last year such as, Shaikhan Al Farisi Centre for Total Communication which is considered to be one of the leading centres in the Middle East for its services in rehabilitation, treatment and psychological services for the deaf and dumb children as well as the BD543,000 NBB

Rehabilitation Home for handicapped children in Isa Town.

The First Arab Exhibition of the Products of the Productive Families Projects and Rehabilitation Centres held in Bahrain last April was another example for what the country has achieved.

"Sixteen countries took part in that event which was the first in the Arab world," he said.

"More than 70,000 visitors from Bahrain and abroad attended the exhibition and that



■ Mr Al Sho'ala at a welfare centre

proves that we are capable in organising such major events."

In the elderly field, the country has organised seminars and training courses for the people working in the various elderly homes and centres.

Mr Al Sho'ala added: "And

to enhance and improve the standard and knowledge of those working in the social work the ministry has participated in more than 20 seminars and conferences whether in or outside the country and we organised 40 social activities last year which

covered many workshops and training sessions.

The mobile care unit for the elderly people, has been given priority in the ministry. "These units visit the elderly in their homes and offer them medical services free of charge," he said.