

# Manpower is key to progress says Zayed

UAE President Shaikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan yesterday stressed the importance of developing national manpower, as a major step towards the continued progress and prosperity of the people of the region.

He was speaking as he received Bahrain's Labour and Social Affairs Minister Abdulnabi Al Sho'ala currently visiting the UAE.

Shaikh Zayed said the UAE government would extend all co-operation in the efforts currently being exerted in the field of training, development of the labour market and human resources development.

Mr Al Sho'ala delivered a message to Shaikh Zayed from HH the Amir Shaikh Isa bin Sulman Al Khalifa, which contained greetings to the government and the people of the UAE and other issues of mutual, regional and international interest.

Mr Al Sho'ala said later that he was gratified by the readiness with which the UAE government had responded to Bahrain's efforts in the field of human resources development.

"Countries of the GCC have a common destiny and continued economic growth, industrial development and social progress will depend on the effective integration of all nationals into the mainstream of the economy," he said.

"The heads of the GCC states have emphasised the need for creating more employment opportunities for nationals and their freer movement with the region. A number of issues of relevance are currently being addressed and decisions to foster co-ordination and co-operation for the benefit of all are now being addressed."

These include unification of the labour law and a common approach to social insurance.

Mr Al Sho'ala said that Bahrain had taken initiatives to regularise and develop its labour market.

Bahrain is also seriously studying the establishment of National Vocational Qualifications Standards Mr Al Sho'ala said.

Mr Al Sho'ala said Bahrain would host the first conference and exhibition on human resources in 1998.

Bahrain-based Arabian Exhibition Management is organising the event.

Later in the evening, Mr Al Sho'ala and his accompanying delegation met UAE Higher Education Minister Shaikh Hamdan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan.

Mr Al Sho'ala also hosted a reception at the Abu Dhabi Inter-Continental Hotel, attended by Bahrainis living and working in the UAE.



■ Shaikh Zayed receives Mr Al Sho'ala

## Trade ties discussed

A WORKING meeting was convened at the Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce and Industry between Bahraini Labour and Social Affairs Minister Abdulnabi Al Sho'ala and chamber officials headed by the honorary treasurer Abas Abdul Jalil Al Fohaim.

The meeting was attended by UAE Labour and Social Affairs Minister Saif Al Jarwan, chamber members and other businessmen.

Mr Al Fohaim delivered a speech in which he welcomed Mr Al Sho'ala and his delegation. He emphasised the importance of the visit in strengthening trade and economic co-operation and to increase links particularly in utilisation of the Bahraini experiences in the UAE market.

Al Fohaim expressed the chamber's readiness to support Bahraini trade and industrial enterprises wishing to work and invest in Abu Dhabi, and to promote Bahraini manufacturing companies in marketing their products in the

UAE market, particularly Abu Dhabi.

Mr Al Sho'ala thanked the officials for their support and urged private sector companies in Abu Dhabi to benefit from the trained and skilled Bahraini labour force.

Mr Al Sho'ala said Bahrain's main concern was aimed at increasing co-operation among private sector companies in the two countries.

Mr Al Jarwan hailed the ties between the two countries and reaffirmed the drive to localise the GCC labour force whether at the national or GCC level. Mr Al Jarwan hosted a luncheon for Mr Al Sho'ala yesterday.

# Bahrain

## ALL YOUR LOCAL NEWS

### ● New engineering courses centre to be launched in September

# Institute's plans back on track

ONE of India's most renowned educational institutions, the Birla Institute of Technology (BIT), is to open its first overseas centre in Bahrain in September this year.

Plans to open the centre last month were put back, because of the delay in finding a suitable location.

Mohammed Jalal and Sons technical and automatic division general manager Nevin Megchiani, said a team from the Ranchi (Bihar)-based institute would visit Bahrain later next month.

BIT officials visited Bahrain several times last year and held talks with Labour and Social Affairs Minister Abdulnabi Al Sho'ala before taking a final decision to establish a centre in Bahrain.

BIT Vice Chancellor Emeritus

H P. Pande and officer on special duty J B Saksena signed a memorandum of understanding with Mr Al Sho'ala on setting up the joint venture project. "BIT's original plan was to open the centre in January this year," said Mr Megchiani.

By SOMAN BABY

"However, there has been some technical delays including the delay in locating a suitable premises for the institute.

"We are confident of finalising a location during the visit of BIT officials next month, for opening the centre after the summer vacation in September."

He said BIT's board of govern-

ors had given the final approval for setting up the centre in Bahrain.

"BIT and Mohammed Jalal and Sons (project initiator for Bahrain) will take part in the project financially," said Mr Megchiani.

"A council of administrators for the new centre will also be

appointed shortly."

The institute will offer courses in various disciplines of engineering.

"The move will be a significant milestone in the field of education, training and human resources development in the region," said Mr Megchiani.

BIT has been admitting stu-

dents from Bahrain and other Gulf countries under its special scheme for non-resident Indians (NRIs).

Mr Megchiani, who has been promoting the courses in Bahrain, said interested students should now contact the institute's co-ordinator for entrance examinations.

Admission, under the NRI scheme, is offered for the following courses: BE/B Pharm (four years), B Arch (five years), MBA (two years), MCA (three years) and MSc in information science and biomedical instrumentation (both two years).

Completed application forms along with non-refundable \$50 (BD18,900) towards application fee must reach the institute before June 15.

People who require more details should contact Mr Megchiani's office on Tel 252921.