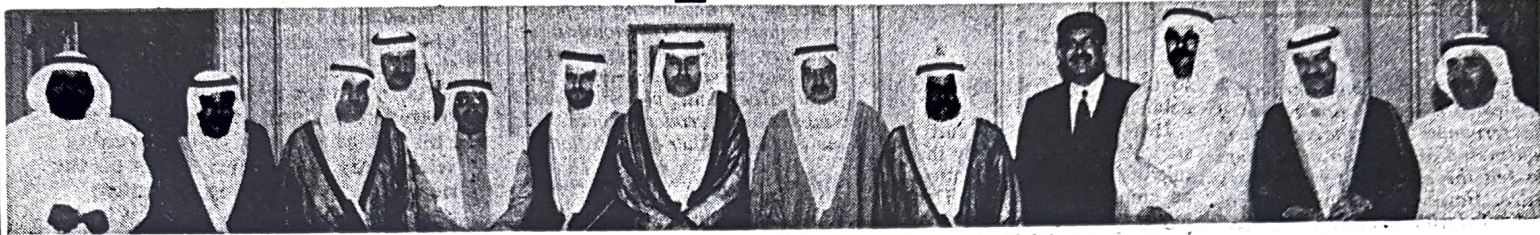


Minister praises UAE



■ Mr Al Sho'ala being seen off at the airport by top officials

BAHRAIN is to improve its services and facilities for the disabled by exchanging its experiences with the UAE, Labour and Social Affairs Minister Abdulnabi Al Sho'ala said yesterday.

"Progress and prosperity will acquire a true meaning only if every member of the society, including those with disabilities, is helped to integrate into the mainstream of economic and social life," he said in Abu Dhabi.

Mr Al Sho'ala was speaking after a visit to the Handicapped Centre in Abu Dhabi, during the first day of his official visit

● Expertise on disabled to be exchanged

to the UAE.

He praised the efforts by the UAE government to rehabilitate the disabled.

"The Handicapped Centre proves the fact that with appropriate guidance and training, even the disabled people can be made useful members of the society," he said.

"Bahrain has also registered major strides in this area and we propose to exchange our experience during official meetings with the UAE officials and examine the possibilities of im-

proving the services and facilities offered."

Mr Al Sho'ala and his delegation were briefed on the various activities of the centre by Mariam Al Roumi, director for social care for special categories at the Labour and Social Affairs Ministry.

They see the learning process of children with varied disabilities and were shown a series of products for home use made at the centre.

Mr Al Sho'ala later visited the Handicrafts Centre, where they were shown an extensive range

of products made by women.

"Utilising the talents of women to become economically active and augmenting their own income simultaneously are indeed the core of such projects," he said.

Mr Al Sho'ala said Bahrain was preparing to host the "First Arab Exhibition of the Products of the Rehabilitation Centres and the Productive Families Projects", from April 6 to 11.

The UAE will be a major participant in the event, being organised by the Labour and Social Affairs Ministry at the Bahrain International Exhibition Centre.

The Bahraini delegation includes Bahrain's Ambassador to the UAE, Essa Mohammed Al Jamea, Assistant Under-Secretary for Labour Affairs Shaikh Abdulrahman bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, Assistant Under-Secretary for Planning and Training Abdulrahman Zayani, Assistant Under-Secretary for Social Affairs Sadiq Al Shehabi, Shura Council members Jamal Fakhro and Ali Al Mosallam, Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry vice-treasurer Hamad Abul, Bahrain Training Institute director Dr Naji Al Mahdi, director of the minister's office Subah Al Dossary, head of public relations Rashid Al Thani, and employment counsellor (GCC states) at the ministry, Khalid Ibrahim.

Bahrain's greetings conveyed

LABOUR and Social Affairs Minister Abdulnabi Al Sho'ala held discussions with his UAE counterpart Saif Al Jarwan in Abu Dhabi last night.

Mr Al Sho'ala, who earlier arrived on a visit lasting several days, praised the UAE's wise policy under the leadership of President Shaikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan in various fields.

He said that he was carrying the greetings of HH the Amir Shaikh Isa bin Sulman Al Khalifa and Prime Minister Shaikh Khalifa bin Sulman Al Khalifa to the UAE leadership and their congratulations for the efforts being exerted by the UAE to boost relations between the two countries.

Mr Al Jarwan said the visit would boost bilateral relations in all fields and expressed the readiness of UAE to recruit more of Bahrainis, and Gulf workforce in general.

On his arrival, Mr Al Sho'ala was received by Mr Al Jarwan, Labour Ministry Under-Secretary Mohammed Isa Al Suweidi, a number of officials at the Ministry and Bahraini Ambassador to the UAE Isa Mohammed Al Jamea.