



■VISIT... Former Sudanese president and chairman of the board of trustees of the Islamic Call Organisation Field Marshal Abdul Rahman Suwar Al Thahab and the general mufti of Syria Shaikh Ahmed Kaftaar arrived in Bahrain yesterday. They were greeted at the airport by Justice and Islamic Affairs Minister Shaikh Abdulla bin Khalid Al Khalifa, ministry Under-Secretary Shaikh Abdul Rahman bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Khalifa and other senior officials and clergymen.



■DEPARTURE... Mr Al Sho'ala and his delegation before their departure for Cairo

A prize day for ladies association

THE Indian Ladies Association held its annual day yesterday as part of 40th anniversary celebrations.

More than 35 service awards and mementoes were presented to outstanding members, institutions which have supported the ILA and to founder member Leela Jashanmal.

Chief guest at the event, held at Le Royal Meridien Hotel, was Assistant Under-Secretary for Social Affairs Sadiq Al Shehabi. Guest of honour was Indian Ambassador Rajanikanta Verma and guest speaker was *Gulf Daily News* managing director Anwar Abdulrahman.

Pictures of this event will appear later.

75 workers join course in Cairo

By INDIRA CHAND

A MAJOR worker education programme for Bahraini workers' representatives opens in Cairo today.

Labour and Social Affairs Minister Abdulnabi Al Sho'ala and Egyptian Labour Minister Ahmed Al Amawi will attend the opening of the first of three programmes being organised by the General Committee for Bahrain Workers (GCBW).

Mr Al Sho'ala is in Cairo to attend the annual congress of the Arab Labour Organisation (ALO), which opens tomorrow.

The two-week labour education programmes are to be conducted at the Workers' University in Cairo.

A total of 75 workers' representatives from 16 Bahrain companies, which have joint labour committees (JLCs), will attend

the programme in three batches of 25 each. The first programme, which opens today, will run until March 29.

The second training programme will be held from April 5 to 19 and the third from May 31 to June 14.

The programmes are the first to be organised by the GCBW outside Bahrain for all workers' representatives, who make up the GCBW general assembly, said GCBW chairman Faisal Fulad, who left yesterday for Cairo for the launch of the programme and to attend the ALO conference.

The programmes have been made possible by protocols of co-operation signed in December by the GCBW with the Egyptian Trade Union Federation (Etuf) and the Work-

ers' University.

They will focus on topics such as report writing, history of worker organisations, rules and regulations for meetings, methods of convincing, role and responsibilities of worker organisations, regional and international worker organisations, the Arab economic situation and the impact on it of global changes.

"It is our strategy to enhance productivity and play a constructive role in the economic and social development of the country," said Mr Fulad.

"Such programmes will contribute to improved worker productivity because an educated worker is a better worker."

This would also help foster better worker-management relations, he said.

"Through the programme, participants will learn not only about workers' rights but also their responsibilities," said Mr Fulad.

He said most of the 16 companies concerned were supporting the participation of workers' representatives in the programmes.

The GCBW had earlier appealed to the companies to support the workers by providing financial support and leave to workers' representatives, to enable them to attend the programme.

Meanwhile, the ALO congress, which runs until March 24, is set to discuss a number of issues, including a report on 'Youth and development' in the Arab world.

The congress will elect a new secretary-general (employers affairs) and a new board for the 1996-99 term.

Minister to take part in key Arab meeting

LABOUR and Social Affairs Minister Abdulnabi Al Sho'ala yesterday left for Cairo, heading Bahrain's delegation to the 23rd meeting of the Arab labour ministerial meeting.

The meeting begins tomorrow and will last till March 24.

In a pre-departure statement to the *Gulf News Agency*, Mr Al Sho'ala said the meeting will review a number of topics including a report of the general director of the Arab Labour Bureau, which will centre on youth and development issues.

Memorandum

He said that the conference will discuss a memorandum from the director general of the Arab Labour Bureau on the 83rd session of the Arab Labour Conference, due to be held in Geneva in June.

The meeting will elect a new secretary-general (employers affairs) and a new board for the 1996-99 term.

Mr Al Sho'ala is accompanied by Labour Under-Secretary Shaikh Ahmed bin Saqr Al Khalifa, director of the recruitment department Abdulla Hussien Bou-Khalaf, director of the minister's office Sabah Salem Al-Dousari, representative of the employers Usman Moha-mmed Shareef and chairman of the Bahrain General Workers' Committee Faisal Fulad.

LOCAL



Annual flower show planned

THE annual flower show and competition will be held on March 21 at the Sheraton Hotel, under the patronage of HH the Amir Shaikh Isa bin Sulman Al Khalifa.

A committee has visited 11 participating parks and gardens to select the final qualifiers for the competition.

UK time change

CLOCKS in Britain will go forward by one hour early tomorrow for summer time, making British time two hours behind Bahrain, instead of three.



BD5,000 ear system is donated to centre

New jobs training plan

● Board to strengthen institute's efforts

A GOVERNMENT-RUN training institute is strengthening efforts to develop appropriate training programmes and strategies for Bahrainis.

A board has been set up to govern the Bahrain Training Institute (BTI).

The 13-member board, chaired by Labour and Social Affairs Under-Secretary Shaikh Ahmed bin Sager Al Khalifa, comprises representatives from the Labour Ministry, Education Ministry, the private sector and the General Committee for Bahrain Workers (GCBW).

"The board is vested with

By **INDIRA CHAND**

the responsibility of ensuring that the functioning of the BTI is in line with the overall policy laid down by the High Council for Vocational Training," said BTI Director Dr Naji Ahmed Al Mahdi.

Other members of the board are Assistant Under-Secretary for planning and training at the Labour Ministry Abdulrahman Zayani (vice-chairman), Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry board member and chairman of the chamber's industry committee Khalid Al Maskati, Dr Mohammed Sayed, Dr Sulman Abdul Karim, Jaffer Akbar Ali, Sami Jalal,



■ NEW BOARD ... Shaikh Ahmed, sitting centre, with Dr Al Mahdi, standing centre, and members of the board and BTI officials

Mohammed Salahuddin, Sayed Mohsin Sayed Mohammed, Hassan Mubarak, Samir Nass, Faisal Jawad and Jawad Habib.

"The guidance of the board will strengthen the institute's efforts to develop appropriate training programmes to meet Bahrain's needs for trained people in a variety of fields," said Dr Al Mahdi.

Labour and Social Affairs Minister Abdulnabi Al Sho'ala

extended authorities' full support to the new board in its bid to train Bahraini workers and job-seekers.

He said the BTI had gained an excellent reputation outside Bahrain and this would help authorities in their efforts to establish Bahrain as a regional centre of excellence in training.

Major responsibilities of the board include development of an annual budget, advising on ways

to raise resources and reviewing accounts of the institute.

"To ensure quality of programmes of the BTI, the board will encourage on-going staff development efforts," said Dr Al Mahdi.

"It will also consider establishment of new departments to meet the growing needs of the Bahraini economy for well-trained workers."

The board will also ensure

that the qualifications offered by the BTI are of the highest quality.

The BTI is aimed at preparing Bahraini youth for entry to successful careers in industry.

It also provides for the development of knowledge and skills of those already in employment and meet specific needs of industrial, commercial, service and public sector organisations.



■ CELEBRATION ... The Irish Society celebrated St Patrick's Day with a gala banquet and ball. Labour and Social Affairs Minister Abdulnabi Al Sho'ala was the chief guest at the event at the Diplomat Hotel, which was attended by more than 500 people. A raffle draw was also held, which generated BD1,000 for local charities. Above, at the event are, from left, Diplomat Hotel manager Paul Carty, Agnes Carty, Welsh Society chairman Gerry Evans, Royal Society of St George chairman Paul Bradford, Mary Horan, Mr Al Sho'ala, Irish Society chairman Marlin Horan, Rebab Al Sho'ala, Maggie Bradford, Pearl Evans, Ineke Burnett and Caledonian Society chieftain Alan Burnett.



■ CHEQUE PRESENTED ... Manama Singers presented a cheque for BD500 to the Bahrain Cancer Society. The money will be used to further the society's campaign to reduce the number of cancer victims through publicising the value of healthier lifestyles and habits. At the presentation are, from left, Manama Singers chairman Bill Lodge, Bahrain Cancer Society president Dr Hassan Al Arrayed and Manama Singers vice-chairman and secretary Margaret Cannon.

Book Now

All proceeds will go towards building a new wing at Bahrain Mobility Centre at Isa Town.



SULMANIYA ROTARY روتاري السلمانیه

DON'T MISS THE CHANCE!



■ UNIVERSITY AID ... Bahrain University has received a BD5,000 grant from the National Hotels Company. General manager

Song festival tickets go on sale

TICKETS are now on sale for the First Bahraini Song Festival on March 28.

The one-day festival will be held at Juffair Dome, under the patronage of the Cabinet Affairs and Information Ministry.

Tickets: BD5, BD3