

Bahrain



■ APPOINTED ... Mr Al Sho'ala, centre, with the new recruits and bank officials

Bank recruits 10 Bahrainis

TEN Bahrainis, seven freshly graduated from Bahrain University, have been recruited by the Standard Chartered Bank.

About 90 per cent of the bank's existing employees are Bahraini.

"In Bahrain we are seeking to grow our business and expand the range of products and services that we provide to our customers," said chief executive Rupert Keeley.

"In order to achieve this we must recruit people of the highest quality and potential.

"I am very pleased that seven out of 10 of this intake have graduated from Bahrain University."

The bank's new employees, who were introduced yesterday to Labour and Social Affairs Minister Abdulnabi Al Sho'ala, are May Abdulla Awadhi, Abeer Al Yousif, Raeda Mohammed Al Qaseer, Abeer Shehabi, Laila Samahiji, Rolla Ebrahim Rinno, Sameera Abdul Aziz Qaedi, Naahla Ali Al Majid, Muneera Ismail and Laila Janahi.

CO-OPERATION SOUGHT TO RESTORE BAHRAIN'S HERITAGE AND ARTS



INAUGURATION ... Mr Al Sho'ala, centre, cuts the ribbon, watched by director of social development Faiza Al Zayani, second from left, and other officials



POTTER ... Hussain Abdul Rahim works on clay pottery

New project aims to help families increase income

By ANDEYA AHMED

A PROJECT aimed at developing and improving the handicrafts of Bahraini families is to be launched in the next few months.

Labour and Social Affairs Minister Abdulnabi Al Sho'ala said the project would help families earn an extra income.

He was speaking at the opening of the three-day Productive Families Exhibition, which opened yesterday at Hamad Town Social Centre.

"This project aims at encouraging needy families in Bahrain to become more productive and improve their handicrafts skills," said Mr Al Sho'ala.

"It will improve their income through selling the products they make. The project will also aim at attracting and involving more people in this field, which will contribute in bringing back to life some of Bahrain's heritage and traditional arts."

He said the project would also attract tourists interested in seeing local and traditional handicrafts and would involve joint activities organised with other

organisations.

"The project will involve more co-operation between the seven societies, crafts centres and disabled centres," said Mr Al Sho'ala, who also called for the establishment of a private company, which would be responsible for marketing the products.

"This company should be responsible for the promotion of these handicrafts and help pro-

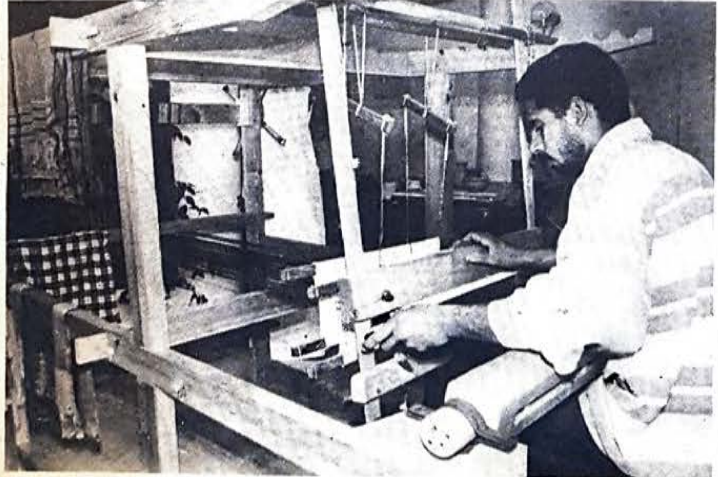
vide work opportunities for the families through the development of different artistic skills."

He said such exhibitions were considered to be a good start and showed the importance for establishing such a company to further develop this field.

Mr Al Sho'ala praised the efforts of the families in producing the different products exhib-

ited at the show, which is open to the public today and tomorrow free of charge, from 8.30am to 2pm and from 9pm to midnight.

"The products are of high quality and reflect the hard work these families and members of the seven social centres have put into this exhibition," he said.



TRADITIONAL ... Jaffer Mohammed weaving and, top, a woman grinds henna in the traditional way