

Bahrain

DRUG ABUSE

● Minister praises club for

A BAHRAIN minister has underlined the need to take effective preventive measures to save society from the dangers of drug abuse.

Labour and Social Affairs Minister Abdulnabi Al Sho'ala praised the initiative taken by the Lions Club of Riffa to promote public awareness of drug abuse.

He was speaking at a seminar on drug abuse, organised by the club at the Diplomat Hotel.

Chairman of the Psychiatric Hospital Dr Mohammed Al Haddad was the moderator at the seminar.

By SOMAN BABY

Consultant psychiatrist and secretary of the National Committee on Mental Health Dr Charlotte Kamel spoke on the various aspects of drug abuse, and senior resident at the Psychiatric Hospital Dr Ashraf Al Shaarawi spoke on the prevention programmes.

Mr Al Sho'ala said drug abuse caused the disintegration of families.

"It also causes social and eco-

nomie problems and affects growth and development of the society," he said.

Mr Al Sho'ala said the initiative taken by the Lions Club of Riffa at the early days of its formation to discuss such a vital issue with experts was commendable.

He said the club was already supporting his ministry's productive family scheme.

Club chairman Wahajuddin Ahmed said the drug abuse caused devastating effects on



■MEMENTO ... Mr Al Sho'ala being presented with a memento by Mr Ahmed, right, watched by club secretary Iftikhar Ahmed, left, and Dr Chaudhry.

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'THREAT TO SOCIETY'

tackling vital social issue

individual users and their families and lead to accidents and decreased productivity in the work place.

"Of all the dangers facing society in general and youth in particular, probably none is more destructive than alcohol and drug abuse," he said.

"Experience shows that once people understand the health hazards of drugs they are more likely to adopt responsible attitudes."

Mr Ahmed said the club had

set up a drug abuse awareness committee, with Dr Haneed Aazem as chairman and Dr Farook Chaudhry as vice-chairman.

He said the committee would address the drug abuse as a health issue and concentrate on the prevention and education aspects.

Mr Al Sho'ala was presented with a memento by Mr Ahmed.

The minister presented the Lions' lapel pins to the club's board members.



■SESSION ... At the opening session of the seminar are, from left, Dr Haddad, Mr Al Sho'ala and Mr Ahmed