

Bahrain



Mr Al Sho'ala

# Training 'crucial for

By SOMAN BABY

NEEDY families in Bahrain can be transformed into productive families through proper training, says Labour and Social Affairs Minister Abdulnabi Al Sho'ala.

He said it was essential to integrate the weaker sections of society into the mainstream of the economy.

## ● Minister urges help to bring Bahrain's weaker

Mr Al Sho'ala said the Directorate of Research and Social Assistance at his ministry offered regular financial aid to more than 10,000 needy families and individuals.

"While it is essential to support the weaker sections of soci-

ety, financial assistance should neither be considered as a remedy for economic ailments nor as a permanent feature," he told a gathering at Le Royal Meridien Hotel.

Mr Al Sho'ala was speaking as the chief guest at the first

Charter Night anniversary of the Lions Club of Riffa.

He thanked the club for its support to his ministry's Productive Families Project.

"Their support will help to improve the project as a part of the social service undertaken by

the Labour and Social Affairs Ministry," he said.

"Financial assistance to the needy is at best a short-term treatment, a sort of pain killer, but in the long term, it is imperative that such sections of the society are also integrated into the main-

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# economic freedom'

## sections into productive mainstream of society

stream of the economy.

"A cure, that is lasting and effective must be found."

Mr Al Sho'ala said it was important to promote the concept of "Work is Worship".

"It is our desire that rather than expanding the financial assistance

given to the needy, improvements and expansion are sought to schemes such as the Productive Families Project," he said.

"The continued progress of our country will depend, to a large extent, on our ability to transform the needy families into

productive families.

"It is essential to train our young men and women in various vocations including handicrafts and help them to improve their economic status."

Mr Al Sho'ala said institutions of the private sector would

hold the key to future development of the country.

"The Productive Families Project aims to help people to be self-employed and their own success will generate further employment opportunities, leading to continuous growth and

progress," he said.

Mr Al Sho'ala congratulated the club on the launch of its campaign to enhance public awareness of the harmful effects of drug abuse.

Club president Syed Wahajuddin Ahmed presented a memento to Mr Al Sho'ala.

Awards were also presented to outstanding club members and individuals who have supported the club activities.