

Bahrain

# TRAINING 'KEY TO GROWTH'

By SOMAN BABY

TRAINING is the key to Bahrain's industrial growth, says Labour and Social Affairs Minister Abdulnabi Al Sho'ala.

"Training of Bahrainis, the right people for the right job, will enable Bahrain's industries to meet future challenges," he said.

Mr Al Sho'ala was opening a seminar on the future of Bahrain's garment industries.

He said the Garment Committee of the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry had been concerting all efforts to improve the standards of productivity, profitability and efficiency.

"We are pleased that a training facility for the garment industry is being established at the Bahrain Training Institute (BTI)," he said.

Mr Al Sho'ala said the garment industry in Bahrain employed about 4,100 people, of which 1,100, or 27 per cent, were Bahrainis.

"There is scope for more employment opportunities, especially for women," he said.

"Training is the most impor-

## ● Jobs scope in garment industry underlined

tant factor which will enable them to improve their performance.

"With well-trained personnel, the industry can look forward to higher levels of profitability, which in turn will encourage more investors to establish garment units."

Mr Al Sho'ala thanked the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (Unido) and the UN Development Programme (UNDP) for the continuous support given to the growth of Bahrain's industries.

Chief of Unido's textile unit John Peter Moll was the key speaker at the seminar, which was held at the Employment Services Bureau at the Labour Ministry premises.

Mr Moll said the garment industry worldwide was facing



■ Mr Moll speaks at the seminar watched by Mr Al Sho'ala, third from left, and other officials

serious challenges because of recession in importing countries, saturated consumer clothing needs and global garment manufacturing over-capacity.

"Over the past four years, there has been 25-30pc drop in retail businesses in the garment sector worldwide," he said.

Mr Moll said Bahrain's garment industry should show rapid response to changing demands.

"It should also be technology- and information-oriented. The viability of modern technology is dependent on the availability of skills, cross-trained operators and supervisors," he said.

Mr Moll underlined the need to set up a library which would provide market information on garments at BTI, where a training programme for the garment industry would start next month.

BTI assistant director of training services Jaffar Al Wardi said the Labour and Social Affairs Ministry had entrusted BTI with several human resources development activities.

"It is our constant endeavour to provide training services of the highest standards to all our clients," he said.

"We are committed to the development of high quality Bahraini human resources to

support the development aspirations of the Bahraini nation."

The seminar was attended by Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry president Ali bin Yousuf Fakhro, Commerce Ministry Under-Secretary Dr Abdulla Mansoor, UNDP resident representative and UN resident co-ordinator Dr Faysal Abdel-Gadir and other officials: