

# MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES 'TO

## Game, set and snatch

By BARRY SHACKLETON

Wimbledon tennis fortnight has started. Incredibly, to the English, Wimbledon is inviolate. Despite not producing a men's champion (not even close) for 60 years, they live in a state of denial about this occasion in their calendar but there is something irresistible about the atmosphere that grabs you. A Bahraini friend of mine is in England this month and one of the things he is desperate to do is attend the Wimbledon championships. I've told him he is going to get wet because it always rains. A lot. You can guarantee that on the day before the tournament starts, the summer retards and customary thick black clouds creep over the horizon. Not ordinary clouds these, but a snarling mass of twisting anger. However, that horrible prospect doesn't make the slightest difference, the visitors still turn up. It can be pouring down and forecasts for gales and monsoons for the rest of the day but they'll continue to stand in line for tickets. They see the rain as merely a trifling irritation.

The chances are that my friend will also be dreadfully ripped off because for the opportunist, it is a great way to make some quick money and the main side line which brings in the mega bucks is selling strawberries at hugely inflated prices to the wealthy visitors. Fourteen days with them and you're set up faster than you can say 'fat bulging wallet'.

The occasion is always blessed with a rich harvest of their kind and all with much more money than sense, cramming themselves into the local three star accommodation, conveniently upgraded to five star for the duration of the tournament. The strawberries themselves don't cost a lot to buy from the fruit market, mainly because their acidity could strip the porcelain from a bidet. They are just resold for a lot. That kind of thing is traditional at Wimbledon. Some punters feel as though they've been cheated but it's not cheating; it's more like swindling and it's not exactly heinous is it?

Twenty years ago during my college break I headed to Wimbledon for a welcome summer job. On my first day the deluge started and my immediate reaction was to erect the large golfing umbrella to protect my strawberries. My second reaction was to curse the day I'd seen how much those umbrellas were and decided I didn't need one. Through the downpour I could just make out the rain blurred outline of a couple of gullible victims. "I really think you'd be better going home, it's going to rain all day," I teased.

"Oh no. We've come all the way from Colorado and we want see Wimbledon. We are here now so we're determined to enjoy it, and besides, we have umbrellas." (This attitude should not be confused with enthusiasm - it is mental derangement).

"But the whole of the All England Lawn Tennis Club is waterlogged. I'm selling these strawberries from a boat!" "Oh, lovely. How much are they? Take a picture Ethel."

"OK suckers, they are two pounds per strawberry - and fries are extra."



Mr Redha

SMALL and medium sized enterprises in Bahrain are expected to provide an increasing number of jobs, says top Bahraini management and training expert.

Bapco's general manager-administration Hussain Redha said job opportunities in larger companies would be limited in future.

"Bahrainisation in major national companies has already reached 80 to 90 per cent and job opportunities in many of them have reached a saturation point," he told the Gulf Careers 2000 conference yesterday. "The introduction of modern technolo-

gy will, in fact, reduce the number of future jobs in larger firms.

"Bahraini job-seekers should, therefore, focus their expectations on small and medium-sized enterprises."

Mr Redha, former president of the Bahrain Society for Training and Development, was presenting a paper titled, 'Competencies and skills for the year 2000.'

He underlined the need for young people to understand the context in which they would be working and developing expertise in future.

According to Mr Redha, young people

should have the knowledge of:

- Industry base, business types, size, trends, corporate strategies and goals, impact of technology and industrial awareness of especially the small and medium sized enterprises, which offer a significant proportion of employment opportunities.
- Working environment, work ethics, social interaction at work, rules and regulations, health and safety.
- Different career options and opportunities, qualification and skill demands and job search techniques.

"Providing such knowledge and under-

# Worker skills plan

Creating career opportunities for Bahrainis is the focus of a pioneering conference. **SOMAN BABY and AHDEYA AHMED report.**

BAHRAINI employers face serious challenges in recruiting and training the national workforce, the Gulf Careers 2000 was told yesterday.

Jawad Cold Stores deputy chairman and chief executive officer Faisal Jawad called for the formulation of a national human resources development plan.

"We will succeed in our endeavour to upgrade the skills of Bahraini workers only if we formulate a development plan on a national scale to ensure that our human potential is developed to the full and in line with our vision for the future," he said.

Mr Jawad's paper was titled, "The challenges to an employer in recruiting and training nationals".

He said businesses were now looking for competent and multi-skilled workforce, technical specialists and for people



Mr Al Sho'ala, centre, opens the conference, watched by Bateco human resources general Manager Mariam Janahi and Mr Jaberri

## ● Recruitment challenges listed

who were innovative and business-minded.

"In the past, businesses have not really bothered about investing in the development of people as recruiting from outside has been relatively easy and competition has not been so fierce," Mr Jawad told the two-day conference, at the Bahrain Conference Centre, Holiday Inn.

"The profit margin has been large enough to allow for inefficiencies and overstaffing."

"Today, the rules are different and we have no choice but to develop people who are capable of meeting the needs of businesses."

Mr Jawad said it was obvious that the result of

failing to invest in people, as a nation, there would be an underskilled workforce producing poor quality products and services at high costs.

"Businessmen and employers must wake up to this fact. We must take the training and development of people very seriously as this has a direct impact on the quality of products and services," he said.

Mr Jawad outlined various problems he faced as an employer while recruiting and training nationals. "In our recruitment efforts, we generally look for school leavers of average intelligence with good basic knowledge of mathematics and English," he said. Some of the problems Mr Jawad identified were:

- The level of English of the school leavers is extremely poor.
- Most of the students do not have a clue as to what career they would or should pursue.
- The majority of applicants do not know how to apply for a job.
- The new recruits very much lack work discipline, including punctuality, dedication to work, observing rules and regulations and working hard.
- Judgement in labour issues, in many cases, are one-sided and are mostly biased towards the employees.
- The training institutions are more educational than training-oriented.

On the proposed human resources development plan, Mr Jawad said it must cater for all sectors of the economy and must have the full participation of employers in each sector to make sure that today's business needs were taken care of.

"The challenge for the employer is to recognise that investment in human resources is vital in order to increase efficiency, raise productivity and profitability of the business. To compete in a sophisticated and rapidly changing global economy, we require a flexible and skilled workforce."



Mr Jawad

# Career guidance 'integral part of training system'

CAREER guidance is the single most important challenge the education and training sectors are facing today, says Bahrain Training Institute (BTI) director Dr Najj Al Mahdi.

He was speaking yesterday at Careers 2000 Exhibition and Conference at the Bahrain Conference Centre, Holiday Inn.

Dr Al Mahdi said parents often complained how difficult their children were getting and teachers complained about their lack of discipline in classrooms.

"We often complain about the changing habits of our young people," he said.

"Employers find many of them unsuitable for the realities of the work place."

"It would be no exaggeration to say that what our youth need is not just education and training, but a channel for self-fulfilment and a contribution to the society, which sustains them."

"They need careers."

Dr Al Mahdi said the work of trainers and educationalists did not

stop when they impart skills and knowledge.

"It is our duty to provide our youth with knowledge about possible careers and inform them about their potential employers' needs," he said.

"Career guidance and counselling are not just a luxury appendix, but a vital organ of our education and training system. It is integral."

Dr Al Mahdi said there were several challenges before the human resources development sector in Bahrain.

"The first challenge is bridging the gap between the world of education and the world of work," he said.

"There is at present extremely limited career guidance and preparation for work."

There were inadequate placement services, said Dr Al Mahdi, and insufficient capacity in personnel departments to guide job seekers through the difficult transition from school to work.

He said this applied to the entire gamut of the education of the individual and includes formal educa-

tion, training environment and social environment.

"Parents need to devote more attention to instilling the right work culture in their children and almost certainly the media could take on a more responsible role to disseminate a positive attitude to work," said Dr Al Mahdi.

"Educational organisations often have an academic approach to the development of learning programmes and need to consider using a more needs-oriented approach."

"This is a major challenge before us and an opportunity for career guidance specialists."

He said the second challenge was to develop competitiveness based on quality. "In the current world economic climate, competitiveness is the keyword," continued Dr Al Mahdi.



Dr Al Mahdi

## WEATHER

**TODAY: Fine**

Wind: Northwesterly 07 to 12kt reaching 13 to 18kt at times  
Sea state: 1 to 2ft inshore and 2 to 4ft offshore

Sunrise: 0446 Sunset: 1834  
Moonrise: 1242 Moonset: 0130  
Temperature: Max 38C, Min 28C  
Maximum Apparent Temperature: 40C  
Humidity: Max 75%, Min 35%  
Mina Sulman tides: High at 1143, Low at 1804

Actual values recorded yesterday:  
Temperature: Max 37C, Min 28C  
Maximum Apparent Temperature: 38C  
Humidity: Max 69%, Min 36%  
Gulf temperatures: Kuwait 43, Riyadh 40, DoHa 38, Abu Dhabi 37, Muscat 36

● Apparent temperature is a combination of heat, wind and humidity. In layman's terms, it is basically how hot it feels.

\*Met Office 32117574 Weatherline 268700

City	Min	Max	CI	City	Min	Max	CI
Amsterdam	09	17	CI	Geneva	09	18	CI
Athens	22	36	C	Hong Kong	25	29	R
Auckland	12	16	CI	Islamabad	26	32	C
Bangkok	25	33	CI	Istanbul	22	31	CI
Beijing	21	30	CI	Jakarta	25	35	CI
Beirut	24	29	C	Johannesburg	02	16	CI
Berlin	11	17	CI	Kuala Lumpur	22	35	C
Brussels	10	14	CI	Lisbon	16	30	C
Buenos Aires	01	11	C	London	11	20	CI
Cairo	21	34	C	Madrid	18	33	C
Chicago	18	26	CI	Manila	24	34	CI
Colombo	24	32	R	Melbourne	09	16	CI
Dhaka	25	31	CI	Mexico City	15	25	CI
Dublin	11	19	CI	Montreal	13	20	C
Frankfurt	11	17	CI	Moscow	17	24	C
				New Delhi	25	27	R
				New York	18	28	CI
				Nicosia	21	37	CI
				Paris	08	20	CI
				Rio de Janeiro	15	24	CI
				Rome	12	22	CI
				Seoul	20	24	R
				Singapore	27	32	CI
				Taipei	25	34	CI
				Toronto	21	25	CI
				Tokyo	14	22	R
				Vienna	10	18	CI
				Warsaw	10	14	R
				Washington	22	30	CI
				Zurich	08	16	CI

## PRAYER TIMES

Noon (Dohr) 11.41am, Afternoon (Asr) 3.04pm, Sunset (Maghrib) 6.35pm, Nightfall (Isha) 8.05pm and Dawn (Fajr) 3.19am tomorrow.

Today is the 9th day of Safar 1417, in the Islamic calendar.

\*Provided by the Justice and Islamic Affairs Ministry.

\*CODE: C=Clear, CI=Cloudy, R=Rain



# PROVIDE MAJORITY OF NEW JOB OPPORTUNITIES'

standing of the world of work will enhance young people's awareness of the business context and ultimately highlight the skills and competencies needed to successfully access and progress in the workplace," said Mr Redha.

Stressing the need for close education and industry links, he said workplace knowledge should be provided at Tawjahya (secondary school) and undergraduate levels.

"To an extent, with summer training and work experience programmes currently underway, a link already exists," said Mr Redha.

"However, it may be timely to re-examine our existing practices in these areas to ensure they

reflect the needs of all parties, education, industry and student."

He said careers guidance professionals had an important role in providing information on career and employment opportunities, careers counselling, identifying skill demands and providing job search expertise.

"Through close industry/education links, young people can be encouraged to develop workplace knowledge and increase their awareness of the skills and competencies demanded in the workplace," continued Mr Redha.

"This ought to enhance their attractiveness to employers and ultimately improve their employ-

ment prospects."

He outlined the skills and competencies required in the year 2000 in the areas of information technology, communications, personal/interpersonal skills, technical skills, problem analysis, qualities and human resource infrastructures.

"With the continuing expansion in information technology, these skills are now essential for survival at work," said Mr Redha.

"Global markets have also placed considerable reliance upon technology to swiftly transmit data worldwide. Also there is a growing relevance of information technology in banking, tourism and services sectors."

There was also, he said, an increasing need for customer service expertise.

Mr Redha said it was important for young people to demonstrate considerable flexibility and tolerance in the workplace.

On small and medium sized industries, he said they should provide an increasing number of future jobs.

"In these organisations, limited training budgets frequently make human resources development provision difficult," continued Mr Redha.

"Various options should be studied to overcome this problem, which may include the Government-funding of certain training programmes."

## Youngsters urged to start small businesses

YOUNG people should focus on setting up small business units, says a Bahraini management expert.

There are many opportunities in Bahrain, such as setting up window cleaning businesses, said Bahrain Management Centre managing director Seena Jaberi.

He said young people should focus on setting up businesses which did not need a large capital.

"If young people look for such opportunities they can have a good income and better serve the society," he said.

"Many people in Europe depend on themselves to find jobs through getting involved in home deliveries, making cookies and selling them and even cleaning the windows of houses.

"These small business units do not need a high capital and investment, but a very small budget to start the project with."

### Awareness

In Bahrain, said Mr Jaberi, these services were needed.

"Many people need their windows cleaned and wiped and it may cost them a lot when they contact a big establishment," he said.

"It is important to spread awareness on the importance of such business units and encourage young people in Bahrain to get involved in them."

Mr Jaberi urged school and university leaders to attend Careers 2000 to get guidelines to different fields they can serve in.

"Training is needed all the time not just for getting a job, but also for those who want to get higher and senior positions in their careers," he said.

Mr Jaberi said parents should not force their children into career and academic paths they disliked.

"Young people should be given the right to choose the jobs they want to get involved in according to their likes and capabilities and not just study what they do not like just to please their parents," he said.

# urged for Bahrainis



■ Labour and Social Affairs Under-Secretary Shalkh Ahmed bin Sager Al Khalifa, fourth from right, and other dignitaries at the opening



■ Mr Al Sho'ala, front, second from left, at the BTI stand with Dr Al Mahdi, front, third from left

# 100 GCC delegates attend conference

MORE than 100 delegates from the GCC states are attending the Gulf Careers 2000 conference, which opened at the Bahrain Conference Centre, Holiday Inn, yesterday.

Labour and Social Affairs Minister Abdulwahab Al Sho'ala opened the conference and exhibition which is being organised by the Bahrain Management Centre (BMC).

BMC careers education development advisor Ettaline Moore said the event was the Arabian Gulf's first major careers conference and exhibition.

The conference ends today and the

exhibition will run until Thursday.

Business people and educationalists from Bahrain and experts in career guidance and information from Britain will speak at the conference.

Sixteen papers are being presented. The exhibition space is occupied by ministries, major companies and training institutions.

They include the Bahrain Training Institute (BTI), Bahrain University, the National Educational Training Group (US), Ministries of Education and Health, Bateco, Asry, YBA Kanoo, Bahrain Maritime and Mercantile International,

Bahrain Islamic Bank, Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Bahrain Airport Services, Standard Chartered, Australian Education, Employment Plus and Specific Council for Training in Hotel and Catering.

BTI director Dr Najji Al Mahdi presented the keynote address.

Muharraqa Secondary Technical School principal Hassan Mohammed Ameen and Ahmed Al Omran School assistant principal Abdul Hakim Al Shair gave an overview of education in Bahrain.

Today's session will start with a talk

on the opportunities in the hotel industry by Specific Council for Training in Hotels and Catering chairman Abdulnabi Daylami.

CareerCraft executive director Alan Miles will present a paper titled, Training is not enough.

Papers will also be presented on computers in career guidance and Bahrain University's training programmes.

The closing session will be addressed by Assistant Under-Secretary for Planning and Training at the Labour and Social Affairs Ministry Abdulrahman Zayani.

## LECTURERS WIN GRANTS

TWO Bahraini lecturers have been awarded research grants by the prestigious US-based Fulbright scholarship programme.

Dr Lamyia Faisal, assistant professor in the civil and architectural engineering department at Bahrain University, and Dr Salman Hassan Abbas, assistant professor of mathematics, are the first Bahrainis to win the research award, which is for three months.

Dr Faisal, who earned her PhD

(doctorate) from McGill University in Montreal, will utilise the award for researching new methods to enhance the engineering performance of collapsible soils in Bahrain.

The research will be conducted at Arizona State University, which is well-known for its work in the field of collapsible soils.

Dr Abbas will do his research at Western Illinois University.



■ Dr Faisal

## PUPILS IN UK HONOURED

BHRAIN University president Dr Mohammed Al Ghatam met in London yesterday 37 Bahraini students sponsored by the university to study at British universities.

The meeting was held in a hotel and attended by Shaikh Sulman bin Khalifa bin Sulman Al Khalifa, Bahrain's Ambassador in London Shaikh Abdulaziz bin Mubarak Al Khalifa, Cultural Attaché Hassan Monfaridi and other embassy officials.

Dr Al Ghatam highlighted to the students the university's achievements over the past few months and said they were the elite of

Bahrain's youth.

Dr Al Ghatam was in the US last week where he presented gold medals and attestations awarded by HH the Amir Shaikh Isa bin Sulman Al Khalifa to distinguished renewable energy scientists, in a ceremony held in Denver, Colorado.

Dr Al Ghatam is accompanied by a university delegation made up of vice-president for planning and community services and acting dean of student affairs Dr Emad Taqi, dean of scientific research Dr Waheeb Al Naser and director of the president's office Ali Engineer.



**WHAT'S ON**

FREE Yoga classes, Corniche, opposite Sheraton Complex, 5.15am to 6.15am. All welcome.

Free Line Dancing lessons, Tylos Hotel, The Saddle, 8pm-9pm.

Something for mothers and toddlers, Hilton Hotel, 9.30am-11.30am. Everybody welcome.

St Christopher's Senior School fourth art exhibition, National Museum, 10am-noon and 4pm-8pm.

Swimming lessons, Dilmun Club, 3pm-6pm; outdoor bowls, 7.30pm; laser disc film show, 7.30pm; social tennis, 6pm.

Colossal camel quiz, Awali Cricket Club, clubhouse, 6.30pm. Everyone welcome. For details Tel:756959.

Young Learners' Centre (book and video library), British Council, 9am-noon and 3pm-6pm. For more details call 261555.

Craft Centre Gallery, Isa Al Kabeer Avenue, opposite Police Fort, gallery 9am-noon; workshop 9am-noon and 4pm-7pm. Tel:254688.

Open Forum on "Understanding Islam" (in English for men), flat 202, Baraka Building, Hoora, 8.30pm.

Interdenominational Women's Fellowship, 9.30am. For details of venue call National Evangelical Church on 254508. Everyone welcome.

Cancer Support Group meets, American Mission Hospital, 5pm-7pm. Contact bleep 9370256 or 9513450 for more information.

Amideast US education reference library, Umm Al Hassam, 8am-1pm and 2pm-5pm. Call 722898.

Young Goans Club, Whist drive, 8.30pm; karate, 7pm; aerobic classes for women, 6pm-7pm.

Karate classes for children, Bahrain Keraleeya Samajam, 6.30pm.

Outdoor bowls, Dilmun Club, 7.30pm; laser disc film show, 7.30pm.

Library books issued to members, Kannada Sangha, 8pm.

Water Polo, Bahrain Bankers Club, 7pm.

BSPCA thrift shop, open from 9am to noon, at 6 Bushiri Gardens, off Budaiya Road, behind Bushiri Centre.

Alcoholics Anonymous (mixed) meeting, American Mission Hospital, 7.30pm. Contact 591395, 9388165.

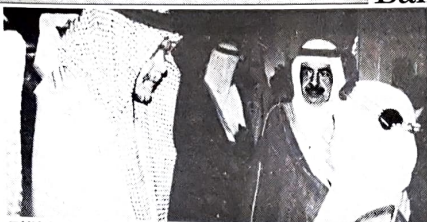
Al Areen Wildlife Park open 8am-noon and 1pm-4pm. Tel: 836116.

National Museum, Heritage Centre, Shaikh Isa bin Ali's House in Muharraq, Belt Al Jasra and the Art Centre (next to National Museum) open 10am-noon and 4pm-8pm.

Belt Al Quran open 9am-noon and 4pm-6pm.

Aqua aerobics, British Club, 9.30am; Tots and Toddlers, 9.30am; danceercise, 3pm; karate, 5pm; swimming, 4pm; snooker, 6pm.

...TO BE INCLUDED IN WHAT'S ON, CONTACT MOHAMMED MOHSIN ON 620222 ...



■ HH the Amir Shaikh Isa bin Sulman Al Khalifa is received on his return to Bahrain by Prince Bander bin Sultan bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud, Saudi Ambassador to Washington.



■ The Amir is received on his return by Justice and Islamic Affairs Minister Shaikh Abdulla bin Khalid Al Khalifa watched by Interior Minister Shaikh Mohammed bin Khalifa Al Khalifa and Shura Council chairman Ibrahim Humaidan



■ The Amir is welcomed back by chairman of the board of trustees of the Bahrain Centre for Studies and Research Shaikh Sulman bin Hamad Al Khalifa



■ The Prime Minister is seen off at Cairo by President Mubarak

# Arab support hailed

► From Page One

in its internal affairs. The Arab leaders stressed their support for Bahrain against any attempted threats from any party, especially Iran.

They urged Iran to respect Bahrain's sovereignty in a framework of reciprocal respect and good neighbourly relations by preventing any acts of sabotage that target Bahrain so as to serve regional security and stability.

Also present at the meeting were Shaikh Sulman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, chairman of the board of trustees of the Bahrain Centre for Studies and Research Shaikh Sulman bin Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and head of the Prime Minister's Court Dr Abdul Latif Al Rumaihi.

The Amir and the Prime Minister were received at the airport, on their return from Cairo, by the Crown Prince, senior members of the Ruling Family, ministers, Mr Humaidan, Saudi Ambassador to Washington Prince Bander bin Sultan bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud and other officials and citizens.

An official reception was held for the Amir. Earlier, the Amir and the Prime Minister were seen off at Cairo airport by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Prime Minister Kamal Al Ganzouri and other officials.

Egyptian Minister of Supply and Internal and Foreign Trade Ahmed Al Gueily had arrived at the Meridien Hotel to accompany the Amir and the Prime Minister in an official motorcade to the airport where they were received by President Mubarak.



An official farewell ceremony was held for the Amir.

The Amir and the Prime Minister were accompanied by a delegation, including Foreign Minister Shaikh Mohammed bin Mubarak Al Khalifa, Amiri Court Affairs Minister Shaikh Ali bin Isa Al Khalifa, Minister of State Jawad Al Arrayed, Cabinet Affairs and Information Minister Mohammed Al Mutawa, Mohammed Jalal, Mubarak Jassim Kanoos, Director of Administrative Affairs at the Amiri Court, Khalid Mattar, Dr Al Rumaihi, the Director-General of Protocol Nabil Qamber and Bahrain's Ambassador to Egypt Mustafa Kamal.

They were also accompanied by an information delegation led by Director of News at the Radio and Television Corporation Khalid Al Zayani. The delegation also included editors-in-chief of local newspapers. The Amir sent a cable of thanks and appreciation to President Mubarak on leaving Cairo.



■ The Amir, Prime Minister and Crown Prince and BDF Commander-in-Chief received ministers and other senior officials at the Premier's Court yesterday. The Amir briefed the gathering on the results of the Arab Summit held in Cairo

He congratulated President Mubarak on the wise manner in which he had directed the summit and thanked him for excellent reception and accommodation he had received. The Amir expressed satisfaction at the brotherly spirit that prevailed at the meetings which

reflected the strong ties between Arab countries and peoples and underlined President Mubarak's efforts in organising the meeting. The Amir hailed the progress and development of Egypt and wished its people further progress and prosperity.

## CROSS THE BALL

**HERE'S WHAT TO DO**

The ball has been obliterated from the picture -- right -- Mark a Cross (x) with a ballpoint pen where you think the centre of the ball is.

■ Five crosses per entry with a maximum 10 entries allowed

■ WRITE YOUR NAME IN BLOCK LETTERS

Name: .....  
 Address: .....  
 Telephone: .....  
 Home: ..... Work

■ ENTRIES TO REACH US NOT LATER THAN SUNDAY EACH WEEK



EMPLOYEES OR RELATIVES OF DAR AKHBAR AL KHALEEJ ARE NOT ALLOWED TO ENTER THE COMPETITION. The judges decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. Prizes must be collected within one calendar month.

## BD 50 CASH

Despite 245 entries being received this week, no-one took the top prize in the latest Cross the Ball competition. However, two came close enough to win BD5 consolation prizes. They are: Joseph Sequeira, P.O. Box - 1914; N.C. Debnath, P.O. Box - 777. They should contact the GDN on 620222 for details of how to collect their prizes. The BD50 top prize is at stake again this week, and all you have to do is place five crosses where you think the exact centre of the ball is in the accompanying picture. Then send your entry to Cross the Ball, Gulf Daily News, P.O. Box 5300, Manama, Bahrain.



Last week's competition with the ball showing



# JOB SHOP TO HELP YOUTH

## ► From Page One

various companies and work sites," he said.

"The computers at the bureau will store Bahrain's labour market statistics and will do the necessary matching between demand and supply."

Mr Al Sho'ala said the job seekers would be trained in interview techniques.

"The ESB will have its own meeting and conference rooms. Job seekers will have a proper waiting room where films on training and career opportunities will be shown," he said.

"A team from the International Labour Organisation (ILO) which visited Bahrain recently appreciated the move and offered all technical expertise to ESB's development."

Mr Al Sho'ala said that during his recent visit to Geneva to attend the 83rd session of the ILO assembly, three vital issues concerning Bahrain were discussed.

They were:

- Formulation of a human resources development strategy.
- Technical advice on labour market information

and analysis.

- Development of entrepreneurship skills among young people.

Mr Al Sho'ala said training and human resources development was a vital issue which enjoyed the full attention of the Bahrain Government.

"Every effort is being made to absorb the national workforce into the labour market," he said.

Mr Al Sho'ala, who praised the leadership role taken by the private sector in achieving this objective, said it was important to enhance the communication channels between job seekers and employers.

"In Bahrain, we consider human being as the most valuable asset and treasure. The Government has absolute interest and a strong commitment in his development," he said.

"The challenges ahead of us are fighting unemployment, creating new job opportunities and maintaining the growth rate.

"The Government is currently implementing new plans and policies to ensure the stability of our labour market."