

Gov 23-1-96

# Worker education centre backed

BAHRAIN'S first worker education centre was yesterday assured of Government support for its development.

The assurance came from Labour and Social Affairs Minister Abdulnabi Al Sho'ala, who opened the centre, established by the General Committee for Bahrain Workers (GCBW).

The opening was attended by Director of Labour at the Labour and Social Affairs Ministry Shaikh Abdulrahman bin Abdulla bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Assistant Under-Secretary for Social Affairs Sadiq Shehabi, Arab Labour Organisation director general Baqer Mahmood Rasool and other invited guests.

"The opening of this centre is significant as it is a symbol of support of the Government to workers," said Mr Al Sho'ala.

He said the authorities had always encouraged and supported Bahrain's workers and that worker education played a key role in increasing worker productivity.

Worker education was the result, not of pressure, but of a strong belief in seeking knowledge and of understanding the importance of such education, he said.

Mr Al Sho'ala said worker education was a tool in supporting human dignity and strengthening social freedom.

"Such education is also very important in creating workers' leaders and in strengthening workers'



■ INAUGURATE... Mr Rasool, second from right, presents a memento from the Arab Labour Organisation to Mr Al Sho'ala. Top, Mr Al Sho'ala cuts the ribbon to open the education centre.

organisations, to enable them to play their role and deliver a message," said Mr Al Sho'ala.

He urged the GCBW to ensure that educational programmes undertaken by the new centre were done in a

planned manner.

GCBW chairman Faisal Fulad said the centre was aimed at preparing a new generation of Bahraini workers, who can take their place in the country's development process.

The provisional opening yesterday was made months ahead of schedule.

A nine-member board is to be formed to govern the activities of the centre.

Mr Fulad said the programmes would be organised with the assistance of regional and international labour organisations.

In a speech, Mr Rasool affirmed the importance of spreading labour culture under the global world changes and expressed hope the centre will turn into a bastion for research and study for work and workers, and for establishing a strong bond among the various elements that contribute to production.

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■RECEIVED ... Prime Minister Shaikh Khalifa bin Sulman Al Khalifa yesterday received director general of the Arab Labour Organisation (ALO) Baqir Mohammed Rasool. The Prime Minister praised the ALO's role in the fields of training and developing humanitarian energies worldwide and affirmed Bahrain's keenness to enhance mutual co-operation. Present were Labour and Social Affairs Minister Abdulnabi Al Sho'ala, head of the Prime Minister's Court Dr Abdul Latif Al Rumaihi and other officials.