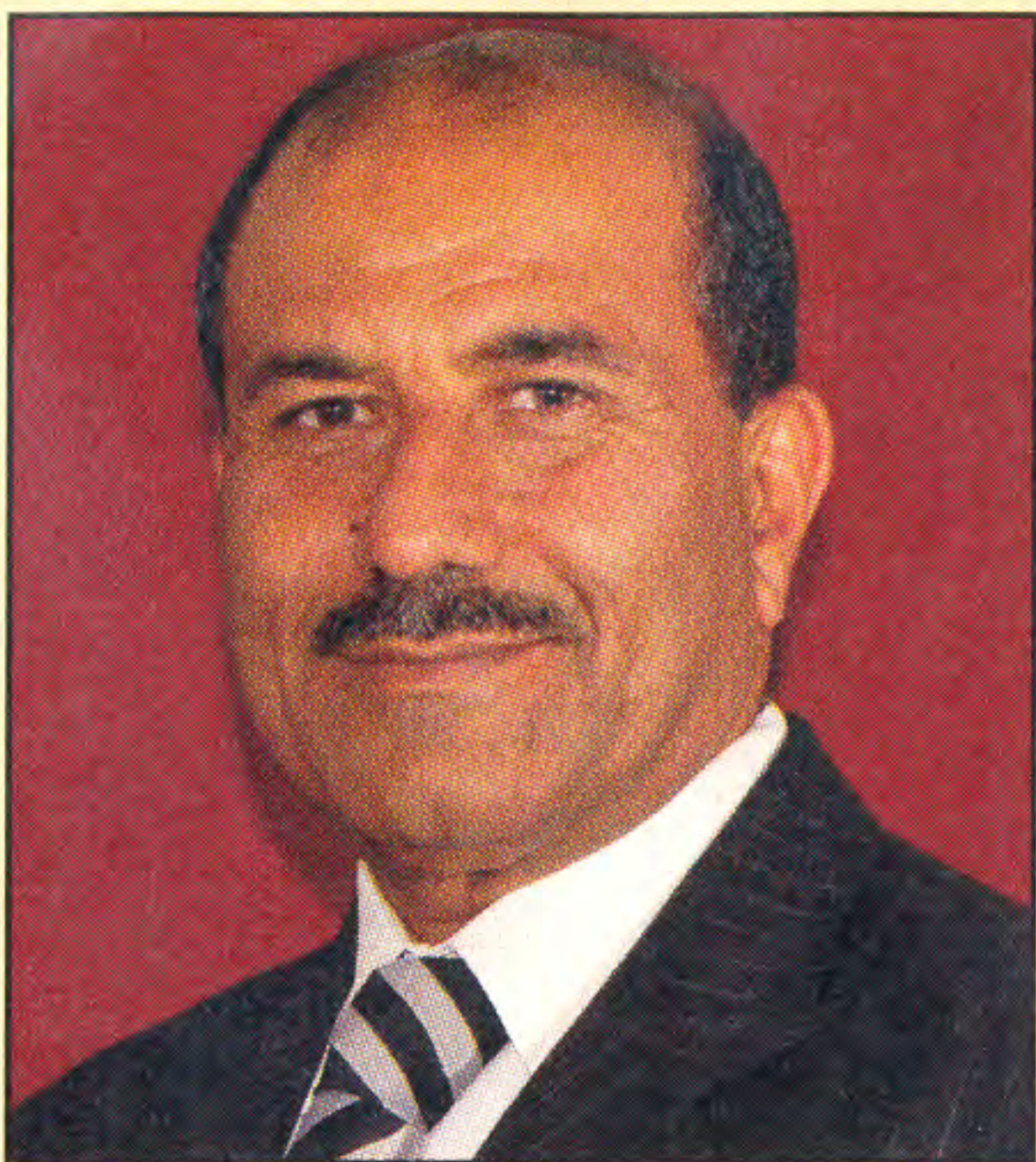


# Khalil Hammad – photographer

AN electrical engineer with Batelco, Khalil Hammad's love affair with the camera began at the age of 14.

Growing up in Naim village, which in the 1960s was strategically located between the sea and the market, Khalil was fascinated by his Agfa camera which could capture the buzzing life around him. He said: "In the sea there were the fishermen and their boats, in the market there were traders



and several craftsmen including blacksmiths and boat makers. I just had to take their pictures.

"My father was not happy with me because buying cameras was difficult and processing pictures was expensive. Colour photographs

could only be processed in London."

Undeterred, Khalil continued to practise his art till he got a formal training at the Bahrain Art Centre from the late Dr Ahmed Baqer. Today he specialises in taking portraits and likes to work with a candid camera.

Describing his work, he said: "When I switched to digital camera it was as if a new chapter had started. It was a completely new world. I felt like an artist as I could work on the computer and make a photograph look like art.

"At Artlounge2 I will be showing around 20 of my photo-



graphs. They will be both the original shots alongside the changed ones. They are a mixture of subjects of children and old people celebrating during Eid and Muharram.

"I like to discuss my work with photographer Ali Al Koofy and artist Abbas Al Mousawi who can judge a work well."

Mr Hammad, 57, will take early retirement this year to concentrate on his photography. He plans to travel to Yemen, Sri Lanka and India to follow his life-long dream. He has earlier taken part in solo and group exhibitions in Prato in Italy, Budapest in Hungary, Chendo in China and Zilina in Slovakia and is the president of the photographers' club in the kingdom.