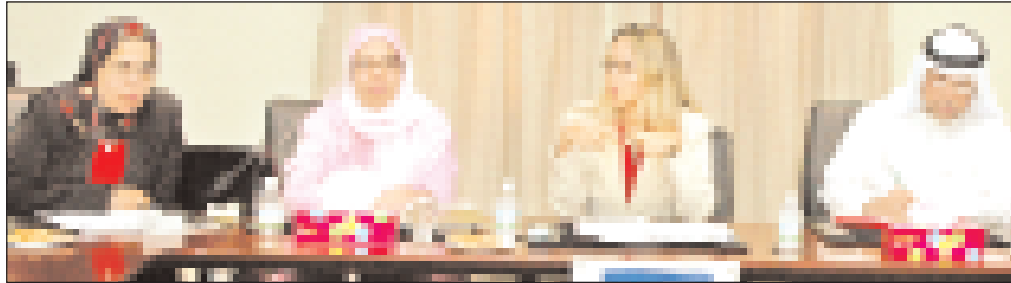


## Call to join drive against AIDS



BIJU HARIDAS

*UNDP officials address reporters at the Press conference yesterday.*

*By Our Staff Reporter*

Local AIDS campaigners urged the public to join a nationwide movement against the spread of HIV-AIDs as the country gears up to observe the World Aids Day which falls tomorrow.

Campaigners against HIV-AIDs said people should join the global drive to raise national awareness on the disease which struck 5 million new victims over the past year. A walkathon will be held tomorrow at the Al Estiqlal highway in Isa Town to highlight Bahrain's observance of the fight against HIV-AIDs. The campaign and walkathon will be spearheaded by the United Nations Development Programme, the Ministry of

Health and the Municipal Council. Doctors, nurses, medical professionals and several persons with HIV are expected to join the walkathon centering on the theme 'Stop Aids, Keep the Promise.'

"The latest World Health Organisation report stated that at least 5million new infections have been reported in 2005, the highest in years," said Ella Chirileanu, UNDP Manama Aids programme head at a Press conference yesterday.

Joining the conference were National AIDS committee manager Dr Somaya Al Jowder, Ministry of Health education head Dr Amal Al Jowder and Abbas Hassan Mahfood, Municipal Council member and Mohd Saleh Al Jahmi, Municipal Council PR specialist.