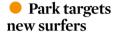
# Bahrain Builds Surf Culture

Waves to welcome first-time riders



Bilaj zone under transformation

Local youth to benefit

**Mahir Haneef** TDT | Manama

new generation of ressoon find their rhythm not on asphalt or sand, but on rolling waves.

gun on the Kingdom's first surf tourists alike. park, a 52,000-square-metre development at Bilaj Al Jazayer, designed to bring worldknown for its deserts than its breakers

'Bahrain Surf Park - Club Ha- first-time riders to professional Khalifa Al Khalifa, CEO of waii Experience', was launched athletes. by Edamah and GFH Financial ceremony attended by key officials yesterday.

But beyond the fanfare, the up to 90 surfers in the lagoon



idents of Bahrain may Edamah and GFH Financial Group key officials attend the groundbreaking ceremony

vision is to introduce surfing as at once. an accessible sport and lifestyle Construction has officially be- to Bahrain's youth, families, and

### Wave for everyone

Unlike traditional beach desclass surfing to a country better tinations where surfing remains niche or elite, Bahrain Surf Park aims to open its wave pool and The project, known as the surfacademy to everyone, from lency Shaikh Abdulla bin

The facility will use Spain's Group during a groundbreaking Wavegarden Cove technology to produce up to 1,000 programmable waves per hour, allowing

Instructors at the Club Hawaii as designed for corporate and connect," he said. "It also sup-Experience Academy will offer training suited for all levels, making surfing a realistic goal for school groups, families, and aspiring athletes in the region.

"This is more than just a water park," said His Excel-Mumtalakat and Chairman of Edamah. "It's a landmark initiative that reflects Bahrain's vision to enhance the quality of life through innovation and community investment."

## Bilaj revival

The surf park is part of the larger 1.3 million-square-metre Bilaj Al Jazayer masterplan, a coastal revitalisation project aiming to transform Bahrain's southwest shoreline into a bustling hub for entertainment and recreation.

Edamah CEO Khalid Abdulrahman Al Majed said the park would offer activities beyond surfing, including food outlets, cabanas, retail

national talent development."

### **Ride-ready future**

The project also carries a sustainability promise, with its wave-making system ranked among the world's most energy-efficient. But what might make the biggest waves is its cultural impact, as it fosters Bahrain's surf identity where none previously existed.

"This is a chance to rewrite what recreation looks like here," said Victoria Williams, General Manager of Bahrain Surf Park. "It's not just about catching waves, it's about creating moments, movements, and memories."

The surf park is expected to "This project will create new of economic diversification and open in 2026.



stores, and entertainment are- spaces for families and youth to

ports Bahrain's broader goals

# **Grassroots Peacekeepers Drive Coexistence**

**Mahir Haneef** TDT | Manama

rassroots champions of Tpeace in Bahrain have been recognised for reinforcing the Kingdom's global image as a beacon of interfaith harmony.

Whether young or old, the wave promises pure joy

The Bahrain Society for Tolerance and Interfaith Coexistence, or Ta'ayush, earned praise from His Excellency Salman bin Isa bin Hindi Al-Mannai, Governor of Muharrag Goverdialogue and coexistence across of Peace. communities.

## **Promoting dialogue**

Society's newly released book, Society's work as both "qualita- ing and openness.



Ta'ayush Chairman Yousef Mohammed Bozboun presents H.E. Governor Salman bin Isa bin Hindi Al-Mannai with a copy of the book, In the Hospitality of the King of Peace. in the presence of officials

His Holiness Pope Francis and ence and mutual respect. The recognition came during His Eminence the Grand Imam He said the book offers clear a visit by Ta'ayush officials led of Al-Azhar, underscoring the testimony to His Majesty King by Chairman Yousef Moham- country's growing role in fos- Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's ef-

the Governor with a copy of the H.E. Al-Mannai described the space of religious understand-

norate, for its work in nurturing In the Hospitality of the King tive" and "distinguished," noting that its programmes offer a The publication documents local lens into Bahrain's broadthe landmark visit to Bahrain by er vision for peaceful coexist-

med Bozboun, who presented tering global interfaith dialogue. forts to position Bahrain as a