

# Gulf Hotel reports 30.81pc growth in Q2 net profits

Manama

**G**ulf Hotels Group (GHG) has reported the financial results for the Second quarter of 2017.

Chairman, Farouk Y. Almoayyed announced that for the half year 2017 the Group achieved a total Gross Operating Revenue of BD18.386 million compared to BD16.382m in same period 2016, an increase of BD2.003m or 12.23 per cent.

For the second quarter of 2017, the group achieved a Gross Operating Revenue of BD9.043m compared to BD7.804m in same period 2016, an increase of BD1.239m or 15.87pc.

Almoayyed also announced that the group has generated a half yearly Net Profit of BD5.869m in comparison with BD4.487m achieved in the same period 2016; an increase of BD1.383m (or 30.81pc). For the second quarter of 2017 the group achieved a Net Profit of BD2.559m in comparison with BD1.750m achieved in the same period 2016; an increase of BD808,000 (or 46.18pc). However published profit for half year as well



CEO Garfield Jones



Chairman Farouk Almoayyed

as Q2 of 2016 includes a one-time 'Bargain Profit' of BD6.126m associated with the acquisition of Bahrain Tourism Company.

Almoayyed commented that the trading conditions in the hospitality sector are extremely challenging given the number of new hotels that have opened, creating a huge over supply of bedrooms at a time of inconsistent demand. He predicted that this will be further exacerbated over the coming months as yet more hotels are due to open and he urged the authorities to take the necessary measures to support the hospitality sector to get through this difficult period, suggesting that tariffs

and duties could be eased, which would enable more competitive pricing thereby stimulating business.

Almoayyed confirmed that whilst Gulf Hotels Group expects to continue expanding within Bahrain with projects such as the development of a multi-restaurant facility in the Block 338 area and the development of the Gulf Executive Residence Juffair, given the challenging Bahrain market conditions the Group will concentrate on external expansion in order to diversify its portfolio, citing the UAE and KSA as key target markets for both the hotel and restaurant segments.

The Group's Chief Executive

Officer, Garfield Jones, expressed his satisfaction with the results taking into consideration challenging market conditions, saying that everyone across the Group was working hard to maintain business and achieving the best possible results in difficult times. He added that refurbishment has commenced of the Group's Crowne Plaza hotel which is expected to be completed by the end of the year and that the super-structure of the 109 unit Gulf Executive Residence Juffair has been completed, with the contractor moving on to the fit-out phase, expecting the property to open for business by mid-2018.

## Google Glass reborn for workplace

San Francisco

**A**fter spending two years on the sidelines, Google Glass internet-linked eyewear is back in the game, this time aimed at helping workers do their jobs.

General Electric, Volkswagen, and Boeing are among more than 50 businesses taking part in testing a Glass Enterprise

Edition in a limited program, project lead Jay Kothari said Tuesday in a blog post.

Three years ago, an Explorer program let developers and other "early adopters" try out the glasses, in an early test of potential business applications. But that initiative was eventually put on ice in 2015. (AFP)

## BBC under fire for gender pay gap as top salaries revealed

London

**B**ritain's public broadcaster BBC came under fire yesterday for its gender pay imbalance after it was forced to reveal how much it pays its top-earning talent.

For the first time in its 94-year existence, the BBC was this year forced to release a list of its employees paid more than £150,000 (\$195,000, 170,000 euros) between 2016/2017, after a change in its charter last year.

More than 200 names

feature on the list -- which includes executives, actors, presenters, writers and technicians -- but only one third are women.

Former Top Gear host Chris Evans was revealed to be the highest-paid person, earning over £2.2 million, while presenter Claudia Winkleman was named as the top female earner, pocketing more than £450,000.

Winkleman hosts "Strictly Come Dancing", Britain's version of "Dancing With The Stars".

## India's ageing trains get green makeover with solar panels

New Delhi

**I**ndia has added solar panels to the roof of a train in a national first as it tries to reduce its massive carbon footprint and modernise its vast colonial-era rail network.

The lighting, fans and information displays inside the train -- once powered by diesel -- will run off the sun's energy after the panels were fitted to

the carriage.

The train has begun journeys around the capital New Delhi, helping move just some of the 23 million passengers who use India's rail network every day.

"We will be inducting at least four other solar-powered trains in the next six months," Anil Kumar Saxena, Indian railways spokesperson, said.

# World's first child hand transplant a 'success'

The first child in the world to undergo a double hand transplant is now able to write, feed and dress himself, doctors said Tuesday, declaring the ground-breaking operation a success after 18 months.

**10 year old Harvey**

The report in The Lancet Child & Adolescent Health provides the first official medical update on 10-year old Zion Harvey, who underwent surgery to replace both hands in July 2015. Harvey had his hands and feet amputated at the age of two, following a sepsis infection. He also had a kidney transplant.

## 10 plus hour surgery

Harvey was already receiving drugs to suppress any immune reaction to his kidney, which was a key factor in his selection for the 10-plus hour hand transplant surgery. Immunosuppressive drugs must be taken continuously to prevent a patient's body from rejecting the transplant. These drugs carry risks, including diabetes, cancer and infections.

### Eight rejections

The child has "undergone eight rejections of the hands, including serious episodes during the fourth and seventh months of his transplant. All of these were reversed with immunosuppression drugs without impacting the function of the child's hands. Harvey continues to take four immunosuppression drugs and a steroid.

### Post-surgery progress

Within days of the surgery, Harvey discovered he could move his fingers, using the ligaments from his residual limbs. Eight months after the operation, Harvey was using scissors and drawing with crayons. Within a year, he could swing a baseball bat using both hands. He also threw out the first pitch at a Baltimore Orioles game last August. The first successful hand transplant in an adult was completed in 1998.



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