

Higher LME prices lift Alba's profit, declares dividend



Our exhibit profitability was backed by improved product mix towards Value Added Products' Sales and sound cost savings. Despite the logistics challenges in the market, we have been able to deliver another strong quarter by capitalising on higher LME prices and that has allowed us to service our loans and reduce our overall debt profile. We are only as good as our employees; it is thanks to our collective proactiveness in Safety, we have reached a record landmark with topping more than 29 m safe working hours without LTI

ALBA'S CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, ALI AL BAQALI



We have had an unmatched financial performance as we set new benchmarks in the last 3 quarters (Q4 2021, Q1 and Q2 2022) and on many fronts. This strong performance has enabled us to distribute an interim dividend of US\$120 m to our shareholders. As we progress into the rest of 2022, we remain committed to building sustainable returns while also delivering further value to our shareholders

CHAIRMAN OF ALBA'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS, SHAIKH DAJU BIN SALMAN BIN DAJU AL KHALIFA



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Higher LMR prices and revenues drove Alba's quarterly and half-yearly profit higher, despite partially impacted by higher cost and distribution expenses, the world's largest aluminium smelter w/o China said yesterday.

Alba's board also recommended an interim dividend of BD45,120,000 (US\$120 million), equivalent to Fils 31.88 per share (US\$0.08478 per share)

LME prices were up by 20% YoY in Q2 2022 and 37% YoY in H1 2022 in spite of recording flat growth in sales volume.

Q2 performance

Second quarter profit was BD181.9 million (US\$483.9 m), up by 97% Year-over-Year (YoY), versus a profit of BD92.6 m (US\$246.2 m) for the same pe-

Bahrain, UAE boost ME demand

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Bahrain and the UAE powered up the demand for Aluminium in the Middle East, which increased 3% YoY, said Alba statement.

Consumption in UAE rose 5% YoY and Bahrain increased 4% YoY.

Supply jumped by 5% in Middle East YoY, led by higher production in UAE (+11% YoY)

The report, however, adds that the economic uncertainty has taken its toll on Global Al-

uminium Industry (-2% YoY)

"Weak economic activity, higher inflation and rising interest rates are hitting all manufacturing industries, and this has affected consumer demand negatively as buyers are forced to cut back on non-essential items," Alba added.

US Aluminium demand continues to be resilient (+7% YoY) supported by a surge in the construction and transport sectors.

Demand in China, Alba said, was impacted by strict pan-

demie lockdowns and logistic issues (-6% YoY).

Numerous sectors such as construction, packaging and consumer durables have suffered the most.

In Europe, Alba says the increase in the cost of living has weighed down on consumer spending as the risk of recession increases (-4% YoY).

Europe leads World ex-China output with its production down by 5% YoY as a result of soaring energy prices.

Sales' volume topped 742,658 metric tonnes (MT) (almost flat) while Production reached 787,592 MT, up by 1.7% YoY.

H1 results

Profit increased 127% to BD328.7 m (US\$874.3 m) from BD144.8 m (US\$385.1 m) in the year-ago period.

Earnings per share were fils 232 versus fils 102 a year ago.

Total Comprehensive Income rose 140% to BD357.9 m (US\$951.8 m) from BD149.1 m (US\$396.5 m) in H1 2021.

Gross Profit was BD386 m (US\$1,026.7 m) versus BD204.2 m (US\$543.0 m) in H1 2021 - up by 89% YoY.

Revenue grew 45% to BD975.3 m (US\$2,593.9 m) from BD672.7 m (US\$1,789 m) in the prior-year period. Safety took a new leap with more than 29 m safe working hours without LTI.

2022 Alba Priorities

Deliver on the newly-launched ESG roadmap in line with Bahrain's Objectives for 'Net Zero Emissions' by 2060

Exceed 2022 Production Target of 1,560,000 MT and deliver on AL HASSALAH savings' target of US\$100 m by 2022-end

Complete the financial closure of P55 Block 4 and award the Solar Farm Project by Q4 2022

Progress with the pre-feasibility study for Line 7 smelter

LME Price & Inventories

LME-Cash averaged US\$2,882/t in Q2 2022 -- up by 20% YoY [lowest: US\$2,397/t on 30 Jun'22 and highest: US\$3,483/t on 1 Apr'22]

LME inventories hit a record low at c.0.4 m (down by 76% YoY)

Most Gulf bourses in black, Abu Dhabi at record high

Reuters

Major stock markets in the Gulf ended higher yesterday, cheered by strong corporate earnings and softer-than-expected US inflation data which encouraged bets of less aggressive rate hikes from the Federal Reserve.

US consumer prices were unchanged in July compared with June, when they rose a monthly 1.3%. The July result was lower than expectations due to a sharp drop in the cost of petrol, causing markets to reposition on hopes that inflation was peaking.

Abu Dhabi's main share index (.FTFADGI) closed at a record high, gaining 1% to 10,198, boosted by a 3.3% leap in the United Arab Emirates' biggest lender First Abu Dhabi Bank (FAB.AD).

Saudi Arabia's benchmark index (.TASI) climbed 0.8%, with Arab National Bank (1080.SE) rising 0.9% and Saudi British



Traders wait at the Bahrain Bourse

Bank (1060.SE) finished 0.5% higher.

Elsewhere, Saudi Electricity Co (5110.SE) gained 0.6%, as the utility firm obtained a \$3 billion international syndicated facility.

The Qatari index (.QSI) advanced 1.3%, as most of the stocks on the index were in positive territory including the Gulf's biggest lender Qatar National Bank (QNBK.QA), which was up 1.7%.

The Qatari stock market recorded a positive performance thanks to solid company earnings and higher natural gas

prices, said Fadi Reyad, market analyst at CAPEX.COM MENA.

"The main index could thus extend its gains under these favourable conditions."

Crude oil prices, a key catalyst for the Gulf's financial markets, rose by more than 1% after the International Energy Agency raised its oil demand growth forecast for this year as soaring gas prices drive some consumers to switch to oil.

Dubai's main share index (.DFMGI) bucked the trend to finish 0.3% lower, hit by a 5.3% slide in Air Arabia (AIRA.DU).

Closing Bell

SAUDI	▲ 0.8% to 12,5331
ABU DHABI	▲ 1% to 10,299
DUBAI	▼ 0.3% to 3,386
QATAR	▲ 1.3% to 13,744
EGYPT	▲ 0.2% to 9,989
BAHRAIN	▲ 0.9% to 1,898
OMAN	▼ 0.7% to 4,622
KUWAIT	▲ 0.1% to 8,585

The budget airline reported a higher second-quarter net profit but saw a decrease sequentially in earnings.

However, the Dubai index's losses were limited by a 1.2% rise in Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWAA.DU) following a rise in second-quarter earnings.

Outside the Gulf, Egypt's blue-chip index (.EGX30) firmed 0.2%, ending three sessions of losses, with tobacco monopoly Eastern Company (EAST.CA) rising 2.3%.

Dubai ruler becomes second largest investor in developer Emaar

Reuters | Dubai

Emaar Properties (EMAR.DU) said yesterday it was buying out its joint venture partner in a Dubai real estate development in a 7.5 billion dirham (\$2 bn) deal that will see the Dubai ruler become the developer's second-largest shareholder.

Dubai's Emaar, the emirate's top developer, said in a statement it had reached a deal with Dubai Holding, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum's investment vehicle, to buy its stake in their Dubai Creek Harbour joint venture.

The deal would be equally financed in cash and Emaar shares, making Dubai Holding its second-biggest shareholder, Emaar said.

The announcement was made after the stock market had closed. Emaar shares are up 16.5% so far this year to 5.7 dirhams (\$1.55) a share, according to data provider Refinitiv.

It was not immediately clear how many shares Dubai Holding would own. Emaar's current biggest shareholder is the Investment Corporation of Dubai, the emirate's sovereign wealth fund, which owns 24.07% or about 1.97 million shares, according to Refinitiv.



Dubai Creek Harbour, a residential, retail and commercial real estate development, is expected to cover 6 square kilometres once completed, according to its website. Development of the project stalled in 2020 due to the pandemic, though the emirate's real estate market has since rebounded strongly.

Emaar, which built the world's tallest tower, the Burj Khalifa in Dubai, said it recorded 3.6 billion dirhams in sales in Dubai Creek Harbour in the first half of the year and 4.2 bn dirhams in all of 2021.

Ruler Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid is also the vice president and prime minister of the United Arab Emirates. Dubai has recently listed shares in state firms with further listings planned as part of an effort to boost activity on its stock market.

FIITJEE students shine in JEE main 2022 exam

● **JEE Advanced is scheduled to be held on 28th August**

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Quite like previous years, FIITJEE students have excelled in JEE Main 2022 Exam, qualifying themselves for the IIT-JEE Advanced.

Their exam success attained



Andrew James Mathew

special significance as they could only attend the classes in online mode, owing to the pandemic situation.

The topper Andrew James Mathew scored 99.3083908 percentile. Other students who qualified are Mridul Bhardwaj, Nihal Varma, Sama Walke, Rujul Wankhede, Laasyasree Kumili and Karthika Suresh. These students are from various programs being offered by FIITJEE.

More than 7.5 lakh students appeared for the JEE Main

2022 Exam, which was held in two sessions. JEE Advanced is scheduled to be held on 28th August. FIITJEE has congratulated all the students and their proud parents and wishes them all the best for JEE Advanced and their bright future.

"These students will also get good ranks under DASA scheme through which students can avail NRI Quota to get admissions in various NITs in India," a statement issued by FIITJEE said.