

business

Group's hotels performed better: GHG Chairman

- Bahrain's hospitality industry stabilising
- Huge oversupply dampens Dubai market
- GHG's Net profit reported at BD90K
- Revenues jumped 10.75pc

TDT | Manama

Gulf Hotels Group (GHG) Chairman yesterday said the Group's hotels performed better than last year backed by the Kingdom's hospitality industry which is showing signs of stabilisation.

Reporting its quarterly results, the Group's Chairman, Farouk Almoayyed, however, said that the Dubai market remained challenging due to huge oversupply resulting in a "significant drop in room rates and lower than expected occupancy."

GHG's net profit for the second quarter of 2019 was BD490K, a decrease of 71.69pc from BD1.731 million reported in the year-ago quarter.

The group attributed the decline to BD 746K depreciation connected to a new Dubai property, the new Gulf Executive Residence Juffair and major projects executed during 2018. Besides, interest costs of BD240K, excess share of loss from an associate of BD120K and F1 movement to the first quarter also influenced Q2 results.

Revenues during the quarter increased 10.75pc to BD8.737m from BD7.889m recorded in the same quarter a year ago.

Earnings per shares were 2 fils compared to 8 fils in the second quarter of last year.

Gross operating profit was BD 2.724m, compared to BD 2.766m in the second quarter of last year, a decrease of BD 42K or 1.54pc.

Net comprehensive income was BD1.581m, compared to BD1.870m in the prior-year quarter, a decrease of 15.43pc.

H1 results

For the six months, net profit was reported at BD 2.788m compared to BD 4.622m in the previous year, a decrease of 39.67 pc. Earnings per shares were 12 fils compared to 20 fils in last year.

Net profit was negatively impacted by an increased depreciation of BD 1.501m resulting from the new Dubai property, the new Gulf Executive Residence Juffair (GERJ) and other major projects executed during 2018. Besides, the pre-opening expenses of the newly opened GERJ have been amortised and interest costs BD 483K have also affected the half-year results.

Revenue during the period was BD 18.819m, compared to BD 16.600m in last year, an increase of BD 2.219m or 13.37 pc.

The total assets for the YTD reached BD 134.971m compared to BD 141.644m in the previous year, with a decrease of 4.71 pc.

MoU with Kanoo

The Group has signed an MoU with Kanoo Real Estate, a division of YBA Kanoo to develop various restaurants in Block 338 and signed an MoU with Gulf Air Group Holding to develop and operate an airport transit hotel in the newly constructed airport terminal.

'Fusions by Tala'

A number of refurbishment projects are also under execution. "The Gulf Hotel is renovating its Fusion restaurant with the addition of an outdoor rooftop terrace," said CEO Garfield Jones.

The outlet when completed will re-open as 'Fusions by Tala', under the guidance of Bahraini chef, Tala Bashmi. Additionally, the Hotel will also renovate the Men's Health Club and main hotel lobby.

Gulf markets mixed

- Emaar Properties drag down Dubai
- Dubai Islamic Bank up on Q2 profit
- Kuwaiti stocks optimistic on MSCI decision

Reuters

Middle East stock markets were mixed yesterday with Abu Dhabi rising on financial stocks, while property stocks weighed on Dubai.

In Kuwait, the index for the premier market, home to the largest and most liquid companies, rose 0.2 per cent.

It has been boosted by MSCI's decision to move Kuwaiti equities to its main emerging-market index in 2020 and is up more than 28pc this year, outperforming its Gulf peers.

In Abu Dhabi, the market rebounded 0.1pc, after shedding in early trading, on the back of its top gainer National Bank of Fujairah, which soared 10.9pc, and Emirates

Telecommunications, which was up 0.1pc.



Visitors look at stock price information displayed on a digital screen inside the Saudi Stock Exchange

Closing Bell

SAUDI	▲	9,076 pts
ABU DHABI	▲	0.1pc » 5,081 pts
DUBAI	▼	0.2pc » 2,716 pts
QATAR	▲	0.1pc » 10,614 pts
EGYPT	▼	0.6pc » 13,642 pts
BAHRAIN	▲	0.2pc » 1,539 pts
OMAN	▼	0.3pc » 3,748 pts
KUWAIT	▲	0.2pc » 6,769 pts

Saudi Arabia's main index traded flat after rising for seven straight sessions following EFG Hermes forecast profit for the kingdom's financial sector would grow 7.6pc in the second quarter.

Saudi Telecom rose 0.9pc, and Saudi Arabian Mining Company closed 1.9pc higher.

Egypt's blue-chip index fell 0.6pc as most of its shares turned red, with the country's largest lender Commercial

International Bank shedding 0.9pc.

Exchange data on Wednesday showed Egyptians and Arabs were net sellers of Egyptian stocks.

The Dubai index fell 0.2pc pressured by its largest listed developer, Emaar Properties, which was down 1.2pc.

However, Dubai Islamic bank added 0.2pc after it posted a higher second quarter profit, while Emirates NBD traded flat.

The Emirate's largest lender rose as much as 1.8pc during the day after reporting a 80pc surge in second-quarter profit mainly thanks to asset sales and foreign exchange gains.

Qatar's index edged up 0.1pc with Commercial Bank rising 1.9pc after the lender recorded a net profit of 934.1 million riyals (\$256.62 million) in the first-half of 2019, versus 855.1 million riyals a year earlier.

StanChart offers discounts with VIVA and Talabat

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Standard Chartered and VIVA have announced an exclusive 75 per cent discount on all food orders though Talabat when using the Standard Chartered VIVA credit card.

Kunal Varma, Head of Retail Banking at Standard Chartered Bank Middle East (x UAE) said: "Through our strategic partnership with VIVA and Talabat, we are committed to offer exclusive propositions that best suits our customers' lifestyle and needs."

Standard Chartered VIVA Credit card holders can enjoy 75% off on their Talabat orders

Card holders can benefit discount up to three times during the promotional period, with a maximum discount of BD3.5 per order. New customers who receive their card during the promotion period can also benefit from the promotion.

The Standard Chartered VIVA credit card was launched in March 2019.

The Talabat offer will be valid until 11 August, 2019.

Batelco kicks-off digital technology summer camp

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Batelco, in collaboration with Brinc Batelco IoT Hub, is organising a summer camp on Digital awareness, at the Brinc Batelco premises located in the Batelco Commercial Centre, Manama.

The camp which began on July 8, is designed to cater to 15-18-year-olds and will run until July 24.

Ahmed Al Aali, founder and CEO of The Hive Digital Hub, is delivering hands-on training to translate innovative ideas into a working prototype. The best prototype will be presented with a prize at the end of the



Brinc Batelco IoT Summer Camp

camp. A number of speakers will also deliver sessions throughout the programme. Topics covered

during the camp will include an introduction to IOT (the Internet of Things), including un-

derstanding the different types of IOT, as well as their characteristics and benefits.



Aluminium Bahrain (Alba)'s Chief Executive Officer, Tim Murray, with participants during a special campaign on Safe Swimming launched for Alba's employees and families. Alba's CEO, along with other Executives, also visited a group of children in Alba's Summer Camp at Alba Social Club. Tim Murray, said: "We want our people to be safe in Alba and everywhere else - we believe that it is our responsibility to deliver this sense of extreme ownership in following safety rules in-and-around swimming pools."