

Ithmaar Bank announces Ithmaar reward winner of June draw

Manama

Ithmaar Bank, a Bahrain-based Islamic retail bank, announced June draw's winner of Ithmaar Reward Programme that is designed exclusively for corporate Modaraba accountholders.

The draw was held at the Bank's headquarters in Seef district and was coordinated and supervised by the Ministry of Industry and Commerce (MOIC), as well as external auditors BDO Bahrain and the Bank's internal auditors.

Mohamed Yusuf Najibi Philanthropic won the prize, which is an additional 1% of profit on the modaraba amount. The ceremony was attended by the Human Resources Manager of Mohamed Yusuf Najibi Philanthropic, Hamad Saffy.

"We are pleased to win a prize from Ithmaar Reward Programme that is designed exclusively for corporate Modaraba accountholders," said Saffy. "We appreciate Ithmaar Bank's efforts to support its clients and provide special services to fac-



Ithmaar reward June winner

ilitate our financial management and help us to achieve our charitable and humanitarian goals,"

he said.

"On behalf of all of us at Ithmaar Bank, we congratu-

late Mohamed Yusuf Najibi Philanthropic and all its team for winning June prize of

Ithmaar reward programme, which we have launched as part of the Bank's efforts to provide an exceptional banking experience to our clients," said Ithmaar Bank Senior Manager in Private Banking and Business Alliances Department, Abdulla Abdulrahman. "Ithmaar will continue to work on enhancing its products and services provided to its clients in line with their financial demands and requirements," he said.

Ithmaar Reward Programme, that is designed exclusively for corporate Modaraba deposit accountholders, aims to encourage corporates as well as Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to invest more in the Bank's Modaraba account to increase their chances of winning rewarding prizes. Modaraba accounts of six (6) months and longer tenors, with an amount of BHD100,000 or USD 250,000 or higher are qualified to enter the draw to win an additional 1% of profit on the modaraba amount. The draws of Ithmaar Reward will be held on a monthly basis and a winner will be chosen every month.

Trump calls for Fed governor to resign, widening pressure on central bank

Washington, United States

US President Donald Trump called Wednesday for Federal Reserve Governor Lisa Cook to step down, expanding pressure on the central bank after recent criticism of Fed Chair Jerome Powell for not lowering interest rates sooner.

"Cook must resign, now!!!" Trump wrote on his Truth Social platform, while sharing a Bloomberg news report on how the Federal Housing Finance Agency's director has called for greater scrutiny of Cook over a pair of mortgages.

FHFA director Bill Pulte -- a staunch ally of Trump's -- had reportedly written a letter to the US Attorney General calling for an investigation of Cook while suggesting that she might have committed a criminal offense.

It was not immediately clear if such a probe will take place.

The Trump administration has pursued allegations of mortgage fraud against high-profile Democrats who are seen as political adversaries of the president.

The US leader's targeting of Cook, who sits on the central bank's rate-setting committee, comes after his repeated broadsides against Powell while the Fed kept the benchmark lending rate unchanged this year.

Cook took office as a Fed governor in May 2022 and was reappointed to the board in September 2023. She was sworn in later that same month for a term ending in 2038.

Cook has previously served on the Council of Economic Advisers under former president Barack Obama. In recent months, Trump has called Powell a "numbskull" and "moron" as the central bank held rates steady to monitor the effects of US tariffs on inflation.

Hackers access data of 850,000 Orange Belgium customers

Brussels, Belgium

Telecoms provider Orange Belgium said Wednesday it was hit by a cyberattack that saw hackers access the data of 850,000 customers.

No critical data was compromised in the end-of-July incident, the firm said, explaining that its clients' passwords, email addresses, bank and financial details were not affected.

"However, the hacker gained access to one of our IT systems containing the following data: surname, first name, telephone number, SIM card number, PUK code, tariff plan," it said in a statement.

"As soon as the incident was detected, our teams blocked access to the affected system and tightened our security measures."

'Call of Duty', 'Black Myth' wow Gamescom trade show

AFP | Cologne, Germany

A twisted futuristic version of "Call of Duty", Batman in Lego form and the "Resident Evil" series' ghoulish monsters had gamers salivating Tuesday as the vast Gamescom trade show opened in Cologne.

A two-hour showcase of upcoming releases, including "Call of Duty: Black Ops 7" slated for November 14, belied an industry that has been weathering a rough patch with tens of thousands of job cuts.

The first-person shooter has enlisted American actor Milo Ventimiglia (known for TV se-



A visitor plays the GTA 7 Porsche video game during the Gamescom video games trade fair at the Trade Fair Center in Cologne, western Germany

ries "Heroes" and "This Is Us") as its protagonist in a near-future conflict against psychedelic backdrops evoking the movie "Inception".

More than 5,300 packed one of the giant halls of western German city Cologne's convention centre Tuesday, a record opening night according to organisers.

The event showed off footage from titles like "Requiem" -- the next instalment in the long-running "Resident Evil" horror series -- and rambunctious space adventure "The Outer Worlds 2".

Set for a 2026 release, a new

"Lego Batman" will take fans back to "iconic moments and deep-cut references from decades of Batman TV shows, comics and games" in humorous plastic brick form, director Jonathan Smith told the audience.

And there was a surprise reveal for "Black Myth: Zhong Kui" -- a follow up to Chinese 2024 smash hit "Wukong".

Gaming's influence on the broader culture was also on show, as the stars of hit game-to-TV adaptation "Fallout" introduced the Amazon Prime series' second season with a December 17 release.

Hands-on testing

While last year's Gamescom drew 335,000 visitors, organisers hope 2025 can recover to pre-Covid levels of around 370,000 between Wednesday and Sunday.

The show brings together industry professionals and lovers of the medium, with around 1,500 exhibitors laying on large stands -- many offering the opportunity to try out the latest, or even unreleased, titles.

Nintendo is back after staying away last year, surfing on the success of its record-breaking Switch 2 console launch in June. And Microsoft's Xbox division

will be showing off its own portable console, slated for release towards the end of the year.

But Japanese PlayStation maker Sony has elected to stay away in 2025.

Fans' interest on opening night was especially piqued by horror titles, as "Resident Evil" battles for the horror crown with a new episode for the "Silent Hill" saga.

Organisers also spotlighted "Hollow Knight: Silksong" -- the sequel to a beloved indie platformer finally on the doorstep after an eight-year wait.

With budgets far lower than multiple-hundred-million behemoths like "Call of Duty", such games "prove something important: small teams with big ideas can change the industry," the event's master of ceremonies, Canadian TV presenter Geoff Keighley, said Tuesday.

The impact indie games can have on fans was clear from the small clusters and individuals wearing the red beret and striped shirt sported by characters in French indie hit "Clair Obscur: Expedition 33".

"It's a little bit of a community, so when you see each other... you say hi, and everyone is smiling," Cologne-based fan Vera Sperber, 36, told AFP.

The hall's bright lights, lasers and crowd noise were on hold for a moment as Lorient Testard, who crafted the entrancing music for "Expedition 33", gave a live performance with singer Alice Dupont-Percier.



The first Gamescom in 2009 boasted 450 exhibitors and welcomed 228,000 attendees. In the years that followed, the event continued to expand massively. For example, by 2018, attendance had surged to 370,000 visitors, with over 1,000 exhibitors representing 56 countries, cementing its status as a global gaming phenomenon.