

bKash holds awareness sessions to curb hundi, betting, and money laundering

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bKash Limited, the country's leading mobile financial service (MFS) provider, recently organised four awareness workshops in Dhaka, Khulna, Bogura and Cumilla to strengthen its efforts to prevent financial crimes such as hundi, betting, and money laundering.

The day-long sessions brought together bKash's distributors and channel partners to enhance their understanding of compliance practices, according to a press release.

The discussions focused on accurate financial transaction management within the nationwide agent network, awareness of fund sources, timely reporting of suspicious transactions, regular data updates, staff monitoring, action against non-compliant agents, and effective use of technology.

With more than 3.5 lakh agents across the country, bKash's extensive network plays a vital role in promoting financial inclusion by making digital financial services accessible to all segments of society.

As key channel partners, distributors are responsible for managing this vast network. They supervise and guide agents, ensure transaction accuracy, provide regular training, promote technology use, and maintain service quality.

During the workshops, participants said maintaining strict compliance standards has strengthened their operations and reduced risks.

They also lauded bKash's continued initiatives to promote awareness and ensure safe, transparent financial practices.

Emphasising vigilance and



Ali Ahmed, chief commercial officer of bKash Limited, and Mohammad Irfanul Huq, head of distribution and retail business, pose for group photographs with participants of the awareness workshop at Empyrean Hotel in Dhaka recently.

PHOTO: BKASH

accountability, bKash urged all stakeholders to enhance monitoring, ensure timely reporting, and maintain compliance to curb illegal financial activities such as hundi, betting, and money laundering.

Ali Ahmed, chief commercial officer of bKash Limited, said a strong distribution network has been built through the joint efforts of bKash and

its partners, ensuring uninterrupted services to 8.2 crore customers. "Beyond basic cash-in and cash-out services, agent points have now become hubs of financial accessibility, offering a range of services that bring convenience to customers", he added.

Mohammad Irfanul Huq, head of distribution and retail business at bKash, said the company, regulated by

Bangladesh Bank, plays a leading role in advancing financial inclusion and building the country's digital payment infrastructure.

He reiterated that bKash prioritises compliance in all aspects of its operations and called on distributors to remain vigilant to prevent dishonest groups from using financial platforms for illegal activities.

Prime Bank clients to get discounts from Jams Group



Md Shahadat Hossain, managing director of Jams Construction & Jams Development Limited, and Mamur Ahmed, senior executive vice-president and head of branch distribution at Prime Bank PLC, pose for photographs after signing the agreement at the bank's corporate office in Gulshan, Dhaka recently.

PHOTO: NRBC BANK

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Prime Bank PLC has signed a strategic partnership agreement with Jams Construction & Jams Development Limited, a subsidiary of Jams Group, to offer discounts on flat purchases for its customers.

Mamur Ahmed, senior executive vice-president and head of branch distribution of Prime Bank PLC, and Md Shahadat Hossain, managing director of Jams Construction & Jams Development Limited, signed the agreement at the bank's corporate office in Gulshan, Dhaka recently, according to a press release.

Under the agreement, Prime Bank customers will be able to enjoy special price benefits from Jams Construction & Jams Development, enabling them to access premium residential properties with added financial convenience.

Through this partnership, Prime Bank reinforces its commitment to delivering lifestyle driven financial solutions that add value to customers' aspirations and enhance their overall banking experience, the release added.

Joarder Tanvir Faisal, executive vice-president and head of cards and retail assets at the bank, and MK Anwar Hassan, chief executive officer of the realtor, along with other senior officials from both organisations, were also present.

Oil slips

REUTERS, Houston

Oil prices fell on Friday as skepticism crept into the market about the Trump administration's commitment to sanctions on Russia's two biggest oil companies over the war in Ukraine.

Brent crude futures settled 5 cents, or 0.1 percent, lower at \$65.94 a barrel, while US crude futures finished at \$61.50 a barrel, down 29 cents, or 0.5 percent.

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Both benchmarks had risen earlier in the session, extending gains of more than 5 percent made on Thursday after the sanctions were announced, but retreated in the last two hours of trading. They still ended the week over 7 percent higher, the biggest weekly rise since mid-June.

"There is renewed skepticism these sanctions will be as harsh as they are said to be," said John Kilduff, partner with Again Capital LLC.

US President Donald Trump hit Russia's Rosneft and Lukoil with sanctions to pressure Russian President Vladimir Putin to end the Ukraine war.

The two companies together account for more than 5 percent of global oil output, and Russia was the world's second-biggest crude oil producer in 2024 after the US.

The sanctions prompted Chinese state oil majors to suspend Russian oil purchases in the short term, trade sources told Reuters. Refiners in India, the largest buyer of seaborne Russian oil, were set to sharply cut Russian crude imports, industry sources said.

"Flows to India are at risk in particular," Janiv Shah, a vice president of oil markets analysis at Rystad Energy, said in a client note. "Challenges to Chinese refiners would be more muted, considering the diversification of crude sources and stock availability."

Kuwait's oil minister said the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries would be ready to offset any shortage in the market by raising production.

Gold trims losses after US inflation data

REUTERS

Gold prices pared losses on Friday after slightly softer-than-expected US inflation data reinforced expectations that the Federal Reserve will cut interest rates next week, but the metal was still set for its first weekly loss in 10 weeks.

Spot gold fell 0.2 percent at \$4,118.29 per ounce by 01:42 p.m. ET (1742 GMT), after falling nearly 2 percent earlier in the session. The price is down over 3 percent for the week.

US gold futures for December delivery settled 0.2 percent lower at \$4,137.8 per ounce.

"Gold and silver jump as September core CPI comes in lower than expectations but it's likely insufficient to entirely blunt this week's sell-off. Price action suggests that gold and, especially silver, need another leg lower before consolidation," said Tai Wong, an independent metals trader.

Spot gold notched a record high of \$4,381.21 on Monday, but has fallen over 6 percent since, as investors booked profits and signs of easing US-China trade tensions dented safe-haven demand.

Spot silver was down 0.6 percent at \$48.65/oz, on track for a weekly loss of over 6 percent.

Labor Department data showed that US consumer prices rose 3 percent in the 12 months through September, slightly below economists' expectations of a 3.1 percent increase.

US dollar set for modest weekly gain after soft inflation data

REUTERS, New York

The US dollar was almost flat on Friday after dipping following fresh inflation data that showed US consumer prices increased less than expected in September, keeping the Federal Reserve on track to cut interest rates again next week.

The Consumer Price Index rose 0.3 percent last month and 3 percent in the 12 months through September. Economists polled by Reuters had forecast the CPI increasing by 0.4 percent for the month and rising 3.1 percent year-on-year.

The US dollar index was last down 0.021 percent at 98.934, after earlier falling as much as 0.2 percent, still on track for a modest weekly gain.

"The headline was a bit softer than expected," said Marc Chandler, chief market strategist at Bannockburn Capital Markets. "The dollar was sold on the news, even though the market had nearly 100 percent confidence before the report that the Fed would cut rates, not only next week, but in December."

The CPI report was published despite an economic data blackout because of the government shutdown. The figure, used by the Social Security Administration to calculate its cost-of-living adjustment for millions of retirees and other benefits recipients, was initially due on October 15.

The euro rose and was last up 0.06 percent at \$1.163. Business activity in the euro zone grew at a faster pace than expected in October, led by the bloc's services industry, a survey showed on Friday.

Trade war worries were back on the agenda after US President Donald Trump said all trade talks with Canada were terminated over an advertisement by the province of Ontario which featured a recording of former President Ronald Reagan speaking negatively about tariffs.

The Canadian dollar was last slightly weaker at 1.40 per US dollar, but market reaction overall was fairly subdued. Investors' focus remained on the looming meeting between Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping next week.



Uzma Chowdhury, chairperson of Meghna Bank PLC, attends the programme, titled "Chattogram Town Hall Meeting 2025", at the Chittagong Boat Club in the port city yesterday.

PHOTO: MEGHNA BANK

Meghna Bank organises 'Chattogram Town Hall Meeting'

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Meghna Bank PLC organised a programme, titled "Chattogram Town Hall Meeting 2025", at the Chittagong Boat Club in the port city yesterday.

Officials from all branches and departments of the bank under the Chattogram region took part in the day-long event.

Uzma Chowdhury, chairperson of Meghna Bank PLC, inaugurated the programme as the chief guest, according to a press release.

The event featured open discussions, experience sharing, and recognition of individual achievements.

Officials exchanged views on future plans, strategic directions, and initiatives to enhance efficiency and performance.

Through this event, Meghna Bank reaffirmed its spirit of unity, trust, and commitment to sustainable development, which, the release said, will continue to play a vital role in upholding the bank's legacy of success, the release added.

Tanveer Ahmed, vice-chairman of the bank; Mohammad Mamunul Hoque, Md Rajab Ali, M Nazrul Islam, Habibur Rahman, and Md Ali Akther Rizvi, independent directors; and Md Sadiqur Rahman, managing director and CEO (current charge), attended the programme.

Momtazul Karim N Ahmed, deputy managing director; Sanjoy K Saha, corporate and regional head for Chattogram; and Sajib Kumar Saha, chief financial officer, among others, were also present.



Md Touhidul Alam Khan, managing director and CEO of NRBC Bank PLC, poses for group photographs with participants of the "Entrepreneurship Development Training" in Feni recently.

PHOTO: NRBC BANK