

NBB Adopts Kinexys by J.P. Morgan Solution

To Pioneer Programmable Payments in the region

Manama

The National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) has announced a strategic move to leverage Kinexys by J.P. Morgan, the firm's industry-leading blockchain business unit, to pilot next-generation programmable payments infrastructure. The collaboration, which was formalised during Fintech Forward 2025, positions NBB at the forefront of digital transformation in banking through the adoption of blockchain-native payment technologies.

NBB will leverage Kinexys Digital Payments (KDP) to deliver real-time programmable payment capabilities that support more complex, conditional, and automated financial flows. From scheduled disbursements and threshold-based transfers to event-triggered settlements, the technology will allow NBB to offer advanced financial rails to



evolving corporate and institutional needs with the objective to manage liquidity efficiently and enhance interbank capabilities.

On the occasion, Ali Abdulkarim, Group Chief Executive – Corporate and Commercial

Banking at NBB stated, “This collaboration represents a pivotal moment in our journey to reimagine the future of payment mechanisms across the region. Integrating this programmable infrastructure will allow us to unlock powerful new capabilities,

enabling faster, smarter, and more flexible transaction flows that can scale with our ambitions. As Bahrain accelerates its fintech leadership across the region, we remain focused on delivering innovative solutions that combine

trust, technology, and transformation.”

The initiative underscores NBB's commitment to minimise friction, reduce costs, and meet the requirements of today's increasingly dynamic business models leaning towards decen-

tralised finance applications. It also aligns with the Central Bank of Bahrain's (CBB) ongoing efforts to position the Kingdom as a leading financial technology hub in the Gulf. With blockchain infrastructure now playing a critical role in modernising global financial ecosystems, NBB's collaboration with Kinexys by J.P. Morgan reflects a shared vision for creating future-ready financial services that are secure, compliant, and seamlessly connected.

NBB has now joined a growing number of leading global financial institutions that are adopting Kinexys' blockchain infrastructure. The deployment of this infrastructure will pave the way for NBB to launch new applications across treasury operations, corporate banking, digital platforms, and emerging fintech ecosystems.

A.M. Best International affirms credit rating of A- (Excellent) with **stable outlook of BKIC**

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Further to its annual review, A.M. Best International has affirmed the financial strength rating of A- (Excellent) and the long-term issuer credit rating of “a-” of Bahrain Kuwait Insurance Company B.S.C. (BKIC), and the outlook for both ratings is stable. The ratings reflect BKIC's balance sheet strength, which AM Best assesses as very strong, as well as its strong operating performance, neutral business profile and appropriate enterprise risk management. The ratings also factor in the financial strength of BKIC's parent company, Gulf Insurance Group K.S.C.P., due to BKIC's strategic importance to the group.

Dr. Abdulla Sultan, CEO of BKIC stated that Management is pleased with the company, as well as its subsidiary, holding the A- Credit Rating which evidently reflects the financial strength of the company and



its ability to meet its short and long-term obligations. He added that the company has an excellent record of profitability reflecting excellent investment and underwriting performance for various types of insurance in The Kingdom of Bahrain and The State of Kuwait. He also stated that BKIC and its subsidiary

Takaful International Company B.S.C. are the only local Bahraini insurance companies that are listed publicly, to be rated A-.



Dr. Abdulla Sultan, CEO of BKIC

China trade beats forecasts in September as tariff fears rise

Beijing, China

China's overseas trade grew at a faster pace than expected last month, official data showed yesterday, amid fresh fears of a major escalation in the tariff war between Beijing and Washington.

Exports jumped 8.3% year on year in September, the General Administration of Customs said, beating a Bloomberg forecast of 6.6 percent. Imports rose 7.4%, the data showed, significantly outpacing a Bloomberg forecast of 1.9%.

The figure marked an 8.6% rise from the \$31.6 billion recorded in August.

Trump struck a more conciliatory tone on Sunday, writing in a social media post that the United States “wants to help China, not hurt it”.

Canadian FM in India to **rebuild relations**

AFP | New Delhi, India

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi met with Canada's foreign minister in New Delhi yesterday, the most senior visit since both sides agreed to reinstate ambassadors after a bitter fallout.

“India-Canada bilateral relations have been steadily pro-



gressing in the last few months,” Indian Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar told his Canadian counterpart Anita Anand, after her meeting with Modi.

“When we look at Canada, we see a complementary economy, we see another open society... that is the basis for a close, sustainable and long term cooperative framework,” Jaishankar said

in brief comments broadcast by the foreign ministry.

Relations have improved since Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney took office in March.

Carney met Modi in June, on the sidelines of the Group of Seven summit in Canada, where they agreed to name new high commissioners, as ambassadors between Commonwealth na-

Anand is also expected to meet India's Trade Minister Piyush Goyal as well as business leaders in the financial capital Mumbai.

tions are known.

Both envoys have since begun work.

Anand said her meeting with Modi was “building on the momentum” of his talks with Carney.

“Canada and India are elevating the relationship between our countries, while maintaining our law enforcement and security dialogue and expanding our economic relationship,” Anand posted on social media.