



August 18, 2024
12:30 hours

MEDIA RELEASE

1LINK Public Advisory: Beware of Fake Rumors Circulating About ATM Closures and Online Banking

This is to inform general public and allay the fears created by a false message being circulated on different WhatsApp groups and social media platforms, warning people to avoid using ATMs and Online Banking in Pakistan. A similar scare surfaced in 2017 during the 'Wannacry Ransomware,' cyber attack, which targeted Microsoft Windows machines, including those used by banks. However, the Pakistan banking sector successfully defended against those attacks in 2017.

The public is advised not to pay any attention to such hoaxes and to consult their banks for any guidance.

The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) is actively working with banks and 1LINK to maintain the security of Pakistan's financial infrastructure and digital payments ecosystem, ensuring compliance with stringent IT and security guidelines. Thus far, no cyber threat has been observed on the ATM and online banking ecosystem in this context, and the financial service industry remains vigilant as ever before.

General Rules

1. Be watchful of your surroundings while banking at ATMs, branches, or online, and report suspicious activities immediately.
2. Do not share your payment cards or personal and financial information, such as card number, PINs, OTP, user ID, and password, with anyone.
3. Inspect ATMs for any unusual attachments that could be devices to copy the data on or from your card.
4. Don't click on suspicious links or share personal information online.
5. Always log out of your online banking session after use.
6. Review your account statement regularly and immediately notify the bank in case of any unauthorized transaction and/or stolen/lost card.

Please note: This communication is intended solely for informational purposes and raising public awareness only. 1LINK expressly disclaims any and all liability for any actions taken or not taken based on the information provided in this advisory. We remain committed to transparency and the safety of our customers, and we urge the public to rely only on accurate and verified information.

About 1LINK

1LINK (Pvt) Limited, owned by a consortium of 11 banks, is the country's 1st PSO/PSP and largest switch and payment system, providing a host of valuable online banking services like ATM switching, 1BILL, Inter Bank Funds Transfer, Fraud Risk Management, Switch Dispute Resolution, International Payment Schemes, PayPak – Domestic Payment Scheme etc. 1LINK is continuously evolving and adding new products and services to benefit the financial industry. For more information, please visit: <https://1link.net.pk/>

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