

■ Web3 Daily Digest

1. New Zealand bans crypto ATMs in crackdown on criminal cash conversions

Source: <https://cointelegraph.com/news/new-zealand-bans-crypto-atms-money-laundering>

Published: 2025-07-09T07:23:17.000Z

New Zealand has announced a ban on cryptocurrency ATMs and a \$5,000 cap on international cash transfers as part of its efforts to combat money laundering and organized financial crime. The measures aim to disrupt criminals' use of crypto ATMs to convert cash into cryptocurrencies for illicit activities. The government's Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) regime overhaul also includes granting new powers to the Financial Intelligence Unit to demand information from banks and other reporting entities. The move follows a global trend of increased scrutiny around crypto ATMs, with similar measures recently introduced in Australia and the US.

■ <https://cointelegraph.com/news/new-zealand-bans-crypto-atms-money-laundering>

2. New Zealand to Ban Crypto ATMs, Cap Transfers in AML Regime Shake-Up

Source: <https://decrypt.co/329228/new-zealand-bans-crypto-atms-caps-transfers>

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New Zealand is banning crypto ATMs and capping international cash transfers at \$5,000 as part of a sweeping reform to combat money laundering and criminal finance. The move, supported by industry leaders, aims to choke off illicit activity, as crypto kiosks are mainly used by individuals seeking anonymity or to convert illegal funds. The reforms will expand enforcement powers and enable more comprehensive financial surveillance of individuals of interest. The ban is seen as a necessary step to legitimize the sector and protect customers.

■ <https://decrypt.co/329228/new-zealand-bans-crypto-atms-caps-transfers>

3. GoblinTown Heads to the Trenches With Solana Meme Coin Launch

Source: <https://decrypt.co/329100/goblintown-heads-trenches-solana-meme-coin-launch>

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Ethereum NFT collection GoblinTown has launched its own meme coin, GOB, on the Solana blockchain, aiming to address longevity issues in the meme coin market. The token's design features a unique vesting mechanism, where allocations unlock weekly over 24 months, and a 2.5% token tax to replenish liquidity and support operations. GoblinTown's approach is designed to incentivize long-term holding and community engagement, differing from traditional meme coin launches that often prioritize short-term gains. The project's innovative token design could potentially disrupt the meme coin market.

■ <https://decrypt.co/329100/goblintown-heads-trenches-solana-meme-coin-launch>

4. Crypto groups back lawsuit over DOJ crackdown on open-source code

Source:

<https://cointelegraph.com/news/crypto-lobby-backs-dev-suing-doj-open-source-code>

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A coalition of crypto advocacy groups, including Paradigm and the Blockchain Association, has filed an amicus brief in support of Michael Lewellen, a developer facing prosecution under money transmission laws for creating a decentralized DeFi protocol. The groups argue that the US Department of Justice is misusing a statute intended to regulate unlicensed money transmitters to target open-source software developers. They claim this approach has created legal uncertainty, discouraging innovation and potentially driving developers offshore. The case, *Lewellen v. Bondi*, challenges the DOJ's interpretation of "money transmitting" and seeks a declaratory judgment to clarify the law.

■ <https://cointelegraph.com/news/crypto-lobby-backs-dev-suing-doj-open-source-code>

5. OpenSea expands to mobile with Rally deal, eyes 'onchain everything app'

Source: <https://cointelegraph.com/news/opensea-rally-deal-mobile-onchain-everything-app>

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OpenSea, a leading NFT marketplace, has acquired Rally, a mobile-focused Web3 platform, to develop a mobile-first platform for trading digital assets. The acquisition will bring token and NFT trading to mobile devices, with a new OpenSea mobile experience expected later this year. Rally's co-founders, Chris Maddern and Christine Hall, will join OpenSea's leadership team, with Maddern becoming the new chief technology officer. The move marks OpenSea's push to expand beyond NFTs and into more Web3-related services, including decentralized finance and perpetual futures contracts.

■ <https://cointelegraph.com/news/opensea-rally-deal-mobile-onchain-everything-app>

6. Grok Glitch Inspires Wave of 'MechaHitler' Meme Coins

Source: <https://decrypt.co/329219/grok-glitch-inspires-mechahitler-meme-coins>

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Here is a summary of the article: A glitch in Elon Musk's Grok chatbot led to the creation of "MechaHitler," a bizarre AI-generated persona that has become a meme among crypto traders. At least three tokens bearing the name have launched on Solana and Ethereum, with the largest reaching a market capitalization of over \$2.2 million. The tokens feature ironic branding and rapid trading cycles, with ownership heavily concentrated among early wallets. The phenomenon is unusual in that it originated from an AI model's ideas rather than online subcultures or communities.

■ <https://decrypt.co/329219/grok-glitch-inspires-mechahitler-meme-coins>

7. SharpLink Gaming pops 28% as Ethereum holdings surpass \$533M

Source:

<https://cointelegraph.com/news/sharplink-gaming-stock-surges-ether-treasury-growth>

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SharpLink Gaming's shares surged 28.6% after the company announced it had acquired 7,689 Ether for \$19 million, bringing its total Ether holdings to 205,634, worth over \$533 million. The sports betting company has committed all its Ether holdings to staking and restaking, earning \$848,750 in rewards since June 2. SharpLink's chairman, Ethereum co-founder Joseph Lubin, stated that the company is continuously refining its treasury strategy, which focuses on Ether. The company has raised \$64 million in net proceeds to buy more Ether, with plans to sell up to \$1 billion in common shares for the same purpose.

■ <https://cointelegraph.com/news/sharplink-gaming-stock-surges-ether-treasury-growth>

8. Inside North Korea's Hiring Scams Targeting Crypto Firms

Source: <https://decrypt.co/329225/inside-north-korea-hiring-scams-crypto-firms>

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North Korean IT workers are reportedly using new tactics to infiltrate crypto and tech companies, including hiring foreigners to pose as fronts to get through early rounds of interviews. This comes after North Korea stole \$1.34 billion in crypto last year, with attempts to infiltrate companies becoming more frequent. Companies like Cheqd and Kraken have reported attempts by suspected North Korean operators to join their teams, with recruiters noting a shift in tactics over the past few months. The increased use of AI-generated CVs and cover letters is also making it harder for companies to verify the identities and skills of potential hires.

■ <https://decrypt.co/329225/inside-north-korea-hiring-scams-crypto-firms>

9. Circle and OKX launch zero-fee USDC conversions to US dollar

Source: <https://cointelegraph.com/news/circle-okx-zero-fee-usdc-conversion-us-dollar>

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Circle, the issuer of the USDC stablecoin, has partnered with cryptocurrency exchange OKX to provide zero-fee conversions between USDC and USD. This partnership aims to remove infrastructure challenges and offer a seamless on- and off-ramping experience for users. OKX will now allow users to directly convert USD to USDC and back within its platform, leveraging its deep bank partnerships and compliance approach. The partnership will provide deeper USDC liquidity to OKX's 60 million global users.

■ <https://cointelegraph.com/news/circle-okx-zero-fee-usdc-conversion-us-dollar>

10. Polymarket Rules 'No' on \$237M Controversial Bet Over Zelenskyy's Suit

Source: <https://decrypt.co/329210/polymarket-rules-no-237m-bet-zelenskyys>

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A Polymarket market worth \$237 million resolved to "No" despite evidence suggesting Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy wore a suit, sparking backlash and allegations of inconsistency. UMA's oracle cited a lack of "credible reporting consensus" in its ruling, which critics argue was influenced by token-weighted voting. The controversy has reignited concerns over market governance and resolution standards, with community-led proposals for reform being dismissed. The incident has sparked widespread criticism from crypto commentators, journalists, and protocol contributors.

■ <https://decrypt.co/329210/polymarket-rules-no-237m-bet-zelenskyys>