## YOUTH IN BANKING



PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

## **Early Savers, Future Builders**

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The initiative began in 2010, when Bangladesh Bank (BB) instructed all scheduled banks to introduce School Banking programmes, further strengthened by a comprehensive policy issued in October 2013. According to current guidelines, banks are authorised to open student accounts with a minimum deposit of BDT 100, free of service charges.

savings habits among students while introducing them to modern banking services and technologies. Since 2014, the central bank has also engaged in financial literacy campaigns to bring unbanked populations under the umbrella of formal financial services.

In alignment with Bangladesh Bank's directives, banks have adopted diverse strategies, including no-frill accounts, competitive interest rates,

This initiative aims to cultivate debit card services, financial education programmes, and student conferences, to introduce the younger generation to the banking system. As of March 2024, the School Banking programme encompasses 4.3 million accounts across the country, with total deposits amounting to Tk. 2,135 crore.

"Student banking programmes are pivotal for individual growth and national development, as they instil financial literacy, encourage a culture

of savings, and promote responsible financial behaviour. A financially literate population makes informed decisions, leading to more efficient resource allocation and enhanced economic productivity," said Ali Reza Iftekhar, Managing Director and CEO of Eastern Bank Limited (EBL).

Bangladesh Education Statistics 2023 indicates that the education sector comprises 646,039 teachers and over 20 million post-primary students across 36,940 institutions. "Education serves as the foundation of a nation's progress, and these students are the driving force behind its future. From a macroeconomic perspective, fostering savings habits among students helps build national savings and investment, propelling long-term economic growth," noted Nazeem A. Choudhury, Deputy Managing Director of Prime Bank.

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