

## BO account maintenance fee reduced to Tk 150

### STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has decided to reduce the maintenance fee of beneficiary owners' (BO) accounts to Tk 150 from Tk 450.

The stock market regulator made the decision in principle at a commission meeting held at the BSEC building in the capital yesterday.

Stock market investors have long been demanding a reduction in the maintenance fee. In 2016, the securities regulator reduced the fee to Tk 450 from Tk 500 for each BO account.

The regulator also decided that stockbrokers must submit 25 percent of the interest income from consolidated customers' accounts to the investors' protection fund of the stock exchange.

Brokers will be allowed to use the remaining interest income.

## Pharma needs diverse financing to grow further: experts

### STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The banking sector alone cannot provide the billions of taka required as investments to reap all the pharmaceutical sector's potentials, for which a financing mix of equity, foreign direct investment, bonds, sukuk, and others is necessary, suggested analysts.

They were addressing an event titled "Capital Market: Industry Insights and Readiness for the Pharmaceutical Industry," organised by Prime Bank Investment Limited at Sheraton Dhaka on Monday.

Syed M Omar Tayub, managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) of Prime Bank Investment, said Bangladesh's pharmaceutical industry was rapidly growing, driven by strong domestic demand, policy support, and export potential.

Its annual market sales amount

to roughly \$3 billion, growing at around 10 percent per year and projected to exceed \$9 billion by 2030, he said.

It has huge export potential, as sales abroad amount to only \$205 million at present, whereas the world's pharma market is valued at \$1.6 trillion, he added.

To grab the market, the industry in Bangladesh will need a lot of investment. However, solely depending on banks for financing is not viable. The interest rate is also high, said Tayub.

So, a financing mix can be the solution, including coupon bonds, zero-coupon bonds, convertible bonds, green bonds, and sukuk, he said.

However, most of the companies are going for traditional sources such as bank loans, which is raising their interest costs and worries over finance, he said.

The solution can come from

Capital Connect, the investment bank's programme to engage industry leaders, access actionable insights, unlock high-potential investment access, and accelerate market readiness, said Tayub.

A poll was run among the event's participants, including finance officials from several non-listed drug companies.

Most reported that they preferred banks for meeting their financing needs, while bonds ranked second.

They also traced their lack of interest in getting listed and raising funds through issuing equity to strict regulatory compliance, dilution of ownership, costs of listing, and stock market volatility.

Officials of Prime Investment briefed them on several other investment products that could help pharmaceutical companies manage their funds efficiently.

## MFS enabling transfers

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The study, conducted between November 2023 and May 2025, surveyed 1,784 personal account holders, 429 merchant account holders, and 664 agents across 32 districts.

It found that 6.3 percent of personal users, 17 percent of agents, and 1.6 percent of merchants had fallen victim to fraud or financial scams.

Of those, 3.6 percent of personal users, 8.7 percent of agents, and 1.4 percent of merchants reported monetary losses.

Losses among personal users ranged from Tk 300 to Tk 83,000. Agents reported losses between Tk 200 and Tk 3.76 lakh, while merchants lost between Tk 53 and Tk 45,000.

More than half of the victims said they were deceived by false promises of easy money or misinformation. Others were tricked through phone calls or SMS, while 12 percent lost funds due to account hacking.

Despite the monetary losses, very few took legal action. Only 7.6 percent of affected personal users, 27.4 percent of agents, and 4.2 percent of merchants filed complaints with the police or registered general diaries (GDS).

The report found widespread use of MFS for illegal betting and gambling transactions, especially during major cricket events such as the IPL, BPL, and World Cup.

Although authorities have blocked many websites and social media platforms promoting gambling, MFS operators have failed to stop related financial transactions.

Thousands of betting agents across the country collect money

through MFS and transfer it abroad. Alongside traditional methods, some are using cryptocurrency to purchase US dollars, convert them to Bitcoin, and launder the funds overseas.

Citing Criminal Investigation Department (CID) data, the TIB report said around Tk 75,000 crore was laundered through MFS in 2022. As per Bangladesh Bank, remittance flows through legal MFS channels have increased as political changes curbed informal hundi networks.

Still, monitoring remains weak. MFS providers lack effective mechanisms to detect or prevent illicit transactions. The failure to permanently block accounts linked to laundering means many offenders simply re-register using new information.

The Cyber Security Ordinance, issued on May 21 this year, classifies online gambling, the development of related apps or portals, and their promotion as criminal offences.

Authorities have already identified some 1,100 MFS agents involved in such activities.

TIB also flagged unethical marketing practices among MFS providers. Some firms circulated misleading adverts and negative propaganda about competitors through leaflets, banners, and social media influencers.

The report found that most MFS agents are not subject to regular audits. Providers rely on third-party distributors for oversight, resulting in limited accountability.

The anti-graft watchdog called for a dedicated law to govern the MFS sector. It recommended ensuring fair competition, financial inclusion, and transparent practices.

The proposed law, according to TIB, should define stakeholder responsibilities, introduce global

regulators failed to take decisive steps, due partly to conflicts of interest and alleged corruption, according to the TIB study.

The report raised concerns over former regulators joining MFS companies, calling this a breach of ethical standards. CID had recommended action, but Bangladesh Bank remained inactive, according to the study.

While MFS companies do operate hotlines and internal complaint mechanisms, users often find them ineffective. Among those affected by fraud, 58.8 percent of personal users, 60.9 percent of agents, and 58.3 percent of merchants did not file complaints.

Of those who did, only 38.1 percent of personal users and 20 percent of merchants said their issues were resolved.

Awareness of existing protections is also low. Just 6.2 percent of surveyed personal users had heard of Bangladesh Bank's Customer Interest Protection Centre (CIPC).

The Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU) also does not have a hotline or a clear system for reporting gambling, money laundering, or hundi related activities.

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The anti-graft watchdog called for a dedicated law to govern the MFS sector. It recommended ensuring fair competition, financial inclusion, and transparent practices.

The proposed law, according to TIB, should define stakeholder responsibilities, introduce global

best practices, require service interoperability, and guarantee data protection.

TIB urged regulators to cap service charges and commissions, arrange agent training, and strengthen complaint systems.

It also called for full disclosure of contracts, strong penalties for misconduct, enhanced monitoring, and the use of advanced tools to detect suspicious transactions.

The study concluded that promoting public awareness and safeguarding consumer rights must be treated as urgent national priorities.

## Gold price falls over 1%

### REUTERS

Gold prices declined more than 1 percent on Tuesday as the dollar's reversal to trade higher added to the pressure on the safe-haven asset following US President Donald Trump's less aggressive trade stance towards the European Union.

Spot gold was down 1.4 percent at \$3,297.49 an ounce as of 1022 GMT. US gold futures fell 2.1 percent to \$3,296.50.

## Light engineering expo begins tomorrow

### STAR BUSINESS REPORT

setting up 44 stalls to display technologies, machinery, and innovative products.

Razzaque said the global market for light engineering products exceeds \$7 trillion, yet Bangladesh's exports remain at only \$795 million. With investment, technological upgrades, and infrastructure development, exports could rise to \$100 billion, he added.

Currently, the country has over 50,000 small and large light engineering companies, directly employing more than three lakh people and indirectly supporting over three million.

The sector contributes about 3 percent to Bangladesh's gross domestic product and meets around 50 percent of the demand for machine parts in local industries.

To develop the sector, Razzaque urged the government to establish compliant industrial zones, encourage product diversification and technology transfer, reduce customs duties on raw material imports, ensure patent and design protection, enhance skills among women and youth, and provide cash incentives for exports.

Abdur Rahman, deputy project director of the EC4J Project, said the fair will help increase market linkages and boost the export capacity of entrepreneurs.

## US remittance tax

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"Tackling informal remittance channels requires action on both the demand side—targeting operators abroad—and the supply side, such as curbing illicit financial outflows through money laundering," said the CPD.

In FY26, the government is expected to spend around Tk 9,880 crore on remittance incentives. With the foreign exchange rate now being market driven, it is time to reconsider the current incentive structure, it said.

"Gradually reducing the incentive from 2.5 percent to 1 percent could save the government approximately Tk 6,000 crore in FY26," it said.

At the event, the CPD also warned about low revenue collection by the revenue administration.

"The interim government needs to intensify revenue collection growth by at least 12 times that of the current pace to meet the revenue target by June of the current fiscal year," it said.

In the first half of the current fiscal year (FY25), total revenue collection grew just 5.3 percent compared to that in the same period of the previous year, according to finance ministry data. "To meet the full-year target, revenue will now have to increase by an improbable 64.6 percent over the remainder of the fiscal year," said the CPD.

In FY25, the government set its annual revenue collection target at Tk 5.41 lakh crore, and it was revised to

Tk 5.18 lakh crore. "The annual target to be achieved...is a highly unlikely prospect," said Fahmida Khatun.

The CPD projected that the revenue shortfall could reach approximately Tk 105,000 crore at the end of FY25.

According to the National Board of Revenue (NBR) data, tax collected by the NBR increased by a meagre 2.8 percent during the July-March period, whereas the corresponding figure of FY24 was 10.7 percent.

The growth achieved can be attributed primarily to the enhanced collection of income tax, she said.

"The slowdown in ADP implementation, as well as the downturn in overall economic activity, have perhaps contributed to the poor collection of VAT and supplementary duty at the local level despite the high level of inflation and increased VAT and SD rates for nearly 90 items," she said.

Given this, whether the upcoming International Monetary Fund (IMF) conditionalities concerning revenue can be met remains a question, said Fahmida.

The debacle concerning the abolition of the NBR has thankfully been settled for the time being, thanks to a press release issued by the finance ministry, she said.

However, there is no doubt that the repetition of such an instance will negatively impact the economy, particularly in the case of revenue mobilisation, she warned.

### GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD DIVISION, SHARIATPUR

[www.pwd.gov.bd](http://www.pwd.gov.bd)

Memo No:1418 (3)

Dated:- 26/05/2025

### E-Tender Notice

e-Tender is invited in the National E-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the Procurement of:

SL No.	Tender ID	Last selling date & time	On-line (e-GP System) tender closing date & time
01	1117673	15/06/2025 12 24 PM	15/06/2025 12 24 PM
02	1117672	15/06/2025 11 34 AM	15/06/2025 11 34 AM
03	1117671	15/06/2025 11 41 AM	15/06/2025 11 41 AM
04	1117670	15/06/2025 12 53 PM	15/06/2025 12 53 PM
05	1117668	15/06/2025 12 56 PM	15/06/2025 12 56 PM
06	1117667	15/06/2025 12 00 PM	15/06/2025 12 00 PM
07	1117666	15/06/2025 12 03 PM	15/06/2025 12 03 PM
08	1117665	15/06/2025 12 08 PM	15/06/2025 12 08 PM

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নোয়াখালী বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়  
নোয়াখালী-৩৮১৮

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## নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

নোয়াখালী বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের নিম্নাংশ হার্মানো ও শুন্যপদের বিপরীতে কর্মকর্তা ও কর্মচারী পদ প্রস্তরে লক্ষ্যে বর্ণিত যোগাযোগসম্পর্ক বাংলাদেশের নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে এই বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের নির্দিষ্ট ফরমে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা হচ্ছে:

- পরিচালক (হিসাব), (গ্রেড-৩, কেল ৫,৫০০-৭৮,৮০০) -০১টি
- পরিচালক (গ্রেড-৩, কেল ৫,৫০০-৭৮,৮০০) -০১টি
- চীফ মেডিকেল অফিসার, মেডিকেল সেন্টার, (গ্রেড-৩,