



Govt abruptly dissolves NBR reform committee

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The interim government has "abruptly" dissolved a five-member advisory committee formed to initiate reforms for the National Board of Revenue (NBR), even though a comprehensive report on the committee's recommendations is pending.

On Sunday, the finance ministry issued a notification in this regard.

"The NBR Advisory Committee, formed on October 9 last year, has been dissolved following the promulgation of the Revenue Policy and Management Ordinance 2025, which separates revenue policy from management," it said.

The committee members expressed surprise at the move, saying their work was not yet complete. They claimed they were still preparing a comprehensive report to submit to the government.

"We don't know why the government has taken this step so suddenly. We are still working to fulfil our six-point terms of reference," said Muhammad Abdul Mazid, one of the committee members.

Mazid said they had completed only one-fifth of their assigned responsibilities.

"We have just submitted a single report on the separation. For the NBR reform, this is not enough. We are still conducting consultation meetings with various stakeholders," he said.

The committee's six-point mandate included advising on fiscal and revenue reforms, assessing the NBR's capacity, recommending modernisation, guiding institutional integrity and governance, supporting citizen engagement, and offering other revenue-related policy advice.

The committee, formed on October 9 last year, included two former NBR chairmen—Muhammad Abdul Mazid and Nasiruddin Ahmed.

The other members were Delwar Hossain, Aminur Rahman, and Farid Uddin, all former members of the taxes and customs divisions. **READ MORE ON B3**

NBR expands duty-free import benefits to diversify exports

Manufacturers see huge opportunity

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In a move to facilitate export diversification, the National Board of Revenue (NBR) has opened the door for partial exporters in eight sectors to import raw materials duty-free against a bank guarantee.

In a notification last week, the revenue authority said the facility would cover processed foods, light engineering, furniture, electronics, plastic products and leather goods.

Yesterday, the revenue board said that many exporters cannot avail a bonded warehouse licence under existing rules, which limits their ability to import duty-free raw materials for export production.

They can now bring in raw materials without paying import duties upfront by providing a bank guarantee equal to the customs duty assessed on the products.

The refund of duties after export, which previously frustrated businesses with long delays, will no longer be required.

The change comes as ready-made garments have been dominating the country's export basket for more than three decades, according to the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA).

Since fiscal year 2013-14, garments have

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