

Tobacco Industry Interference (TII) Monitoring Report

April 2023

Report Prepared
Samiul Hassan Shajib

Advisor
Syed Mahbubul Alam and Syeda Anonna Rahman

Tobacco Industry Interference (TII)
Monitoring Report
 April 2023, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Prepared by: WBB trust

Supported by: The Union

Summary:

A total 07 industry interferences were reported in April, 2023. Notable among these we identified that, BATB recent visit to Islamic University of Technology's Career Expo as a strategic partner. On the others hand they celebrated International Women's Day.

With the technical assistance of the Union, WBB Trust has collected all the information and prepared a brief report about the interferences done by the tobacco companies.

| Date | News and source | Evidence |
|-------------------|--|--|
| TII on CSR | | |
| 07 April 2023 | BATB recent visit to Islamic University of Technology's Career Expo as a strategic partner. The opening session was conducted by Dr. Mohammad Rafiqul Islam, Vice Chancellor at IUT, Mr. Syed Tanvir Husain, Chief Human Resources Officer at Grameenphone, and Mr. Saad Jashim, Area Head of Talent, Culture & Inclusion – BAT APMEA Central with speeches. Link |   |
| 16 April 2023 | BAT Bangladesh has a platform called 'Supernova,' an exclusive programme designed to groom female talents pursuing careers in the field of STEM. They celebrated International Women's Day. Link | Diversity & Inclusion: Propelling the wheels of women empowerment International Women's Day celebrated amidst an array of time-betting initiatives  |




Tobacco Industry Interference (TII)

Monitoring Report

April 2023, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Prepared by: WBB trust

Supported by: The Union


| | | |
|--------------------------|--|---|
| 17 April 2023 | Female students across the country pursuing a career in STEM assemble, because, BAT Bangladesh's platform to groom female talent its third cohort name Supernova. Link |  |
| TII on Misleading | | |
| 05 April 2023 | Voice of Vapers Bangladesh (VVB) has been working as an organization of vape and e-cigarette consumers in Bangladesh for the past few years. According to them, it will be difficult to reduce the number of smokers in the country if tobacco harm reduction products such as vape, e-cigarettes, etc. are not made available to consumers. For this reason, they have been opposing the proposed ban on e-cigarettes and vaping products. Link | <p>জেনিং নিয়ে গবেষণায় মতামত তথ্য</p> <p>৯৯ টি লাইক অস্বীকার ৩৩ এপ্রিল ২০২৩, ১০:০০</p>  |
| 19 April 2023 | According to NBR, cigarette paper, one of the main ingredients of cigarettes, is not produced locally. Using this opportunity, cigarettes are being produced illegally in the country. As a result, the government is losing huge revenue. Currently, cigarette manufacturers pay a tax of 172.20 percent on the import of this paper. On the other hand, commercial importers pay tax at the rate of 212.20 percent. Although the tax rate is high, this paper is being misused commercially by being imported. So NBR wants to give the power to import paper only to cigarette manufacturers. Link | <p>কিগারেট পেপারের বাণিজ্যিক আমদানি নিষিদ্ধ চায় এনবিআর</p> <p>১৫ মিনিট আগে</p> |
| TII on Others | | |
| 10 April 2023 | 40 percent of the total tobacco in this country is produced in Lalmonirhat. Due to the lack of government support, farmers are inclined to grow tobacco on the tempting promises of tobacco companies. Children are also involved in tobacco work in the hope of more income. As a result, the quality of the soil is getting damaged along with children's health. Adverse effects on the environment. Link | <p>আমাক চাষে বাড়ছে শিশুশ্রম</p> <p>৯৯ টি লাইক অস্বীকার ১০ এপ্রিল ২০২৩, ১০:০০</p>  |

Tobacco Industry Interference (TII) Monitoring Report

April 2023, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Prepared by: WBB trust

Supported by: The Union

| | | |
|---------------|---|--|
| 15 April 2023 | <p>Farmers have been discouraged from growing tobacco by the government, with the financial support of tobacco processing companies, the farmers of Nilphamari, the northern border district of the country, are leaning towards growing tobacco day by day. In this situation, the common people and farmers of the area are at extreme health risk.</p> <p>Link</p> | <p>খামায়ে না তামাক চাষ, স্বাস্থ্যঝুঁকিতে কৃষকরা</p>  |
|---------------|---|--|