



Tobacco Industry Interference (TII) Monitoring Report

February 2023

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February 2023, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Prepared by: WBB trust Supported by: The Union

Summary:

A total 07 industry interferences were reported in February, 2023. Notable among these we identified that, "Hotel Noorjahan Grant" located at Dargah Gate, Sylhet, "Japan Tobacco Company (JTI)" organized a colorful musical and dancing event with cigarette wrappers by "Camel" band. and Officials of British American Tobacco Bangladesh (BATB) looted hundreds of crores of money in the name of corporate social responsibility (CSR) program.

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			
February 2023	Although the government is very positive about tobacco control, tobacco companies are breaking the law in many ways themselves and encouraging others to break the law. Recently at "Hotel Noorjahan Grant" located at Dargah Gate, Sylhet, "Japan Tobacco Company (JTI)" organized a colorful musical and dancing event with cigarette wrappers by "Camel" band. Videos and pictures circulating on social media show a large number of youngsters participating in the event. Such attempts to get the young generation addicted to smoking in violation of the Tobacco Control Act are a clear violation of the "Smoking and Use of Tobacco Products (Control) Act, 2005. Link Link Link		

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13 February 2023	Area Leaf Manager of British American Tobacco Bangladesh Maria Kibtia were chosen as finalists for the TAAGA award. TAAGA was launched by Bangladesh's premier lifestyle brand, Aarong in 2003. Link	Congratulations Maria Kibtia, Winner TAGA Outstanding Young Professionals Asset 2023
17 February 2023	Rajshahi Region Bidi Sramik Union organized a human chain and besieged the customs office for five-point demands, including reducing the duty on bidis in the budget, banning fake bidi. They held this program in front of Customs, Excise and VAT office of Natore. At the end of the human chain, a memorandum containing five-point demands was presented to Deputy Commissioner of Customs, Excise and VAT Office, Hasnain Mahmud. The program was moderated by Harik Hossain, Bangladesh Bidi Workers Federation Joint Secretary. Bangladesh Bidi Workers Federation General Secretary Abdur Rahman, Vice President Nazim Uddin, Organizing Secretary Abdul Ghafoor, Co- Organizing Secretary Abul Hasnat Lovelu, Publicity Secretary Shamim Islam, Executive Member Anwar Hossain and others spoke at the human chain.	বিভিন্ন শুৰু কমানোসহ ৫ দফা দাবিতে শ্রমিকদের মানববদ্ধন ন্যান্ত্রর ক্লো সংক্রমায় ্রাকাপের সময় : ১৮ ফেলার্টির, ২০২৩, ১২০২ এরম্ব
19 February 2023	Link Officials of British American Tobacco Bangladesh (BATB) looted hundreds of crores of money in the name of corporate social responsibility (CSR) program. Sheikh Shabab Ahmed, the head of external affairs of the company, has been forced to leave his job in the face of audit objections worth about two hundred crore money. Link	বিএটির সিএসআর বিজ বিএটির সিএসআর ফান্ডের ২০০ কোটি টাকা লোপাট Rex প্রতিবেক তাকি তাকে বেলারি প্রতিব্যালিক বিজ্ঞানিক বিজ্ঞান
26 February 2023	A human blockade has taken place in Rajshahi demanding that only domestic companies should be allowed to produce cigarettes for the lower class, while restricting the production of international cigarette brands to the high and middle class. The program was held in front of the Rajshahi District Commissioner's office. Officials and tobacco farmers of Rajshahi region	विक्रि निम्म वकांत मारियद त्रावनावीद प्रामनववन

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working in domestic cigarette industry organized this program. Helali Farooq, convenor of Rajshahi Region Officer-Employee Association, presided over the human chain. Other officials-employees, workers and farmers spoke in it under the direction of the new secretary Rezaul Karim.

<u>Link</u> Link

TII on Misliding

13 February, 2023 Vaper Society urged organizations and activists campaigning against vaping products in Bangladesh and elsewhere often refer to studies that allegedly found links between cancer and heart disease to vaping.

Link

Anti-vape campaigners fail to recognise retraction of misinformed studies



TII on Others

18 February, 2023

Since the beginning, tobacco companies have been using various tactics to thwart the government's efforts to control tobacco. This time they have become active in preventing the amendment of the law. In addition to taking various initiatives for this purpose, a letter has been written to the National Board of Revenue with the wrong interpretation of the law.

Link



