

Tobacco Industry Interference (TII) Monitoring Report

March 2023

Report Prepared
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March 2023, Dhaka, Bangladesh


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Summary:

A total 12 industry interferences were reported in March, 2023. Notable among these we identified that, tobacco farmers have formed a human chain to demand the speedy formulation of policies to protect the domestic tobacco industry. on the others hand a press conference was held by the 'Local Owned Cigarette Manufacturer Malik Samiti," demanding the speedy implementation of the lower slab of cigarette reservation and competition law for domestic companies to protect the existence of the tobacco industry.

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		
01 March, 2023	<p>The tobacco farmers have formed a human chain to demand the speedy formulation of policies to protect the domestic tobacco industry. The program was held under the banner of District Tobacco Growers Welfare Association in front of Kushtia Municipality on Sunday morning. Speakers in the human chain said that multinational companies in the country used to produce only expensive cigarettes. And the domestic company was making cheap cigarettes. But over the years, multinational companies have also started producing low-cost cigarettes. Domestic companies are getting killed by it. As a result, the country's tobacco farmers have become hostages in the hands of multinational companies.</p> <p>Link</p>	<p>কুষ্টিয়ায় তামাক চাষীদের মানববন্ধন অনুষ্ঠিত</p> 

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<p>06 March 2023</p>	<p>A human chain program was held in Jhenaidah demanding protection of the domestic tobacco industry to ensure fair price of tobacco. On Monday (March 6) the program was organized by the local Tobacco Farmers Welfare Association at Payra Chattar in Jhenaidah city. Leaders and tobacco farmers of the organization's district and upazila branches attended and gave speeches with banner festoons. Jhenaidah-Meherpur District Convenor Alamgir Hossain Rintu, Joint Convener Dudu Shah, Ruhul Amin, Member Ramzan Ali Mintu, Farmer Aminul Islam Pilu, Rabiul Islam Johnny, Zahurul Islam, Hossain Ali, Shakirul Islam, Ujjbal Mia, Omar Ali and others were spoke at this time.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Link</p>	 <p>দেশীয় তামাক রক্ষার চাহিদার মানববন্ধন Published: Monday, 6 March, 2023 at 3:32 PM</p>
<p>08 March 2023</p>	<p>BATB Managing Director Mr. Shehzad Munim's Write an artical on embracing equity and how the corporations can play a pivotal role throughout the journey published in The Financial Express on International Women's Day.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Link</p>	<p>Embracing equity: The role of corporations in creating a better tomorrow</p> 
<p>09 March 2023</p>	<p>Tobacco farmers have formed a human chain in Lalmonirhat demanding the survival of the domestic tobacco industry and to protect the existence of lakhs of workers associated with domestically owned cigarette companies. On Thursday (March 9) at noon, farmers of five upazilas formed a human chain at the mission intersection of Lalmonirhat under the initiative of the local tobacco farmers welfare association. Tobacco Growers Welfare Association, Lalmonirhat district branch convenor Md. Ahed Ali presided over this human chain.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Link</p>	<p>দেশীয় তামাক শিল্প রক্ষার দাবি চাষিদের</p> <p>শেখ হাসিনা সরকারের বিরুদ্ধে তামাক শিল্প রক্ষার দাবি চাষিদের মানববন্ধন</p> 

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<p>11 March 2023</p>	<p>To protect the 100% domestically owned tobacco industry, tobacco farmers have staged human chains and rallies to demand reservation at the grassroots only for domestic companies' cigarettes. At the same time, they demanded the formulation of independent policies to protect 100% domestic tobacco industry. The program was held in front of Bangabandhu's mural at Rangpur District School. At the end of the human chain, National Tobacco Welfare Association Rangpur convener Masudar Rahman Chowdhury, joint convener Mezammel Haque, Md. Asaduzzaman (Mithu) and other leaders addressed spoke.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Link</p>	
<p>18 March 2023</p>	<p>A press conference was held by the 'Local Owned Cigarette Manufacturer Malik Samiti,' demanding the speedy implementation of the lower slab of cigarette reservation and competition law for domestic companies to protect the existence of the tobacco industry.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Link Link</p>	
<p>23 March 2023</p>	<p>Women empowerment initiative with BATB carried out with 852 female retailers across the country.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Link</p>	
<p>27 March 2023</p>	<p>The Bangladesh Bidi Sramik Federation held a press conference on Monday at Zahur Hossain Chowdhury Hall of National Press Club to protest against the demand for an increase in the price.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Link</p>	

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<p>20 March 2023</p>	<p>Tangail district bidi workers union has formed a human chain to save the bidi industry from the conspiracies of foreign multinational companies and to protest against the bidi hike proposal. They held this human chain program in front of Tangail Press Club. After the human chain, the workers presented a memorandum containing four-point demands to Tangail District Commissioner Jasim Uddin Haider.</p> <p>Link</p>	<p>Tangail Bidi workers protest 'conspiracy of foreign multinationals'</p> 
<p>27 March 2023</p>	<p>The Bangladesh Bidi Sramik Federation held a press conference on Monday at Zahur Hossain Chowdhury Hall of Jatiya Press Club to protest against the demand for an increase in the price and tax of bidi in the human chain organized by the non-existent organization called "Tangail District Bidi Workers," organized by the British American Tobacco Company. To protect the bidi industry and workers, they made a 4-point demand, including stopping the aggression of the British American Tobacco Company and increasing the price of cheap cigarettes. The leaders also said that the industry was on the brink of collapse due to excessive duty hikes on bidi, conspired by multinational companies like British American Tobacco. It is also demanded to remove the disparity in advance income tax on bidi and cigarettes.</p> <p>Link Link</p>	<p>বহুজাতিক কোম্পানির আগ্রাসন বন্ধসহ ৪ দাবি বিড়ি শ্রমিকদের</p> 

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<p>10 March, 2023</p>	<p>A workshop on 'What journalists should do to create awareness to reduce the harm caused by tobacco products' was held at the Biam Foundation Auditorium in the capital under the initiative of Bangladesh Blind Mission. Professor Dr. Rubid Amin was the chief guest and special guests were Brigadier General (Retd.) Khan Md. Mozzamel Haque and Dr. Shahidul Islam. Jewel Ahmed, President of Bangladesh Blind Mission gave a welcome speech. Mohammad Shamsul Islam and Chairman of Mass Communication and Journalism Department of Cumilla University Dr. Mo. Abu Hanif Khan gave subjective training in the workshop. The coordinators were Umme Kawsar Sumona and Faria Sultana. 25 journalists participated in the workshop. Note, "smoke free world" funded Bangladesh Blind Mission for organized this program.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Link</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">তামাকজাত দ্রব্যের ক্ষতি হ্রাসে করণীয় শীর্ষক কর্মশালা</p> <p style="text-align: center;">■ শতাব্দী প্রতিবেদক</p> <p>বাংলাদেশ ব্লাইন্ড মিশনের উদ্যোগে 'তামাকজাত দ্রব্যের ক্ষতি হ্রাসে সচেতনতা তৈরিতে সংবাদকর্মীদের করণীয়' শীর্ষক কর্মশালা রাজধানীর বিয়াম ফাউন্ডেশন মিলনায়তনে গতকাল বৃহস্পতিবার অনুষ্ঠিত হয়েছে। এতে প্রধান অতিথি ছিলেন অধ্যাপক ড. রুবিদ আমিন। বিশেষ অতিথি ছিলেন ব্রিগেডিয়ার জেনারেল (অব.) খান মো. মোজামেল হক ও ড. শহিদুল ইসলাম। ওভেজা বক্তব্য রাখেন বাংলাদেশ ব্লাইন্ড মিশনের সভাপতি জুয়েল আহমেদ। কর্মশালায় বিষয়ভিত্তিক প্রশিক্ষণ দেন মোহাম্মদ শামসুল ইসলাম ও কুমিল্লা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের মাস কমিউনিকেশন অ্যান্ড জার্নালিজম ডিপার্টমেন্টের চেয়ারম্যান ড. মো. আবু হানিফ খান। সমন্বয়ক ছিলেন উম্মে কাউসার সুমনা ও ফারিয়া সুলতানা। ২৫ জন সংবাদকর্মী কর্মশালায় অংশ নেন।</p>
TII on Others		
<p>20 March 2023</p>	<p>Farmers have been cultivating tobacco in their lands in four upazilas of Chuadanga district due to getting agricultural materials and cash taka as loan from tobacco related officials.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Link</p>	<p>Chuadanga farmers farming tobacco with companies' support</p> <p><small>Mt. Alauddin, Chuadanga</small> Farmers have been cultivating tobacco in their lands in four upazilas of Chuadanga district due to getting agricultural materials and cash taka as loan from tobacco related officials. Moreover it is a profitable crop for the farmers. Agriculture officials are trying to motivate the farmers not to</p> <p><small>Dumrahat upazila and 03 hectares of land in Dumrahat upazila. It is known the production target has been fixed 547.5 metric tons of tobacco in the district. About 20 metric ton of tobacco has been estimated to produce in under specific 212.2 metric tons in Abanadanga, 227.5 metric tons in Dumrahat upazila and 87.7 metric</small></p> <p><small>officials motivated some farmers to cultivate tobacco on their lands by providing loans, fertilizers and seeds. Some tobacco companies give the farmers money in advance and also purchase the produce directly from them which the farmers enjoy in cultivating it. It is alleged. The sources added, the tobacco is grown in both and then trans-</small></p> 
<p>29 March 2023</p>	<p>British American Tobacco Bangladesh Company Limited (BAT Bangladesh) held its 50th Annual General Meeting (AGM) through a digital platform on Wednesday. Chairman of BAT Bangladesh, Golam Mainuddin presided over the meeting where a significant number of shareholders of the company from different areas of the country and even from abroad participated through a virtual platform and five major decisions were approved by shareholders unanimously at this AGM.</p>	<p>BAT Holds Extraordinary General Meeting</p> <p><small>Self-Corrupted 30 Mar 2023 00:00:00 Update: 30 Mar 2023 00:02:37</small></p> 

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