

Tobacco Industry Interference (TII) Monitoring Report

May 2023

Report Prepared
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Monitoring Report

April 2023, Dhaka, Bangladesh


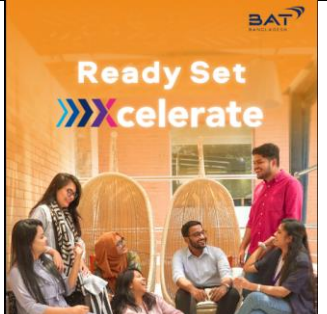
Prepared by: WBB trust

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Summary:

A total 12 industry interferences were reported in May, 2023. Notable among these we identified that, Bonayan has been Champion Award in Climate & Environment category at the SDG Brand Champion Awards 2023 for its impactful nationwide afforestation initiative. Bangladesh Blind Mission (Funded by Smoke free world), an NGO organized a daylong consultation workshop with journalists. On the other hand, Bangladesh THR Summit 2023 to discuss the role of Tobacco Harm Reduction (THR) in achieving a 'Smoke-free Bangladesh' by 2040. On the arrival of the country's 22nd President Md Shahabuddin in Pabna, the Pabna District Bidi Shilpa Malik Samiti welcomed him at the Chandmari intersection adjacent to the Pabna Circuit House.

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 May 2023	<p>On the occasion of May Day, Bangladesh Bidi Sramik Federation organized a rally in front of the National Press Club on Monday (May 1). They demanded an increase in their wages and keep provision of six-day work week in bidi factories. They also demanded an act for the protection for workers in bidi industry, reduction of existing tariff on bidi in the budget of 2023-2024 and withdrawal of 10% advance income tax on bidi to save the industry.</p> <p>Link</p>	<p>নেত্রকোণা জেলা বিড়ি শ্রমিক ইউনিয়নের মে দিবস পালন</p> 
03 May 2023	<p>Xcelerate is Internship Program by BATB is designed for individuals looking to work in a global organization. At BAT Bangladesh, interns get hands-on corporate exposure along with a holistic learning experience in a platform that enables them to enhance their skills and competencies.</p> <p>Link</p>	

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06 May 2023	XCEED 2023! Open invitation for XCEED Campus Ambassador program of BATB. Link	
12 May 2023	Eastern Bank Ltd (EBL) hosted Joyee graduation ceremony at its head office in the capital. The first batch of Joyee graduates attended the exclusive 6-month women entrepreneurs' development program jointly organized by EBL and Prerona Foundation. Link	
16 May 2023	On the arrival of the country's 22nd President Md Shahabuddin in Pabna, the Pabna District Bidi Shilpa Malik Samiti welcomed him at the Chandmari intersection adjacent to the Pabna Circuit House. Rashedul Islam Russell, General Secretary of Pabna District Bidi Industry Owners Association and Harik Hossain, President of Pabna District Bidi Mazdoor Union and General Secretary Shamim Islam led the reception to President Md Shahabuddin. At this time, common people including bidi workers congratulated and wished the president with banner festoons. Link	
18 May 2023	Battle of Minds 2023 Registration is Live! Battle of Minds is back! This year they celebrate bigger, better, and bolder and celebrating 20 years of glory. Link	
27 May 2023	The grand gala of Akij Bashir Group presents SDG Brand Champion Awards 2023, in association with Aspire to Innovate (a2i), was held at the capital's Radisson Blu Dhaka Water Garden. Bonayan has been honoured with the prestigious SDG Brand Champion Award in Climate & Environment category at the SDG Brand Champion Awards 2023 for its impactful nationwide afforestation initiative.	Bonayan wins SDG Brand Champion award 



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TII on Misliding		
05 May 2023	<p>Recently, Bangladesh Blind Mission (Funded by Smoke free world), an NGO working on education, health and disability issues, organized a daylong consultation workshop on tobacco control with journalists at BIAM auditorium at New Eskaton in the capital. Speakers at the workshop called on journalists to play their due role to make tobacco free Bangladesh through raising awareness among people on the bad effects of tobacco use since it is harmful both for health and environment.</p> <p>Link</p>	
27 May 2023	<p>Bangladesh THR Summit 2023</p> <p>Health experts and policymakers gathered at the Bangladesh THR Summit 2023 on May 27, 2023, to discuss the role of Tobacco Harm Reduction (THR) in achieving a 'Smoke-free Bangladesh' by 2040. Moderated by Dr Delon Human, the event featured globally renowned public health experts such as Dr Derek Yach, Prof Mihaela Raescu, Dr Kgosi Letlape, Dr Marewa Glover, Dr Konstantinos Farsalinos, and other experts such as Michael Landl, Masud-Uz-Zaman, Federico Fernandez with representation in the audience from ministries of industries, finance, commerce, home affairs, and other institutions such as Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA), the release added.</p> <p>Link</p> <p>Link</p>	<p>Tobacco harm reduction framework necessary to achieve PM's smoke-free vision by 2040</p> 
TII on Others		

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<p>7 May 2023</p>	<p>In front of the Lalmonirhat District Commissioner's office, tobacco farmers, traders, and bidi workers formed a human chain in front of Lalmonirhat's four-point demand, including protecting the domestic tobacco industry and bidi industry and stopping the invasion of the British- American Tobacco Company. Speakers in the event said that the tobacco company has held the tobacco farmers hostage like the indigo farmers. The sale of tobacco to multinational companies without a fair price will be stopped. For this reason, in order to protect the tobacco industry, they requested the intervention of the Prime Minister to stop the British-American Tobacco Company from taking advantage of the farmers and the fair price of tobacco.</p> <p>Link</p>	<p>ব্রিটিশ-আমেরিকান টোব্যাকো কোম্পানির আগ্রাসন বন্ধের দাবি তামাক চাষীদের</p> <p>Published: Tuesday, 7 May 2023 at 1:01 PM</p> 
<p>20 May 2023</p>	<p>Bangladesh Bidi Sramik Federation, Greater Rangpur region staged demonstrations in the district town demanding to protect the bidi industry from the aggression of foreign multinational companies and to reduce tariffs on bidi in the budget for the next 2023-24 fiscal year. Around Thousand workers under the banner of Bidi Sramik Federation, Greater Rangpur region demonstrated in front of Rangpur Public Library premises to press home their demands. Their demands are reduction of tariff from Tk. 18 to Tk. 16 on bidi in the forthcoming 2023-24 budget, increasing the wages of bidi workers, stopping of low quality cigarettes of British American Tobacco and stopping the aggression of British American Tobacco.</p> <p>Link</p>	<p>বিদেশীদের আগ্রাসন বন্ধে রংপুরে বিড়ি শ্রমিকদের জনসভা</p> 
<p>24 May 2023</p>	<p>Kushtia Bidi Sramik Sangam Parshid, a rally was held at the district public library grounds with a four-point demand. In the assembly, the workers demanded to reduce bidi duty from 18 to 16 taka to 16 taka, to increase the wages of bidi workers, to stop the invasion of British American tobacco companies, and to stop the low-level cigarettes of foreign multinational companies. After the rally, the labor leaders presented the memorandum to the Hon'ble Prime Minister through the Kushtia District Commissioner.</p> <p>Link</p>	<p>বিদেশী কোম্পানীর নিম্নস্তরের সিগারেট বন্ধের দাবি বিড়ি শ্রমিকদের</p> 