



Tobacco Industry Interference (TII) Monitoring Report

October 2023

Report Prepared
Samiul Hassan Shajib

Advisor
Syed Mahbulul Alam and Syeda Anonna Rahman

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Summary:

A total 10 industry interferences were reported in October, 2023. Notable among these we identified that, BTBC will invest Tk 332.1 million for infrastructure development. on the other hand The National Board of Revenue (NBR) has found evidence that the British American Tobacco Bangladesh Company has evaded a total of Tk. 2,054 crores 47 lakhs 10 thousand in revenue.

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		
10 October 2023	<p>A human chain was held in front of the tax commissioner's office in Rangpur to protest against the sale of bidis at a price lower than the government's fixed price. This human chain was organized at the initiative of the Haragach Sarai Marnea Bidi Labor Union. During this time, the speakers presented 3-point demand, including selling bidis at a fixed price.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Link</p>	
27 October 2023	<p>Multinational company British American Tobacco Bangladesh Company (BTBC) will invest Tk 332.1 million for infrastructure development in rooftop solar panels, steam pre-seizure units, and at the company's Fibex plant. As a result, the company will reduce carbon dioxide emissions in its plants by 50 percent and will embark on a 50 percent renewable electricity journey.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Link Link</p>	

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<p>27 October 2023</p>	<p>The Battle of Minds Global Final organized by BAT. Team Bangladesh becoming the first runner-up in the Global Finale of Battle of Minds 2023!</p> <p>Link</p>	
<h3>TII on Misliding</h3>		
<p>11 October 2023</p>	<p>UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has initiated the use of alternative tobacco products to stop smoking in that country through the 'Swap to Stop' program. This innovative idea of his can serve as an inspiration in the context of Bangladesh. Steps can be taken to address the problem by making vaping, snus, and other smoke-free alternatives available to smokers or those interested in quitting.</p> <p>Link</p>	<p>যুক্তরাজ্যে ধূমপান বন্ধে 'সোয়াপ টু স্টপ' এবং বাংলাদেশের প্রেক্ষাপটে প্রাসঙ্গিকতা</p> 
<p>24 October 2023</p>	<p>Rooibos, a type of tea leaf cigarette, has started its journey in the markets of several European countries. Historic cigarette maker British-American Tobacco (BAT) has launched cigarettes made from rooibos tea leaves for the first time alongside traditional tobacco cigarettes. But experts are still not aware of the harmful side of this cigarette.</p> <p>Link</p>	<p>চায়ের পাতা থেকে তৈরি হচ্ছে নিকোটিনমুক্ত সিগারেট</p> 
<p>25 October 2023</p>	<p>A new research study titled, Integrating harm reduction into tobacco control, reveals a significant opportunity: adopting Sweden's tobacco harm reduction (THR) strategies could save almost one million lives in Bangladesh.</p> <p>Link</p>	<p>Nearly One Million Lives Could Be Saved in Bangladesh by Adopting Sweden's Smoke-free Strategy – Major New Report</p> <p>October 25, 2023 07:30 AM Eastern Daylight Time</p> <p>LONDON - (BUSINESS WIRE) - A new research study titled, Integrating harm reduction into tobacco control, reveals a significant opportunity: adopting Sweden's tobacco harm reduction (THR) strategies could save almost one million lives in Bangladesh.</p>

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<p>27 October 2023</p>	<p>Different countries in the world use different scientific methods to save their people from tobacco, but the picture is different in Bangladesh. Although many countries have legalized smoking alternative products, the government is considering banning them in Bangladesh. But because of this, those who are trying to quit smoking will suffer a lot. If smoking substitute products are banned, they will be forced to remain addicted to smoking.</p> <p>link</p>	<p>স্বাস্থ্যবৃত্তিক কমাতে বাংলাদেশ বিকল্প উদ্যোগ গ্রহণ করছে কী?</p> 
<p>TII on Others</p>		
<p>04 October 2023</p>	<p>The National Board of Revenue (NBR) has found evidence that the British American Tobacco Bangladesh Company has evaded a total of Tk. 2,054 crores 47 lakhs 10 thousand in revenue. In 2016, BATBC evaded this amount of revenue on the production and supply of 1811 crore 65 lakh cigarettes. After receiving the report of the evaluation committee formed in this regard, a letter from NBR on September 21 directed to take legal action to recover the evaded tax money.</p> <p>Link</p>	<p>ব্রিটিশ আমেরিকান টোব্যাকোর ২০৫৪ কোটি টাকার রাজস্ব ফাঁকি</p> 
<p>28 October 2023</p>	<p>Recently, Bloomberg released a list of 16,000 companies selected from around the world for the best sustainable business practices based on environmental, social, and governance (ESG). Seven Bangladeshi companies have been included in this list. These companies include Grameenphone, British American Tobacco (BAT) Bangladesh, Marico Bangladesh, BRAC Bank, IDLC Finance, Square Pharmaceuticals, and Walton Hitech Industries.</p> <p>Link</p>	<p>ব্লুমবার্গের টেকসই কোম্পানির তালিকায় বাংলাদেশের ৭ কোম্পানি</p> 

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24 October 2023	<p>Mr Shezad Munim is now heading British American Tobacco (BAT) Bangladesh. He has been with BAT for more than two and a half decades, for 10 years as its Managing Director. In an exclusive interview with the Financial Express (FE) recently.</p> <p>Link</p>	<p>A culture of transparency critical to better business landscape</p> <p>Managing Director of BAT Bangladesh Shezad tells the FE</p> 
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