

Tobacco Industry Interference (TII) Monitoring Report

January 2023

Report Prepared
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Summary:

A total 11 industry interferences were reported in January, 2023. Notable among these we identified that, Bangladesh Electronic Nicotine Delivery System Traders Association (BENDSTA) has urged the Ministry of Health to consult with all stakeholders before taking any decision on vaping and An exchange meeting of Pabna VAT officials was held in the meeting room of the Pabna Chamber of Commerce, organized by Pabna Zilla Bidi Shilpa Malik Samiti

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		
17 January 2023	Bangladesh Electronic Nicotine Delivery System Traders Association (BENDSTA) has urged the Ministry of Health to consult with all stakeholders before taking any decision on vaping. Link Link	<p>ধুমপানমুক্ত বাংলাদেশের স্বার্থে ভোপাং নিষিদ্ধের উদ্যোগ বাতিল করতে হবে: বেডস্টা</p> <p>১৭ জানুয়ারি ২০২৩</p> 
17 January 2023	Jashore District Bidi Owners' Association and Bidi Workers Union organized a human chain and besiege program in front of Jashore Customs, Excise and VAT office on Sunday with five-point demand including banning of revenue evading fake bidi. Bangladesh Bidi Sramik Federation's joint secretary Harik Hossain conducted the event where the president of the federation M.K. Bangali, General Secretary Abdur Rahman, Vice President Nazim Uddin, Organizing Secretary Abdul Gafur, Publicity Secretary Shamim Islam, Executive Member Anwar Hossain and others spoke. At the end of the human chain, the labor leaders presented a memorandum containing five- point	<p>৫ দফা দাবিতে বাশোরে বিড়ি মালিক সমিতি ও শ্রমিক ইউনিয়নের মানববন্ধন</p> <p>১৭ জানুয়ারি ২০২৩</p> 

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		demands to the Commissioner of Customs, Excise and VAT Office, Moazzem Hossain. Link Link	
17 January 2023		XCEED is back! BAT Campus Ambassador Program is crafted for individuals who are interested to work with and learn from a multifaceted global organization. This program gives students insights into the corporate world and provides extensive learning and networking opportunities. Link	
15 Jan 2023		BATB Organized champions Trophy 2023 in BATB Cricket Ground. link	
23 Jan 2023		The Sylhet District Bidi Workers and Employees' Union organized a four- point demand, including the ban on fake bidi and illegal Indian leaf beedi, and surrounded the customs office. They held this program in front of the Customs, Excise, and VAT office located at Mendibag Point, a suburb of Sylhet. After the human chain, the labor leaders presented a memorandum containing four-point demands to the Commissioner of Customs, Excise, and VAT Office, Mohammad Akbar Hossain. link	
31 Jan 2023		An exchange meeting of Pabna VAT officials was held in the meeting room of the Pabna Chamber of Commerce, organized by Pabna Zilla Bidi Shilpa Malik Samiti (January 31). VAT officials working in Pabna district and bidi factory owners and their representatives were present in the exchange meeting. Link Link	




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27 Jan 2023	<p>British American Tobacco Bangladesh (BATB) has become the first Company in the country to be certified as a Top Employer for the fourth time presented by the Top Employers Institute. In 2023, the Company won the award for both the global and Asia Pacific region categories for establishing and ensuring best practices regarding employees' well- being, sustainability, and leadership, says a press release.</p> <p>Link Link</p>	
TII on Misliding		
06 Jan 2023	<p>Several private development organizations are demanding to have vaping banned by law in the country. A recent amendment to the Smoking and Tobacco Use (Control) Act 2005 (as amended in 2013) included a ban on vaping. Concerned say this will expand the illegal vaping market, causing the government to lose revenue. But a recent study by the UK Health Security Agency revealed that vaping is 95 percent less harmful than conventional cigarettes. Working on this research, the UK and New Zealand have been able to reduce smoking. Hence, there have been allegations that the demand to ban vaping has been raised with "fabricated" information without specific research. At the same time, doctors are also giving their opinions in favor of vaping. They say, "Addicted people cannot suddenly give up the habit." It is healthy to quit addiction with "quitting tools." Tobacco is not present in vaping. Vaping does not contain tar, as it is not burned at the same time. Due to this, it is less harmful than conventional cigarettes.</p> <p>Link</p>	
24 Jan 2023	<p>In 1966, a company named 'Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corp' made a type of healthy cigarette. Which was code named 'Ariel'. Many ingredients in cigarettes were removed to prevent cancer from smoking. But that cigarette never made its debut in the market.</p> <p>Link</p>	

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TII on Others	
29 Jan 2023	<p>lot of paddies was produced on the banks of river Maini. But now, as a result of irresponsible activities of the local agriculture department, only tobacco fields can be seen on both banks of the river.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Link</p>
30 Jan 2023	<p>The farmers in the upstream region of Halda have started tobacco cultivation again after being encouraged by the attractive offers of the tobacco companies. The natural fish breeding ground is under threat due to the direct discharge of tobacco waste and pesticide water into the Halda River. There is also a threat of deforestation due to the collection of wood used for tobacco kilns from nearby forests.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Link</p>

