

Tobacco Industry Interference (TII) Monitoring Report

February 2022

Report Prepared
Samiul Hassan Shajib

Advisor
Syed Mahbubul Alam and Syeda Anonna Rahman

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February 2022, Dhaka, Bangladesh



Prepared by: WBB trust

Supported by: The Union

Summary:

A total of 28 industry interferences were reported in February, 2022. Notable among these we identified that, the exhibition, titled Embrace Friendship: Celebrating 50 years of Japan-Bangladesh Friendship, has been organized by Japan Tobacco International Bangladesh. The Bangladesh Bidi Sramik Federation has formed a human chain, sit-in stage in front of the house of Finance Minister AHM Mostafa Kamal at Lalmai in Cumilla on 5-point demand to survive the bidi 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 |
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| TII on CSR | | |
| 09 February 2022 | <p>Many cricket fans raised questions about the suspicious activities of Sylhet Sunrisers Club of Bangladesh Premier League (BPL). Sylhet Sunrisers is sponsored by Pan Bahar, a</p>  <p>controversial tobacco brand in India.</p> <p>link Link Link</p> | <p>কতু ভাই নয় সিলেট সানরাইজার্সের স্পন্সর হিসেবে আছে ভারতের একটি বিতর্কিত সম্পদকে ব্যয় করে পান বাহার!</p> <p>সন্দেহমূলক কর্মকাণ্ডে আলোচনায় সিলেট সানরাইজার্স</p>  |

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| <p>09 February 2022</p> | <p>The Bangladesh Bidi Sramik Federation has formed a human chain, sit-in stage in front of the house of Finance Minister AHM Mostafa Kamal at Lalmai in Cumilla on 5-point demand to survive the bidi industry. President of Bidi Sramik Federation MK Bangali, Vice President Nazim Uddin, General Secretary Abdur Rahman, Organizing Secretary Abdul Gafur, among others, spoke at the event. Anower Hossain, executive member of the federation moderated the program. Later the Bidi Sramik Federation leaders handed over a memorandum to the finance minister through the Cumilla (South) Upazila Chairman.</p> <p>Link Link</p> | <p>অর্থমন্ত্রীর বাড়ির সামনে বিড়ি শ্রমিকদের বিক্ষোভ</p> <p>© কৃষ্ণশিখার, ১০ই ফেব্রুয়ারি, ২০২২ বিকাল ০৩:৩৫</p>   |
| <p>11 February 2022</p> | <p>BAT 's 2021 full-year results, published, demonstrate how business has delivered in a pivotal year. The results show that Group revenue was up 6.9%* for the year ended 31 December 2021, while New Categories revenue grew by more than 50%. In 2021, the growth, from 13.5m to 18.3m, in consumers of non-combustible products was our strongest to date. In Chief Executive's statement, Jack Bowles said: "2021 has been a pivotal year in our transformation journey to build A Better Tomorrow. continued to make excellent progress on strategic commitments while delivering value to all our stakeholders. It is thanks to the resilience of our people and partnerships that we are continuing to capitalise on the opportunities that are transforming our industry."</p> <p>Link</p> |  |
| <p>14 February, 2022</p> | <p>The Bangladesh Bidi Sramik Federation has formed a human chain, sit-in stage in front of the house of Finance Minister AHM Mostafa Kamal at Lalmai in Cumilla on 5-point demand to survive the bidi industry. President of Bidi Sramik Federation MK Bangali, Vice President Nazim Uddin, General Secretary Abdur Rahman, Organizing Secretary Abdul Gafur, among others, spoke at the event. The Bangladesh Bidi Sramik Federation organized a discussion meeting at Abdus Salam Auditorium of National Press Club in the capital with the slogan "Save Industry, Save Workers" to</p> | <p>বিজ্ঞপ্তি ও শ্রমিক বন্ধায় আলোচনা সভা</p> <p>১৪ ফেব্রুয়ারি, ২০২২</p>  |

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| | <p>protect the bidi industry from the 'conspiracy' of foreign multinational companies.</p> <p>Link Link Link</p> | <p>বাজেটে বিড়ি শিল্পে শুদ্ধ কমানোর দাবিতে মানববন্ধন করেছে শ্রমিকরা</p>  |
| 15 February, 2022 | <p>District Bidi Workers and Employees Unity Council has organized a human chain in front of the health minister's house in Manikganj in protest of the letter given to the health minister to stop production and sale of bidi. Arif, Manikganj District Bidi Workers and Employees Unity Council President; Ashraful, Co-President; Saiful Islam, General Secretary; Sujun Mahmud and others spoke at this time.</p> <p>Link</p> | <p>মানিকগঞ্জে বাছামঞ্জীর বাড়ির সামনে বিড়ি শ্রমিকদের মানববন্ধন</p> <p>প্রকাশিত: ১৩৪ ভাষাভাষা বঙ্গবন্ধু, ১০ ফেব্রুয়ারি, ২০২২ : ১০০ বার পড়ি একশে বেসে প্রতিদিন ও / অসমর্থিত জাতি</p>  |
| 17 February, 2022 | <p>BATB Territory Talks Chittagong!</p> <p>Mayesha Raidah, docked at the beautiful port city of Chittagong as Territory Officer of Feni. Her take shows what a typical day in the life of the Territory Officer looks like: an amalgamation of great times and hard work. BATB promote their work by uploading this type of video.</p> <p>Link</p> |  |
| 20 February, 2022 | <p>A human chain organized by officials and workers of Rangpur cigarette factories demanded resumption of domestic cigarette factories and handed over a memorandum to the Prime Minister through the Deputy Commissioner. Tobacco farmer Mostafa Firoz, RSM Cigarette Factory employee Real Ahmed Lutfar Rahman, Akram Hossain, administrative officer Nasir Hossain and others spoke at this time.</p> <p>Link Link</p> | <p>রংপুরে দেশীয় সিগারেট শিল্প রক্ষার দাবিতে মানববন্ধন ও স্মারকলিপি প্রদান</p> <p>৪ মিনিট: ৩০ সেকেন্ড ১:১৪.৯৭, ১০ ফেব্রুয়ারি, ২০২২</p>  |
| 21 February, 2022 | <p>BAT Bangladesh pays homage to all language martyrs</p> <p>On the occasion of International Mother Language Day, BAT Bangladesh pays deep respect to the martyrs of all languages.</p> <p>Link</p> |  |

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| <p>22 February, 2022</p> | <p>Popular Japan Tobacco has bought the tobacco business Akij Group and invested around 147.6 million US dollar which has made Japan-Bangladesh relations friendly and trustworthy.</p> <p>Link</p> | <p>জাপান বাংলাদেশ সম্পর্ক বন্ধুত্ব ও আস্থার দুশ শতাধিক বছর ধরে জাপান ও বাংলাদেশের মধ্যে একটি গুরুত্বপূর্ণ বন্ধুত্বপূর্ণ সম্পর্ক রয়েছে। এই সম্পর্কটি বাংলাদেশের জাপানি বিনিয়োগের ক্ষেত্রে একটি গুরুত্বপূর্ণ ভূমিকা পালন করেছে। ১৯ মার্চ ২০২২</p> <p>ফেসবুক টুইট ইন্সটাগ্রাম</p> <p>যেদে একটি ভাষায় লিখুন</p> <p>যাযযাদি</p> |
| <p>25 February, 2022</p> | <p>Chairman of the National Board of Revenue Abu Hena Mohammad Rahmatul Munim on the occasion of his arrival in Barisal was greeted with flowers by Bangladesh Bidi Industry Owners Association and Bangladesh Bidi Workers Federation. The flowers were greeted in front of the Barisal Tax Commissioner's Office under the leadership of Md. Lokman Hakim, Senior Vice President of Bangladesh Bidi Sramik Federation. At this time, labor leaders handed over a memorandum containing five demands to the chairman of the National Board of Revenue.</p> <p>Link Link</p> | <p>এনবিআর চেয়ারম্যানকে ফুলেল শুভেচ্ছা দিয়েছে বিড়ি মালিক ও শ্রমিকরা</p> <p>১৯ মার্চ ২০২২</p>  |
| <p>28 February, 2022</p> | <p>A human chain organized by Rangpur Bidi Sramik Union held in front of Rangpur Chamber of Commerce where speakers demanded five-point including bidi tariff reduction in next budget, withdrawal of 10 percent income tax in advance. The human chain conducted by Abul Hasnat Lablu, General Secretary of Bidi Sramik Union of Rangpur District (Haragachh) and presided over by Amin Uddin (BSc) is the Executive President of Bangladesh Bidi Sramik Federation.</p> <p>Link</p> | <p>শুষ্ক কমানোর দাবিতে রংপুর বিড়ি শ্রমিকদের মানববন্ধন</p> <p>১৯ মার্চ ২০২২</p>  |

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| 27 February, 2022 | <p>Artist Anisuzzaman gives the audience a glimpse into elements of culture of Bangladesh and Japan in his solo exhibition ongoing at the Edge Gallery in Gulshan. The exhibition, titled Embrace Friendship: Celebrating 50 years of Japan-Bangladesh Friendship, has been organized by Japan Tobacco International Bangladesh. It was inaugurated on February 25. Foreign minister AK Abdul Momen was present as chief guest while Japanese ambassador Ito Naoki was present as special guest at the inaugural ceremony.</p> <p>Link</p> |  <p>Solo exhibition celebrates 50 years of Bangladesh-Japan relations</p>   |
| TII on Misleading | | |
| 10 February, 2022 | <p>British American Tobacco (BATBC), a listed multinational company, has announced the lowest dividend in a decade for the year ended 31 December 2021. Shares of British American Tobacco have plummeted in the stock market as investors were disappointed with the dividend declared by the company's board of directors. As a result, the share price of the company has come down to Tk 918 crore in one day.</p> <p>Link</p> | <p>একদিনে ব্রিটিশ আমেরিকান টোব্যাকোতে নেই ৯১৮ কোটি</p>  <p>BRITISH AMERICAN TOBACCO</p> |
| TII on Tax | | |
| 05 February, 2022 | <p>Although 3 months have passed since the seizure of Monir Bidi consignment with fake band-roll in Paikgachha of Khulna, the concerned administration could not bring any owner of the manufacturing company or any concerned person under the law. The statement submitted to the police station in the incident was not recorded. Above all, there is the question of trying to cover up the incident of government revenue evasion.</p> <p>Link Link</p> | <p>সরকারি বাণিজ্যে বাতায় মনির বিড়ি'র ব্যান্ডরোল নকল প্রমাণিত, ৩ মাসেও জড়িতদের বিক্ষে বাবস্থা নেয়নি প্রশাসন</p> <p>শেখ হাসিনা শাহু, গাইবান্ধা</p> <p>৩ মাস আগে মনির বিড়ি'র ব্যান্ডরোল নকল প্রমাণিত, ৩ মাসেও জড়িতদের বিক্ষে বাবস্থা নেয়নি প্রশাসন</p>  |

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| 21 February, 2022 | 4 companies are marketing cigarettes with fake band-roll. A total of 9 brands of cigarettes sold in different parts of the country are using fake band-roll. And reusable band-roll was installed in 4 brands. This information has come out from the confidential report of the VAT detective recently. Cigarettes of 8 brands use fake band-roll which are - International Tobacco's Jet and Pickok; Heritage Tobacco's Guru, Vargo Tobacco's Partner, Country Gold, Virgin; Miraj Tobacco's Senior Gold. | <p>দুটি সেক্টরের প্রতিবেদন নকল ব্যান্ডরোলে জড়িত চার প্রতিষ্ঠান</p> <p>মহিলা: ৬ বছর বয়সের টিপি এবিয়ার প্রচারণা</p> <p>৬৪ Shares</p>  |
| 23 February, 2022 | The Commissionerate of Customs Evaluation and Internal Audit has recently submitted a report to the National Board of Revenue (NBR). According to the report, an organization called Dhaka Wire House has sold cigarettes to evade taxes by abusing the bond facility. | <p>মদ-সিগারেট বিক্রির ১৩০ কোটি টাকা শুদ্ধকর পরিশোধ করা হয়নি</p> <p>বিজ্ঞানমূলক কন্ট্রোল ওয়াইর হাউস সিটিয়ে</p>  |
| 24 February, 2022 | In a joint operation of Consumer Department and RAB-9, various types of illegal goods including fake band-roll bidi were seized from 11 shops of Gurakchi Bazar at Gowainghat in Sylhet border area. | <p>গোয়াইনঘাটে নকল বিড়ি জব্দ, জরিমানা</p> <p>সেবার হাউস</p> <p>২ শতাংশ দিলে কে</p> <p>১০০০</p>  |
| TII on Smuggling | | |
| 01 February 2022 | Cigarette smoking is extremely harmful to health. Counterfeit band-roll of cigarette stamps were originally smuggled into A-4 paper consignments and sent to cigarette manufacturers. This would have deprived the country of thousands of crores Taka in revenue. China wants to do more harm by fake cigarettes in fake packages. | <p>ফের বাংলাদেশে জাল পণ্য ছড়ানো চীন!</p> <p>১০০০</p>  <p>অবির কাগজের অভাবে বাংলাদেশে সিগারেটের নকল মোড়ক ও স্ট্যাম্প রফতানির অভিযোগ উঠেছে 'আসি সেক' নামধারী এক চীনা প্রতিষ্ঠানের বিরুদ্ধে। বিভিন্ন আসি সেক (সেলফোন) নামে এই প্রতিষ্ঠানটি বাংলাদেশে ১৪ টন এ-৪ কাগজ পাঠিয়েছিল। তবে সেই কাগজের প্যাকেটে ছিল সিগারেটের নকল মোড়ক, প্যাকেট ও স্ট্যাম্প।</p> |

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| 09 February 2022 | Police have recovered illegal Indian Nasir bidi from a private car in Juri upazila of Moulvibazar district. Link | মৌলভীবাজারে প্রাইভেট কারে মিলল ভারতীয় বিড়ি সিলেটের বার্তা চেষ্টা / 3১৩৮ বার পঠিত আপডেট: বুধবার, ১৬ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০২২, ১১:০৯ অপরাহ্ন  |
| 28 February 2022 | Chattogram Customs House and Customs Intelligence Department officials seized a large consignment of cigarettes from China at Chattogram port. The consignment brought under false declaration contains 1 crore 68 lakh 30 thousand cigarettes of different brands with market value of around Tk 25 crore. Tianyi Outdoor (BD) Company Limited, a Chinese company of Ishwardi EPZ, Pabna, is the importer of the consignment. Customs claimed that the importer tried to evade customs tariff of around Tk 22 crore in this one consignment. Link | মিথ্যায় ঘোষণায় চীন থেকে এলো দেড় কোটি শলাকা সিগারেট বিশ্বাস বুরল ৩০ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০২২ ১৯:০১ আপডেট: ২০ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০২২ ১৯:০১  |
| Others | | |
| 04 February 2022 | Mohammad Shahzad, batsman of Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) team Minister Dhaka, recently sparked a controversy by smoking inside the field and expected to be punished. He was officially warned by the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB). In addition to the reprimand, a demerit point has been added next to the name of this opener of Afghanistan. Link | আইন ভেঙে মাঠেই ধূমপান করলেন ঢাকার আফগান ক্রিকেটার শাহজাদ কোনো খেলায় মাঠের মধ্যে ধূমপান করেন, সেটা বড় খবরের অপরাধের মধ্যে পড়ে। ক্রিকেটের আইনের পরিধায়ে এমন এক কাহাই করলেন ঢাকা ক্রিমিয়ার সিনেটর (বিশিষ্ট) দল মিনিমিস্টার ঢাকার ক্রিকেটার মোহাম্মদ শাহজাদ।  |
| 06 February 2022 | Tobacco cultivation has increased in the last few years in Dighinala of Khagrachhari. As a result, the amount of paddy cultivation in the upazila is decreasing day by day. According to a tobacco farmer from Dighinala, they are inclined to cultivate tobacco as they get more profit from tobacco cultivation than paddy and other crops. Link | দীঘিনালায় তামাকের আগ্রাসনে হুমকিতে জনস্বাস্থ্য ১০ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০২২, ১১:০৯  দীঘিনালায় কচুরি বন্যে বন্যের দাপট ছাড়াও, এতে উপভোগ্য বন্য রাসায়নিক পদার্থের পরিমাণ বৃদ্ধি পায়। এটি সতে রাসায়নিক দ্রব্যের কারণে। কচুরি বন্যের দাপটের কারণে, রাসায়নিক, কৃষকদের দাবি থাকবে মনোযোগ দেয়া দিতে পারে। |

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| 08 February 2022 | <p>Farmers of this region are cultivating tobacco day after day in the hope of making more profit. Due to the complexity of getting seeds in production, high cost of production, not getting fair price of the product and lack of storage facilities, the farmers are still vulnerable to tobacco cultivation. As a result, despite the government's discouragement, farmers in Rangpur are not giving up tobacco cultivation.</p> <p>Link</p> |  |
| 09 February 2022 | <p>Students, including residents, are getting sick from the stench of tobacco in Tipu Gul (tobacco dentifrice) Company at Kaliganj in Lalmonirhat. According to the people, the Gul (tobacco dentifrice) company was set up here without any clearance from the Department of Environment. As a result, students including ordinary people have fallen ill due to the stench of tobacco.</p> <p>Link</p> |  |
| 09 February 2022 | <p>British American Tobacco Bangladesh Company (BATBC) has recommended 150 per cent or Tk 15 final cash dividend for 2021. However, the total cash dividend will be 275 per cent or Tk 27.50 for the year ended on December 31, 2021, including 125 per cent or Tk 12.50 interim cash dividend, which has already been paid, said the company in a filing with the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE).</p> <p>Link</p> |  |
| 11 February 2022 | <p>Farmers of Palashbari upazila of Gaibandha district are inclined to tobacco cultivation. Due to the lack of alternative profitable crops, farmers inclined to tobacco in the hope of making more profit, knowing that it is harmful to their health and the health of their families.</p> <p>Link</p> |  |

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| <div>#</div> <div>February 2022</div> | <p>Tobacco has been cultivated in more than 600 hectares of agricultural land in Khagrachari this year. And to burn this tobacco leaf will need about 4 lakh manas of wood. All of which is being collected by destroying green forests.</p> <p>Link</p> | |
| <div>#</div> <div>February 2022</div> | <p>Shares of British American Tobacco Bangladesh Company Limited, a listed company, will be traded on the spot market from 1 March 2022. Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) sources said.</p> <p>Link</p> | |