

Tobacco Industry Interference (TII) Monitoring Report

November 2021

Report Prepared

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Advisor

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November 2021, Dhaka, Bangladesh



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Supported by: The Union

Summary:

A total of 38 industry interferences were reported in November. Notable among these we identified that, British American Tobacco Bangladesh Company Limited (BATBC) in large industries category received "President's Award for Industrial Development-2019" and Managing Director of BAT Bangladesh, recently moderated a robust panel discussion on “The Changing Landscape of Bangladesh” at an event titled Celebrating 50 years of Bangladesh, organized by the Foreign Investors' Chamber of Industry & Commerce (FICCI).

With the technical assistance of the Union, WBB Trust has collected all the information about the interferences done by the tobacco companies. A brief report on the activities of tobacco companies has been prepared in recent times.

| Date | News and source | Evidence |
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| TII on TAPS | | |
| 17 November 2021 | <p>A fine of Tk 1,500 has been levied in the mobile court for controlling smoking and tobacco products in Rajbari. Under the leadership of Assistant Commissioner and Executive Magistrate Farzana Akhter, mobile courts were conducted at Sreepur Bazar and Alipur junctions in Rajbari. During the mobile court, 1,000 per person fined for public smoking and two persons were fined Tk.500 for advertising tobacco.</p> <p>Link</p> | <p>রাজবাড়ীতে ধূমপান ও তামাকজাত দ্রব্য নিয়ন্ত্রণে মোবাইল কোর্টে জরিমানা</p>  |
| TII on CSR | | |
| 07 November 2021 | <p>An award-giving ceremony held at capital's Osmani Memorial Auditorium with President Abdul Hamid as chief guest. Total 19 industrial enterprises including British American Tobacco Bangladesh Company Limited (BATBC) in large industries category jointly received "President's Award for Industrial Development-2019" for their contributions towards Bangladesh's economic growth.</p> <p>Link</p> |  <p>রাষ্ট্রপতির শিল্প উন্নয়ন পুরস্কার পেল বিএটি</p> |

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| <p>17 November 2021</p> | <p>A national-level workshop organized by British American Tobacco on "Sustainable Models of Sugarcane Cultivation" was held at the British American Tobacco Auditorium in Chenchua, Kushtia, where speakers held a day-long discussion on how to ensure proper yield of farmers through coordination between British American Tobacco Bangladesh and sugarcane growers. The workshop was chaired by Arifur Rahman Apu, Chairman of Bangladesh Sugar and Food Industries Corporation. Dr. Amjad Hossain, Director General, Bangladesh Sugar Resources Institute, Anwarul Alam, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Industries, and Ashraf Ali, Director, Sugar and Food Industries Corporation were present as special guest. Mohammad Saidul Islam, Kushtia Deputy Commissioner, Mubina Asaf, Legal and Extrarenal Affairs of British American Tobacco Bangladesh, Azizur Rahman, Head of Public Affairs and Company Secretary, Sajjad Hossain, Head of Leaf, Belayet Ali Ahsan, National Leaf Growing Manager, Sirajul Islam, Manager of Leaf Sustainability and Development and various levels officers of British American Tobacco Bangladesh were also present at the workshop.</p> <p>Link Link</p> | <p>আখ চাষীদের প্রশিক্ষণ দিতে কুষ্টিয়া সুগার মিলে পাইলট প্রকল্প নেয়া হয়েছে: শিল্প সচিব জাকিয়া সুলতানা</p> <p>November 17, 2021 4:59 pm</p>  |
| <p>23 November 2021</p> | <p>Mr. Shehzad Munim, Managing Director of BAT Bangladesh, recently moderated a robust panel discussion on "The Changing Landscape of Bangladesh" at an event titled Celebrating 50 years of Bangladesh, organized by the Foreign Investors' Chamber of Industry & Commerce (FICCI). Distinguished panellists included Shahriar Alam, MP, Honourable State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh, Md. Sirazul Islam, Executive Chairman, Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA), Nihad Kabir, President, Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) and Md. Mahbub ur Rahman, Chief Executive Officer, HSBC.</p> <p>Link Link</p> |  |

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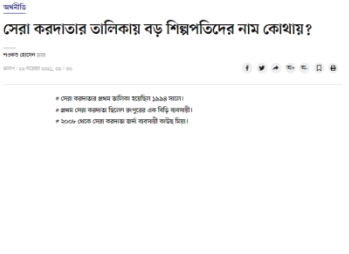


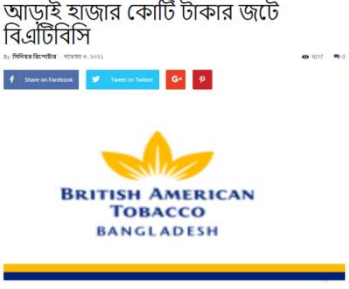
| | | |
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| 26 November 2021 | <p>British American Tobacco (BAT) Bangladesh won Asia Corporate Excellence and Sustainability (ACES) Awards 2021 as one of the Top Green Companies in Asia.</p> <p>Link Link</p> | <p>BAT Bangladesh became the top taxpayer at "Manufacturing – Others" category</p>  |
| TII on Misleading | | |
| 11 November 2021 | <p>The control of NGOs is increasing with the amendment of tobacco control law. Some NGOs are playing a leading role in drafting state policies. Relevant stakeholders are getting less importance. They have no place in policy making. Their opinion is not being taken. The position of the Ministry of Health in this regard has also been questioned. The concerned stakeholders have made such allegations. They fear that if only NGOs amend the tobacco law or formulate policies, it will be difficult to implement it properly.</p> <p>Link</p> | <p>ভার্মাক আইন সংশোধনে এনজিওর নিয়ন্ত্রণ</p>  |
| 24 November 2021 | <p>A directive from the local government department this year called for the adoption of separate or dual licenses for the retail sale of tobacco and tobacco products. Such an initiative would put the 1.5 million small traders and retailers involved in a more difficult reality.</p> <p>Link</p> | <p>খুল্লনা ব্যবসায়ীদের জীবনমান উন্নয়নের উদ্যোগে সমন্বয় প্রয়োজন</p>  |
| 25 November 2021 | <p>Consideration is being given to advising the use of vaping as a prescription to reduce smoking in the UK. In that case, the United Kingdom would be the first country to consider vaping as a form of anti-smoking drug. Michael Landall, director of the Vapor Alliance, said in a recent webinar that Vaping's success in quitting smoking is surprising. According to their organization, 200 million smokers in the world will be able to quit smoking with the help of vaping. Cigarettes and other smoking products need to be stopped to prevent social crime.</p> <p>Link</p> | <p>ধূমপান ছাড়তে ভেপিংয়ের পরামর্শ দিতে পারবেন যুক্তরাজ্যের চিকিৎসকেরা</p>  |

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| 26 November 2021 | <p>The first list of the best taxpayers was published in 1994. The first best taxpayer was a bidi trader from Rangpur. The best taxpayer since 2008 is Zarda (perfumed tobacco) businessman Kaus Mia.</p> <p>Link Link</p> |  |
| 28 November 2021 | <p>Kaus Mia, proprietor of Hakimpuri Zarda (perfumed tobacco) also best taxpayers for the 2020-21 tax year said in an exclusive interview that, he pays taxes to support Bangladesh's development.</p> <p>Link</p> |  |
| TII on Tax | | |
| 01 November 2021 | <p>A rescue team led by the revenue officer of Daulatpur, Bheramara Customs Excise and VAT Circle-2 in Kushtia conducted an operation and seized revenue evaded 1 lakh bidi with fake band- roll and 60 thousand bidi without VAT invoices of fake Akij bidi manufacturers, with market value of Tk. 115,200.</p> <p>Link</p> |  |
| 02 November 2021 | <p>Bidi factory has been started from house to house in Dewanganj of Jamalpur. Child labor is going on in these factories. There is no clearance from the Department of Environment, not paying government VAT.</p> <p>Link</p> |  |
| 03 November 2021 | <p>The National Board of Revenue (NBR) has demanded Tk. 2,471.10 crore from British American Tobacco Bangladesh Limited (BATBC), a food and accessories company listed on the stock exchange. According to NBR the special order of 2017, high rates of VAT and supplementary duty are applicable to international brands of cigarettes. This order was canceled in 2018. But before that, cigarettes are subject to high tariffs.</p> <p>Link</p> |  |

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| | Link | |
| 04 November 2021 | <p>A rescue team led by Kushtia Circle-2 Revenue Officer Rabiul Islam conducted an operation in area adjacent to Katherpol in the upazila, Customs Excise and VAT seize revenue evaded 240,000 sticks bidi without VAT invoices which market price Tk. 172,800 with revenue of Tk. 77,760 at Bheramara in Kushtia</p> <p>Link</p> | <p>কুষ্টিয়ায় মুসক চালান বিহীন বিপুল পরিমাণ বিড়ি জব্দ</p> <p>কুষ্টিয়া জেলা</p>  |
| 05 November 2021 | <p>A mobile court led by Executive Officer and Executive Magistrate Md. Sohail Rana, a total of 48,000 fake Dayal Bidi and New Dayal Bidi with fake band-roll were seized revenue evaded from 4 shops and fined Tk. 35,000 in cash at Kalmakanda upazila in Netrokona.</p> <p>Link</p> | <p>নেত্রকোণায় বিপুল পরিমাণ নকল ব্যান্ডরোল মুক্ত বিড়ি জব্দ</p> <p>নেত্রকোণা জেলা</p>  |
| 09 November 2021 | <p>A mobile court has fined two traders for selling fake bidi at the Krishnerchar market in Netrokona's Durgapur Upazila. Durgapur Upazila Assistant Commissioner (Land) and Executive Magistrate Md Arifur Rahman conducted the operation around 11 am on Monday (November 8). It is learned that a raid was carried out at Krishnerchar Bazar of Durgapur Upazila around 11 am on Monday (November 8). At that time, Johnny Bidi and Hannan Bidi with 52,000 fake bidi were seized from the shops of two traders in the market.</p> <p>Link</p> | <p>রাজবাড়ীতে নকল ব্যান্ডরোল মুক্ত বিড়ি জব্দ</p> <p>রাজবাড়ী জেলা</p>  |
| 11 November 2021 | <p>Afloat business with fake band-roll bidi is going on in Pabna. It has been seen that in different markets of Dhalur Char Union of Bera Upazila of the district, beauty bidi, Sihab bidi and Bisti bidi with fake brand roll are being sold by the traders in front of the eyes of the administration with government revenue evasion.</p> <p>Link</p> | <p>পাবনায় নকল ব্র্যান্ডরোল মুক্ত বিড়ির রমরমা ব্যবসা</p> <p>পাবনা জেলা</p>  |

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| 13 November 2021 | An operation led by Obaidur Rahman, OC (Investigation), Nandail Model Police Station arrested one person named Hafiz Uddin and seized revenue evaded 65,000 bidi with fake band-roll at Nandail in Mymensingh. Link | <p>নকল ব্যান্ডরোলযুক্ত বিড়ি বিক্রির দায়ে ব্যবসায়ী গ্রেফতার</p>  |
| 14 November 2021 | In an operation led by Amirul Islam Masud, Assistant Director, Department of Consumer Protection, Sylhet seized revenue evaded Nasir bidi and hand-made bidi and fined 5 traders Tk. 20,000 at Osmaninagar in Sylhet. Link | <p>সেমনীনগরে জোড়ার অভিযানে নকল বিড়ি জব্দ, ২০ হাজার টাকা জরিমানা</p>  |
| 16 November 2021 | Nandail Model Police have arrested Hafiz Uddin, bidi seller with 65,000 bidi for affixing fake stamps in Mymensingh's Nandail Upazila. The value of recovered bidi is Tk. 52,200. Link | <p>নন্দাইল নকল স্টাম্পে ৬৫ হাজার বিড়ি সহ বিক্রীত একেবারে</p>  |
| 17 November 2021 | A mobile court jointly conducted by Assistant Commissioner and Executive Magistrate Sadia Ummul Banin and Rifat Ara seized 42000 Kajal bidi and fined 5 traders Tk. 7,500 for selling and stocking bidi with fake band-roll in Hiranpur market of Purbadhala upazila of Netrokona. Link | <p>নেত্রকোণায় নকল বিড়ি বিক্রয় ও মজুদের জন্য ৫ ব্যবসায়ীকে জরিমানা</p>  |
| 23 November 2021 | In a joint operation of RAB-9 and Consumer Rights Protection Department Sylhet in three markets of Jalalabad Police Station of Sylhet Metropolitan Police, five traders were fined Tk 22,000 including confiscating bidi with fake band-rolls, from 6 shops in Badaghat Bazar, Peterganj Bazar and Islamganj Bazar under Jalalabad Police Station. Link | <p>জালালাবাদ থানার তিনটি বাজারে জোড়ার অভিযানে, নকল বিড়ি জব্দ</p>  |

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| 24 November 2021 | An operation jointly led by Amirul Islam Masud, Assistant Director, Directorate of National Consumer Rights Protection, Sylhet and Armed Police Battalion seized revenue evaded Bacchu bidi with fake band- roll and fined 5 traders Tk. 25,000 at Jaintapur in Sylhet. Link |  |
| TII on Smuggling | | |
| 01 November 2021 | An operation led by Detective Branch (DB) team detained revenue evaded Indian Nasir bidi worth Tk. 1, 27,500 at Kamal Bazar in Dakshin Surma of Sylhet. Link |  |
| 01 November 2021 | During the RAB-5 operation, Md. Sadiqul Islam (35) was arrested along with revenue evaded 57,120 pieces Indian bidi. Link Link |  |
| 21 November 2021 | An operation led by Sub- Inspector, Shamsheernagar Police Station, a person named Farid Ali (22) was arrested with revenue evaded 12,000 Indian Nasir bidi at Kamalganj in Moulvibazar. Link Link |  |
| Others | | |
| 09 November 2021 | Farmers are leaning towards tobacco farming in hope of making more profit as there is no fixed market price of maize and no maize industry set up in the vast maize producing Lalmonirhat district. Besides, tobacco companies provide cash loans in advance, seed, fertilizer, pesticide and cultivation cost for tobacco cultivation then buys tobacco at fixed price. Link Link Link |  |

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| 13 November 2021 | <p>The Ministry of Local Government convened a meeting on 15 November, 2101, to implement the guidelines for tobacco control activities of local government organizations. Letters inviting participants to attend the meeting already sent. As part of this, the government also invited the president of Bangladesh Cigarette Manufacturers Association. The issue is said to have caused widespread concern and anxiety among those involved in anti-tobacco activities. They also wrote a letter to a senior secretary of the local government ministry, demanding cancellation of the meeting with representatives of the tobacco company.</p> <p>Link Link</p> | <p>তামাক নিয়ন্ত্রণ গাইডলাইন-বিষয়ক সভায় কোম্পানির প্রতিনিধিরাও আমন্ত্রিত।</p>  |
| 15 November 2021 | <p>Farmers are leaning towards tobacco farming in hope of making more profit as there is no fixed market price of maize and no maize industry set up in the vast maize producing Lalmonirhat district. Besides, tobacco companies provide cash loans in advance, seed, fertilizer, pesticide and cultivation cost for tobacco cultivation then buys tobacco at fixed price.</p> <p>Link</p> | <p>গরুর গোশালীরা লাভবান হতে চান বলে ট্যাকো চাষের দিকে ঝুঁকছেন</p>  |
| 17 November 2021 | <p>The government has determined the profit from the sale of agricultural products at the wholesale and retail level starting from the producer. In the meantime, the Ministry of Agriculture has issued 'Agricultural Marketing Rules 2021' with the power given by the Agriculture Marketing Act. The rules state that profits can be made at a rate of 30 per cent at the producer level, 15 per cent at wholesale and a maximum of 25 per cent at retail, including tobacco and other food grains and processed products.</p> <p>Link</p> | <p>নিত্যপণ্যে লাভের হার বেঁধে দিল সরকার</p>  |
| 18 November 2021 | <p>The amount of foreign debt in the private sector is increasing. Different countries and multinational companies are giving loans in different sectors including tobacco companies of the country.</p> <p>Link</p> | <p>বেসরকারি খাতে বাড়ছে বিদেশী ঋণের পরিমাণ</p>  |

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| 19 November 2021 | <p>Ahead of the third phase of UP elections in the election campaign apart from appeasing male voters with bidis and cigarettes, Gul (Tobacco dentifrice) and chocolates are being distributed for women and children.</p> <p>Link</p> | <p>কালিয়ায় নির্বাচনী প্রচারে গুল ও চকলেট</p> <p>কালিয়া (গুড়াইল) প্রতিবেদন</p> <p>৩ নভেম্বর ১৯ নভেম্বর ১৯ : ১৯:৪১ ১৯ নভেম্বর ১৯ : ১৯:৪১</p> <p>ফেসবুক টুইটার ইন্সটাগ্রাম ইউটিউব</p>  <p>স্থানীয় সুর আদায়, এলাকার নির্বাচনী প্রচারে পুরুষ ভোটারদের বিড়ি ও গিলাটে দিয়ে ছুই করার পাশাপাশি নারী ও শিশুদের জন্য চকলেট আর চকলেট বিতরণ। এমন নিয়ে চলছে ব্যাপক সমস্যাসহ।</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|----------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|-------|-------------------------------------|-------|-------------------------------------|------|-------------------------------------|------|-------------------------------------|------|-------------------------------------|------|-------------------------------------|------|-------------------------------------|------|-------------------------------------|------|-------------------------------------|------|
| 20 November 2021 | <p>According to the central bank, Japan Tobacco, along with other sectors, was at the forefront of foreign investment in the country in the last financial year. The second highest FDI inflow after Grameenphone was that of Japan Tobacco International (JTI) Bangladesh Limited.</p> <p>Link</p> | <p>২০২০-২১ অর্থবছরে নিট এফডিআই প্রবাহ</p> <table><tr><th>কোম্পানি</th><th>ফডিআই (মিলিয়ন ডলার)</th></tr><tr><td>জাপান টোবাকো ইন্টারন্যাশনাল (জাপান)</td><td>১৮.৩৬</td></tr><tr><td>জাপান টোবাকো ইন্টারন্যাশনাল (জাপান)</td><td>১০.৪২</td></tr><tr><td>জাপান টোবাকো ইন্টারন্যাশনাল (জাপান)</td><td>৯.৮৫</td></tr><tr><td>জাপান টোবাকো ইন্টারন্যাশনাল (জাপান)</td><td>৯.৮৫</td></tr><tr><td>জাপান টোবাকো ইন্টারন্যাশনাল (জাপান)</td><td>৯.৮৫</td></tr><tr><td>জাপান টোবাকো ইন্টারন্যাশনাল (জাপান)</td><td>৯.৮৫</td></tr><tr><td>জাপান টোবাকো ইন্টারন্যাশনাল (জাপান)</td><td>৯.৮৫</td></tr><tr><td>জাপান টোবাকো ইন্টারন্যাশনাল (জাপান)</td><td>৯.৮৫</td></tr><tr><td>জাপান টোবাকো ইন্টারন্যাশনাল (জাপান)</td><td>৯.৮৫</td></tr><tr><td>জাপান টোবাকো ইন্টারন্যাশনাল (জাপান)</td><td>৯.৮৫</td></tr></table> <p>বিনিয়োগ সবচেয়ে বেশি গ্রামীণফোন, জাপান টোব্যাকো ও স্ট্যান্ডার্ড চার্টার্ডের</p> | কোম্পানি | ফডিআই (মিলিয়ন ডলার) | জাপান টোবাকো ইন্টারন্যাশনাল (জাপান) | ১৮.৩৬ | জাপান টোবাকো ইন্টারন্যাশনাল (জাপান) | ১০.৪২ | জাপান টোবাকো ইন্টারন্যাশনাল (জাপান) | ৯.৮৫ | জাপান টোবাকো ইন্টারন্যাশনাল (জাপান) | ৯.৮৫ | জাপান টোবাকো ইন্টারন্যাশনাল (জাপান) | ৯.৮৫ | জাপান টোবাকো ইন্টারন্যাশনাল (জাপান) | ৯.৮৫ | জাপান টোবাকো ইন্টারন্যাশনাল (জাপান) | ৯.৮৫ | জাপান টোবাকো ইন্টারন্যাশনাল (জাপান) | ৯.৮৫ | জাপান টোবাকো ইন্টারন্যাশনাল (জাপান) | ৯.৮৫ | জাপান টোবাকো ইন্টারন্যাশনাল (জাপান) | ৯.৮৫ |
| কোম্পানি | ফডিআই (মিলিয়ন ডলার) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| জাপান টোবাকো ইন্টারন্যাশনাল (জাপান) | ১৮.৩৬ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| জাপান টোবাকো ইন্টারন্যাশনাল (জাপান) | ১০.৪২ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| জাপান টোবাকো ইন্টারন্যাশনাল (জাপান) | ৯.৮৫ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| জাপান টোবাকো ইন্টারন্যাশনাল (জাপান) | ৯.৮৫ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| জাপান টোবাকো ইন্টারন্যাশনাল (জাপান) | ৯.৮৫ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| জাপান টোবাকো ইন্টারন্যাশনাল (জাপান) | ৯.৮৫ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| জাপান টোবাকো ইন্টারন্যাশনাল (জাপান) | ৯.৮৫ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| জাপান টোবাকো ইন্টারন্যাশনাল (জাপান) | ৯.৮৫ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| জাপান টোবাকো ইন্টারন্যাশনাল (জাপান) | ৯.৮৫ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| জাপান টোবাকো ইন্টারন্যাশনাল (জাপান) | ৯.৮৫ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 19 November 2021 | <p>The National Board of Revenue (NBR) is going to award the best VAT payers to 9 companies at the national level on the occasion of National VAT Day on December 10. In the fiscal year 2019-20, the Internal Resources Department has selected 9 companies at the national level and 102 companies at the district level as the best VAT payers in the production, business and service categories. In the manufacturing sector category Heritage Tobacco in Kishoreganj, Milon Bidi in Rangpur, Moti Bidi and Alam Bidi in Lalmonirhat are also included.</p> <p>Link</p> | <p>জাতীয় পয়সা ভাটি পুরস্কার পাবে ১০২ প্রতিষ্ঠান</p> <p>জাতীয় পয়সা ভাটি পুরস্কার পাবে ১০২ প্রতিষ্ঠান</p>  <p>জাতীয় পয়সা ভাটি পুরস্কার পাবে ১০২ প্রতিষ্ঠান</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 25 November 2021 | <p>Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) instructed listed companies and mutual funds to submit stock dividends or bonus shares or unclaimed rights shares in Capital Market Stability Fund (CMSF) which not been declared or undisclosed or allocated. Among the listed companies, British American Tobacco Bangladesh Company Limited (BATBC), a multinational tobacco company, has highest unpaid dividend of Tk. 8,809.45 crore.</p> <p>Link</p> | <p>পুঁজিবাজারে বিনিয়োগকারীরা অবশিষ্ট ষ্টক লভ্যাক্ষেপে অথবা বোনাস শেয়ারে নির্দেশনা</p> <p>পুঁজিবাজারে বিনিয়োগকারীরা অবশিষ্ট ষ্টক লভ্যাক্ষেপে অথবা বোনাস শেয়ারে নির্দেশনা</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

November 2021, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Supported by: The Union

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| <p>27 November 2021</p> | <p>Japan Tobacco, a Japanese tobacco manufacturing and marketing company, recently acquired the Akij Group's tobacco business. The Japanese company invested about 150 crore (1.5 billion) dollar.</p> <p>Link</p> |  |
| <p>28 November 2021</p> | <p>In the Barishal city, Karikar Bidi factory on the spot and talk, with the child labor. He made one thousand bidi and got wage of 25 Taka. According to him, due to poverty in family besides studying, he works in a bidi factory.</p> <p>Link</p> |  |
| <p>30 November 2021</p> | <p>Abul Khair, the founder of Abul Khair Group, in 1953, he started making bidi with two workers. He used to sell that bidi again. Named 'Abul Bidi No. 42'. The bidi business boom.</p> <p>Link</p> |  |