

## **National Revenue Board (NBR) Allegedly Favoring Tobacco Companies**

BBC Bangla Report, Dated 11 November 2019

From a human chain organized by 18 anti-tobacco organizations, it was alleged that NBR had been interfering in the finalization of the National Tobacco Control Policy (NTCP) on behalf of tobacco companies. It was informed that the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) sought opinions from relevant Ministries and departments before the finalization of NTCP. However, according to PROGGA, the organizer of the human chain, NBR sent a letter to MoHFW where it urged the Ministry to take tobacco and tobacco products manufacturers' opinions into account. This goes against Bangladesh's commitment to becoming tobacco-free by 2040 and its obligation as a signatory of the WHO FCTC. On the issue of such allegation, the NBR chairman referred to the revenue contribution of the tobacco sector and said that it would be impossible to implement such policy if we do not consult tobacco companies as a stakeholder. However, anti-tobacco organizations said that the economic toll of the deaths and illnesses caused by tobacco was much larger than the revenue it generates.

Full Report: <https://www.bbc.com/bengali/news-50379106>