



BATB Opposing Tobacco Law Amendment

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British American Tobacco Bangladesh (BATB) has very recently sent a letter to the National Board of Revenue (NBR) asking the govt body to interfere on its behalf in the ongoing amendment of tobacco control law, as initiated by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW). The letter, signed by the company's Head of External Affairs, has been received by NBR's Large Taxpayers Unit (LTU) on 25 August 2022. BATB mentioned in the letter that, in FY 2021-22, the govt. received around BDT 29,000 crore as revenue from the cigarette industry. BATB raised the allegation that the company itself or Bangladesh Cigarette Manufacturers Association (BCMA) should have been given the opportunity to participate in the amendment process. It also mentioned that several provisions included in the amendment, i.e., mandatory licensing to sell tobacco and tobacco products, ban on the sale of single sticks, ban on the sale of tobacco products within 100 meters of educational institutions, hospitals, playgrounds, and children's parks, elimination of designated smoking areas (DSAs), a ban on the production, marketing, sale and promotion of e-cigarettes, and ban on CSR of tobacco companies - would threaten the existence of tobacco business.

Full Report: <https://www.dailyjanakantha.com/economy/news/664494>