

Media Coverage Report

Dear All

Bureau of Economic Research (BER), University of Dhaka and Bangladesh Network for Tobacco Tax Policy (BNTTP) jointly organized National Seminar on 'Specific Taxation on Tobacco Products to Protect Public Health' on 24 August 2022 at NEC conference room of the Ministry of Planning. We are sharing the brief report of the event below:

National Seminar on Specific Taxation on Tobacco Products to Protect Public Health



A national seminar on 'Specific Taxation on Tobacco Products to Protect Public Health' was held on 24 August 2022, Wednesday at 11.00 a.m. at the NEC conference room of the Ministry of Planning. The seminar was jointly organized by the University of Dhaka's Bureau of Economic Research (BER) and the Bangladesh Network for Tobacco Tax Policy (BNTTP).

The Honourable Minister of Planning, Ministry, M. A. Mannan MP, was present as the chief guest in the seminar and the coordinator (Additional Secretary) of the National Tobacco Control Cell (NTCC), Hossain Ali Khandaker was the special guest. Syed Mahfuzul Haque, National Professional Officer of World Health Organization (WHO), Mostafizur Rahman, Lead Policy Advisor of Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids (CTFK), and Syed Mahbulul Alam Tahin, Technical Advisor of the international organization The Union were present as special discussants. The seminar was chaired by the former chairman of the National Board of Revenue, Dr. Nasir Uddin Ahmed.

BER's focal person Professor Dr. Rumana Huque delivered the keynote presentation at the seminar. She mentioned the features and advantages of specific taxation and how it can be implemented in Bangladesh too.

Venue and Time

NEC conference room
Ministry of Planning

11.00 AM –1.00PM
24 August, 2022

Organized by



Apart from her, Sushant Sinha, a tobacco control researcher and special correspondent of Ekattor Television gave a presentation on 'Tobacco company's tactics and intervention in revenue evasion'. The seminar was also attended by representatives from various government, private and international organizations, development workers, and journalists.

speakers at the event said that it is possible to provide free heart treatment across the country if BDT 450 crore was allocated for this purpose. This expenditure can be met by imposing specific taxes and raising tax rates on tobacco. Besides, the government is losing about BDT 5000 crore of revenue annually as the cigarette companies are selling cigarettes at prices higher than the maximum retail price.

The government should take immediate action to stop this tax evasion. Simultaneously, the retail sale of single-stick cigarettes and bidis should be banned. Because the government is losing a huge amount of revenue and consumers are also encouraged to keep on using tobacco. Apart from imposing specific taxation on tobacco products, the four-tiered tax structure of cigarettes should be gradually brought down to one-tier.

News links

We have sent a press release on this event. Which covered extensively in 68 major leading media houses. (print newspapers, online news portals and TV). Some media stories are given below:

- [Bangladesh Post](#)
- [The business standard](#)
- [Jago News](#)
- [Kalerkantho](#)
- [Sun News](#)
- [Bhorer kagoj](#)
- [Daily Sokaler Somoy](#)
- [Probash time](#)
- [Bangla insider](#)
- [Share Biz](#)
- [Dainik Amader Shomoy](#)
- [Daily banalata](#)
- [Dhaka Post](#)
- [Protidiner chitro](#)
- [Bangla Tribun](#)
- [Sara bangla](#)
- [Samakal](#)
- [Bangla Probaho](#)
- [Newsg24](#)
- [Somoy news](#)
- [Star Sangbad](#)
- [Daily Navadiganta](#)
- [Arthosuchak](#)
- [Dainik shorobor](#)
- [Khola Kagoj](#)
- [Gramer kagoj](#)
- [Business Bangladesh](#)
- [Barta24](#)
- [Protidiner Chitro](#)
- [Swadesh Bani](#)
- [Ab News](#)
- [Daily kolom Kotha](#)
- [Ajker Arthoniti](#)
- [Share News](#)
- [Shomoyer Alo](#)
- [Daily Prapti prosongo](#)
- [News24](#)
- [Prabartan](#)
- [Gonomanuser Khobor](#)
- [Narsingdi Journal](#)
- [Bangla71news](#)
- [ukbdty](#)
- [Dainik shomoyer kantho](#)
- [Ekushey sangbad](#)
- [Radio today](#)
- [EkattorTV](#)
- [BTV](#)