

Seminar on "Importance of Standard Packaging Model to Protect Tobacco Tax Evasion in Bangladesh"



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[Tobacco Control and Research Cell \(TCRC\)](#) of Dhaka International University arranged the seminar titled 'Importance of Standard Packaging Model to Protect Tobacco Tax Evasion in Bangladesh' at Lakeshore Hotel at Gulshan in Dhaka on Tuesday (October 5).

Program Manager of WBB Trust Syeda Anonna Rahman moderated the event, while TCRC's Programme Manager Farhana Zaman Liza presented the keynote paper in the seminar.

'Standard tobacco packaging will prevent revenue evasion'

Staff Correspondent

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Tobacco Control and Research Cell (TCRC) of Dhaka International University arranged the seminar titled 'Necessity of Promoting Standard Packaging of Tobacco Products to Prevent Revenue Evasion' at Lakeshore Hotel at Gulshan in Dhaka on Tuesday (October 5).

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President of NATAB Muzaffar Hossain Palto chaired the event, while Pabna-1 MP Advocate Shamsul Haque Tuku, Gaibandha-1 MP Barrister Shameem Haider Patwari, Nilphamari-3 MP Rana Mohammad Sohail, Lead Consultant of Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids (CTFK-Bangladesh) Md Mostafizur Rahman, Country Manager of Vital Strategies Md Nasir Uddin Sheikh, Farida Akhter of Ubining and Shagufta Sultana, Project Director of Aid Foundation, took part in the discussion on the keynote.

Representatives of Grambangla, DAS, Tabinaz and Bangladesh Anti-Tobacco Alliance (BATA) also attended the seminar.

In her keynote, Farhana Zaman Liza



Tobacco Control and Research Cell (TCRC) of Dhaka International University arranged a seminar titled 'Necessity of Promoting Standard Packaging of Tobacco Products to Prevent Revenue Evasion' in Dhaka on Tuesday.

presented the data and statistics of monitoring reports that were collected from 265 marketplaces in 64 districts in eight phases. A total of 10,074 packs of cigarettes, bidi, jorda and gul were monitored. The study found differences in size, poor packaging and other faults. Such poor and deceptive packaging is mainly used to evade revenue and cheat the tobacco users. The introduction of standard packaging will be the only solution to the problem, she mentioned. In his presidential speech, Muzaffar Hossain Palto said that the majority of the MPs have now started working for tobacco control. However, it is unfortunate that many decisions are being made at the administrative level for the spread of tobacco. It is contradictory to building a tobacco free Bangladesh. It is not possible to build a tobacco-free country with state partnership in tobacco companies, he added.

Speaking as the chief guest, Advocate Shamsul Haque Tuku said, "We have to reduce the tobacco

production in order to reduce the demand. The tobacco companies are evading revenue in various ways. The introduction of standard packaging of tobacco products will play a vital role in preventing evasion, he opined.

Barrister Shameem Haider Patwari said that the investment in tobacco is increasing in Bangladesh, while the tobacco trade is being stopped in different countries of the world. "Tobacco products are available in our country. For this reason, the number of tobacco users in the country is decreasing very slowly. The introduction of standard packaging of tobacco products will increase revenue in the country as well as reduce the tobacco use," he added.

Rana Mohammad Sohail said those involved in tobacco production are strong. In many ways, they will create obstacles in the implementation of the goal of building a tobacco-free Bangladesh by 2040. However, the government is committed to making the country tobacco free.

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