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# NEWS BULLETIN



## EDITORIAL

What was once a frontier of rapid consumption has matured into a sophisticated landscape where the Consumer is no longer just a buyer but a protected stakeholder. It is with this spirit of evolution that we welcome you to the 27<sup>th</sup> edition of The Legal Counsel News Bulletin. In this issue, we turn our lens toward the FMCG sector especially, the packaged food sector. As global standards and local expectations converge, the concept of Consumer Protection and Product Liability has moved from the fine print of legal textbooks to the forefront of any FMCG business model. Amidst this era of accountability, we analyze the judicial precedents and corporate shifts that are setting the tone for the year. This publication is part of our firm's ongoing commitment to knowledge dissemination, designed to bridge the gap between legislative shifts and practical industry application.

## ON A SERIOUS NOTE:

What's the difference between Marketing and Legal in product launches?



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## Navigating Consumer Protection and Product Liability in Bangladesh: Packaged Food, Beverage and Tobacco Products

### Understanding Consumer Protection (CP) and Product Liability (PL)

We, as human beings, consider it as a fundamental right to be able to eat and consume safe food. Consuming safe food is not only necessary for survival but it is also essential for health, well-being and overall quality of life. Every day, we buy food and beverages from markets, restaurants and shops with the simple expectation that what we consume is safe for ourselves and our children.

To safeguard consumers from harmful and defective food products, Bangladesh has developed legal frameworks to ensure that manufacturers, distributors, and retailers remain accountable for their actions. CP ensures that buyers are not misled or affected by unsafe or poor-quality products. PL focuses on the accountability of manufacturers, sellers, and distributors when a product is defective.

### The Significance of CP and PL in Bangladesh

Bangladesh's speedy advancement towards urbanization, industrialization, and easier access to packaged and processed foods as well as carbonated drinks make CP and PL essential. Although product accessibility has been improved through these developments, they have also heightened the risk of contamination, adulteration, misleading labeling, and the sale of substandard goods. The food and beverage industry is especially vulnerable because incidents involving contaminated milk, expired packaged snacks, or unregulated beverages underscore the pressing need for safety measures. CP safeguards consumers, while product liability holds manufacturers accountable, encouraging proper quality control, adherence to safety standards, and transparent labeling, thereby reducing both health risks and financial losses.

### Legal Framework for CP and PL

There is a structured legal framework in Bangladesh to address CP, although it does not have any single unified 'Product Liability Act' for addressing PL. Instead, liability arises from multiple legal frameworks: contractual obligations under the Sale of Goods Act, 1930, statutory CP via the Consumers' Rights Protection Act, 2009 (CRPA 2009) enforced by the Directorate of National Consumer Rights Protection (DNCRP), common law tort principles for negligence, and sector-specific laws such as the Food Safety Act, 2013 with standards set by Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI) etc.

The CRPA 2009 is the cornerstone legislation that guarantees several fundamental consumer rights, including access to safe, accurately measured, and non-adulterated goods. It also aims to curb fraudulent practices such as hoarding, food adulteration, and misleading packaging and also allows consumers to claim compensation for damages caused by defective or unsafe products.

Complementing this is the Food Safety Act, 2013, which establishes standards for the production, packaging, labeling, and hygiene of food and beverage products. Together, these laws create a system in which manufacturers are obligated to ensure product safety, and consumers have formal channels for grievance redress. Besides, there are stringent laws for certain consumable products, like tobaccos, where the manufacturers need to go through stricter regulatory regime due to the very nature of their offerings. This dual approach not only protects public health but also encourages accountability in the industry.

In addition to these primary statutes, CP is governed by a range of other legislative instruments, including but not limited to:

- The Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution Act, 2018
- The Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
- The Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 2023
- The Essential Commodity Act, 1956
- The Essential Commodity Act, 1957
- The Fish and Fish Products (Inspection and Quality Control) Act, 2020
- The Food Production, Storage, Transfer, Transport, Supply, Distribution and Marketing (Prevention of Hazardous Activities) Act, 2023
- The Maternal Milk Substitute, Infant Foods, Commercially Prepared Complementary Foods and Related Products (Marketing Control) Act, 2013
- The Mobile Court Act, 2009
- The Penal Code, 1860
- The Sale of Goods Act, 1930
- The Smoking and Tobacco Products Usage (Control) Act, 2005
- The Special Powers Act, 1974
- The Trade Marks Act, 2009
- The Weights and Measures Standards Act, 2018

## Industry Response to CP Laws in Bangladesh

Large multinational companies operating in Bangladesh in sectors such as dairy products, infant nutrition, packaged foods, carbonated beverages, tobacco-related products etc. are increasingly attempting to ensure CP and PL through their structured compliance systems. As a result, many of these companies have generally embraced compliance by improving product quality, labeling and testing, and internal quality control systems. They also interact with regulatory authorities such as the Bangladesh Food Safety Authority (BFSA) and the BSTI to ensure compliance with national regulations. Local Companies are also competing on par with the MNCs in terms of improved product quality and ensuring CP and PL obligations to remain as attractive choices to consumers.

## Remedies and Challenges in Enforcement

While Bangladesh has strong consumer protection laws, enforcement is inconsistent due to limited resources, staffing, and bureaucratic hurdles. Consumers can lodge complaints directly to DNCRP, and violations may result in both civil and criminal penalties. However, gaps remain, especially in rural and informal markets, allowing some unsafe or mislabeled products to circulate. Strengthening institutional capacity, inter-agency coordination, and public awareness is essential for effective enforcement.

## Comparison with International Standards

While Bangladesh has advanced in CP, its legal framework has limitations compared to international standards. Unlike jurisdictions such as the EU or the US, Bangladesh lacks mechanisms like punitive damages or class-action suits, which act as strong deterrents against negligent manufacturers. The local food safety and labeling standards are not fully aligned with global norms and strengthening these areas would better protect consumers and enhance the competitiveness of Bangladeshi products internationally.

## Raising Awareness and Building Capacity

Effective CP and PL require awareness among both businesses and consumers. Manufacturers must recognize compliance as essential for reputation and trust, supported by training, guidelines, and best-practice programs. Consumers, in turn, need education on their rights, accessible complaint mechanisms, and clear information on remedies.

## Conclusion

It is encouraging how manufacturers and every actor in the value-chain in such industries are increasingly considering CP and PL compliance as fundamental to their businesses, while at the same time the consumers are also becoming more and more aware of their rights. It is the perfect juncture where the government machineries shall act both as catalysts to the development of the compliance regime as well as enforcer of laws.

## CURRENT AFFAIRS

### New Parliament Begins Work: 133 Ordinances Referred to Special Committee

Bangladesh held its 13<sup>th</sup> National Parliamentary Election on February 12, 2026, with millions voting across more than 42,000 polling centers. Following the election, the new government took office and the 13<sup>th</sup> Parliament commenced work as newly elected MPs took their oaths. In this context, Parliament referred 133 ordinances issued during the Interim Government's 18 month tenure to a 14 member special committee for scrutiny. Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Md. Asaduzzaman proposed that the ordinances, placed before Parliament on March 13, be examined by the committee. The proposal was approved by voice vote and the committee has been instructed to submit its report by April 2.

### Helping Hands: Family Card Initiative:

The newly formed government has introduced a "Family Card" program aimed at supporting low-income and vulnerable households as part of its broader social safety net initiatives. Under the scheme, eligible families may receive monthly financial assistance estimated between Tk 2,000 and Tk 2,500, which can be used to purchase essential commodities or meet basic household expenses. Eligibility is expected to prioritize poor, landless and female-headed households, while families with stable income sources, significant assets or formal employment, such as government service or other established employment may not qualify for the scheme.

### Barrister Ruhul Quddus Kazal Appointed Bangladesh's 18<sup>th</sup> Attorney General

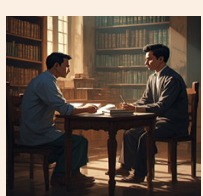
Senior Advocate Barrister Ruhul Quddus Kazal has been appointed as the 18<sup>th</sup> Attorney General of Bangladesh, taking over the reins from former Attorney General and current Law Minister Md. Asaduzzaman. A Barrister-at-Law of Lincoln's Inn, he holds LL.B (Hons) and LL.M degrees from the University of Dhaka and brings over three decades of legal experience. He is a senior advocate of the Supreme Court, former Secretary of the Supreme Court Bar Association and a current member of the Bangladesh Bar Council.

Legal Counsel conveys its sincere congratulations and best wishes to him for his new role.

## DID YOU KNOW



Certain legal documents such as agreements, leases, powers of attorney and conveyances must be executed on properly stamped instruments under the Stamp Act, 1899. According to Section 35 of the Stamp Act, 1899, an instrument that is not duly stamped may generally not be admitted as evidence in court unless the required duty and penalty are paid.



In Bangladesh, the Legal Aid Services Act of 2000 ensures that low-income citizens can access free legal assistance. This means that anyone who cannot afford a lawyer for civil or criminal cases can apply to the Legal Aid Services Organization, which provides representation, advice and mediation services. It's considered a key part of Bangladesh's effort to make justice more accessible, especially for marginalized communities and people with limited resources.



## IN CONVERSATION WITH MR. DEBABRATA ROY CHOWDHURY

Director- Legal, RSA and Corporate Affairs  
Nestlé Bangladesh PLC

— Interview by  
Barrister Mohammad Shahrukh Sadek

Mr Debabrata Roy Chowdhury, with over three decades of distinguished experience at Nestlé, is a highly respected expert in the FMCG sector. He is renowned for his deep legal and regulatory acumen, coupled with a strategic vision that has significantly influenced diverse areas of law and compliance. Nestlé is the largest food manufacturer company in the world and **Nestlé Bangladesh** is the largest tax-payer in food sector in Bangladesh producing foods maintaining the highest standard and commitment over the years. Mr Chowdhury shared his thoughts about consumer protection and product liability from his experience and practice.

**Given Nestlé's presence in diverse and sensitive food categories (including nutrition products), how does your legal team manage product safety and liability risks across the supply chain?**

Bangladesh's food regulatory framework is highly fragmented and punitive, with multiple Acts, Rules, and over a hundred mandatory BSTI standards across four Ministries. Many impose strict liability, cognizable offences, and at times non bailable consequences. In this environment, Nestlé Legal functions as the company's primary line of defense, ensuring product safety and liability risks are controlled before they surface.

Our approach follows *Lex Strictior Praevalet*, the stricter of Bangladesh law or Nestlé's global standards always governs. This eliminates ambiguity, strengthens defensibility, and ensures consistency even amid unpredictable enforcement. Importantly, this confidence is reinforced by the fact that Nestlé's products in Bangladesh meet the highest global quality standards, giving Legal a strong foundation to defend and justify every decision.

Given Bangladesh's sometimes inconsistent enforcement, including mobile courts and summary actions, Legal designs defensible yet practical structures: clear processes, strong documentation readiness, and pre approved pathways for effective regulator engagement.

Lastly, Legal drives advocacy and harmonization, engaging regulators to clarify grey areas and promote consistent, globally aligned standards that reduce systemic risk for Nestlé and the industry.

### How do labeling, nutritional claims, and advertising regulations shape your consumer protection strategy in Bangladesh?

Legal plays a central gatekeeping role in shaping our consumer protection strategy in Bangladesh, where labelling, nutritional claims, and advertising regulations are detailed, evolving, and strictly enforced. Legal ensures that every declaration, claim, and representation on pack or in advertising meets the strictest applicable standard based on Bangladesh Laws, and Nestlé’s global Claims Policy.

Legal conducts end to end compliance reviews of all labels, warnings, nutrition panels, and other mandatory declarations. For any nutrition or health claim, Legal validates substantiation, assesses regulatory permissibility, and issues mandatory instructions on wording, prominence, and scientific evidence thresholds.

In advertising, Legal clears all content, screens claims, prohibits exaggeration or unverifiable comparisons, and ensures adherence to responsible marketing rules, including digital and child directed communication controls.

**“OUR APPROACH FOLLOWS LEX STRICTIOR PRAEVALET—THE STRICTER OF BANGLADESH LAW OR NESTLÉ’S GLOBAL STANDARDS ALWAYS GOVERNS—ELIMINATING AMBIGUITY AND ENSURING CONSISTENCY EVEN AMID UNPREDICTABLE ENFORCEMENT.”**

### From your long experience, could you share how the legal department prepares for and manages challenges while maintaining consumer’s confidence?

The Legal department maintains consumer confidence by ensuring every decision is grounded in rigorous compliance and proactive risk management. This confidence is strengthened by the fact that Nestlé’s products in Bangladesh meet the highest global quality standards while fully adhering to local norms, giving us a strong basis to defend and justify all actions. Legal continuously monitors evolving laws, BSTI standards, and enforcement trends, providing clear guidance so the business operates on sound legal assumptions.

We engage early with regulators to clarify expectations, reduce ambiguity, and prevent exposure. Strong contractual safeguards, audit rights, and recall readiness measures further protect the value chain. When issues arise, Legal leads privileged fact finding, preserves evidence, engages regulators transparently, and guides safe remediation.

### Looking ahead, how do you see evolving consumer awareness and stricter regulatory expectations influencing product liability exposure in the food industry?

Evolving consumer awareness and tightening regulations in Bangladesh are set to significantly increase product-liability exposure. As stricter requirements, e.g., allergen rules, stronger claim-substantiation standards, and more assertive advertising controls, emerge, Legal ensures every label, claim, and representation meets the strictest applicable requirement. We anticipate regulatory shifts, interpret evolving laws in Bangladesh, and issue binding guidance to ensure the business avoids any inadvertent non-compliance.

Given Bangladesh’s fast, public, and often punitive enforcement culture as explained above, Legal strengthens defensibility by establishing structured approach covering all possible aspects through documentary readiness, inspection protocols, and pre-approved response pathways.

We also embed “compliance by design” into product development, mandating stronger evidence, tighter traceability, and robust decision-making thresholds.



IN CONVERSATION WITH

## BARRISTER SABRINA ZARIN

Head of Litigation and Commercial  
British American Tobacco Bangladesh

— Interview by  
Barrister Mohammad Moyen Uddin

**Ms. Sabrina Zarin** has established a strong presence within Bangladesh's corporate legal sector. Before she came into the corporate world, she practiced before the Supreme Court of Bangladesh representing clients of civil, criminal, constitutional and tax matters. Sabrina does not just lead by words; she leads by example and becoming a true role model for all who work with her. **British American Tobacco Bangladesh (BATB)** is one of the largest multinational companies operating since 1910 in Bangladesh. BATB is the largest tax-payer of the country for many years and places high emphasis on consumer protection and product liability amongst others. In this interview, Barrister Zarin highlights the company's key consumer protection practices while reflecting on her leadership journey and vision for the future.

### How does BATB's legal department navigate regulatory requirements in Bangladesh?

The tobacco industry operates under strict regulatory oversight, particularly under the Smoking and Tobacco Products Usage (Control) Act. In this environment, maintaining regulatory compliance requires a proactive and structured legal framework.

At BATB, legal oversight is integrated into key stages of product development, packaging decisions, and market conduct. No product launch or modification proceeds without legal review to ensure alignment with statutory requirements and regulatory expectations.

We also closely monitor legislative developments and enforcement trends. When regulatory changes occur, the legal team conducts rapid impact assessments and coordinates implementation across functions. This proactive governance approach helps ensure compliance while maintaining regulatory credibility and operational continuity.

### What are the key consumer protection compliance challenges in your sector?

Consumer protection compliance in our sector is highly technical and visible. Strict adherence to applicable requirements is required for health warnings and packaging standards, alongside full compliance with advertising restrictions.

One key challenge is ensuring strict adherence to detailed specifications, such as the size, placement, and rotation of health warnings on packaging. Another challenge is operating within a tightly restricted communication environment where any brand-related activity must be carefully assessed for regulatory compliance.

Given these complexities, organizations must move beyond formal compliance and demonstrate consistent governance discipline. At BATB, structured legal oversight and cross-functional coordination help ensure that compliance remains embedded in everyday business operations.

### How does the legal department coordinate with operational teams to manage regulatory risks?

At BATB, the Legal Department functions as a strategic partner within the organization. Effective compliance requires continuous coordination between legal, regulatory affairs, quality assurance, supply chain, and commercial teams.

Legal review is embedded at key operational checkpoints, ensuring that regulatory considerations are addressed before business decisions are finalized. Cross-functional engagement, documented approval workflows, and compliance training help reinforce accountability across departments.

Equally important is encouraging early escalation of potential issues. This integrated governance model allows the organization to address challenges proactively and maintain strong regulatory compliance.

**“LEGAL TEAMS MUST GO BEYOND COMPLIANCE— ANTICIPATING REGULATORY SHIFTS AND SUPPORTING RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS PRACTICES IN AN INCREASINGLY COMPLEX LANDSCAPE.”**

### How is the regulatory landscape evolving, and what does it mean for corporate legal leadership?

The regulatory environment surrounding the tobacco sector continues to evolve, with policymakers increasingly addressing broader structural challenges within the market. Two issues that are receiving growing attention are the global discussion around Tobacco Harm Reduction (THR) and the persistent challenge of the illicit cigarette trade.

THR has become an important area of policy debate internationally, as regulators consider how emerging tobacco products should be approached within existing tobacco control frameworks. These discussions require careful regulatory assessment to ensure that policy decisions remain evidence-based and aligned with broader public health and governance objectives.

At the same time, the illicit cigarette market presents a multifaceted challenge. Illicit products undermine regulatory oversight, distort legitimate market competition, and result in significant losses of government revenue through tax evasion. Addressing this issue requires coordinated regulatory enforcement, stronger supply chain monitoring, and policy measures that effectively curb illegal trade.

For corporate legal leadership, these developments highlight the importance of maintaining close engagement with the evolving policy landscape. Legal teams must not only ensure compliance with existing regulations but also anticipate emerging regulatory priorities and support responsible, well-governed business practices in an increasingly complex operating environment.



IN CONVERSATION WITH

**MS MUNMUN FARHANA**

Manager – Legal Affairs  
Arla Foods Bangladesh Limited

— Interview by —  
Barrister Moe Moe Than



**Munmun Farhana** is Manager – Legal Affairs at **Arla Foods Bangladesh Limited**, a leading multinational in the dairy and FMCG sector. In an increasingly complex regulatory environment, she leads the organization's legal and compliance function, ensuring alignment with applicable laws while supporting business priorities. She works closely with internal stakeholders to embed compliance into operations, strengthening governance standards and supporting sustainable business growth. She has good length of expertise in working with reputed MNCs.

**As a leading dairy and nutrition company, how does Arla Foods structure its legal and compliance framework to manage product liability risks across sourcing, processing, packaging, and distribution in Bangladesh?**

At Arla, product liability is not treated as a standalone legal checkpoint; it is managed through decisions made across the product lifecycle, particularly in a category like dairy where product integrity and consumer trust are closely connected.

We start at the sourcing stage, where supplier relationships are structured with clear accountability, supported by due diligence and contractual protections. The focus is not only on compliance, but on ensuring quality expectations are clearly understood and consistently met. As products move through processing and distribution, the emphasis remains on the strength of internal systems, i.e. traceability, documentation, and clearly defined responsibilities. Packaging and consumer-facing communication is where legal's involvement becomes more direct. We ensure that every representation made to consumers is accurate, supportable and aligned with both local regulatory requirements and Arla's global standards.

At Arla, product liability is not managed through reaction; it is proactively minimized through disciplined decisions taken long before the product reaches the shelf.

**With increasing regulatory focus on food safety, nutritional labeling, and health claims, how does the legal department balance consumer protection obligations with product innovation and market expansion?**

In practice, balancing consumer protection with innovation is less about trade-offs and more about how early and closely legal is involved in the process.

At Arla, we engage at the product development stage, working alongside business and regulatory teams to shape how products are positioned, particularly in areas such as nutritional labeling and health-related communication. This helps ensure innovation is developed within a framework aligned with consumer protection expectations. Where regulatory guidance is not always prescriptive, we align local requirements with Arla's global standards and internal thresholds, so that decisions remain consistent, supportable, and suitable for market expansion.

The balance is achieved by enabling innovation to move forward while ensuring it remains anchored in positions that are clear, defensible, and aligned with consumer expectations.

In the event of consumer complaints, quality concerns, or regulatory challenges, what role does the legal team play in crisis management and maintaining consumer trust?

In such situations, the legal team's role is to bring clarity and structure where decisions often need to be made quickly.

The immediate focus is on establishing a clear and accurate understanding of the matter including its context, scope, and potential implications. We work closely with internal teams to ensure responses are based on verified information and remain aligned across functions, often within compressed timelines. From there, our involvement is in shaping how the company responds, both in terms of communication and any necessary regulatory engagement. The emphasis is on ensuring actions are measured, consistent, and aligned with both legal obligations and the company's broader responsibility toward consumers.

In moments of pressure, legal judgment is not just about compliance; it is about ensuring the company responds in a way it can stand by, even in hindsight.

**“AT ARLA, PRODUCT LIABILITY IS NOT MANAGED THROUGH REACTION; IT IS PROACTIVELY MINIMIZED THROUGH DISCIPLINED DECISIONS TAKEN LONG BEFORE THE PRODUCT REACHES THE SHELF.”**

**How do Bangladesh's consumer protection and food safety laws compare with global standards, and what key compliance challenges do multinational dairy companies face in emerging markets?**

Bangladesh has made significant progress in strengthening its consumer protection and food safety framework, with increasing alignment toward global standards. For multinational companies like Arla, compliance is guided not only by local regulatory requirements but also by global standards, which help ensure consistency across markets and reinforce consumer confidence.

In practice, one of the key challenges in emerging markets is navigating areas where regulatory interpretation continues to evolve, particularly in sectors such as food and nutrition where expectations are continuously developing. At the same time, managing supply chain complexity and maintaining consistent compliance across stakeholders requires ongoing engagement.

Operating in such environments requires not just compliance, but clarity of principle—knowing where to hold the line, even when the law is still taking shape.

## NEW IMPORTANT LEGISLATIONS (JANUARY 2026-MARCH 2026):

1. The Commercial Court Ordinance, 2026
2. The Civil Aviation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026
3. The Bangladesh Travel Agency (Registration & Regulation) (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026
4. The Registration (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026
5. The Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Prevention and Suppression Ordinance, 2026
6. The Enforced Disappearance Prevention and Remedies (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026
7. The Legal Aid Provision (Second Amendment) Ordinance, 2026
8. The Forest and Tree Conservation Ordinance, 2026
9. The Wildlife (Conservation & Security) Ordinance, 2026
10. The Bangladesh Building Regulatory Authority Ordinance, 2026
11. The Bangladesh Haor and Wetland Conservation Ordinance, 2026
12. The Land Use Control and Agricultural Land Protection Ordinance, 2026
13. The Capital Development Authority Ordinance, 2026
14. The Barisal Development Authority (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026
15. The Mymensingh Development Authority (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026
16. The Rangpur Development Authority (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026
17. The Supreme Court Secretariat (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026
18. The July Mass Uprising (Protection & Liability) Ordinance, 2026
19. The Microfinance Bank Ordinance, 2026
20. The Bangladesh Private Export Processing Zone (Exemption) Ordinance, 2026
21. The Protection and Conservation of Fish (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026
22. The Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026
23. The Personal Data Protection (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026
24. The Registration (Second Amendment) Ordinance, 2026
25. The Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026
26. The Dhaka Central University Ordinance, 2026
27. The Private Educational Institution Teachers and Employees Retirement Benefits (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026
28. The Private Educational Institution Teachers and Employees Welfare Trust (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026
29. The National Sports Council (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026
30. The Right to Information (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026
31. The Bangladesh Gas (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026
32. The Cumilla Development Authority Ordinance, 2026
33. The Narayanganj Development Authority Ordinance, 2026
34. The Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026
35. The Bangladesh House Building Finance Corporation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026
36. The Bangladesh Forest Industry Development Corporation Ordinance, 2026

### LEGAL COUNSEL NEWS



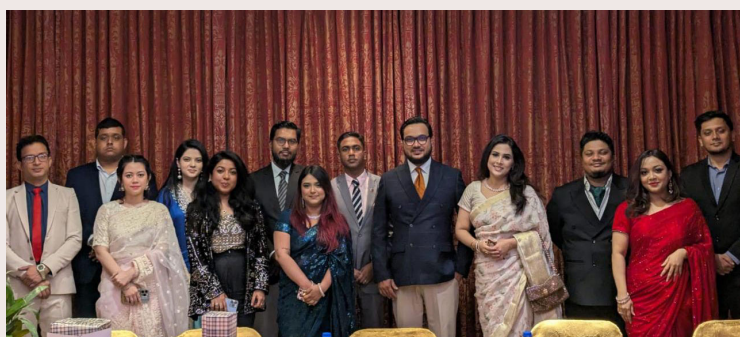
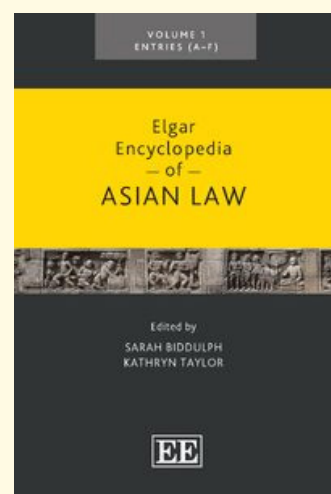
#### SHORTLISTED ASIA-PACIFIC AND GREATER CHINA REGION HONOURS 2026

We are extremely delighted to share that **Legal Counsel** has been shortlisted at the **Chambers Asia-Pacific and Greater China Region Honours 2026** in the category of “Pro Bono - Outstanding Firm”

These award nominations and the ultimate winners are the product of countless interviews and extensive research by our team of over 250 research analysts. Accordingly to Chambers and Partners - “**to be ranked and then to be shortlisted for an award indicates that the firm and its members are at the top of the profession.**” The award will be declared at the end of May 2026 at an event in Hong Kong.

Barrister Omar H. Khan is privileged to author the chapter on Intellectual Property Laws of Bangladesh in the prestigious Encyclopedia of Asian Laws. The chapter is currently live online in the link below. The Elgar Encyclopedia of Asian Law is the most comprehensive reference work for those interested in Asian legal studies. Organized alphabetically by jurisdiction the Encyclopedia includes the regions of East Asia, South and Southeast Asia. The hardback publication is scheduled for September, 2026 by Edward Elgar Publishing, UK and shall be available at a price of £1,350.

<https://www.elgaronline.com/display/book/9781035325436/-book-9781035325436-bipl.xml>



On January 22, 2026, the Legal Counsel team came together at The Westin Dhaka to mark its 17th Annual Dinner and Award Ceremony. The event featured the presentation of the annual work report, followed by a renewed commitment to delivering excellence in legal services. The evening was a vibrant occasion, filled with camaraderie, laughter, and good food, while also recognizing team members across multiple award categories for their contributions and achievements.

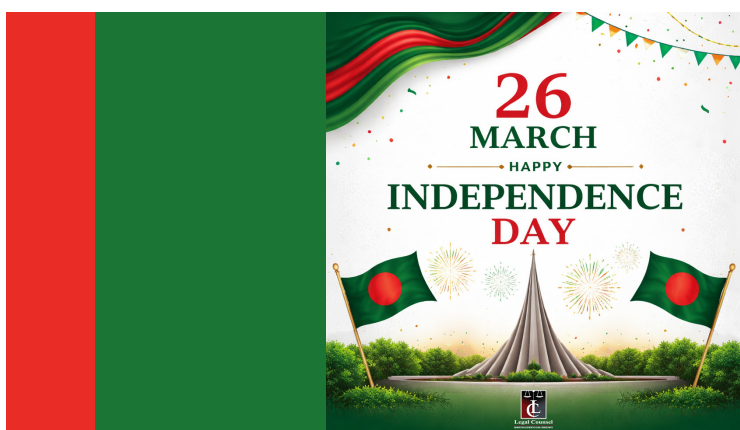
## PRO-BONO WORKS: PUBLICATIONS AND TV SHOWS (JANUARY 2026 – MARCH 2026)

### PUBLICATIONS AND INTERVIEWS

- ✓ The Future of Bangladesh from a Woman's Perspective | Barrister Miti Sanjana, Partner Legal Counsel | Dainik Amader Shomoy | January 04, 2026 |
- ✓ Can A Man Actually Marry A Second Time Without His First Wife's Permission | Barrister Miti Sanjana, Partner Legal Counsel | BBC News Bangla | January 12, 2026 |
- ✓ Marrying A Second Time Without The Permission Of One's First Wife | Barrister Miti Sanjana, Partner Legal Counsel | Jago News 24 | January 13, 2026 |
- ✓ What Does The Law Actually Say About Marrying Without The Permission Of One's First Wife | Barrister Miti Sanjana, Partner Legal Counsel | Jugantor | January 14, 2026 |
- ✓ Why Child Abuse Is Not Stopping In Bangladesh | Barrister Miti Sanjana, Partner Legal Counsel | BBC News Bangla | January 26, 2026 |
- ✓ We must Take Advantage Of This Opportunity For Advancing Moral Development | Barrister Miti Sanjana, Partner Legal Counsel | DW | February 04, 2026 |
- ✓ Ensuring Safety and Dignity in Public Transport| Barrister Miti Sanjana, Partner Legal Counsel | Amader Shomoy | February 08, 2026 |
- ✓ Divorce After One Year of Marriage: Legal Steps and Considerations | Barrister Miti Sanjana, Partner Legal Counsel | Prothom Alo | February 18, 2026 |
- ✓ Women's Rights, Public Spaces, and the Law: Examining Moral Policing | Barrister Miti Sanjana, Partner Legal Counsel | Alap | February 27, 2026 |
- ✓ Addressing the Persistent Crimes Against Women and Children: Legal Perspectives | Barrister Miti Sanjana, Partner Legal Counsel | New Age | March 08, 2026 |
- ✓ Kazi's Jurisdiction and validity of marriage registration | The Daily Star | Barrister Omar H Khan | 18 March 2026 |

### TV SHOWS AND INTERVIEWS

- ▶ View on Polygamy | Barrister Miti Sanjana, Partner Legal Counsel | Channel I | January 13, 2026 |
- ▶ Shortcomings Of Laws To Protect Women Against Harassment & Discrimination | Barrister Miti Sanjana, Partner Legal Counsel | BTV News | January 15, 2026 |
- ▶ Perspective on Child Abuse Incident and Child Protection Law | Barrister Miti Sanjana, Partner Legal Counsel | Independent | January 23, 2026 |
- ▶ Women's role in elections | Barrister Miti Sanjana, Partner Legal Counsel | Channel I | February 03, 2026 |
- ▶ How Far are Women From Being Free | Barrister Miti Sanjana, Partner Legal Counsel | News 24 | March 02, 2026 |
- ▶ Women's Rights are Human Rights | Barrister Miti Sanjana, Partner Legal Counsel | ATN News | March 06, 2026 |
- ▶ Laws Exist, Yet Children Remain Unprotected | Barrister Miti Sanjana, Partner Legal Counsel | ATN News | March 06, 2026 |
- ▶ Women's rights, equality or just a paper fight? | Barrister Miti Sanjana, Partner Legal Counsel | Desh TV | March 08, 2026 |
- ▶ Women's Contribution to the Agricultural Economy: The Hidden Architects of Success | Barrister Miti Sanjana, Partner Legal Counsel | Desh TV | March 08, 2026 |
- ▶ Safe Women and Prosperous Nation | Barrister Miti Sanjana, Partner Legal Counsel | Jamuna TV | March 08, 2026 |



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