

Media Synthesis Report on PPEs

(March to May 2020)

প্রথম আলো

The Daily Star

কালের কণ্ঠ

সমকাল

NEWAGE
THE OUTSPOKEN DAILY

বাংলা ট্রিবিউন
www.banglatribune.com

Prepared for
Bangladesh Health Watch

Prepared by
M P G
Media Professionals Group

FINDINGS

Four times more PPEs distributed, but all health professionals didn't get

- The government has distributed 4, 58,174 PPEs among health workers including doctors in the country, which is four times more than the government health professionals. However, not all of these staffs (those who are involved in treating corona patients) received this material. The quality of PPE has also been questioned. PPE has been sent to all government medical institutions in the country. According to the information given by the control room of the health department, the government hospital in the country has a total manpower of 1 lakh 11 thousand 300 people including doctors, nurses and health workers. Of these, 25,615 are doctors, 33,000 are nurses and 52,065 are other officers and employees. If all the employees of the health department including doctors and nurses are divided equally, each of them should get at least four PPEs. But they did not get it. There are allegations in different districts. (Prothom Alo, 7 April 2020, Annex:1)

Four reasons for Health Professionals infection

- According to a Samakal Report on 23 April 2020, 'Talking to medical experts, doctors, nurses and other concerned people to find out the answer to the question why so many health workers are being infected in the country, it has been learned that health workers are being infected for four main reasons: 1. Most of the PPEs and masks supplied from the Central Medical Store Depot (CMSD) across the country are not up to the standard mark. The health workers are getting infected during performing their duties by using those, 2. Many hospitals have not yet provided PPE. Although it was supplied again, not everyone got it. In these hospitals, patients are hiding the symptoms and infecting the health workers. 3. Most healthcare workers have no idea how to use the PPE and how to disinfect it after use. As a result, they are being infected. 4. Mismanagement of those concerned authorities. These four factors have created a serious risk to health workers. (Samakal, 23 April 2020, Annex: 2)

75 % doctors are not satisfied with PPEs

- 75 per cent doctors in 16 districts of the country are not satisfied with the personal safety equipment or PPE distributed to medical personnel to combat coronavirus. At the same time, 40 percent of other health workers in these medical institutions have expressed similar dissatisfaction. BRAC University's James P. Grand School of Public Health and Bangladesh Health Watch jointly released this information in a virtual survey today. (Kalerkantho, 18 April 2020, Annex: 3)

60,000 to 70,000 PPEs are distributed everyday

- The report on the names of the health minister, the health secretary and the director general of the health department is misleading, fabricated and untrue,

said Brigadier General Dr. Mohammad Shahidullah. About 60,000 to 70,000 PPEs, including surgical masks, gloves, head covers, etc., are distributed to health workers across the country every day, he said. He also said, 'The government has spent an estimated Tk 176 crore to purchase a total of 14, 68, 000 PPEs.' (Daily Star, 20 April 2020, Annex: 4)

Poor Quality of PPEs for high infection among health professionals

- Mr. Nirupam Das, chief administrator Bangladesh Doctors' Foundation (BDF) said, 'The main reasons behind the high rate of infection among doctors and other health workers in Bangladesh are "poor quality" of personal protective equipment (PPE) provided to doctors, community transmission and patients' concealment of Covid-19 symptoms'. (Daily Star, 21 April 2020, Annex: 5)

Status of Infection among different professionals due to lack of proper PPEs

- Bangladesh Doctors Foundation, a forum of physicians, said that a total of 475 doctors were infected with the novel coronavirus while treating COVID-19 patients at both government and private hospitals. (New Age, 1 May 2020, Annex: 6)
- The numbers of Covid-19 infection in Bangladesh Police, Bangladesh Ansar and Village Defence Party are rising sharply on a daily basis. The total number of infections in the police force rose to 2,621 and 222 in Ansar. (Daily Star, May 19, Annex: 7)
- 107 field administration officials, including DCs, ADCs, UNOs, AC land and Executive Magistrates, have infected during performing their duties such as ensuring social distance and home, burying the dead body and distributing relief. (Samakal, 3 May 2020, Annex: 8)
- Another journalist died due to Corona. According to the Facebook page 'Our Media', which has been regularly publishing information about journalists being infected, 49 journalists have been infected in Dhaka and 11 outside Dhaka (Samakal, 7 May 2020, Annex: 9)

VAT Exemption on PPEs

- The government has exempted VAT on Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) and surgical masks (including face masks) at the production, businessmen and supplier level to prevent and control the spread of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in the country. The NBR issued an SRO in this regard 6 May 2020 mentioning that such facility will continue till 30 June. Earlier on 22 March, the government exempted all kinds of import duty on the necessary health safety equipment like PPEs to prevent and control this deadly virus. (Prothom Alo, 7 May 2020, Annex: 10)

PPEs related donations

Many local and international organisations have been donating PPEs regularly

- A transport aircraft of Bangladesh Air Force (BAF) carrying medical aid to help combat the spread of coronavirus returned to Dhaka 19 April 2020 from China. The supplies include necessary coronavirus detection kits, 12,22,000 surgical masks, 7,500 N-95 masks, 130 thermometers, 2,000 protective gloves, 10,200 medical safety glasses, 200 Goggles and 10,459 personal protective equipment (PPE). More healthcare aid (PPE, masks and sanitisers etc) collected from China were brought by the same aircraft to provide to various entities engaged in combating coronavirus in Bangladesh under the initiative of the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce. (Daily Star, 19 April 2020, Annex: 11)

Bangladesh is now exporting PPEs

- On 25 May 2020, Beximco sent a consignment of 65 lakh PPE gowns to US. The consignment will reach in US Central Emergency Management Authority (FEMA). (Samakal, 25 May 2020, Annex: 12)

Annexure

1. সারাদেশে জনবলের চার গুণ পিপিই বিতরণ

<https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1649317/%E0%A6%B8%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%BE-%E0%A6%A6%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%B6%E0%A7%87-%E0%A6%9C%E0%A6%A8%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%B2%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%B0-%E0%A6%9A%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B0-%E0%A6%97%E0%A7%81%E0%A6%A3-%E0%A6%AA%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%AA%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%87-%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%A4%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%A3>

2. নেপথ্যে মানহীন পিপিই ও মাস্ক

<https://samakal.com/bangladesh/article/200420249/%E0%A6%A8%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%AA%E0%A6%A5%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%AF%E0%A7%87-%E0%A6%AE%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%A8%E0%A6%B9%E0%A7%80%E0%A6%A8-%E0%A6%AA%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%AA%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%87-%E0%A6%93-%E0%A6%AE%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B8%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%95>

3. ব্র্যাক বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের সংক্ষিপ্ত সমীক্ষা

৭৫ শতাংশ চিকিৎসক পিপিই'র মান নিয়ে সন্তুষ্ট নন

<https://www.kalerkantho.com/online/national/2020/04/18/900373>

4. 'স্বাস্থ্য অধিদপ্তরের কমিটি মাস্কের মান নির্ধারণের পরই ক্রয় করে থাকি'

পিপিই ক্রয় করতে সরকারের আনুমানিক ১৭৬ কোটি টাকা খরচ হয়েছে'

<https://www.thedailystar.net/bangla/%E0%A6%B6%E0%A7%80%E0%A6%B0%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%B7-%E0%A6%96%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%B0/%E0%A6%AA%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%AA%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%87-%E0%A6%95%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%B0%E0%A7%9F-%E0%A6%95%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%A4%E0%A7%87-%E0%A6%B8%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%95%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B0%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%B0-%E0%A6%86%E0%A6%A8%E0%A7%81%E0%A6%AE%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%A8%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%95-%E0%A7%A7%E0%A7%AD%E0%A7%AC-%E0%A6%95%E0%A7%8B%E0%A6%9F%E0%A6%BF-%E0%A6%9F%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%95%E0%A6%BE-%E0%A6%96%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%9A-%E0%A6%B9%E0%A7%9F%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%9B%E0%A7%87-145423>

5. Medical frontliners suffering the brunt

<https://www.thedailystar.net/frontpage/news/medical-frontliners-suffering-the-brunt-1895140>

6. 475 doctors contract COVID-19 in Bangladesh: BDF

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/105507/475-doctors-contract-covid-19-in-bangladesh-bdf>

7. Number of cases reaches 2,621

<https://www.thedailystar.net/frontpage/news/cops-grapple-covid-19-1903924>

8. মাঠ প্রশাসনে করোনা আক্রান্ত ১০৭ জন

<https://samakal.com/todays-print-edition/tp-khobor/article/200537860/%E0%A6%AE%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%A0-%E0%A6%AA%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%B6%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B8%E0%A6%A8%E0%A7%87-%E0%A6%95%E0%A6%B0%E0%A7%8B%E0%A6%A8%E0%A6%BE-%E0%A6%86%E0%A6%95%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%A8%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%A4-%E0%A7%A7%E0%A7%A6%E0%A7%AE-%E0%A6%9C%E0%A6%A8>

9. করোনাযোদ্ধা: আক্রান্ত ৬০ সংবাদকর্মী

<https://samakal.com/todays-print-edition/tp-first-page/article/200538349/%E0%A6%96%E0%A7%8B%E0%A6%95%E0%A6%A8%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%B0-%E0%A6%B8%E0%A6%B9%E0%A6%95%E0%A6%B0%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%AE%E0%A7%80-%E0%A6%85%E0%A6%AA%E0%A7%81%E0%A6%93-%E0%A6%9A%E0%A6%B2%E0%A7%87-%E0%A6%97%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%B2%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%A8>

10. Bangladesh exempts VAT on PPE, mask production

<https://en.prothomalo.com/business/local/bangladesh-exempts-vat-on-ppe-mask-production>

11. BAF flight with coronavirus testing kits, PPE returns to Dhaka

<https://www.thedailystar.net/baf-flight-with-coronavirus-testing-kits-ppe-returns-dhaka-1894570>

12. যুক্তরাষ্ট্রে ৬৫ লাখ পিপিই গাউন রপ্তানি বেক্সিমকোর

<https://samakal.com/economics/article/200524289/%E0%A7%AC%E0%A7%AB-%E0%A6%B2%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%96-%E0%A6%AA%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%AA%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%87-%E0%A6%97%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%89%E0%A6%A8-%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%AA%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%A4%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%A8%E0%A6%BF-%E0%A6%AC%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%95%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%B8%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%AE%E0%A6%95%E0%A7%8B%E0%A6%B0>