

# BNACWC

## NEWSLETTER

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## BANGLADESH NATIONAL AUTHORITY FOR CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (BNACWC)



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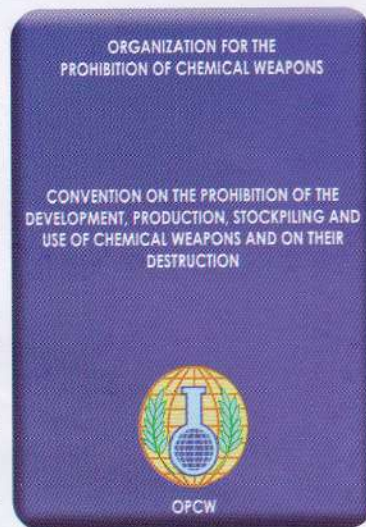




## CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (CWC)

CWC is an arms control agreement. The convention outlaws the production, stockpiling, transfer and use of chemical weapons. The convention was adopted on 03 September 1992 in Geneva and opened for signature in Paris on 13 January 1993. CWC entered into force on 29 April 1997 for making the world free of Chemical Weapons and ensuring peaceful use of chemicals. Salients of the convention are:

- ⊕ All member states must destroy all Chemical Weapons and related production facilities.
- ⊕ Member states can produce/use toxic chemicals for peaceful purposes only.
- ⊕ Every member state should have National Authority to implement the CWC at national level.
- ⊕ All member states must have the necessary legislations for implementation of the CWC.



## ORGANIZATION FOR THE PROHIBITION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS (OPCW)



OPCW is an independent, autonomous international organization with a working relationship to the United Nations. It is the apex implementing body of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). The headquarters of OPCW is located in the Hague, Netherlands. As of today, OPCW has 193 Member States, who are working together to implement the CWC globally. The mission of the OPCW is to implement the provisions of the CWC in order to achieve their vision for a world free of Chemical Weapons and the threat of their use. As of 31 December 2019, 97.51% of the worlds declared chemical weapons have been verifiably destroyed. OPCW was awarded with the coveted 'Nobel Peace Prize' in 2013 for its extensive efforts for making a world free of Chemical Weapons.

## BANGLADESH NATIONAL AUTHORITY FOR CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (BNACWC)

BNACWC is the prime implementing body of the CWC in Bangladesh. Bangladesh signed the CWC on 14 January 1993 and ratified the Convention on 25 April 1997. The Armed Forces Division (AFD) was given with the responsibility to organize, coordinate and execute the role of National Authority in December 1997. To implement the CWC and fulfill the obligations under the Convention, Government of Bangladesh has enacted the "Chemical Weapons (Prohibition) Act, 2006" on 24 September 2006, through which "Bangladesh National Authority for Chemical Weapons Convention (BNACWC)" was formed. The Principal Staff Officer (PSO) of AFD is the Chairman of BNACWC. It consists of total 17 members at the status of minimum Joint Secretary and equivalent from eight ministries, Civil and Military Relations Directorate of AFD, three military services and other five Chemistry, Commerce and Customs related Organizations. Executive Cell of BNACWC has dedicated officers and men to coordinate the affairs of BNACWC. The office of the BNACWC is located at the premises of the AFD in Dhaka Cantonment.





## SEMINAR/SYMPOSIUM

### International Symposium on Chemical Safety and Security Management (ISCSSM 2020)

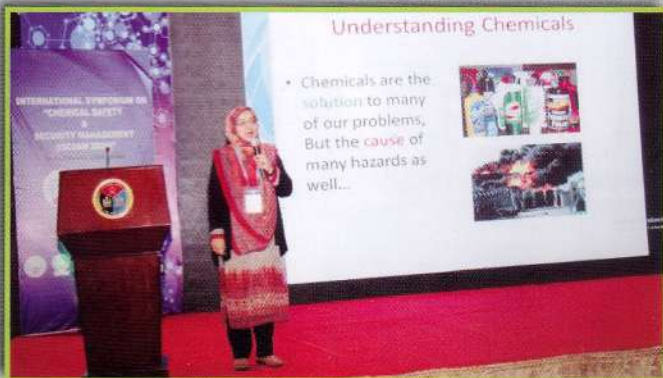
Bangladesh National Authority for Chemical Weapons Convention (BNACWC) and Department of Chemical Engineering, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) jointly organized **International Symposium on Chemical Safety and Security Management (ISCSSM 2020)** from 11-12 February, 2020 with the support of OPCW and Environmental Sustainability in Textile Industries (ESTex-BUET). The aim of the symposium was to bring together academics, professionals, international bodies, government authorities and industries to promote awareness and share advancements in the field of chemical safety and security, and loss prevention. ISSSSM 2020 focused on different important issues related to chemical process safety and loss prevention, hazard identification and risk assessment, chemical inventory management, chemical waste management, transportation safety and security, regulation and policies for chemical safety and security management. A total of 133 participants from different government and non government organizations participated in the symposium. The Chairman, BNACWC and PSO, AFD Lieutenant General Md Mahfuzur Rahman was present in the closing ceremony of the symposium and delivered his remarks. Subject Matter Experts from renowned institutions of Bangladesh delivered lectures on chemical safety and security aspects.



Mr. Li Zhao, Head of International Cooperation Branch, OPCW delivered his valuable speech through a pre-recorded video clip at the beginning of the symposium



Professor Dr. Ijaz Hossain, Dean, Faculty of Engineering, BUET delivered opening remarks at the symposium



Professor Dr. Syeda Sultana Razia of BUET delivered lecture on "Current Chemical Safety and Security Challenges in Bangladesh"



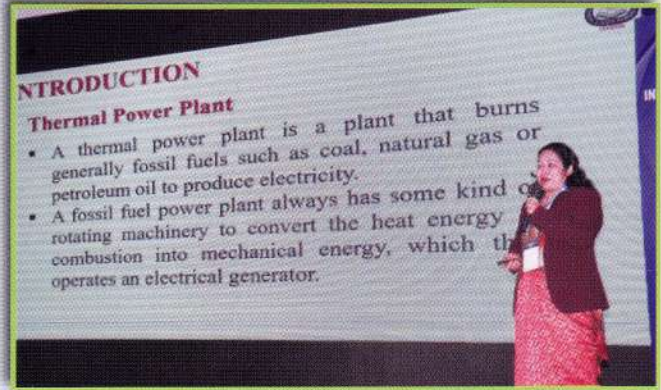
Colonel Staff, BNACWC delivered lecture on "Safety and Security Management of Schedule Chemicals: Role of BNACWC"



## International Symposium on Chemical Safety and Security Management (ISCSSM 2020)



Assistant Professor Dr. Easir Arafat Khan of BUET delivered lecture on "Understanding Chemical Transportation Hazard and Risk Management"



Professor Dr. Salma Akhter of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST) talked about "Safety Culture in Process Industries"



Mr. Md. Mursalin Rahman Khandaker of ESTex-BUET presented a lecture on "Driving Improvements in Chemical Management System of Textile Industries: Safety and Security Concerns"



Mr. Shaikh Zunaid of Chevron delivered lecture on "Layer of Protection Analysis (LOPA) and its Benefits in Process Industries"



Students Group from BUET explaining their poster theme to the judges during Poster Competition



Chairman, BNACWC and PSO, AFD handed over certificates to the participants of the symposium



## MEETING/INTERACTIVE SESSION

### First Coordination Meeting for Drafting Rules on Chemical Weapons (Prohibition) Act, 2006

According to the decision of 15<sup>th</sup> General Meeting of BNACWC, Ministry of Defence formed a committee to draft the 'Rules on Chemical Weapons (Prohibition) Act, 2006' to ensure proper implementation of the act. First coordination meeting of the 'Rules Drafting Committee' was held at Armed Forces Division on 05 March 2020. Additional Secretary, Ministry of Defence and President of the Committee Dr. Md. Mahamud-Ul-Hoque chaired the meeting. All members of the committee from Bangladesh Armed Forces, different ministries, organizations and executive cell of BNACWC were present at the session.



Coordination Meeting of the 'Rules Drafting Committee' was held at Armed Forces Division on 05 March 2020

### Interactive Session with Bangladesh Chemical and Perfumery Association and Bangladesh Chemical Instrument Association on CWC and Chemical Weapons (Prohibition) Act, 2006

An interactive session on BNACWC, CWC, OPCW, Chemical Weapons (Prohibition) Act, 2006 and Enrollment Rules was held on 26 February 2020 at Bangladesh Chemical and Perfumery Association Conference Room, Old Dhaka. Total 28 members of the subject associations were present at the session. Four guest speakers from NBR, BCIC and industries shared their views at the session. The aim of the session was to generate awareness among the participants on Chemical Weapons Convention, Chemical Weapons (Prohibition) Act, 2006 and Enrollment Rules.



Staff Officer, BNACWC apprised the participants about the obligations of CWC and related national legislations



Mr Fazlul Amin Talukder, General Manager of Square Pharmaceuticals was answering the questions from participants

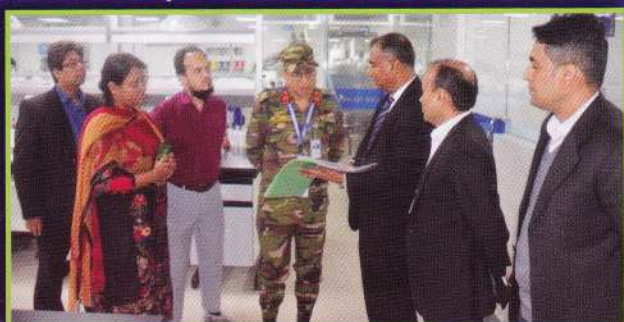




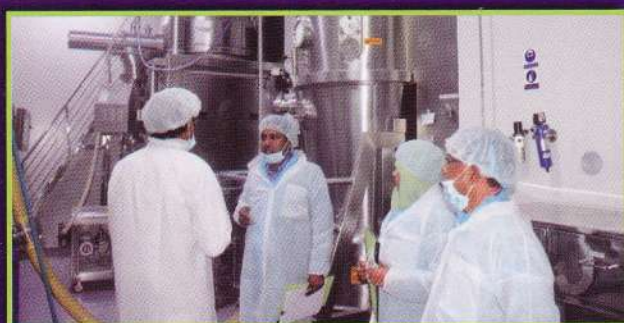
### Local Inspection at Eskayef Pharmaceuticals Limited and ACI Pharmaceuticals Limited

According to Chemical Weapons (Prohibition) Act, 2006, Chapter IV, BNACWC regularly conducts industry inspection to verify declarable chemical activities and ensure peaceful use of chemicals in industries. BNACWC inspection sub-committee inspected Eskayef Pharmaceuticals Limited, Gazipur on 21 January 2020 and Advanced Chemical Industries (ACI) Limited on 11 March 2020. Inspections started with the pre-inspection brief by industry representative which was followed by onsite inspection splitting inspectors in 03 major groups (Plant Site, Chemical Storage and Chemical Consumption). Events ended with the post-inspection brief by the inspection team, where inspectors presented their recommendations to the industries.

#### BNACWC Inspection Eskayef Pharmaceuticals Limited



BNACWC inspection team is verifying the data of chemical production



BNACWC inspection team is verifying production facility



BNACWC inspection team is inspecting warehouse facilities

#### BNACWC Inspection ACI Pharmaceuticals Limited



BNACWC inspection team is inspecting chemical storage



BNACWC inspection team is verifying chemical consumption data



BNACWC inspection team is inspecting Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP)








## CHEMICAL WARFARE AGENTS (CWA)

### Definition

Chemical Warfare Agents (CWA) are defined as 'any chemical which through its chemical action on life processes can cause death, temporary incapacitation or permanent harm to humans or animals'. These agents may be in liquid, gas or solid form.

### Types of CWA

CWA	Example	Impact on Health	Pictures
Choking Agent	Chloropicrin (CG) Diphosgene (DP) Phosgene (PS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inflicting injury mainly on the respiratory tract.</li> <li>Irritate the nose, throat and especially the lungs.</li> <li>When inhaled, these agents cause alveoli, air sacs in the lungs, to secrete fluid, essentially drowning those affected.</li> </ul>	
Blood Agent	Hydrogen Cyanide (AC) Cyanogen Chloride (CK) Arsine (SA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Distributed via blood and generally enter the body through inhalation.</li> <li>Inhibit the ability of blood cells to use and transfer oxygen.</li> <li>Effectively causing the body to suffocate.</li> </ul>	
Nerve Agent	Tabun (GA) Sarin (GB) Soman (GD) Cyclosarin (GF) VX	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Block impulses between nerve cells or across synapses.</li> <li>Act primarily by absorption through the skin and lungs.</li> <li>Nerve agents are divided into two main groups: G-series agents and V-series agents.</li> <li>Some G-agents, particularly Tabun and Sarin, persist in the environment for only short periods. Other agents, such as Soman and Cyclosarin, persist longer and present a greater threat to the skin.</li> <li>V-agents are extremely potent, with only milligrams needed to cause death, and persist for long periods of time in the environment.</li> </ul>	
Blister Agent	Sulfur Mustard (H, HD) Nitrogen Mustard (HN) Lewisite (L) Phosgene Oxime (CX)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Act via inhalation and contact, affecting the eyes, respiratory tract, and skin, first as an irritant and then as a cell poison.</li> <li>Cause large and often life-threatening skin blisters which resemble severe burns, and often results in blindness and permanent damage to the respiratory system.</li> </ul>	
Riot Control Agent	Tear Gas (CS) Pepper Spray (OC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Intended to temporarily incapacitate a person by causing irritation to the eyes, mouth, throat, lungs, and skin.</li> <li>Riot Control Agents, such as tear gas, are considered as chemical weapons if used as a method of warfare.</li> <li>Used as domestic law enforcement purposes</li> </ul>	





**EDUCATION AND OUTREACH**

**CWC Training Package for Government Officers**

Government Officials are vital to implement Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) nationwide. Young government officers deployed at field level can play important role to enforce national legislations across the country. Therefore, CWC related tailored training package has been incorporated in different government training academies. As part of that, Colonel Staff, BNACWC delivered a lecture at Bangladesh Civil Service Administration Academy on 09 March 2020 for the participants of 116<sup>th</sup>, 117<sup>th</sup> and 118<sup>th</sup> "Law and Administration Course". A total of 172 participants (AC Land and UNO) participated in the event.



Colonel Staff, BNACWC delivering lecture on CWC for BCS officers at Bangladesh Civil Service Administration Academy on 09 March 2020

**COURSES/SEMINARS ABROAD ORGANIZED BY OPCW**



Dr. Shahnaz Kutubi, Police Hospital, Dhaka, attended the **"International Course on Pre-hospital Medical Assistance for the Victims of Chemical Incidents"** in Doha, Qatar from 17-20 February 2020

Md. Daloar Hossin Matubbr, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Industry, Lieutenant Commander Lutfun Nahar, Bangladesh Navy, Rafiqul Islam, Assistant Director, BNACWC and Md Fazlul Amin Talukder, General Manager, Square Pharmaceuticals Limited attended the **"International Seminar on the Chemical Weapons Convention and Chemical Safety and Security Management for Member States of the OPCW in the Asia Region"** in Doha, Qatar from 05-08 February 2020. On behalf of Bangladesh, Assistant Director Rafiqul Islam delivered a presentation on "National Action Plan on Chemical Safety and Security Management in Bangladesh: Components, Strategies, Training Modules and Implementation Mechanism".



<b>Chief Patron</b>	: <b>Lieutenant General Md Mahfuzur Rahman</b> , OSP, rcds, ndc, afwc, psc, PhD Chairman, BNACWC and Principal Staff Officer, Armed Forces Division.
<b>Patron</b>	: <b>Commodore Bashir Uddin Ahmed</b> , (G), ndc, psc, BN, Member Secretary, BNACWC and Director General, Civil and Military Relations Directorate, Armed Forces Division.
<b>Supervisor</b>	: <b>Colonel Shams Mohammad Mamun</b> , psc, Colonel Staff, BNACWC and Civil and Military Relations Directorate, Armed Forces Division.
<b>Editors</b>	: <b>Lieutenant Colonel Abu Tareq Mohammad Rashed</b> , SPP, psc General Staff Officer-1, BNACWC. <b>Mr. Rafiqul Islam</b> , Assistant Director, BNACWC.
<b>Assistant Editors</b>	: <b>Major Md. Rokonujaman Khan</b> , AEC, General Staff Officer-2 (Chemist). <b>Lieutenant Commander Md Emran Hossain</b> , BN, General Staff Officer-2, BNACWC.