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# BNACWC

## NEWSLETTER



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

**Address :** Prime Minister's Office, Armed Forces Division, Dhaka Cantonment, Dhaka-1206

**Website :** [www.bnacwcafd.gov.bd](http://www.bnacwcafd.gov.bd), **E-mail :** [bnacwc@bnacwcafd.gov.bd](mailto:bnacwc@bnacwcafd.gov.bd)

**Facebook :** [www.facebook.com/bnacwc](https://www.facebook.com/bnacwc)

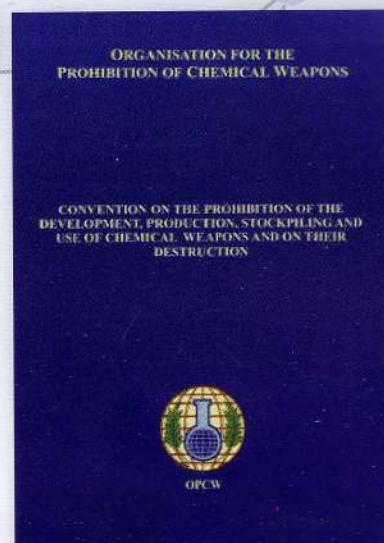




## CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (CWC)

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, working together to implement the CWC globally. The mission of the OPCW is to implement the provisions of the CWC in order to achieve the vision for a world free of Chemical Weapons and the threat of their use. As of 30 September 2020, 98.32% of the world's 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.



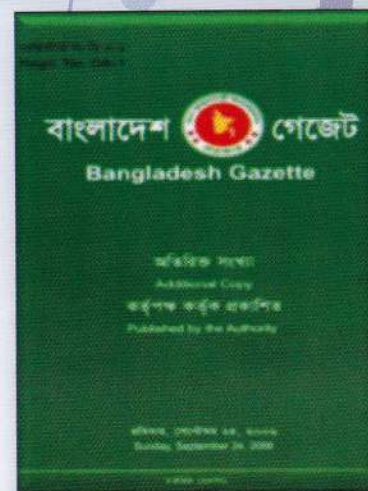




## NATIONAL LEGISLATIONS ON CWC IN BANGLADESH

### Chemical Weapons (Prohibition) Act, 2006

As per the article VII of CWC, each State Party should adopt their own legislation for ensuring implementation of CWC. Accordingly, the 'Chemical Weapons (Prohibition) Act, 2006' was approved by the Parliament of Bangladesh and published on 24 September 2006 on Gazette. It is the number 37<sup>th</sup> law of the year 2006. It has total 08 chapters, 49 articles and a chart of three types of schedule chemicals. It lays out comprehensive procedure to implement CWC in Bangladesh including necessary laws, penalty and punishment.



### Enrollment Rules 2010

The Enrollment Rule mentions about the obligations, criteria, procedure and submission of various documents of chemical industries/organizations for being enlisted to the National Authority. The rule was adopted on 09 February 2010 and published in Bangladesh Gazette on 23 March 2010. It is a supplementary legislation to the Chemical Weapons (Prohibition) Act, 2006. This rule is composed of 13 articles.

### Import Policy Order 2011

This policy was adopted on 19 October 2011 and published in Bangladesh Gazette on 25 October 2011 as the amendment of the Import Policy Order 2009-2011. After amendment, a new sub-section (sub-section 60) is included under section 25 of the policy. It also included an annex (annex 3) where the lists of all Schedule Chemicals with their Harmonized System (HS) Code and Chemical Abstract Service (CAS) Registry Number were attached. According to the new sub-section 60, the chemicals of annex 3 can be imported by fulfilling the conditions of Chemical Weapons (Prohibition) Act, 2006 and Enrolment Rules 2010. Bangladesh Government amends the Import Policy Order in every three years.



### Rules for Chemical Weapons (Prohibition) Act, 2006

Ever-increasing manufacturing sector of Bangladesh is causing a consistent rise in the use of chemicals resulting in increased production of Discrete Organic Chemicals (DOC) and transfer of schedule chemicals. For ensuring better chemical safety and security management, proper implementation of Chemical Weapons (Prohibition) Act, 2006 is a prerequisite. As such, to implement the act properly, BNACWC decided to formulate rules on this act. A Rules Drafting Committee was formed by the Chairman BNACWC. The Committee is in the process of finalizing the rules titled as 'Chemical Weapons (Prohibition) Rules, 2020'. Along with the act, the rules will provide great support in implementing CWC in Bangladesh and ensuring chemical safety and security all over the country.





## OPCW ONLINE PROGRAMME

### Training Course on Declarations and Inspections Obligations under Article VI of the Chemical Weapons Convention

An online training course on Declarations and Inspections Obligations under Article VI of the Chemical Weapons Convention was held online from 15 to 24 June 2020 for practitioners from the South and South-East Asia region. Twenty-two participants from eight OPCW Member States (Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam) participated in the training which included four participants from BNACWC. The programme started with the opening remarks of OPCW Director of the International Cooperation and Assistance Division, Ms Kayoko Gotoh. In this training, participants worked on a scenario based exercise to prepare a declaration using the OPCW's latest electronic declaration tool, the Electronic Declaration Information System (EDIS) and were able to interact with OPCW staff who provided technical guidance, assessed participants' knowledge, and helped to develop post-training action plans.



*Participants from BNACWC interacted with the OPCW experts and counterparts from participating countries*

### The Eighteenth Regional Meeting of National Authorities

Eighteenth Regional Meeting of National Authorities was organized online by OPCW on 29 July 2020. Thirty-eight representatives from twenty-five Asian Member States participated in the meeting. Regional meetings of National Authorities of States Parties provide a forum in which the States Parties of the region can address various national implementation issues, capacity building programmes and activities organized by the Technical Secretariat and other issues related to the Convention. National Authorities also share best practices and challenges encountered while implementing CWC in their respective countries. This year the meeting focused on regional priorities including the OPCW International Cooperation and Assistance Division's integrated approach to capacity building, the status of the implementation of Articles VI and VII of the CWC, the recent amendment to the annex on chemicals of the CWC and the Electronic Declaration Information System (EDIS). From Bangladesh, Member Secretary of BNACWC participated in the meeting.



## Executive Programme on Integrated Chemical Management

OPCW held an online workshop on 19 August 2020, during which participants from twenty-one Member States exchanged best practices in chemical safety and security. The programme aimed to support implementation of Article XI of the CWC. A total of 34 practitioners and experts representing government agencies, chemical industry and academia from 21 Member States took part. From Bangladesh Mr Md Sazzat Hossain, Senior Deputy Manager of ACI Pharmaceuticals Ltd participated in the programme.



*Mr Md Sazzat Hossain of ACI Pharmaceuticals Ltd participated in the programme from Bangladesh*

## Online Meeting for Partner Training Centres for Assistance and Protection in the Asia Region



*Colonel Staff and Coordinator of BNACWC participated in the online meeting for partner training centres*

OPCW organized an online meeting on 15 and 16 July 2020 for partner training centres for assistance and protection in the Asia region. Purpose of the meeting was to share OPCW's plans to maintain cooperation with partner training centres/national authorities under the Covid-19 restrictions. Emphasis was placed on the importance of working together in order to maintain various capacity building activities despite the restrictions posed by Covid-19. Twenty-two participants representing partner training centres and National Authorities of seven OPCW Member States took part in the meeting. From Bangladesh, Colonel Staff and Coordinator of BNACWC participated.

## Online Peaceful Uses of Chemistry Forum

OPCW organized an online Peaceful Uses of Chemistry Forum on 01 July 2020 intending to determine the way forward for the OPCW's capacity building programme in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. The forum, tailored for government agencies, academia and chemical industry representatives in the Asia region, provided a platform for the Member States to further identify potential areas for international cooperation with regards to peaceful uses of chemistry. The course was attended by 22 participants and 7 panel experts from 17 countries. 10 participants from Bangladesh participated in the programme



*Major Rokonujaman Khan and Assistant Director Rafiqul Islam of BNACWC participated in the forum*





## EXPERIENCES OF BNACWC INTRENS

### **Khandoker Tahmina Tasnim, Department of Chemistry, University of Dhaka**

My journey with BNACWC will remain as one of the most memorable chapters in my life. BNACWC paved me the way to learn about chemical safety, security, activities related to protection from toxic chemicals in both theoretical and practical aspects. I attended the inspection programme as an intern with BNACWC Executive Cell in different pharmaceutical companies where I came to know about the mandatory required industrial facilities. By this process, I also learned different scheduled chemicals, laws of their production, stockpiling, transfer and understood how BNACWC implements Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) in our country. The explosion at Beirut shows us how important these regulations are. The skills I have developed as an intern will help me contributing better in the chemical sector of Bangladesh in future.



### **Mohammad Shafayet Ali, Department of Chemical Engineering, BUET**



Being a chemical engineering student, I was acquainted with the way chemical processes occur but unaware of the threats, hazards, risks that several chemicals pose in our lives. The journey as an intern in BNACWC made me concerned about the chemical safety and security, control of scheduled chemicals according to the Chemical Weapons (Prohibition) Act, 2006. I was fortunate to attend several training programmes like Basic Assistance and Protection Course for Responders (BAPCoR), Chemical Safety Course etc. These training programmes helped me to broaden my understanding on the importance of chemical safety and security management. All in all, being part of Executive Cell of BNACWC as a student intern gave me a basic knowledge of professional etiquette and chemical safety which will surely affect my future career behavior as a chemical engineer.

### **Anika Bushra, Department of Chemical Engineering, BUET**

BNACWC has expanded my horizon beyond the boundary of academic knowledge and introduced me with my responsibilities towards a world free of chemical weapons. Through this internship, I got the valuable opportunity to closely associate myself with the activities of BNACWC Executive Cell and to know about the contribution of OPCW in creating a world free of chemical weapons. I was fortunate enough to be a part of different education and outreach programmes organized by BNACWC during this internship. Through "International Symposium on Chemical Safety and Security Management", I got the privilege to witness several well-renowned academics and industrial speakers' talk regarding chemical safety and security issues. I also got the incredible opportunity to be a part of the inspection team as a part of BNACWC routine inspection. This internship experience has improved my understanding of the responsibilities that I have in my upcoming career as a chemical engineer towards endorsing chemical safety and security culture in my workplace.



### **Hridita Purba Saha, Department of Chemical Engineering, BUET**



I always wanted to explore something new along with my study. BNACWC internship was such kind of opportunity for me. As a chemical engineer, we got to know about the working process of any industry in our academic curriculum but after joining in BNACWC I got the chance to be familiar with the safety and hazard issue of an industry. Working with the Executive Cell had been a great experience for me. Also attending several training programs like Basic Assistance and Protection Course for Responders (BAPCoR), Chemical Safety Course made me aware about the scheduled chemicals, some safety measurements and all the rules and regulations that must be complied by any industry which will certainly help me to grow as a chemical engineer. Last but not the least, being a part of BNACWC gave me the chance to overcome some of my shortcomings and also gather some great experience which will surely help me in my future professional life.




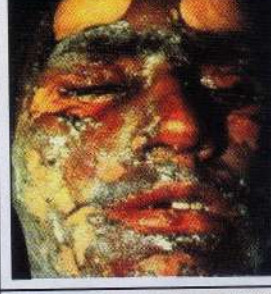



## CHEMICAL WARFARE AGENTS (CWA)

### 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
<b>Choking Agent</b>	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>	
<b>Blood Agent</b>	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>	
<b>Nerve Agent</b>	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>	
<b>Blister Agent</b>	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>	
<b>Riot Control Agent</b>	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>	





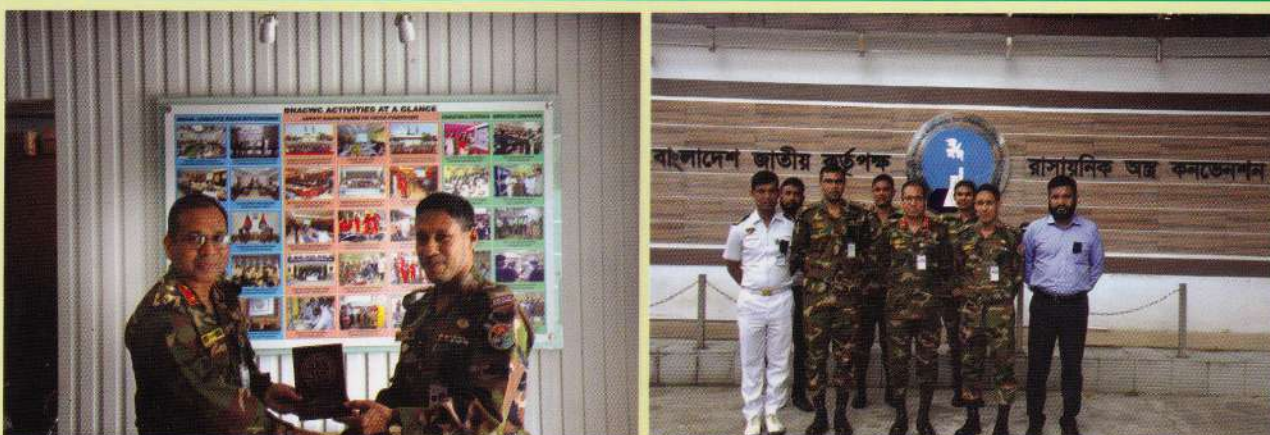
## MEETING

### Meeting on Chemical Weapons (Prohibition) Rules, 2020



*On 25 August 2020, a coordination meeting was held on draft 'Chemical Weapons (Prohibition) Rules, 2020' at AFD to review the draft rules and incorporate necessary amendments*

### Farewell of Colonel Staff, CMR Directorate (Ex Coordinator of BNACWC)



*Colonel (then Lieutenant Colonel) Shams Mohammed Mamun, psc served as Coordinator of BNACWC from 18 July 2018 to 28 December 2019 before being adjusted as Colonel Staff of CMR directorate. During his tenure as Coordinator, Colonel Shams contributed immensely for the development of BNACWC and capacity building of different stakeholders. Members of Executive Cell, BNACWC bade him farewell on his posting to Defence Services Command and Staff College (DSCSC) as Senior Instructor*

**Chief Patron** : Lieutenant General Md Mahfuzur Rahman, OSP, rcds, ndc, afwc, psc, PhD, Chairman, BNACWC and Principal Staff Officer, Armed Forces Division.

**Patron** : Commodore Bashir Uddin Ahmed, (G), ndc, psc, BN, Member Secretary, BNACWC and Director General, Civil and Military Relations Directorate, Armed Forces Division.

**Editors** : Lieutenant Colonel Abu Tareq Mohammad Rashed, SPP, psc, General Staff Officer-1, BNACWC.  
Mr. Rafiqul Islam, Assistant Director, BNACWC.

**Assistant Editors** : Major Md. Rokonujaman Khan, AEC, General Staff Officer-2 (Chemist).  
Lieutenant Commander Md Emran Hossain, BN, General Staff Officer-2, BNACWC.