

# BANGLADESH NATIONAL AUTHORITY FOR CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (BNACWC)



# BNACWC

## NEWSLETTER

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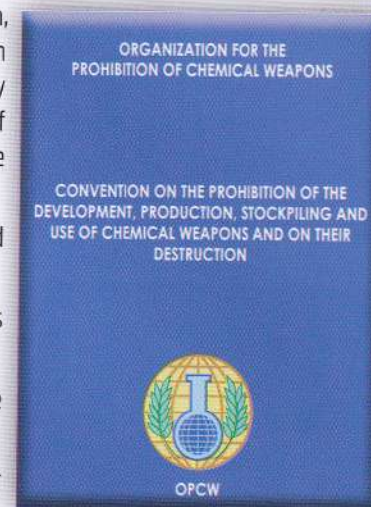




## CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (CWC)

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. Salient aspects 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 31 December 2020, 98.39% 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.







## BNACWC GETS ITS NEW CHAIRMAN

Lieutenant General Waker-Uz-Zaman, SGP, psc, assumed the duties of Principal Staff Officer of Armed Forces Division as well as Chairman, BNACWC on 30 November 2020. Lieutenant General Waker was commissioned in the Corps of Infantry on December 1985. Having an illustrious and colourful career of more than three and half decades, he brings with him an enormous experience of holding key command, staff and instructional appointments. Prior to joining his current appointment, Lieutenant General Waker was working as Military Secretary in Army Headquarters. He is an alumnus of the Defence Services Command and Staff College, Mirpur and Joint Services Command and Staff College, UK. He holds a master degree in Defence Studies from Bangladesh and Master of Arts in Defence Studies from King's College, University of London. Lieutenant General Waker had the rare privilege of commanding the National Victory Day Parade for three consecutive times. He was awarded with the coveted 'Army Medal of Glory (SGP)' for his notable contributions in the modernization of Bangladesh Army. He frequents as a keynote speaker in different seminars and symposiums at home and abroad.



## 16<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL MEETING OF BNACWC

16<sup>th</sup> General Meeting of BNACWC was held on 22 December 2020 via online platform. Newly appointed Chairman, BNACWC and Principal Staff Officer, Armed Forces Division Lieutenant General Waker-Uz-Zaman chaired the meeting. Members of BNACWC from various ministries and organizations participated in the online event. BNACWC members reviewed the present activities of BNACWC and discussed the future road map to implement Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) in Bangladesh. Representatives of Armed Forces, Fire Service and Civil Defence and Bangladesh Police apprised the house about their capacity building activities. Chairman accentuated the importance of capacity building and appreciated the responders for their efforts despite being constrained by COVID-19 pandemic. Representative from National Board of Revenue (NBR) apprised the house about the upgradation of their chemical laboratories for identification of various toxic chemicals at the ports (land, sea and air). House discussed about the requirement of having a National Policy along with a National Coordinating Body to ensure better chemical safety and security management in Bangladesh by accommodating all chemical related activities/organizations under single umbrella. Chairman emphasized on the requirement of international cooperation for capacity building regarding chemical safety and security management. Chairman expressed his opinion to continue various activities of BNACWC via online platform during COVID situation. The meeting ended with a positive understanding for working together to ensure chemical safety in Bangladesh.



Chairman, BNACWC delivering his welcome remarks



Representative of Bangladesh Police apprising the house about their Capacity Building activities



BNACWC IN 2020 - A PICTORIAL REPRESENTATION



Newly appointed Chairman of BNACWC visiting the office complex of Executive Cell, BNACWC



Certificate Awarding Ceremony of International Symposium on Chemical Safety & Security Management



Chattogram Port visit by BNACWC Expert Team



Coordination Meeting of the Joint Committee for Drafting Rules for the Chemical Weapons (Prohibition) Act, 2006



Local Inspection at Eskayef Pharmaceuticals Ltd



Local Inspection at ACI Pharmaceuticals Ltd



Interactive Session at Old Dhaka



Outreach Programme at BCS Administration Academy





## VISIT TO CHEMICAL CARGO STORAGE OF CHATTOGRAM AND MONGLA PORT BY BNACWC EXPERT TEAM

BNACWC is the prime implementing body of CWC in Bangladesh and works hand in hand with OPCW. In order to ensure peaceful use of chemicals in Bangladesh, BNACWC works in close collaboration with various government and non-government outfits. Under the purview of 'Chemical Weapons (Prohibition) Act, 2006', BNACWC regularly conducts inspections at various chemical related installations/facilities of Bangladesh. Various ports (land, sea and air) of Bangladesh are the entry points for dangerous cargoes/chemicals where imported dangerous cargoes/chemicals are stored for a certain period of time. Hence, proper management/handling of these cargoes in these ports is of utmost importance. Experienced team of BNACWC felt that it might render its assistance to the ports by sharing expert opinion, views and ideas. Consequently, BNACWC Expert Team visited two seaports (Chattogram Port and Mongla Port) on 20 October 2020 and 24 December 2020 respectively. The visiting team was comprised of experts from BNACWC Executive Cell, different ministries and chemical related organizations. The team suggested various measures to improve the overall safety and security standard at the ports.

### VISIT TO CHATTOGRAM PORT



BNACWC Expert Team interacting with Port and Customs Authority



BNACWC Expert Team inspecting the container yard of Chattogram Port



Visiting Team interacting with different stakeholders related to safety and security

### VISIT TO MONGLA PORT



Interactive Session among Visiting Team, Mongla Port Authority and Customs Authority



Onsite inspection by the BNACWC Expert Team at Mongla Port



Representative of Port Authority apprising the team about dangerous cargo management





## EDUCATION AND OUTREACH PROGRAMME

### TRIAL CLASS ON "CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION AND BASICS OF CHEMICAL HAZARD AND SAFETY"

To grow more awareness on CWC and its related national legislations among the students/young chemists, BNACWC, in close collaboration with Chemical Engineering Department of BUET, formulated a 15 hours CWC package with 01 credit on chemistry, chemical engineering, applied chemistry and other chemistry related subjects for the universities of Bangladesh. The aim of this project is to educate the young chemists with CWC and chemical safety and security management. A trial class on the proposed syllabus (CWC and Basics of Chemical Hazard and Safety) was held on 12-22 October 2020 through online platform. Fifty students from five reputed universities participated in the course. Seven instructors from BNACWC and BUET delivered lectures on different topics as per the course module.



Instructors from BNACWC delivering their lectures for the trial class via online platform



Head, Chemical Engineering Department, BUET delivering lecture on chemical safety and security management





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 gas, liquid 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>	<p><small>HYDROGEN CYANIDE IN THE OPERATIONS WORK TO PROTECT LIFE</small></p> <p><small>Health Effects of HCN on Firefighters</small></p>
<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>	





**LICENSING MEETING OF BNACWC**

As per the "Chemical Weapons (Prohibition) Act, 2006", all industries involved with activities related to schedule chemicals and production with 'Discrete Organic Chemicals' must be enrolled with BNACWC. Purpose is to monitor the chemical related activities in Bangladesh and ensure better chemical safety and security. BNACWC periodically conducts licensing meeting to enroll factories to BNACWC. Last Licensing Meeting of BNACWC was held online on 12 November 2020. Licensing committee is comprised of five members from different ministries and organizations.



**CURRENT REPRESENTATION IN OPCW FROM BANGLADESH**



**Professor Syeda Sulatana Razia, PhD**

**Head, Dept of Chemical Engineering, BUET**

- Member, Scientific Advisory Board, OPCW (2018-2020, 2021-2023)
- Member, Review Committee of the Programme for the Support of Research Projects, OPCW (2020-2022)



**Colonel Mohammad Mehedi Hasan Khan, PPM, psc, PhD**

**Bangladesh Army**

- Inspector, Chemical Weapons Munition Specialist, OPCW

**Chief Patron : Lieutenant General Waker-Uz-Zaman, SGP, psc**  
Chairman, BNACWC and Principal Staff Officer, Armed Forces Division

**Patron : Commodore Arif Ahmed Mustafa, (G), NUP, afwc, psc, BN**  
Member Secretary, BNACWC and  
Director General, Civil and Military Relations Directorate, Armed Forces Division.

**Supervisor : Colonel Md Bashirul Haque, BSP, afwc, psc**  
Colonel Staff, Civil and Military Relations Directorate, Armed Forces Division

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General Staff Officer-1, BNACWC  
**: Mr. Rafiqul Islam, Assistant Director, BNACWC**

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