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## New Ministry of Science, Technology soon

The government is planning to establish a new Ministry of Science and Technology to reach the benefit of the latest invention and innovation in science and technology, reports UNB.

This was stated by Education Minister Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar while inaugurating a 10-day regional training course on Research Reactor Safety Documentation in Dhaka on Monday, jointly organised by International Atomic Energy Agency and Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission.

The minister said the government is also considering to set up the proposed Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant (RNPP) in view of the limited natural gas and coal reserves and environmental problems.

Bangladesh is one of the selective 35 developing countries which possess an operating nuclear research reactor, he said. The 3MW TRIGA reactor facility commissioned here in October 1986 is very useful for research, training, production (radioisotopes for medical uses) and educational facility, he added.

Sircar said the government is fully aware of the importance and the role of science and technology in the upliftment of common people and in achieving the cherished goal of self-reliance.

Speaking on the importance of safety, a recent realisation in the history of industrial revolution, the Education Minister pointed out that many laws had lately been enacted in all countries of the world to protect occupational workers from accidents and hazards.

The nuclear safety and radiation protection is an extremely sensitive issue, he said and hoped that the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission and the scientists and engineers who are responsible for the operation and regulation of the reactor will take every measure to ensure the safety.

The government has already proposed a bill in the parliament to ensure nuclear safety and radiation protection in the country, he added.

The opening function was also addressed by Dr. M.A. Mannan, Kazi Abdul Awal, M.A. Quaiyum and Dr. John F. Easey.