

Atomic Energy Commission official says.

## Country has vast potential sources of nuclear power

Bangladesh has vast potential for finding radioactive metal, uranium, in Dauki fault passing through Sylhet, Mymensingh and Joypurhat, which could be the best source of country's nuclear power. "Uranium has high energy value as one kg uranium produces energy equivalent to 20,000 tons of coal burning. It is very much cost-effective also," an expert at Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission told UNB.

Dr Munir Ahmed, Chief Geologist and Director of Nuclear Mineral Unit of BAEC, said along with uranium some other radioactive bodies like thorium and potassium could also be found.

In original form, uranium is found in stone form, and then it can be refined and transformed into powder, metallic or solid form.

Uranium is the main fuel of generating nuclear power. The government should gear up the abandoned Rooppur Nuclear Power Project in Paksy for generating cost-effective nuclear power, Dr Ahmed suggested.

Country's uranium could be used as main fuel in Rooppur or, if needed, it should be imported for generating power which is more cost-effective than coal," he said.

Country's geological environment showed the signs of availability of the precious metal. In 1985, the BAEC geologist came across sources at Fultola, Moulvibazar, showing potential of high-grade uranium mineral.

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sources, a team of geologists of BAEC will conduct uranium search along the Sylhet-Joypurhat-Dauki fault belt under a recently approved project. This will in effect be resumption of the search which had been abandoned nine years ago at the behest of the then government who did not assign any reason for the action.

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gramme of the Atomic Energy Commission involving a cost of Tk 1.38 crore was approved by the government in April this year and exploration would begin next winter.

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Speakers at seminar urge govt

Withdraw restrictions on fertilizer import

By Staff Correspondent

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man, holding company for mining and refractories of the government of Egypt. Yehia Mahmoud Kotb, Chairman of a fertilizer producing company in Egypt, Tanveerul Haque, Managing director, Rainbow Associates, Fazl Azim, Chairman, Peakward Enterprise, AHM Obaidul Bari, a fertilizer marketing expert and Ershad Mojumder.

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