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President Abdul Hamid and International Atomic Energy Agency director general Yukiya Amano attend the special convocation of Dhaka University on Tuesday. — New Age photo

IAEA for independent regulatory body for nuclear power plant

DU confers honorary degree on Yukiya Amano

DU Correspondent

INTERNATIONAL Atomic Energy Agency director general Yukiya Amano on Tuesday said that Bangladesh should establish a strong and independent regulatory body alongside creating appropriate legal framework for ensuring safety of nuclear power plant.

A large number of skilled manpower was needed to build and maintain nuclear infrastructures like power plants, he said, adding that the IAEA would continue to provide support to Bangladesh in this regard.

He was addressing a special convocation of the University of Dhaka at the Nabab Nawab Ali Chowd-

hury Senate Bhaban where the university conferred an honorary Doctor of Laws degree on him.

President Abdul Hamid, also chancellor of the university, handed the degree over to Amano.

Under IAEA's supervision, Bangladesh is building its first nuclear power plant at Rooppur in Pabna at a cost of \$13.2 billion with 90 per cent supplier's credit from Russia to generate 1,200MW power from 2023 and another 1,200MW from 2024.

Amano with three other people, including his wife, arrived in Dhaka on Sunday night on a two-day visit to see for himself the progress in implementing the country's first

nuclear power plant.

Addressing the event, Amano said that nuclear technology could provide carbon-free electricity at an affordable price. In the past sixty years, IAEA had played a vital role in curbing expansion of nuclear weapons across the globe, he said, adding that the agency had also helped many developing nations to get access the benefits of peaceful use of nuclear technology.

'Installation and operation of nuclear power plants, nuclear safety, radiation protection and use of nuclear technology in cancer control and food production are the key areas where Bangladesh is getting support from the IAEA,' he said.

DU vice-chancellor professor AAMS Arefin Siddique lauded Amano's contribution to lead the campaign of using atomic energy for peace and development.

Amano and his companions are scheduled to leave for Kathamandu today.