

Bangladesh, Russia sign nuclear reactor deal

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DHAKA : Bangladesh and Russia signed a deal on Wednesday to build a nuclear power plant in the energy-starved South Asian nation.

Bangladesh's junior science and technology minister Yeafesh Osman said he and Russia's State Atomic Energy Corporation director-general Sergei Kiriyenko signed the agreement to build the nation's first such plant at Rooppur in Pabna district.

Russia would provide technical support for building two generators each capable of

producing 1,000 megawatts of electricity and would help with some of the construction while offering legal and staffing support, Osman said in Dhaka.

The complex deal also calls for Russia to supply funding and fuel and to take back depleted fuel rods for safe storage Kiriyenko said. The plant would implement new safety features considering the nuclear accident in Fukushima, he said.

Bangladesh which relies on decades-old gas-fired plants for power suffers a daily shortfall of about 2 000 megawatts that is blamed for hampering industrial production and economic growth.

AP