

Bangladesh to Get \$1Bln Loan for Weapons

By [The Moscow Times](#)

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Russia granted a \$1 billion loan to Bangladesh for arms purchases, President Vladimir Putin said Tuesday after talks with the country's prime minister, Sheikh Hasina.

"Our countries intend to broaden military-technical cooperation," Putin said, referring to weapons sales and servicing.

He did not specify what weapons or military equipment Bangladesh would buy from Russia, the world's second-largest arms exporter.

Russia will provide a separate \$500 million loan to Bangladesh to help build its first nuclear power plant, Ruppur, under an agreement signed after the meeting, Putin said.

"We will not only provide the most up-to-date technology ... but we will also provide financial support for the construction of the nuclear power plant at the initial stage," he said.

The head of state nuclear corporation Rosatom, Sergei Kiriienko, said technical and environmental assessments would be done this year. The plant is to have two 1,000-megawatt reactors and be completed in the early 2020s.

Kiriienko told reporters more loans would be required at later stages.

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