



SREDA
Sustainable and Renewable
Energy Development Authority



Implemented by:
giz Deutsche Gesellschaft
für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Volume 2 : July-September 2021

Newsletter

National Solar Help Desk

The National Solar Help Desk (NSHD) is an undertaking of Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority (SREDA), to support the proliferation of primarily Solar Rooftop programme under net metering. Initial establishment of NSHD is being supported by the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Programme (REEEP II) implemented by GIZ Bangladesh. SREDA envisions to enlarge the scope of NSHD to cover all renewable energy solutions in the future.

Inauguration Ceremony of National Solar Help Desk

The formal inauguration ceremony of the National Solar Help Desk (NSHD) (<https://shd.sreda.gov.bd/>) took place on 19 August 2021 at SREDA. The objective of the inauguration event was to broadcast the National Solar Help Desk (NSHD) to aware and engage wider stakeholders.

The event was organized in hybrid mode (both in physical and virtual participation). Around 50 officials from SREDA, different Government organizations, distribution utilities and development partners, members of civil societies and Journalists and individual consultants participated physically in the inauguration event. At the same time around 100 invitees from different stakeholders attended the event virtually.

The Honourable State Minister of the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources (MPEMR), Mr. Nasrul Hamid MP attended the event virtually as the Chief Guest. Mr. Md. Habibur Rahman, Secretary, Power Division, MPEMR, Mr. Satyajit Karmaker, Chairman (Secretary), Bangladesh Energy and Power Research Council (BEPRC) and Ms. Caren Blume, Head of Development Cooperation, German Embassy were also present as Special Guests. Mr. Mohammad Alauddin, Chairman (Additional Secretary), SREDA chaired the event.

The NSHD was jointly inaugurated by the above-mentioned special guests. At the beginning, Mr. Md. Habibur Rahman generated the first token of National Solar Help Desk by following the steps of the "New Appointment" option at the Kiosk. Ms. Caren



The Guests of honor are creating token from kiosk to place queries for National Solar Help Desk

Blume, Mr. Satyajit Karmaker and Mr. Jan also received token in sequence from the kiosk of the NSHD.

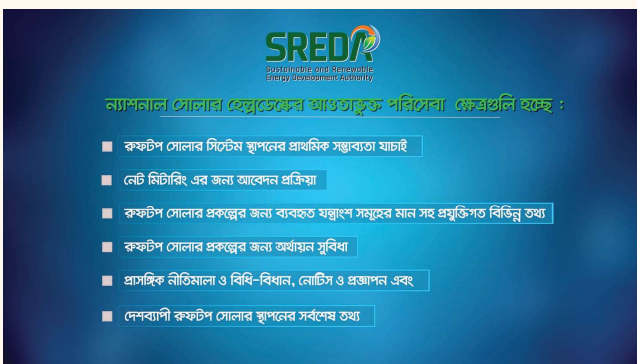
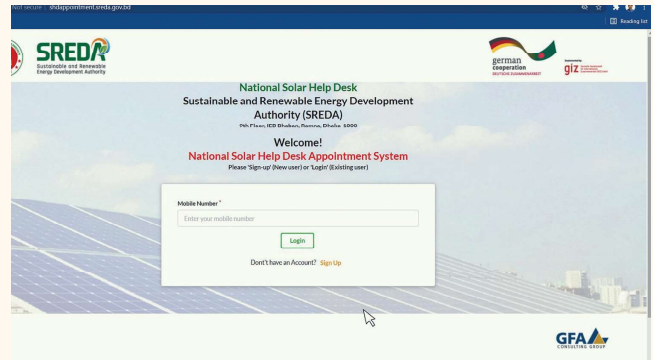
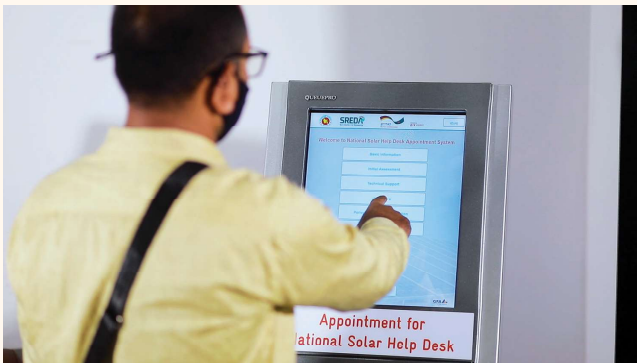
The guests had a discussion with Mr. Rayed Hasan, Executive of NSHD about the services of the help desk. Mr. Mohammad Alauddin informed the guests that information of rooftop solar under Net Metering guidelines are already available at the NSHD web portal. In coming days, eventually information on all other Renewable Energy sources would also be available there. The event was broadcast on SREDA facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/sreda.bd/videos> and Youtube page https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWny93HyMW_6fCUh3So4KpQ/videos of SREDA.



Inauguration of National Solar Help Desk

A video demonstration on National Solar Help Desk took place before the valuable remarks by the guests.



Video Demonstration of NSHD (Video link)

The honourable guests delivered their speech after inauguration of NSHD.



Ms. Salima Jahan, Member (Joint Secretary), Policy & Research, SREDA and National Project Director, REEEP II welcomed all in the inauguration ceremony of National Solar help Desk at SREDA. She appealed to all to put forward their best efforts to make renewable energy a great contributor to the national energy mix and thereby lead the country towards sustainable energy.

In her remarks as special guest, Ms. Caren Blume mentioned “Germany has the opportunities to accompany Bangladesh for its transition towards sustainable and renewable energy”.



In his remarks as special guest, Mr. Karmaker said “As BEPRC focuses on research and development in energy and power sector through innovation, incubation and entrepreneurship, BEPRC and SREDA could be a good partner to develop customized technological solutions for renewable energy”.



Mr. Md. Habibur Rahman, in his remarks as special guest mentioned “There had been a long-standing demand from the people to establish such a help desk. In lack of such help desk, every day senior officials in the power divisions including SREDA use to receive a lot of phone calls e.g., if someone wants to install a solar rooftop system then where they can get the assistance, who can tell them the installation process etc”.



Chief Guest of the event was connected in virtual mode. In his remarks as chief guest, Mr. Nasrul Hamid said “Under leadership of Bangabandhu’s worthy daughter Sheikh Hasina, Bangladesh envisions to set unique example of sustainable development which the father of the nation dreamed 50 years back as “Sonar Bangla”. He also felt proud for the progressing towards aforementioned destination by this kind of initiatives.



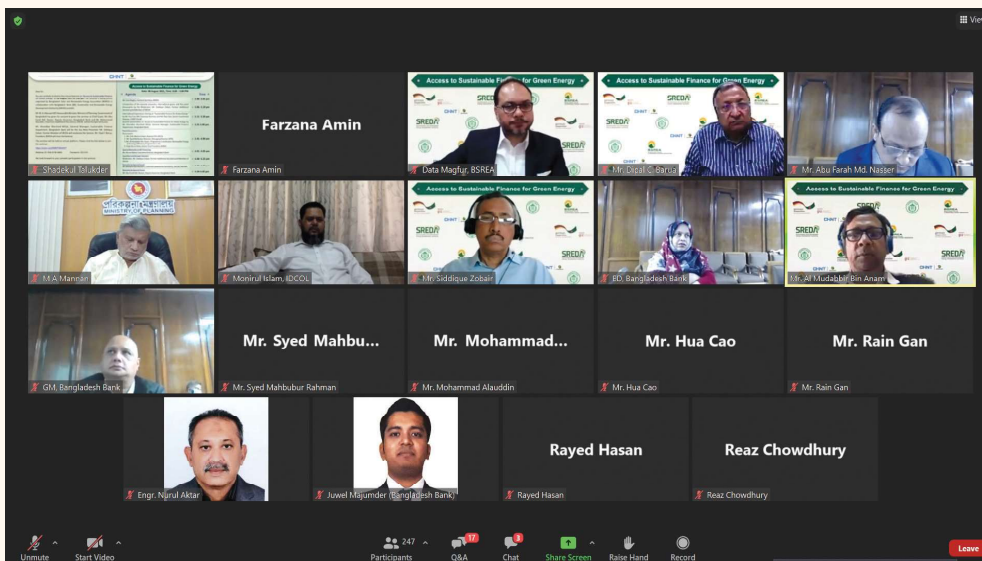
In his closing remarks as Chairperson, Mr. Mohammad Alauddin opined “There is a clear business case for rooftop solar projects. But entrepreneurs and stakeholders need sufficient information to implement rooftop projects”. That’s why, with support of GIZ, SREDA has established this help desk.

Seminar on Access to Sustainable Finance for Green Energy

A virtual Seminar on 'Access to Sustainable Finance for Green Energy' was held on 08 August 2021 at 3:00 pm. The Seminar was jointly organized by

Bangladesh Solar and Renewable Energy Association (BSREA) in collaboration with Bangladesh Bank (BB), Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development

Authority (SREDA) and GIZ. Mr. M. A. Mannan MP, Honourable Minister, Ministry of Planning, Government of Bangladesh attended the seminar as Chief Guest. Mr. Abu Farah Md. Nasser, Deputy Governor, Bangladesh Bank and Mr. Mohammad Alauddin, Chairman (Additional Secretary), SREDA were present as the Special Guests of the Seminar.



Few participants of the virtual seminar on “Access to sustainable Finance for Green Energy”

Mr. Khondkar Morshed Millat, General Manager, Sustainable Finance Department, Bangladesh Bank presented a keynote paper at the seminar. The virtual event was moderated by Mr. Siddique Zobair, Former Member of SREDA. Mr. Dipal C Barua, President, BSREA chaired the Seminar.

Mr. S.M. Monirul Islam, Deputy CEO of IDCOL, Mr. Syed Mahbubur Rahman, Managing Director of Mutual Trust Bank Ltd., Mr. Al Mudabbir Bin Anam, Programme Coordinator, Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Programme (REEEP II), GIZ and Engr. Nurul Aktar, Senior Vice President, BSREA spoke at the seminar as panel discussants. Ms. Nurun Nahar, Executive Director, Bangladesh Bank also spoke at the seminar as special remarks on Renewable Energy Financing.

Mr. Al Mudabbir Bin Anam, Programme Coordinator, Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Programme II, GIZ mentioned that development partners can support towards renewable energy transition in two ways, one as technical support and another as financial support. Regarding technical support, he emphasized on the capacity development for stakeholders in various aspects. For financing support, he mentioned that the support could be financing for the technology for the infrastructure development, viability gap funding and the financing put this out for the public and the private sector as well as financing comes in the form of grants, loans or even blended finance and that is the way the development partners can support towards the transition.

Mr. Syed Mahbubur Rahman, Managing Director of Mutual Trust Bank Limited while speaking as panelist said that considering the global climate and warming situation, green energy is very important compared to fossil fuel. "The government is setting up industrial zones in different parts of the country. If we can integrate renewable energy as a part of project cost, we can finance," he added. He also proposed a risk sharing model for funding green energy projects where government can bear some risks against the loans, which might push the banks to come forward.

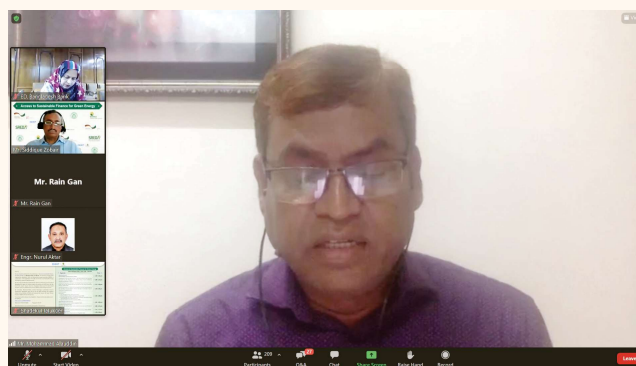
Mr. Mohammad Alauddin, Chairman (Additional Secretary), SREDA, in his remarks as special guest said the issue is there how the interest rate of loan or green energy can be lowered. In response to issue



Chief Guest of the session, Mr. M A Mannan MP, Honorable Minister, Ministry of Planning



Special Guest, Mr. Abu Farah Md Nasser, Deputy Governor of Bangladesh Bank



Special Guest, Mr. Mohammad Alauddin, Chairman (Additional Secretary), SREDA

of Taxes on Solar Accessories, he informed that SREDA requested the NBR to withdraw the taxes on the inverter so that the entrepreneurs feel more comfortable with their projects. He also stressed the need for building awareness among field-level bankers and FIs about the importance of financing the green energy.

Speaking as the special guest, Mr. Abu Farah Md Nasser, Deputy Governor of Bangladesh Bank said the central bank will re-examine how the cost of loans for green energy can be minimized. He said that it is

high time for alignment of the economic activities and business landscape with sustainability and green tax. He informed about the seminar that Bangladesh Bank launched on comprehensive 'Green banking guidelines' to support and promote environment friendly and socially responsible finance in 2011. Subsequently, guidelines on environmental and social risk management have been issued onwards. Finally, he advised financial leaders to concentrate more to avail the ample opportunities to contribute to sustainable finance for green energy.

As Chief Guest of the session, Mr. M A Mannan MP, Honorable Minister, Ministry of Planning mentioned that the world was moving very fast and it was time

for Bangladesh to identify innovative technologies and business model for sustainably achieve its development ambition. He also emphasized on learning from other countries and adopting their best practices.

He also encouraged Bangladesh Bank and various financial institutions to readjust to the changing demand of time as the leaders of green financing of this sector. Later, in his note, he praised the Prime Minister as a modern woman for her courage and steps associated with electrification of the whole country and motivated everyone to support her mission to transfer Bangladesh to a developed country.

Assessment of testing capacity of laboratories for solar system and components

Bangladesh has reasonably good solar energy to support the achievement of the policy target of 10% electricity from renewable energy. However, it is necessary to ensure quality of solar equipment to sustain the market. Keeping this in mind, Bangladesh Standard and Testing Institute (BSTI) has already developed standards for solar panels, inverters, charge controllers and solar batteries in collaboration with SREDA. In this context, necessary steps need to be taken to ensure the implementation of those standards.

As part of the approach, in 2015-17, a survey was conducted on the existing solar laboratories in Bangladesh under the leadership of Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority (SREDA). A 15-members committee was formed with representatives from government sector, private organizations, financing institutes and academicians. The committee has conducted an assessment on 10 existing solar laboratories in Bangladesh to assess their capability in respect of available equipment, testing parameters and requirement for accreditation. Mentioning the solar laboratory of BCSIR as reference lab, the committee has recommended those 10 laboratories to fulfill the requirement for possible accreditation with equipment and testing protocol. Also, the laboratories enrolled at SREDA were recommended

to get accreditation from Bangladesh Accreditation Board (BAB).

As a follow-up step, SREDA has requested REEEP II, the bilateral Technical Cooperation Programme to conduct a study in order to assess the up-to-date capabilities of the various national laboratories in this regard.

The study team has completed the assessment of availability of laboratory equipment for testing solar panel, inverter, charge controller and battery according to respective Bangladesh and IEC Standards. The following steps will be followed for the completion of the study.

1. Assessment of lab capacities with respect to the list of requirements for possible accreditation and certification body.
2. Performing the gap analysis to determine the difference between the requirements for accreditation and what is currently implemented in the selected laboratories.
3. Estimation of investment costs for equipment and cost of manpower for lab operation.
4. Recommendations of further development needed for existing laboratories to become certified.

Visit to Rooftop Solar Project at Korean Export Processing Zone (KEPZ)



Solar panels and inverters of the rooftop solar system installed at KEPZ

Korean Export Processing Zone (KEPZ) is situated in North Potenga, Chittagong and 6 km away from Chittagong Port. A largest rooftop solar system with the capacity of 15 MWp was implemented by KEPZ authority. On the request from the Managing Director of KEPZ, a team led by Mr. Mohammad Alauddin, Chairman, Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority (SREDA) visited the KEPZ Net-metered Rooftop Solar Project on 15 September 2021. Other members of the team were Mr. Md Rashedul Alam, Assistant Director (Solar), SREDA; Mr. Md. Shahriar Ahmed Chowdhury, Director, Centre for Energy Research, United International University (UIU); Mr. Reaz Chowdhury, Team Leader, GFA Consulting Group on behalf of REEEP II of GIZ; Mr. Rayed Hasan, Executive, National Solar Help Desk (NSHD), SREDA. Representative from the EPC Solaric Ltd., Mr. Sabbir Ahmed, COO was also present during the visit. KEPZ has a plan to extend its capacity up to 40 MWp. A site assessment report was prepared by the team and submitted to KEPZ. A major recommendation in the report was to conduct a technical assessment study as part of the performance monitoring of the installed solar PV systems after one year. It can be helpful to compare the expected electricity generation and actual generation including degradation status and related improvement suggestions.

SREDA Officials visited Hotel Intercontinental at Dhaka to explore feasibility of installing Rooftop solar system under Net Metering

The Hotel Intercontinental Dhaka sent a request letter to SREDA to visit their premises for assessing the feasibility of rooftop solar system on their roofs.

In response to that request SREDA team, led by Mr. Mohammad Alauddin, Chairman (Additional Secretary), SREDA, Mr. Mohammad Golam Sarwar e Kainat, Member (Joint Secretary), Renewable Energy, SREDA, Mr. Md. Rashedul Alam, Assistant Director (Solar), SREDA and Mr. M F Shadukul Islam, National Expert, GFA Consulting Group on behalf of REEEP II of GIZ visited Hotel Intercontinental on June 9, 2021. The hotel authority wants to install rooftop solar system on the main office building as a pilot project. A preliminary assessment report was prepared from National Solar Help Desk based on the inspection by the team and the information provided by the hotel authority.



Solar system installed at National Parliament Bhaban inspected by SREDA



A grid connected solar system was installed in the premises of Bangladesh National Parliament in 2012 with the support of Korea International Cooperation Agency. The solar system with 102 kWp installed capacity. However, it was not working properly for a long

time. Honourable Speaker of National Parliament requested Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority (SREDA) to inspect the solar system and to provide necessary suggestions to make it functional once again. In response, a team lead by Mr. Mohammad Alauddin, Chairman (Additional Secretary), SREDA visited the solar system on 15 June 2021. Other team members were Mr. Mohammad Golam Sarware E Kainat, Member (Renewable Energy), SREDA, Mr. Md. Rashedul Alam, Assistant Director (Solar), SREDA, Mr. M Reaz Chowdhury, Team Leader, RE component, REEEP-2, GIZ and Mr. Rayed Hasan, Executive, National Solar Help Desk, SREDA. The team prepared a site assessment report and submitted to the authority.



Contact Details of National Solar Help Desk



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Published on behalf of SREDA by GFA Consulting Group, the implementing partner of Renewable Energy Component of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Programme (REEEP II)

A project assisted by the German Government via the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH.



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