



# 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 was supported by GIZ Bangladesh. At present, NSHD is covering different activities under the leadership of SREDA. SREDA envisions to enlarge the scope of NSHD to cover all Renewable Energy solutions in the future.

### Meeting with Chairman of SREDA

A team of GIZ Bangladesh had a meeting with Chairman of SREDA on 22 May 2022 at SREDA Conference Hall. Primary agenda of this visit was the introduction with the newly appointed Chairman of SREDA. Dr. Frank Fecher, Programme Coordinator, Policy Advisory Program for Promoting Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (PAP) of GIZ Bangladesh presented the objective, scope and different aspects of PAP program to SREDA chairman. Also, plans for upcoming projects were also presented to the Chairman to highlight the scope of GIZ Energy Cluster in Bangladesh. After that, a short discussion was held for further clarification. At the end, Chairman of SREDA thanked everyone for joining the session and hoped for a better cooperative environment in future.



Figure 1: A team from GIZ Bangladesh visited the newly appointed Chairman of SREDA

### Activities Undertaken by NSHD in the Last Three Months

#### Visit to Walton Hi-Tech Industries PLC

Walton Hi-Tech Industries PLC is one of the leading technical industries in Bangladesh. They are producing TV, fridge, AC, compressor, laptop, mobile etc. in their factory in Chandra, Gazipur. After fulfilling local demand, they are also exporting the products to different countries. On the 7th April 2022 Walton officials requested SREDA to visit their factory, newly established solar system and give their suggestions for improvement. A team from SREDA under the leadership of Mr. Mohammad Alauddin, Chairman (Grade-1), SREDA visited the factory on 10th April 2022. Other team members were Farzana Mamtaz,



Figure 2: Visit to Walton Hi-Tech Industries

Member (Additional Secretary), Energy Efficiency & Conservation, SREDA; Mohammad Golam Sarware Kainat, Member (Joint Secretary), Renewable Energy, SREDA; Engr. Md. Rashedul Alam, Assistant Director, Renewable Energy (Solar), SREDA; M Reaz Chowdhury, Lead Consultant for NSHD, GIZ Bangladesh; Rayed Hasan, Executive, NSHD. Members of Walton team welcomed the visiting team. Chief Research & Innovation Officer, Coordinator of Common Service Department and

many others of Walton were present. After brief introduction session, two brief documentaries were shown regarding the history, activities, manufacturing process and capabilities of Walton. After that, the visiting team completed a long tour of the factory premises. Present footprint of the factory, manufacturing process and the development by research and engineering department of Walton were praised by visiting team.

## Technical Meeting on online Net Metering Rooftop Solar Application Process

To review the progress of the online Net Metering Application process and to decide on next steps, a discussion meeting organized by NSHD was held on 22 May, 2022 at SREDA with respective personnel from Northern Electricity Supply Company limited (NESCO). Mr. Mohammad Golam Sarware Kainat, Member (Renewable Energy), SREDA chaired the meeting. In this meeting, Assistant Director (Solar), SREDA informed that to avail net Metering facilities, interested consumers are now submitting hard copy of the Net Metering Application form to the utility. As part of the facilitation of the service, the application process needs to be made online/digital. So, it is

requested to take initial steps to implement the online Net Metering Application System within 6 utilities. In this regard, a Software Requirement Specification (SRS) has been made and primarily delivered to NESCO. Respective personnel from NESCO informed that they already have a project on Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) which also covers SRS activities. In that case, NESCO may seek for some assistance from SREDA to implement the SRS program. Lead Expert for NSHD also discussed about the possible cooperation modes to implement the online application platform.

## Visit to 7.6MWp Solar Power Plant at Sirajganj

To meet part of the electricity demand of northern and western part of Bangladesh and to join the initiative of increasing the renewable energy share by the Government, North West Power Generation Company Limited (NWPGL) has established a 6.55MW (7.6MWp DC) solar power plant along with their existing 1089 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant (CCPP) situated at Soydabad, Sirajganj (24.386177, 89.748409). An Individual Power Producer (IPP) contract was signed between Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) and NWPGL. The installation work of the solar power plant started in December 2018. The plant went for Commercial Operation on 29th March 2021. A 7-member team of SREDA and GIZ Bangladesh visited the 7.6MWp solar power plant at Sirajganj on 25th May 2022 to assess the design of the solar park, collect actual generation data and to compare the actual data with estimated/ calculated generation. Based on that comparison, performance of the solar park was later analysed by the team. A



Figure 3: Visiting Team with Power Plant Authority

team from NWPGL welcomed the visiting team and accompanied them during the visit. Short discussion and detailed briefing on the solar system were held before the team visited the solar park.



## Visit to Centre for Energy Research (CER) Lab at UIU



Figure 4: Visit to CER Lab at UIU

An Energy Research Lab “Centre for Energy Research (CER)” was established at United International University (UIU) in September, 2010 aiming to enhance researches in the fields of Renewable and Sustainable Energy, its utilization and efficient management and policy formulation through research and development. SREDA has taken initiative to inspect that laboratory for verification and evaluation of their capabilities based on a survey conducted in 2015-2017 on the existing solar laboratories in Bangladesh. In this regard, a team comprising SREDA and representatives of NSHD visited on the CER facility on 01 June 2022 under the Leadership of Chairman (Grade 1), SREDA. Prof. Dr. Chowdhury Mofizur Rahman, Professor & Vice Chancellor of United International University, Director of CER Lab and faculty members from EEE

Department of UIU were also present during the visit. An introductory video and details of the CER Lab was presented by the Director. In his presentation, he informed that they have designed several diesel hybrid mini-grids for rural electrification, grid connected Solar PV power plants, development of control and protection systems for DC mini/nano grids etc. They have completed more than 50 projects on Renewable Energy and Climate Change. After the discussion session, the visiting team physically inspected the CER Lab. The team also visited a 28.4 kWp Solar System installed in the rooftop of the UIU building. Representative team from CER Lab informed that the generated energy is being used as internal consumption of the UIU building.

## Technical meeting on the implementation of Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) system

To discuss different aspects and progress of the implementation of AMI for Net-Metered System, NSHD organized a meeting at SREDA on 29 May 2022 at SREDA with respective personnel from Dhaka Power Distribution Company Limited (DPDC). Mr. Mohammad Golam Sarware Kainat, Member (Renewable Energy), SREDA chaired the meeting. In this meeting, Assistant Director (Solar), SREDA informed that NEM was introduced for the dissemination of rooftop solar project and more than 1,500 rooftop projects have already been installed throughout the country. NEM also has provision to monitor rooftop system. As NEM consumers are facing challenges to implement NEM with pre-payment meters, SREDA would like to understand the progress of the AMI pilot project initiated by DPDC. Lead Expert for NSHD said that the learnings from the project being implemented by DPDC could be a role model for other Utilities. He

also highlighted the possible support of GIZ to contribute to this project implementation if needed. Respected personnel from DPDC mentioned that the project has aimed to install 6.5 lakh meters for its customers, and they have started its piloting from Paribag Area. Although the net metering of most customers was done with the help of post-paid meters with Current Transformer (CT)/ Potential Transformer (PT), it is not currently included in the AMI program. He also said that there are plans to add AMI facility to these meters in the future and policy guidelines are needed for technical requirements in its implementation. Chairperson of the meeting expressed interest in inspecting the implementation activities of AMI and observing the technical aspects. If this AMI system can be successfully implemented to develop Net metering facilities, both the consumers and utility will be benefitted.

**A total of 405 services were provided by NSHD till June 2022**

## Contact Details of National Solar Help Desk



### National Solar Help Desk

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