

Staff Reporter

Power utilities will buy solar power from consumers under net metering system.

Power Secretary Dr. Ahmed Kaikaus announced this on Saturday at a function organized by the Power Division to unveil the newly framed "Net Metering Guideline 2018" in order to buy rooftop solar from the consumers.

The function was also addressed by Prime Minister's Energy Adviser Dr Tawfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury and State Minister for Power Nasrul Hamid.

The power secretary said each of the distribution companies must buy solar power from at least 20 consumers. It will be treated as a key target under their annual performance agreement (APA) signed with the ministry.

"Don't take it lightly. You must have to sign contract with 20 consumers for buying solar power within next three months", Dr. Ahmed Kaikaus told the top executives of different power distribution companies.

Under the proposed system, any consumer can set up rooftop solar system covering upto 70 percent capacity of the sanctioned load and sell the additional or unconsumed solar power after meeting his/her demand through an exchange arrangement by a special meter.

The idea is that the consumers will use their own solar power alongside the grid. But on holidays when solar power is not used, the consumers can sell it to the national grid.

Power Cell Director Md Abdur Rouf made a presentation on the issue explaining the billing system and consumers' benefits.

He also informed that there is no lower limit of a consumer's solar capacity. But the upper limit of the capacity is three megawatt.

Addressing the function Dr Tawfiq Elahi said this will create a huge opportunity for the consumers to use their own electricity from solar power and sell unconsumed power to the utilities.

He said the industrial consumers will get the best benefit of it as they can be able to sell their unconsumed electricity of the holidays to the national grid.

Hamid said the new system will boost the green energy production in the country and rooftop of industries and other large buildings will get a good chance to utilize them for solar power generation.

Officials said the government has initiated the move to introduce the net metering system aiming to promote rooftop solar energy across the country as part of its plan to generate 3,168 MW power from renewable energy sources by 2021 in compliance with UN-set Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).