

DEDARUL M CHISTY

power grid to reduce load-shedding and transmit the extra electricity to the grid.

Each urban building a powerhouse: We can install grid-connected solar systems on rooftop of urban buildings. Urban households can escape from load-shading while transmitting the extra electricity to the grid. This would tremendously reduce the over load on our grid system. We can initiate feed in tariff to popularise Solar Pv technology in urban buildings. Large shopping centers and restaurants can also install Solar PV technology to meet their lighting needs. We can promote the use of CFL, LED to increase energy efficiency. Less use of grid electricity for urban consumption, will free electricity for use in the agricultural and industrial sector.

Education, health car, and telecommunication: Our government has promised a computer for each school. Solar PV technology can provide the power to bring computers to rural schools. Education can be facilitated in night schools, hostels etc. Solar PV technology can power refrigerators and other electronic equipment in rural clinics. If long-term credit facilities are available for rural clinics to install solar energy systems, we can scale up the program. Solar thermal can meet the demand for hot water at reduced cost at both rural and urban clinics. We can use Solar PV technology to power mobile phone base stations. Leading mobile phone companies in Bangladesh have already taken steps to power their base stations with solar power.

Against the threat of climate change: Cyclone Sidr and Cyclone Aila have battered our people in the coastal areas recently. To protect ourselves, we can set up cyclone shelters equipped with renewables, such as solar-powered early warning systems, water desalination systems, emergency lighting etc. We can promote organic fertilisers, tree plantations especially on embankments. We can use hybrid models such as solar or wind hybrids to protect our coastal people from the threats of climate change.

Bio-gas in cylinders and from urban waste: We can use bio-gas technology not only to generate cooking gas, but also to generate pure methane gas which can used for running vehicles, power pumps and other electronic equipment. This will facilitate rural development. We can purify biogas and place it in cylinders. We can use all types of wastes ranging from animal dung to crop residues for this purpose. This is successful technology that has been implemented in India, Sweden and many other countries. Our government, which is promoting independent power generation, should also facilitate this type of technology. We can use bio-gas technology in urban areas to convert waste into electricity, gas and organic fertilisers. One such initiative has already been set up in Narayanganj to convert market wastes into organic fertilisers. Cities in Germany have laws to sort out their waste so that they can be recycled and turned into energy.

Protecting us from indoor air pollution: Improved cooking stoves can be one of the