



## Beja will generate 1000 MW of solar power

Today 's market ⌚ June 24, 2017 at 10:32 am



Bangladesh Economic Zone Authority (BEZA) has undertaken a plan to set up a solar power zone with a power generation capacity of 1,000 MW at Baher Char in Chandpur district. This initiative has been taken to meet the growing electricity demand and to implement 'Vision-2021' and 'Vision-2041'.

Beza Executive Chairman Pawan Chowdhury said, we are going to set up solar power zone (Solar Power Zone) on about 4 thousand acres of land. Land acquisition for setting up this zone is in final stage. He said the name of the zone will be decided after the approval of the Prime Minister's Office. However, the name of this solar power zone is supposed to be 'Bangabandhu Solar Power Zone', he said.

Pawan Chowdhury said that Bangladesh Electricity Development Board and Power China have expressed interest in implementing the largest solar zone in the country. He said, in order to quickly implement the solar zone, we are planning to allot 1,000 acres to the Power Development Board and 3,000 acres to Power China.

Expressing the hope that the implementation of the solar zone will start soon, Beja Pradhan said that the partial operation of the zone is expected to start within the next year. Beja Pradhan opined that if the power zone is created in these areas, the proper use of the land will be ensured as the sandy soil of this grazing area is not suitable for cultivation. He said that the land selected for the power zone is not suitable for any crop cultivation. But they are quite suitable for renewable electricity generation.

Responding to a question, Beja Pradhan said that the power zone would be connected to the national grid to meet the demand of electricity for rapid industrialization and to ensure uninterrupted power supply. He said that the government has a target of 24 thousand megawatts in 2021 and 60 thousand megawatts in 2041.

According to the latest data of the Electricity Department, the power sector of the country has achieved great success by increasing the power generation capacity from 4 thousand 942 MW (2009) to 15 thousand 379 MW. At present, about 80 percent of the total population of the country has come under electricity facilities.

Meanwhile, BEJA has also adopted a plan to establish 100 economic zones across the country by 2030 with the aim of rapid economic development through multidimensional industries, employment growth, production and exports.

In order to attract investment in the economic zone, the government has already made necessary laws and regulations to remove legal hurdles.

To create a hassle-free environment for investors, the government has also made necessary regulations to assist in providing economic and other facilities including ensuring gas, water and electricity supply under one stop service centres. Apart from providing VAT and income tax exemption on electricity to investors in economic zones, the government has also announced various incentives.

Today's Market: LK/LK 24 June 2017

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