

Adopt modern technology to ensure food security

Experts tell roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Agriculture Adviser Dr CS Karim yesterday said modern technology would have to be adopted in agriculture sector to meet the growing demand for rice and other food cereals.

"We shall have to adopt modern technology in our agriculture to increase production of rice and other crops. Every year an additional four lakh tons of rice is needed for additional people while around 8200 hectares of land goes out of agriculture because of urbanisation," said the adviser as chief guest at a roundtable in the city yesterday.

He said farmers should be trained up so that they can learn how to use modern technology and grow hybrid rice.

In 1980s, our annual rice production was only one crore ton, but now it is three crore tons and this has become possible because our farmers are accepting modern technology and cultivating hybrid

rice," said the adviser.

The roundtable titled 'Food Security in Bangladesh: Import Dependency Vs Attaining Food Self Sufficiency' was organised jointly by the Media Foundation for Trade and Development and The Equity and Justice Working Group at the National Press Club.

The adviser said the government will continue to give subsidy on fertiliser until the end of the current Boro season and sufficient fertilisers are being supplied through 16000 centres, each of which can provide fertilisers to 500 to 600 farmers.

"We are giving a subsidy of Tk 1200 per bag of fertiliser as its sale price is Tk 300 a bag against the production cost of Tk 1500," he pointed out.

Political leader AKM Jahangir, former Ambassador Walir Rahman, journalist Sadek Khan, Equity and Justice Working Group President Rezaul Karim Chowdhury and Media Foundation for Trade and Development Executive Director Kawser Rahman also spoke at the roundtable.

Students divided over BCS quota system

Demonstrations for, against the system continue

DU CORRESPONDENT

The ongoing demonstration regarding quota system in the Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) examinations has turned complicated as some six separate platforms are demonstrating to materialise their demands in favour or against the quota system.

After a platform 'General Students' launched a movement demanding cancellation of quota system in the BCS examinations last week, some other platforms demonstrated against the 'General Students', as they thought that the platform is organised by an anti-liberation force.

Amra Mukti Joddha Santan, a platform of the DU students as well as children of freedom fighters, said that the demonstration against the

STAR CAMPUS-DRISHTY DEBATE

Final round of Summer Fields School today

CU CORRESPONDENT

The final round and prize giving ceremony of Star Campus-Drishy debate competition of Summer Fields School will be held at 11:00am at the school auditorium today.

Drishy, an educational and cultural organisation in the port city, is organising the competition titled 'Star Campus-Drishy Debate for Generation Next' while The Daily Star is sponsoring it.

Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE) Chairman Nasir Uddin Ahmed Chowdhury will be present on the occasion as the chief guest.

Radio Foorti is the radio partner of the competition.

quota system is organised by the Shibir men. Those who are demonstrating are against the spirit of the liberation war, they alleged.

The platform, mainly formed by Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), is against cancellation or reform in the quota system.

Another platform, 'General Students of Dhaka University' yesterday at a press conference on the DU campus said a vested quarter is trying to mislead a demonstration by common students to tarnish the spirit of the liberation war and dishonour the sacrifice of freedom fighters.

The platform, mainly formed by left-leaning student organisations alleged that the movement against the quota is organised by a fundamentalist and anti-liberation force that is trying to use the emotion of common students to make the campus unstable again.

They urged the university authorities to call a meeting of university's Paribesh Parishad, a body comprising university authorities and student representations, to identify the anti-liberation force and oust them from the campus.

"We are not against the movement, but we urge all students not to be misguided by the anti-liberation force," a written statement of the platform added.

Along with transparency in the recruitment through quota systems, they urged the government to consider the students' interest from a broader perspective.

Hill Students' Union, a platform of indigenous students, yesterday held a rally on the DU campus demanding the government doesn't cancel the indigenous quota in the BCS examinations.

Meanwhile, the 'General Students', which first launched the demonstration protesting 55 percent quota in the BCS examinations, claimed that they are not against the 'freedom fighters quota' but they protested the system because the majority quota covers only a few number of people, neglecting the majority population.

In the BCS examinations, 55 percent appointments are made under four quotas, including freedom fighters quota (30 percent), women quota and district quota (10 percent each) and indigenous quota (five percent).

Our RU Correspondent adds: A fraction of students led by Islamic Chhatra Shibir (ICS) activists continued their demonstrations on the campus demanding abolition of the quota system yesterday.

They will also form a human chain on the campus today to press home their demand.

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Eminent jurist Dr Kamal Hossain speaks at a roundtable on 'Reforms of political parties for effective democracy' at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. On his right are Prof Muzaffer Ahmad and columnist Syed Abdul Maksud. Sushashoner Janney Nagorik (Shujon) organised the roundtable.



Cold wave may abate

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Light rain or drizzle may occur at one or two places over Khulna and Barisal divisions and the regions of Faridpur and Dhaka at the end period, Met Office said, predicting that the prevailing cold wave may abate.

Besides, light to moderate fog may occur over the river basins of the country, it said, adding that the night temperature may rise by 1-3 degree Celsius over the country.

Highest temperature 27.3 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 0.7 degrees Celsius at Srimongal.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:47pm today and rises at 6:38am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in degrees Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	25.5	11.7	56	39
Chittagong	25.0	12.5	80	51
Rajshahi	24.0	8.2	85	68
Khulna	24.5	10.7	73	68
Barisal	25.4	10.2	68	66
Sylhet	25.0	10.7	72	56
Cox's Bazar	27.3	12.5	55	53

Proposals to amend guidelines on press accreditation

BSS, Dhaka

A meeting of the Press Accreditation Committee yesterday adopted some proposals to amend the guidelines on press accreditation to make the press accreditation cards of journalists more effective, says PID handout.

The meeting, held at the Press Information Department (PID), was presided over by president of the committee and Principal Information Officer Iftekhar Hossain.

The meeting stressed upholding the importance and dignity of the press accreditation card.

At the end of the meeting, deep condolence was expressed at the death of freedom fighter and veteran political personality Saifuddin Ahmed Manik. The meeting observed one-minute's silence as a mark of respect to the freedom fighter.

Economist Dr Atiar Rahman said rice will have to be imported immediately to meet the present food crisis and price spiral.

Political leader AKM Jahangir, former Ambassador Walir Rahman, journalist Sadek Khan, Equity and Justice Working Group President Rezaul Karim Chowdhury and Media Foundation for Trade and Development Executive Director Kawser Rahman also spoke at the roundtable.

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