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Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury speaks at the inaugural session of the annual research review workshop of Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI) as the chief guest at BRRI auditorium in Gazipur on Sunday.

Develop more stress-tolerant, high-yielding rice varieties

Motia tells agriculturists at BRRI workshop

MOHAMMAD ASADUZZAMAN

GAZIPUR: Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury on Sunday called on the agriculturists to make Bangladesh a food-exporting country by developing more stress-tolerant, high-yielding rice varieties.

At the inaugural session of the annual research review workshop of Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI), the minister also praised the BRRI scientists for their achievements. "You have done enough. Still, much remains to be done."

Matia spoke as the chief guest at the workshop held at the BRRI auditorium in Gazipur.

Md Jahid Ahsan Rassel, a lawmaker from Gazipur-2, was present as the special guest while Executive Chairman of the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council Dr Md Kamal Uddin and Director General of the Department of Agricultural Extension Md Abu Hanif Mia were the guests of honour, with Dr SM Nazmul Islam, Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, in the chair.

BRRI Director General Dr Jiban Krishna Biswas presented the keynote paper at the workshop titled as 'Research Progress 2012-13'. BRRI Director (Admin and CS) Dr Md Shahjahan Kabir also spoke.

Matia Chowdhury said more efforts should be made to meet the people's nutritional needs through attaining self-sufficiency in food.

"We should put in our efforts to make the country a food-exporting one after ensuring food security as well as to make it a food-surplus country and store enough food for emergency periods," she said.

For this, she said, subsidy should be provided for agricultural inputs like fertiliser and seeds, and loans for irrigation, and necessary measures be taken to ensure fair price of the agricultural produces.

Experts and officials from different government and non-government organisations, including BARC, DAE and IRRI, and various universities as well as farmers' representatives attended the workshop.

The organisers said BRRI has so far developed 65 high-yielding rice varieties, including four hybrid ones having three times higher yield potential than the traditional rice.

At present, BRRI varieties cover 80 percent of the total rice area that accounts for 90 percent of the total rice production of the country. BRRI varieties have played a vital role in making Bangladesh a food-surplus country by producing enough rice it requires.

Fire at city apartment

A fire broke out in an apartment at Paribagh in the city on Sunday morning.

Fire service sources said the fire broke out from an electrical short-circuit on the second floor of a ten-storey building near Motaleb Plaza around 8:55am.

On receiving information, two fire fighting units from Palashi Fire Station rushed to the spot and doused the flames.

However, no casualty was reported. —UNB

Death anniversary

METRO DESK

Today is the sixth death anniversary of Prof Khaleda Akhtar Banu, a writer, researcher and organiser of the liberation war, says a press release.

Prof Khaleda Banu, the wife of former lawmaker Prof Abdul Mannan, was the head of Bangla department at Abu Dharr Ghifari University College.

A doa mahfil will be held on the occasion.

Her son Tomal Mannan, an expatriate living in New

