



Finance and science and technology adviser Salehuddin Ahmed, among others, attends the 3rd Youth Forum on Agricultural Biotechnology at the North South University in Dhaka on Saturday. — Press release

## Research, innovation for food security urged

### Staff Correspondent

THE inaugural session of the 3rd Youth Forum on Agricultural Biotechnology was held at the North South University in Dhaka on Saturday.

Jointly organised by the NSU, OIC-COMSTECH, and the Islamic Organisation for Food Security, the event brought together policymakers, academics and representatives from international organisations to highlight the importance of biotechnology in addressing global food security challenges, said a press release.

Finance and science and technology adviser Salehuddin Ahmed was present as chief guest at the programme.

MA Kashem, member, board of trustees, NSU; Aziz

Al Kaiser, chairman, NSU board of trustees; Benajir Ahmed, member, NSU board of trustees; and Yeasmin Kamal, member, NSU board of trustees were present as special guests while Professor Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary, coordinator general of OIC-COMSTECH; and Professor Hafizur Rahman, COMSTECH focal person for Bangladesh were present as guests of honour at the programme.

Ambassador Khusrav Noziri, assistant director general of IOFS, delivered special address at the programme.

Professor Abdul Hannan Chowdhury, NSU vice-chancellor, chaired the session at the programme.

Salehuddin Ahmed said that Bangladesh had achieved food self-sufficiency

'I must thank our genome scientists for this success. Biotechnology will play a pivotal role in enhancing nutrition, resilience, and productivity in agriculture. We must further increase investment in education and research in these sectors and promote adaptive technologies to secure our agricultural future,' he said.

Khusrav Noziri emphasised the importance of cooperation among nations. He said, 'Food security is a collective challenge that demands global cooperation. This forum enables young scientists to share knowledge and build networks. Our priority must be a sustainable and secure food system, and genome technology should be applied safely, transparently, and ethically to gain public trust.'