

# Rodents destroy property worth about Tk 300 cr every year

In Bangladesh, rats, mice and such other animals -- which are called rodents, destroy property worth about Taka 300 crore every year, according to experts, reports UNB.

They devour foodgrains and standing crops and damage infrastructures like roads and embankments, electrical wires, expensive machinery, books and not to speak of household valuables.

Experts told UNB on Monday that only rats eat up about 4.5 lakh tons of rice in fields and stores every year. The country produces about 19 million tons of rice a year and needs to import at least 1.4 million tons of foodgrains.

Rodent, whose biological term is Rodentia, contains 35 families, about 352 genera and more than 1,700 species. The order includes rats, mice, squirrels, porcupines and guinea pigs.

The experts said rodents' incisors (teeth) are different from other animals. They are strongly curved with a thick

layer of hard enamel on only one side and grow throughout the life of the animal. They have to bite things continuously to prevent the growth of their teeth.

In Bangladesh, 11 species of rodents are identified -- the Bandicoot being the most destructive. They hoard and damage six times more foodgrains than they eat.

Rodents are more destructive than all the other pests combined, said SK Sarker, who is doing Ph D on rodents at the Department of Zoology, Dhaka University.

He said, rodents carry diseases like typhus, fever, plague, scrub which are transmittable to human beings because of the close association between rodents and men, he added.

Considering rodent as a destructive pest, the Agriculture Extension Department has undertaken an anti-rodent campaign since 1983. Every year between October-November period, when the main Aman crop is harvested, a nationwide

rat killing campaign is launched.

According to available figures, a total of 10,31,771 rats were killed during a 1991 rat-killing campaign and Agriculture Extension officials said the drive helped in saving at least 7,740 tons of rice.

"Bats destroy or eat up food of three million people a year", said AKM Glasuddin Milky, an agriculture expert who pioneered the country's first anti-rodent campaign back in 1977.

While working as a district Agriculture Extension Officer at Mymensingh, Milky discerned the untold destruction wrought by the rodents and decided to launch a drive against them.

With a modest fund of Taka 1.5 lakh, allocated from the special fund of the Deputy Commissioner of Mymensingh, his first anti-rodent campaign was launched in December 1977.

Milky allotted Taka two for killing an adult rat and the campaign created much en-

thusiasm among farmers and the rural people. His campaign resulted in killing 2.5 lakh rats. "Incentives inspire the people to participate in the rat killing drive."

A female rat gives about 3,000 births every year, according to Milky, who has done a lot of researches on rodents.

An official at the Agriculture Extension Department informed that this year's month-long anti-rodent campaign which ended on October 7 had targeted to kill an estimated 11 lakh rats.

A record number of 48,67,700 rats were killed during 1986 campaign when Taka 0.50 was given for killing a rat.

To provide greater incentives and attract more people to join the anti-rodent campaigns, the Agriculture Extension Department has recently introduced coveted prizes like television and radio sets as well as cash money for the killing the highest number of rats.

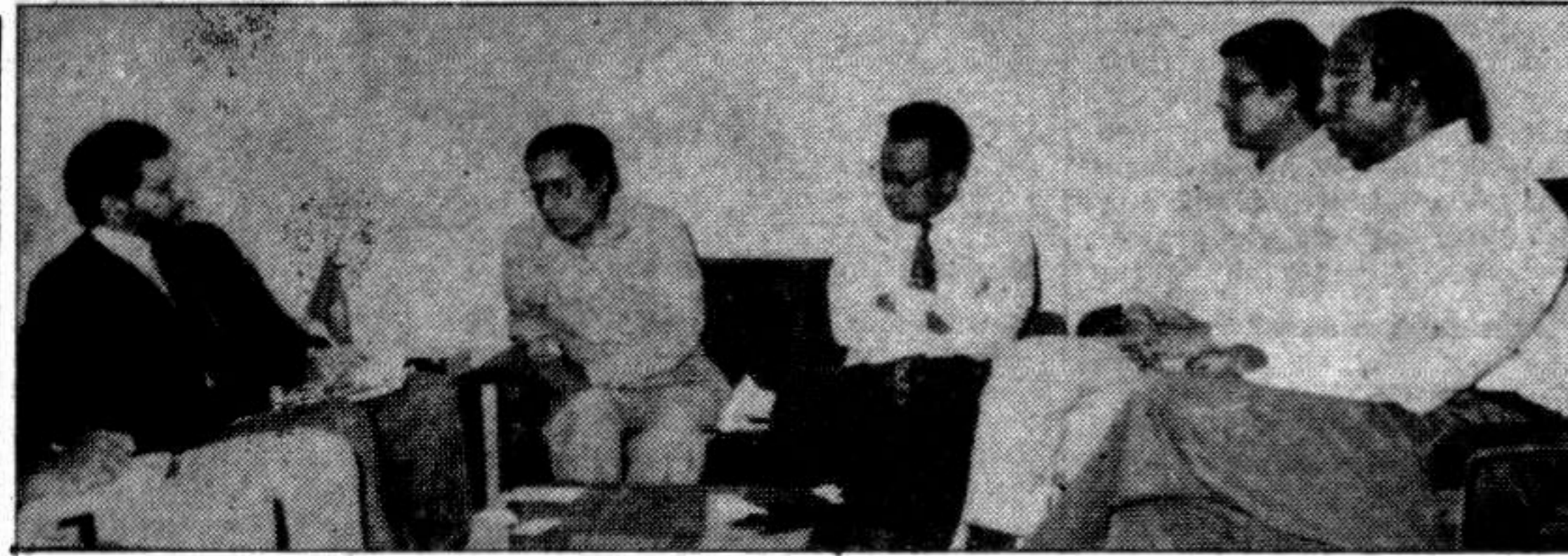
## Seminar on Islamic Common Market next year

An international seminar on "Islamic Common Market" will be held in Bangladesh sometime next year, according to a press release of Islamic Economics Research Bureau in Dhaka on Monday, reports BSS.

The objective of the seminar is to highlight the bright prospects for developing an Islamic common market with a view to harnessing international integration of the Islamic ummah in the spheres of all economic activities including trade, commerce, industries and exploitation of the vast treasure of natural resources of the Islamic world.

The seminar has been designed to focus on the paramount issues like (I) principles of economic integration in Islam, (II) international economic integration and prospects for and Islamic common market, (III) development and promotion of inter-trade, (IV) monetary co-operation for economic integration: role of Islamic financial institutions, and (V) establishment of an Islamic Free Trade Area (IFTA) etc.

Islamic Economics Research Bureau, Bangladesh is organising the seminar in association with Islamic Centre for Development of Trade Casablanca Morocco.



Chief of the South Asia region of the World Bank Gobind Nankani (extreme left) holding discussion with M Yunus (2nd from left) President DCCI on Monday. Masudur Rahman, Senior Vice President, (3rd from left), ATM Waziullah (2nd from right), Director, A Rob Chowdhury, Director of DCCI (extreme right) are also seen on the occasion.

## Growers sell just at nominal prices for want of buyers

CHANDPUR, Oct 26: The jute growers of the district are compelled to sell their produce at a lower price for want of buyers.

There is also no Government purchasing centre in the district. The farmers and middlemen are taking advantage of the situation.

Jute is being sold below the production cost. It is now selling between Taka 150 and 200 per mound.

Due to unusual scarcity of water in canals, beels and ponds, the farmers could not get rotten jute plants in time.

In some areas, jute plants could not be rotten due to scarcity of required water.

This year about thirty thousand acres of land were brought under jute cultivation. It may be mentioned here

that jute is one of the cash crops of the district. The jute growers of the district purchase their daily necessities by selling jute. So in the absence of jute purchasing centre price of jute is decreasing day by day.

**Tk 4 cr power bill outstanding**

Electricity bills amounting to Taka about four crore have remained unpaid in Chandpur district.

According to Chandpur Power Development Board office sources, government, semi-government, private, commercial consumers have not paid electric bills for a long time.

About one crore fifty lakh taka remained outstanding only with the Chandpur Poursava.

In a recent drive, about

twenty-five connections have been snapped for non-payment of electricity bills. Several departmental cases were started against the illegal power consumers.

It is reported, illegal use of electricity by some dishonest power consumers have mainly helping the system loss.

The illegal use of power without meters deprived the department of huge revenue and also damaged trans formers, valuable electric equipment and caused frequent loadshedding.

It is informed that some dishonest employees like meter readers, line men get their share from the illegal power consumers. Some of the meter readers technically turn back the wheel of the meter to reduce the unit consumption.

## Sick industries Apply to banks for rehabilitation

The owners of the industries identified as sick have been requested to immediately apply to the concerned banks as per existing bank rules for rehabilitation of their industries, reports BSS.

According to a press release, the concerned banks will make arrangements for the rehabilitation of the sick industries on the basis of directives from the Finance Ministry and bank-client relations.

The owners whose applications will not be considered by the banks can appeal for reconsideration to the review committee constituted by the Ministry of Finance.

An order regarding constitution of the review committee by the finance ministry will be made soon, the press release said.

## Dhaka places 7-pt proposal before UN on debt crisis

Bangladesh has put forward a seven-point proposal to the committee of nations for a comprehensive solution of the staggering debt crisis facing the developing countries, reports UNB.

Bangladesh Permanent Representative to the United Nations Humayun Kabir placed it before the world body while speaking at the General Assembly session on external debt crisis and development on Friday (Oct 23), according to a message received in Dhaka Sunday.

The proposals for dealing with the 1.3 trillion-dollar debt overhang on the Third World countries are as follows:

Productive investment should form a key element in debt strategy. It needs no reiteration that without higher investment, growth cannot be reactivated in the developing

countries.

An integrated approach involving government, commercial and multilateral institutions is essential.

Access to markets of developed countries should be widened for developing country products.

Debt relief measures and initiatives must be extended to indebted developing countries, particularly to the LDCs.

Innovative measures like debt for equity swaps, debt for nature swaps and debt for government swaps should be speedily applied and its scope expanded.

Limitations of the Toronto options should be reviewed and implementation of Paris Club decisions must be ensured.

Cancellation of the ODA debts of the LDCs, either in pursuance of Trade and

Development Board resolution 165 (S-IX) or independently, must be an integral part of a realistic strategy to deal with LDCs' crippling debts.

Referring to the sheer magnitude of the debt crisis, Kabir said "there is an urgent need to find out new approaches to deal with it."

He expressed concern over the external debt burden of the developing countries which has reached the staggering level of about 1.3 trillion US dollars by the end of 1991.

The Bangladesh envoy said Least Developed Countries' total accumulated debt accounts for about 60 per cent of their combined GDP.

"The problem constitutes one of the most serious constraints to their economic growth and development.

## No plan to produce spirit, liquor in sugar mills

The government has no plan to produce spirit and liquor in sugar mills of the country, the Industries Minister told parliament Sunday replying to Tobbur Rahman Sarder of AL, reports UNB.

Shamsul Islam Khan, however, parried as impertinent a supplementary question asked by an opposition MP as to whether the government would stop production at the Carew and Company Sugar Mills, where alcohol is produced.

The minister informed the House that 1,91,044 metric tons of sugar, out of 1,95,587 tons produced in 1991-92, was sold out till October 19, this year.

He, however, sought notice when Awami League MP Col (rd) Sawkat Ali wanted to know how smuggled sugar from India was selling cheaper than the indigenous produce.

## Kraski meets Zahir Current status of ADP implementation discussed

Director of South Asia region of World Bank, Jochen Kraski, called on Planning Minister A M Zahiruddin Khan at his office in the city Saturday, reports BSS.

M Mokkammel Hoque, Member (prog) a Saed Alternate Executive Director, World Bank, Christopher Willoughby chief of World Bank RMB and division chief (prog) were present during the discussion, according to an official handout.

They discussed the current status of ADP implementation, its size, composition as well as some conditionalities related

## New energy policy under process

Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr. Khondker Mosharrar Hossain Sunday informed the Jatiya Sangsad that the government had a plan to formulate and energy policy by early 1993, reports BSS.

Replying a question from Sharifuddin Ahmed (AL-Habigonj), the energy Minister said the average deficit of electricity now stood at 100 megawatt while the maximum deficit was 150 megawatt in the country.

Dr. Hossain said that the government had been taking adequate measures to reduce the electricity deficit.

## Shipping Intelligence

### CHITTAGONG PORT

Berth position and performance of vessels as on 26.10.92

Berth No	Name of vessels	Cargo	Local agent	Date of arrival	Leaving	
J/1	Symplea	Wheat(P)	Damam	Dynamic	21/10 30/10	
J/3	Johanna-K	Wheat(P)	N Orle	Alamin	9/10 30/10	
J/4	Safar	GI/GL	Pena	ASL	19/10 28/10	
J/5	Eastern Mars	GI	K Shen	Prog	23/10 27/10	
J/6	Iyverrett	GI	Sing	EBPL	23/10 27/10	
J/7	Mallow-verrett	GI	Col	EBPL	25/10 27/10	
J/8	Banglar Urmil	GI/Rice	Col	BSC	21/10 28/10	
J/9	Qing He Cheng	GI	S Hai	BDSShip	21/10 28/10	
J/12	Haight	Rice(P)	Tempa	SSST	19/10 1/11	
MPB/2	Al Taisir	Fert	Vict	KSL	24/10 7/11	
OCJ	Indian	C Clink	Col	UMAL	10/10 26/10	
GSJ	Renown	C Clink	Col	UMAL	10/10 26/10	
Kiron	Repair	Col	BSC	23/10 29/10		
TSP	Al Reza	Repair	Pada	KSL	18/10 5/11	
RM/5	Artemis-1	Cement	Bright	R/A	28/10	
RM/6	Amal	Cement	Bomb	ENCL	8/10 26/10	
DDJ/1	Endurance	Sea	Repair	Apaba	EOSL	25/1 6/11
DDJ/2	Banglar	Repair	Mong	BSC	13/10 31/10	
RM/8	Al Salma	Repair	Hong	ASL	13/10 31/10	
RM/9	Banglar Asha	Repair	BSC	R/A	28/10	

### VESSELS DUE AT OUTER ANCHORAGE

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	Last port call	Local agent	Cargo	Loading port
NGS Ranger 10/10	26/10	Sing	BDSShip	Cont	Sing
Weiser Star10/10	26/10	Sing	BDSShip	Cont	Hand
Sea Byol	26/10	Haiti	CT	Cement	Sing
Sea Tradition	26/10	Pada	AML	Cement	Sing
Gold Asia (48) 8/10	27/10	Mong	AML	GI	Mom Mapu
Shenton 17/10	27/10	Sing	OMNI	Cont	Sing
Sumudra Rati	28/10	Sing	SSL	GI	Sing
Hafez	28/10	Sing	SSL	GL	Abbas
Janbaz-1	28/10	Barg	MMI	GL	Abbas
Arti	28/10	Sing	Seacoast	Wheat	Sing
Kiso Maru	29/10	Mad	SSL	GI	Sing
Ranger	29/10	Sing	Lufal	Softwood Pulp	Sing
Banglar Doot	29/10	Sing	BSC	GI	Sing
Ahler Breeze 15/10	29/10	Col	RSL	Cont	Col
Fong Yun 18/10	29/10	Sing	BDSShip	Cont	Sing
Vishva Mamata	30/10	Mad	SSL	GI/GL	Japa
Komsomolets Beloruss	30/10	CT	CT	Mustered Seeds	Sing
Yamburenko 18/10	30/10	Sing	CT	Cont	Sing
Eastern Pearl	30/10	Sing	HPA	GI	Sing
Optima 20/10	30/10	Sing	RSL	Cont	Sing
NGS Express 20/10	01/11	Sing	BDSShip	Cont	Sing
Banglar Gourab	02/11	Sing	BSC	GI	Sing
Ingenuity 24/10	2/11	Sing	RSL	Cont	Sing
Banglar Robi	2/11	Sing	BSC	GI	Sing
Fong Shin 22/10	4/11	Sing	BDSShip	Cont	Sing
Nikos-N	5/11	Sing	BSC	Wheat	Sing
Mezdure Chensk	6/11	Sing	Prog	GI	Sing
Damon	7/11	Mers	Royal	Wheat	Sing
Stonewall Jackson	8/11	Sing	Karna	GI	New York
Petr Starostin 18/10	10/11	Sing	CT	Cont	Sing
Scarer Bellona	10/11	Sing	Dynamic	Wheat	Sing

### TANKER DUE

Amphion	28/11	Sing	Seacom	CDSO
Avon	1/11	Sing	CT	Palm Oil

### VESSELS AT KUTUBDIA

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
TT Energy	C Oil	Col	NNL	27/4
Aspilo	C Oil	J Dhan	DSLL	25/10
Banglar Jyoti	C Oil	Sing	BSC	R/A
Thalia	Wheat(P)	Darm	Alamin	23/10

### VESSELS AT OUTER ANCHORAGE

READY ON

Ronald	C Clink	Col	UMAL	8/10
Safina-e-Najam	C Clink	Col	ASL	R/A(22/10)
Lamda	Wheat (P)	Monka	Dynamic	19/10
Banglar Shobha	GI	Col	BSC	26/10

### VESSELS NOT READY

S E Halder	Cement	Kara	ASL	R/A(20/9)
Banglar Shourabh	Cement	Kara	BSC	R/A(19/10)

### VESSELS NOT ENTERING

Sea Destiny	Cement	Pada	AML	18/10
Belgorod Dnestrovsky	Scraping	Mong	CT	22/10

The above were the Monday's Shipping position and performance of vessels of Chittagong Port as per berthing sheet of CPA supplied by HRC Group, Dhaka.

## Price Index

Essentials	FRUITS	(One piece)
RICE (Taka per kg)	Green Coconut (Small)	5.00-6.00
Aman(fine)	Coconut (Large)	8.00-10.00
13.00-17.50		
Pajam	Pineapple	12.00-15.00
VEGETABLES (Taka per kg)	Banana : (4 pieces)	3.50-4.00
Potato (local)	Sagar (Large)	12.00-15.00
11.00-12.00	Champa	3.50-4.00
Brinjal		
8.00-12.00		
Karola		
10.00-12.00		
Lalshak		
4.00-6.00		
Pappas		
5.00-7.00		
Green Banana (Four Pieces)		
4.00-6.00		
OTHER FOODSTUFFS (Taka per kg)		
Flour		
13.50-14.00		
Atia		
11.00-11.50		
FISH (Taka per kg)		
Rubi(big)		
160.00-170.00		
Katla(big)		
90.00-100.00		
Haha		
48.00-50.00		
Pangas		
110.00-120.00		
Shrimp(big)		
100.00-120.00		
Sing		
90.00-100.00		
Koi		
110.00-120.00		
MEAT		
Beef		
55.00-60.00		
Mutton		
85.00-90.00		
CHICKEN		
Large		
62.00-64.00		
Medium		
66.00-68.00		
Small		
70.00-72.00		
TEA		
Dust (Plain)		
80.00-90.00		
EGG (4 nos)		
12.00-12.50		
Hon		
12.50-13.00		
Duck		
12.50-13.00		
Firm		
12.50-13.00		
PULSES (Taka per kg)		
Mashur		
29.00-30.00		
Mogh		
34.00-35.00		
Chhola		
22.00-24.00		
Khasari		
15.00-16.00		

## Gold & Silver

Gold (Gutnea)	6200.00
Silver	200.00

Source : Department of Agriculture marketing

## Exchange Rates

The following are the Commercial Bank's BC selling and TT (C), OD transfer buying rates for some selected foreign currencies effective on October 25, 26 and 27. (Figures in Taka)

Currency	Selling B. C.	T. T. (C)	Buying OD Transfers
US Dollar	39.1326	38.9087	38.6339
Poundsterling	63.4607	63.1356	62.7155
DM	25.6187	25.4555	25.2757
FE	7.5557	7.5091	7.4561
S Riyal	10.4641	10.4042	10.3307
D Guilders	22.7806	22.6371	22.4772
S Kroner	6.8027	6.7579	6.7101
Singapore Dollar	24.2472	24.1085	23.9382
US\$ Dhanam	10.6911	10.6299	10.5548
Kuwait Dinar	133.0587	132.2974	131.3630
Indian Rupee (AMU)	1.5104	1.5036	1.4961
Pak Rupee (AMU)	1.5511	1.5439	1.5362

Authorised dealers will apply T T clean buying rate for purchase of remittances of Bangladeshis working abroad. Note: AMU - Asian Monetary Unit.

## Dhaka Stock Prices

At the close of trading on October 26, 1992

Star Economic Report

### Surge in volume

Business continued to rise at Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) on Monday. The day's best performance was noticed in volume figures which jumped from Sunday's 33394 to 68912, a surge of 106.36 per cent. Value almost remained unchanged declining by only 1.13 per cent.

The gainers continued to perform better. They outnumbered the losers by 29 to only eight while seven shares traded at previous rates.

The index gained a little from 358.0865 to 358.4282, an addition of 0.34 point.

### DAY'S TRADING AT A GLANCE

DSE All Share Price Index	358.4282
Market Capitalisation Tk	10,246,397,004.00
Turnover in Volume	68912
Turnover in Value Tk	2022625.75