

Business

Low quality drugs worsen health

Medicine marketed before testing

By Manzurul Haque

Many sub-standard pharmaceutical items are being sold in the market, aggravating the condition of the patients instead of providing any relief whatsoever. There is no arrangement to ensure the quality of the products at manufacturing stage before marketing. Drug Administration takes a lengthy period, at times involving six months, for testing the finished products. It is ill equipped to do its assigned job.

The pharmaceutical products are marketed without prior testing by the Drug Administration.

Samples are taken from the markets for checking their quality. Some manufacturers do not follow the standards which they are required to comply with.

The Drug Administration is yet to evolve a mechanism for quality control at production stage.

And while testing is carried out on samples procured from the market, the products of that manufacturing batch are sold out. Production for new batches start.

Moderate rise in share trading

Star Economic Report

The week began at Dhaka bourse on Saturday with a moderate rise in trading but most traded stocks fell in prices.

Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) All Share Price Index declined to 336.2414 points compared to Thursday's 336.2454.

The Index is the indicator of price movements of all the listed stocks.

In all twentytwo listed stocks were traded on the floor. Of them eleven lost, four gained and seven remained unchanged at their previous quoted prices.

On the decliners' side 2nd ICB Mutual Fund and Astab Automobile lost Taka 3.00 each to Taka 172.00 and Taka 200.00 respectively at closing.

Beximco Pharma and A.H. Bank lost Taka 2.86 and Taka 2.50 to Taka 152.80 and Taka 135.00.

Chittagong Vegetable and Usmania Glass declined by Taka 2.00 each to Taka 95.00 and Taka 141.00 respectively.

Atlas Bangladesh, Froglegs Export, Zeal Bangla Sugar, Islam Jute and Dulamia Cotton lost between the range of Taka 0.10 and Taka 1.00.

Among the advancers the Ibsina advanced Taka 5.00 to Taka 65.00.

Satham Textile, National Tubes and Bata Shoe gained Taka 1.67, Taka 0.25 and Taka 0.16 to Taka 84.67, Taka 110.25 and Taka 38.50 respectively.

Quoted Prices of Traded Stocks

February 2

Stocks	FOB/ML	Closing	Change**
	(Tk)	(Tk)	(Tk)
All Bank	100/5	135.00	(-0.50)
Investment	100/5	172.00	(-3.00)
2nd ICB M.	100/5	152.80	(-2.50)
Fund	100/10	110.25	(+0.25)
Engineering	100/5	202.00	(-3.00)
Automobile	100/5	37.00	(-1.00)
Atlas Bangladesh	100/5	2.86	(-0.50)
Eastern Cubes	100/5	60.00 unchanged	
National Tubes	100/10	84.67	(+0.16)
Ford & Allied	100/10	85.00	(-0.00)
Cg. Vegetable	100/5	155.00 unchanged	
Froglegs Export	10/50	4.00	(-0.10)
Zeal Bangla Sugar	10/50	8.00	(-0.10)
Pat & Power	10/50	50.00 unchanged	
Gas	10/50	60.00 unchanged	
Islam Jute	100/5	60.00	(-1.00)
Murma & Chem	10/50	14.00 unchanged	
Amber Pharma	10/50	14.00 unchanged	
Beximco Pharma	100/5	152.80	(-2.50)
Reliance Chemical	100/5	70.00 unchanged	
The Bata	100/10	85.00	(+0.00)
Textile	100/10	69.07	(-0.33)
Dulamia Cotton	100/10	95.00 unchanged	
National Textile	100/5	60.00 unchanged	
Satham Textile	100/10	84.67	(+0.16)
Miscellaneous	100/10	38.50	(-0.16)
Chittagong Cement	100/5	132.00 unchanged	
Usmania Glass	100/5	141.00	(-2.00)

* FOB Face Value M/s Market Lot.

** Change* Plus sign means gain and (-)

signlessness.

Dhaka Stock Exchange

Market Profile

February 2

133 Listed stocks

118 unchanged stocks include seven traded on the day at the previous day's quoted prices.

DSE All Share Price Index = 336.2414

Issued Capital-Taka 4,602,377,190.00

Market Capitalisations-Taka 9,606,184,054.00

Turnover = Taka 240,390.00 (Value) 7432 (Volume)

Source: Sonali Bank

118 unchanged stocks include seven traded on the day at the previous day's quoted prices.

DSE All Share Price Index = 336.2414

Issued Capital-Taka 4,602,377,190.00

Market Capitalisations-Taka 9,606,184,054.00

Turnover = Taka 240,390.00 (Value) 7432 (Volume)

Source: Sonali Bank

118 unchanged stocks include seven traded on the day at the previous day's quoted prices.

DSE All Share Price Index = 336.2414

Issued Capital-Taka 4,602,377,190.00

Market Capitalisations-Taka 9,606,184,054.00

Turnover = Taka 240,390.00 (Value) 7432 (Volume)

Source: Sonali Bank



Ropes are in great demand with elections only a few days away. Youngsters are busy weaving them in a vacant city plot. This is a source of income for them. — Star Photo

Iran okays \$ 307 b budget

NICOSIA, Feb 2: Iranian legislators have approved a budget 63 per cent higher than the current planned level based on about 20 billion dollars of oil revenue and 4.8 billion dollars of foreign credit for the year starting March 21, reports Reuters.

Tehran radio said the bill, setting the general budget at 20.08 trillion rials equivalent to 307 billion dollars at the official rate of 65.5 rials per dollar became law after receiving final approval by the overseeing guardian council.

There are however provisions under law to suspend the manufacturing licence for a particular item of a company if its products are sub-standard. But this has rarely been applied.

National Professor Nurul Islam suggested in this context that a committee, comprising of experienced pharmacists, bio-chemists, doctors and representatives of Drug Administration should be formed to ensure the quality of pharmaceutical products. This will largely help remove any malpractices in the sector, he observed.

During the same week, interest rates offered by the banks on certificates of deposits varied from 10.25 per cent to 13.75 per cent. The bank rate, however, remained unchanged at 9.75 per cent.

Call money market

Star Economic Report

Rates in the call money market ranged from 10.00 per cent to 12.00 per cent during the week ending on January 30, according to a press release of Bangladesh Bank on Saturday.

Analysts have offered a wide variety of explanations for the Street's persistent exuberance, ranging from a simple outside-is-winning view to visions of long-term economic and political benefits that are just beginning to take shape.

As many see the situation, the most important surprise in

World economy declines

NEW YORK (United Nations), Feb 2: The world economy suffered a slowdown last year, but the prime cause was not the Gulf crisis, the United Nations (UN) said Thursday, reports AFP.

Reporting that the economies of most nations had declined, the UN said a notable exception was Japan, which saw its economic growth rate improve from the 4.9 per cent level of 1989 to 5.5 per cent last year, while "South and East Asia remained the most rapidly expanding region in the world."

Predicting the world economy would stagnate in 1991, the UN's Economic and Social Committee said there would likely be "hesitant recession in the major industrialized countries, transition problems in the developing world and a repatriation of migrant labour reduced the growth of world output in 1990 by some 0.3 per cent."

Economic performances varied widely, said the committee.

Overall, free market economies saw their economic growth fall from 3.3 per cent in 1989 to 2.5 per cent last year, with the prediction that this will decline in 1991 to 1.8 per cent.

Over the past year, said the committee, "The Gulf crisis

amounted to a serious shock to the world economy, although it was not the principal cause of the slowdown of 1990."

Nevertheless, the crisis did have a measurable effect on the slowdown.

The report said: "It is estimated that the rise in oil prices and other consequences of the crisis, the trade embargo (against Iraq and Iraqi-controlled Kuwait), the loss of remittances (by third world nationals in Iraq and Kuwait), the repatriation of migrant labour reduced the growth of world output in 1990 by some 2.5 per cent in 1989 to one per cent last year."

Only Japan improved on its performance, while Germany managed to maintain its economic growth at an annual rate of four per cent. Britain saw its growth rate drop from two per cent to 1.5 per cent.

Divergences among developing countries were even greater, the report noted.

It said: "South and East Asia remained the most rapidly expanding region in the world in 1990, with overall GDP (Gross Domestic Product) expanding at close to six per cent."

Economic performances varied widely, said the committee.

Overall, free market economies saw their economic growth fall from 3.3 per cent in 1989 to 2.5 per cent last year, with the prediction that this will decline in 1991 to 1.8 per cent.

Over the past year, said the committee, "The Gulf crisis

amounted to a serious shock to the world economy, although it was not the principal cause of the slowdown of 1990."

Nevertheless, the crisis did have a measurable effect on the slowdown.

The report said: "It is estimated that the rise in oil prices and other consequences of the crisis, the trade embargo (against Iraq and Iraqi-controlled Kuwait), the loss of remittances (by third world nationals in Iraq and Kuwait), the repatriation of migrant labour reduced the growth of world output in 1990 by some 2.5 per cent in 1989 to one per cent last year."

Only Japan improved on its performance, while Germany managed to maintain its economic growth at an annual rate of four per cent. Britain saw its growth rate drop from two per cent to 1.5 per cent.

Divergences among developing countries were even greater, the report noted.

It said: "South and East Asia remained the most rapidly expanding region in the world in 1990, with overall GDP (Gross Domestic Product) expanding at close to six per cent."

Economic performances varied widely, said the committee.

Overall, free market economies saw their economic growth fall from 3.3 per cent in 1989 to 2.5 per cent last year, with the prediction that this will decline in 1991 to 1.8 per cent.

Over the past year, said the committee, "The Gulf crisis

amounted to a serious shock to the world economy, although it was not the principal cause of the slowdown of 1990."

Nevertheless, the crisis did have a measurable effect on the slowdown.

The report said: "It is estimated that the rise in oil prices and other consequences of the crisis, the trade embargo (against Iraq and Iraqi-controlled Kuwait), the loss of remittances (by third world nationals in Iraq and Kuwait), the repatriation of migrant labour reduced the growth of world output in 1990 by some 2.5 per cent in 1989 to one per cent last year."

Only Japan improved on its performance, while Germany managed to maintain its economic growth at an annual rate of four per cent. Britain saw its growth rate drop from two per cent to 1.5 per cent.

Divergences among developing countries were even greater, the report noted.

It said: "South and East Asia remained the most rapidly expanding region in the world in 1990, with overall GDP (Gross Domestic Product) expanding at close to six per cent."

Economic performances varied widely, said the committee.

Overall, free market economies saw their economic growth fall from 3.3 per cent in 1989 to 2.5 per cent last year, with the prediction that this will decline in 1991 to 1.8 per cent.

Over the past year, said the committee, "The Gulf crisis

amounted to a serious shock to the world economy, although it was not the principal cause of the slowdown of 1990."

Nevertheless, the crisis did have a measurable effect on the slowdown.

The report said: "It is estimated that the rise in oil prices and other consequences of the crisis, the trade embargo (against Iraq and Iraqi-controlled Kuwait), the loss of remittances (by third world nationals in Iraq and Kuwait), the repatriation of migrant labour reduced the growth of world output in 1990 by some 2.5 per cent in 1989 to one per cent last year."

Only Japan improved on its performance, while Germany managed to maintain its economic growth at an annual rate of four per cent. Britain saw its growth rate drop from two per cent to 1.5 per cent.

Divergences among developing countries were even greater, the report noted.

It said: "South and East Asia remained the most rapidly expanding region in the world in 1990, with overall GDP (Gross Domestic Product) expanding at close to six per cent."

Economic performances varied widely, said the committee.

Overall, free market economies saw their economic growth fall from 3.3 per cent in 1989 to 2.5 per cent last year, with the prediction that this will decline in 1991 to 1.8 per cent.

Over the past year, said the committee, "The Gulf crisis