

## 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.

Col. (Retd) Mukhiesur Rahman, Director, Drug Administration told the Daily Star that it took five to six months for testing a sample of a particular item, collected from the market. In the mean time, the product is already taken by the patient without being sure about its quality, he said.

## NBL earns Tk 1.52 cr profits

Star Economic Report

National Bank Limited reported its net profits at Taka 1.52 crore in 1989. The operational profits were however much higher at Taka 20.42 crore. Classification of credits and provisioning for doubtful, bad and other debts under financial sector reforms slashed the net profits.

The operational performance of the bank was reviewed on Thursday last at the annual general meeting of its shareholders at the auditorium of Institution of Engineers in the city.

A Press release of the bank issued on Saturday said that the meeting was presided over by its chairman Dr. A. R. Mallick.

The shareholders participated in the discussions and made many specific queries about the bank's operations. Managing Director of the bank Mr. R. A. Howlader replied to the queries. The balance sheet of the bank for 1989 was adopted unanimously.

The press release said that the bank's deposits expanded 31 per cent to Taka 740.86 in 1989.

There was also a substantial expansion in credit operations in both exports and imports. Export financing rose 11.88 per cent to Taka 294.49 crore and import credits, 38 per cent to Taka 679.07 crore in the year, the press release added.

## Price Barometer Essentials

February 2

Rice (Taka per kg)  
Aman Very fine 11.00-18.00

Amant (fine) 14.00-15.00  
Patim 13.90-14.00  
Ufah 11.50-12.00

VEGETABLES (Taka per kg)  
Potato (White) 5.00-5.50  
Brinjal 7.00-10.00  
Lady's finger 15.00-16.00  
Cauliflower 1 piece 6.00-10.00  
Korola 20.00-22.00  
Lalshak 6.00-8.00  
Green Banana (Four Pieces) 5.00-8.00

CHERRY (Taka per kg)  
Flour 12.00-14.00  
Ama 11.00-12.00  
Wheat 9.50-10.00

FISH (Taka per kg)  
Ruhibig 120.00-130.00  
Kattabig 80.00-90.00  
Hilaba 60.00-65.00  
Shrimp (big) 80.00-90.00  
Koi 55.00-60.00  
Koi 60.00-70.00

PULSES (Taka per kg)  
Masur 35.00-38.00  
Moogh 34.00-35.00  
Chhola 26.00-28.00  
Matar 27.00-28.00  
Khesari 18.00-19.00

MEAT (Taka per kg)  
Beef 50.00-55.00  
Mutton 75.00-80.00  
OIL (Taka per litre)  
Mustard 48.00-54.00  
Soyabean 33.00-34.00  
Coconut (Colombo) 60.00-64.00  
Vegetable Ghee 44.00-52.00

SPICES (Taka per kg)  
Onion (new) 21.00-22.00  
Garlic 48.00-52.00  
Chillies 62.00-68.00  
Turmeric (Round) 42.00-46.00  
(Long) 48.00-52.00  
Green chillies 20.00-24.00  
Ginger 16.00-20.00  
Cinnamon (10gms) 3.00-3.50  
Cardamom (large) 9.00-10.00  
Jira (10gms) 7.00-7.50

MISCELLANEOUS (Taka)  
Cheer 220.00-230.00  
Sugar 31.00  
Molasses 16.00-18.00

Source: Department of Agricultural Marketing

Source: Department of Agricultural Marketing

Source: Department of Agricultural Marketing

Source: Department of Agricultural Marketing

Source: Department of Agricultural Marketing

Source: Department of Agricultural Marketing

Source: Department of Agricultural Marketing

Source: Department of Agricultural Marketing

Source: Department of Agricultural Marketing

Source: Department of Agricultural Marketing

Source: Department of Agricultural Marketing

Source: Department of Agricultural Marketing

Source: Department of Agricultural Marketing

Source: Department of Agricultural Marketing

Source: Department of Agricultural Marketing

Source: Department of Agricultural Marketing

Source: Department of Agricultural Marketing

Source: Department of Agricultural Marketing

Source: Department of Agricultural Marketing

Source: Department of Agricultural Marketing

Source: Department of Agricultural Marketing



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.

## 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.

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.

## Gulf war yet to hit Wall Street

NEW YORK, Feb 2: If the war in the Persian Gulf is threatening to deal the U. S. economy any lasting harm, stock traders on Wall Street haven't gotten the message, reports AP.

Undeterred by recession worries and talk of the immense cost of Operation Desert Storm, they have been bidding the market up relentlessly for the two weeks that have passed since the fighting began.

At the outset, their bullishness stunned the vast majority of forecasters who had been calling for at least a brief decline on an outbreak of hostilities.

Since then, they have flouted every prediction that the rally would die down once the initial euphoria wore off and "reality" sank in.

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

the short run has been the impact of the war on world oil prices and supplies.

In contrast to the crisis that had been feared, oil is plentiful and as cheap as it has been since Iraq's invasion of Kuwait on Aug. 2. What's more, the United States seems increasingly likely to emerge from the war holding some valuable IOUs from oil-exporting friends.

Beyond the question of oil, the stock market seems to have drawn great psychological benefit from the success of early operations by the U. S.-led coalition.

"We think the outbreak of war has changed an unknown war risk into something that we are learning to deal with on a day-to-day basis," said Steven Nagourney at Shearson Lehman Brothers Inc.

"Risk that can be measured and evaluated, we believe, is less of a deterrent to new investment than the nebulous uncertainties of the threat of war."

The New York Stock Exchange composite index gained 4.02 to 187.40.

## 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 AP.

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 Eastern Europe, and stabilisation efforts in Latin America."

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 Iraq-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 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.

Among the free market economies, the United States and Canada saw their economic growth rate drop from 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."

Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand saw growth rates of between seven and nine per cent last year. South Korea enjoyed an 8.5 per cent expansion rate, but China which saw its growth rate drop

## Industrial nations agree to fight pollution

PARIS, Feb 1: The world's leading industrial nations agreed on Thursday to make the battle against pollution a priority of national economic policies, reports Reuters.

But Ministers from the 24-member Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) stopped short of imposing financial penalties in the form of "environment taxes" already used by several OECD governments.

The Ministers "two day meeting endorsed action committing their governments to a range of policies for the 1990s aimed at 'full integration of economic and environmental policies,'" a communiqué said.

There is a fundamental link between economic growth and the environment.

## Bangladesh Bank affairs

Star Economic Report

The balances held by Bangladesh Bank outside the country stood at about Taka 2410.67 crore on January 17 last, the bank said in its statement of affairs issued to the press on Saturday.

The amount includes cash and short-term securities. Besides, approved foreign exchange holdings of Bangladesh Bank valued Taka 200.00 crore and its gold coin and bullion in assets, about Taka 74.28 crore.

Bangladesh Bank's holdings of government treasury bills on January 17 amounted to about Taka 518.19 crore.

On its assets side, the bank had Taka 1457.23 crore as other loans and advances, Taka 601.64 crore as investments and Taka 1459.77 crore as other assets.

Total notes issued by Bangladesh Bank as on January 17 amounted to Taka 3473.56 crore including Taka 3473.54 crore as notes in circulation and Taka 2.31 lakh as notes held in its banking department.

The bank in its issue department held government of Bangladesh securities valued at Taka 526.04 crore and internal bills of exchange and other commercial papers, at Taka 2650.08 crore. Coin holdings amounted to Taka 17.16 crore.

## Raw Jute

February 2

Kutcha bales  
FOB \* Narayanganj/Daulatpur  
Varieties (Tk. per 100 Kg)

White Tossa Meshia  
Medium 1393 1500 1125  
Bot. (B) 1340 1447 1098  
Bot. (C) 1206 1286 1045  
Bot. (X) 1072 1125 857  
\* FOB = Freight on board  
\* Bot. = Bottom

Pucca bales FOB  
Varieties (Ready\*) (Sight)\*\*

White Tossa Meshia  
Bale\* 1340 1447 1098  
Bot. (B) 1340 1447 1098  
Bot. (C) 1206 1286 1045  
Bot. (X) 1072 1125 857  
\* FOB = Freight on board  
\* Bot. = Bottom

White Tossa Meshia  
Medium 1393 1500 1125  
Bot. (B) 1340 1447 1098  
Bot. (C) 1206 1286 1045  
Bot. (X) 1072 1125 857  
\* FOB = Freight on board  
\* Bot. = Bottom

White Tossa Meshia  
Medium 1393 1500 1125  
Bot. (B) 1340 1447 1098  
Bot. (C) 1206 1286 1045  
Bot. (X) 1072 1125 857  
\* FOB = Freight on board  
\* Bot. = Bottom

White Tossa Meshia  
Medium 1393 1500 1125  
Bot. (B) 1340 1447 1098  
Bot. (C) 1206 1286 1045  
Bot. (X) 1072 1125 857  
\* FOB = Freight on board  
\* Bot. = Bottom

White Tossa Meshia  
Medium 1393 1500 1125  
Bot. (B) 1340 1447 1098  
Bot. (C) 1206 1286 1045  
Bot. (X) 1072 1125 857  
\* FOB = Freight on board  
\* Bot. = Bottom

White Tossa Meshia  
Medium 1393 1500 1125  
Bot. (B) 1340 1447 1098  
Bot. (C) 1206 1286 1045  
Bot. (X) 1072 1125 857  
\* FOB = Freight on board  
\* Bot. = Bottom

White Tossa Meshia  
Medium 1393 1500 1125  
Bot. (B) 1340 1447 1098  
Bot. (C) 1206 1286 1045  
Bot. (X) 1072 1125 857  
\* FOB = Freight on board  
\* Bot. = Bottom

White Tossa Meshia  
Medium 1393 1500 1125  
Bot. (B) 1340 1447 1098  
Bot. (C) 1206 1286 1045  
Bot. (X) 1072 1125 857  
\* FOB = Freight on board  
\* Bot. = Bottom

White Tossa Meshia  
Medium 1393 1500 1125  
Bot. (B) 1340 1447 1098  
Bot. (C) 1206 1286 1045  
Bot. (X) 1072 1125 857  
\* FOB = Freight on board  
\* Bot. = Bottom

White Tossa Meshia  
Medium 1393 1500 1125  
Bot. (B) 1340 1447 1098  
Bot. (C) 1206 1286 1045  
Bot. (X) 1072 1125 857  
\* FOB = Freight on board  
\* Bot. = Bottom

White Tossa Meshia  
Medium 1393 1500 1125  
Bot. (B) 1340 1447 1098  
Bot. (C) 1206 1286 1045  
Bot. (X) 1072 1125 857  
\* FOB = Freight on board  
\* Bot. = Bottom

White Tossa Meshia  
Medium 1393 1500 1125  
Bot. (B) 1340 1447 1098  
Bot. (C) 1206 1286 1045  
Bot. (X) 1072 1125 857  
\* FOB = Freight on board  
\* Bot. = Bottom

White Tossa Meshia  
Medium 1393 1500 1125  
Bot. (B) 1340 1447 1098  
Bot. (C) 1206 1286 1045  
Bot. (X) 1072 1125 857  
\* FOB = Freight on board  
\* Bot. = Bottom

White Tossa Meshia  
Medium 1393 1500 1125  
Bot. (B) 1340 1447 1098  
Bot. (C) 1206 1286 1045  
Bot. (X) 1072 1125 857  
\* FOB = Freight on board  
\* Bot. = Bottom

White Tossa Meshia  
Medium 1393 1500 1125  
Bot. (B) 1340 1447 1098  
Bot. (C) 1206 1286 1045  
Bot. (X) 1072 1125 857  
\* FOB = Freight on board  
\* Bot. = Bottom

White Tossa Meshia  
Medium 1393 1500 1125  
Bot. (B) 1340 1447 1098  
Bot. (C) 1206 1286 1045  
Bot. (X) 1072 1125 857  
\* FOB = Freight on board  
\* Bot. = Bottom

White Tossa Meshia  
Medium 1393 1500 1125  
Bot. (B) 1340 1447 1098  
Bot. (C) 1206 1286 1045  
Bot. (X) 1072 1125 857  
\* FOB = Freight on board  
\* Bot. = Bottom

White Tossa Meshia  
Medium 1393 1500 1125  
Bot. (B) 1340 1447 1098  
Bot. (C) 1206 1286 1045  
Bot. (X) 1072 1125 857  
\* FOB = Freight on board  
\* Bot. = Bottom

White Tossa Meshia  
Medium 1393 1500 1125  
Bot. (B) 1340 1447 1098  
Bot. (C) 1206 1286 1045  
Bot. (X) 1072 1125 857  
\* FOB = Freight on board  
\* Bot. = Bottom

White Tossa Meshia  
Medium 1393 1500 1125  
Bot. (B) 1340 1447 1098  
Bot. (C) 1206 1286 1045  
Bot. (X) 1072 1125 857  
\* FOB = Freight on board  
\* Bot. = Bottom

White Tossa Meshia  
Medium 1393 1500 1125  
Bot. (B) 1340 1447 1098  
Bot. (C) 1206 1286 1045  
Bot. (X) 1072 1125 857  
\* FOB = Freight on board  
\* Bot. = Bottom

White Tossa Meshia  
Medium 1393 1500 1125  
Bot. (B) 1340 1447 1098  
Bot. (C) 1206 1286 1045  
Bot. (X) 1072 1125 857  
\* FOB = Freight on board  
\* Bot. = Bottom

White Tossa Meshia  
Medium 1393 1500 1125  
Bot. (B) 1340 1447 1098  
Bot. (C) 1206 1286 1045  
Bot. (X) 1072 1125 857  
\* FOB = Freight on board  
\* Bot. = Bottom

White Tossa Meshia  
Medium 1393 1500 1125  
Bot. (B) 1340 1447 1098  
Bot. (C) 1206 1286 1045  
Bot. (X) 1072 1125 857  
\* FOB = Freight on board  
\* Bot. = Bottom

White Tossa Meshia  
Medium 1393 1500 1125  
Bot. (B) 1340 1447 1098  
Bot. (C) 1206 1286 1045  
Bot. (X) 1072 1125 857  
\* FOB = Freight on board  
\* Bot. = Bottom

White Tossa Meshia  
Medium 1393 1500 1125  
Bot. (B) 1340 1447 1098  
Bot. (C) 1206 1286 1045  
Bot. (X) 1072 1125 857  
\* FOB = Freight on board  
\* Bot. = Bottom

White Tossa Meshia  
Medium 1393 1500 1125  
Bot. (B) 1340 1447 1098  
Bot. (C) 1206 1286 1045  
Bot. (X) 1072 1125 857  
\* FOB = Freight on board  
\* Bot. = Bottom

White Tossa Meshia  
Medium 1393 1500 1125  
Bot. (B) 1340 1447 1098  
Bot. (C) 1206 1286 1045  
Bot. (X) 1072 1125 857  
\* FOB = Freight on board  
\* Bot. = Bottom

## Snippets

## Price hikes to be introduced in USSR

MOSCOW, Feb 2: Prices will be introduced throughout the Soviet Union under a presidential decree, Russian Prime Minister Ivan Silayev told the Russian Parliament Friday, reports AP.

Saying that price rises had already been prepared by Soviet authorities, Mr. Silayev said that "this reform will take effect nationwide and be introduced in a presidential decree throughout the country at the same time."

Price rises were on the agenda of Friday's session of the Federation Council, the top state leadership grouping the Presidents of all Soviet Republics.

However, the State Prices Committee has denied that prices would more than double as of Friday.

Price rises were on the agenda of Friday's session of the Federation Council, the top state leadership grouping the Presidents of all Soviet Republics.

However, the State Prices Committee has denied that prices would more than double as of Friday.

Price rises were on the agenda of Friday's session of the Federation Council, the top state leadership grouping the Presidents of all Soviet Republics.

However, the State Prices Committee has denied that prices would more than double as of Friday.

Price rises were on the agenda of Friday's session of the Federation Council, the top state leadership grouping the Presidents of all Soviet Republics.

However, the State Prices Committee has denied that prices would more than double as of Friday.

Price rises were on the agenda of Friday's session of the Federation Council, the top state leadership grouping the Presidents of all Soviet Republics.

However, the State Prices Committee has denied that prices would more than double as of Friday.

Price rises were on the agenda of Friday's session of the Federation Council, the top state leadership grouping the Presidents of all Soviet Republics.

However, the State Prices Committee has denied that prices would more than double as of Friday.

Price rises were on the agenda of Friday's session of the Federation Council, the top state leadership grouping the Presidents of all Soviet Republics.

However, the State Prices Committee has denied that prices would more than double as of Friday.

Price rises were on the agenda of Friday's session of the Federation Council, the top state leadership grouping the Presidents of all Soviet Republics.

However, the State Prices Committee has denied that prices would more than double as of Friday.

Price rises were on the agenda of Friday's session of the Federation Council, the top state leadership grouping the Presidents of all Soviet Republics.

However, the State Prices Committee has denied that prices would more than double as of Friday.

Price rises were on the agenda of Friday's session of the Federation Council, the top state leadership grouping the Presidents of