



"HAQUE: SHARING HAPPINESS"

INITIATIVE

NAFIA NOWSHIN

HAQUE, a popular household name in biscuits and confectionary, has been in business since 1947. Initiated by young Barrister Tamizul Haque, it is now one of the largest and oldest biscuit; chips; confectionary; soap and battery manufacturers in Bangladesh. HAQUE is pioneer in many segments of biscuits and is a symbol of faith and trust. In 2010 Adam Tamizi Haque had taken over the responsibility as the Managing Director of HAQUE with a mission to provide quality products at affordable prices. Adam Tamizi Haque is not only a businessman; he is a visionary and is loved by his employees, labourers and other stakeholders. He is a strong supporter of several charities and has facilitated many old employees and labours to perform their Hajj and Umrah with financial assistance. He also supports them with all the medical costs.

HAQUE is a socially responsible company that stands for transparency of business and high ethical standards. HAQUE actively participates in various social and environmental activities. The Group contributes to the welfare of community by continuously attending charity programmes and supporting orphans, culture, children's health and welfare. Besides, HAQUE encourages all of its employees to contribute to the environment, such as tree plantation to celebrate World Environmental Day, paperless office work, etc. Besides, HAQUE stands for the welfare of women employees, as it especially provides childcare facilities. Safety and security systems for women are also very strong, as HAQUE calls itself an equal-opportunity gender-neutral organization.

The Managing Director Adam has established Tamizul Haque Foundation through which he actively supports different charitable works. He contributes to the construction of different mosque at Dhaka, Tongi, Gazipur and Cox's Bazar;



PHOTO: COURTESY

he also has taken the total responsibility of an orphanage named Anzuman Hedayatul Ummat. Every year, he distributes clothes and winter apparel during the colder months of the year. In Cox's Bazar's Himchari, he established Tamizul Haque Central Mosque. He contributes to the children along with those who are differently-abled. He has provided ambulances for different local hospitals.

Adam is financially supporting the poor, talented students of Palestine who are completing their MBBS in Bangladesh.

In this holy Eid- Ul Fitr, HAQUE has taken the initiative of sharing happiness among a large number of helpless children around us who are homeless, starving, and suffering. HAQUE, with the support of its MD, has initiated the project called "Tomar Amar Eid Er Khushi" where

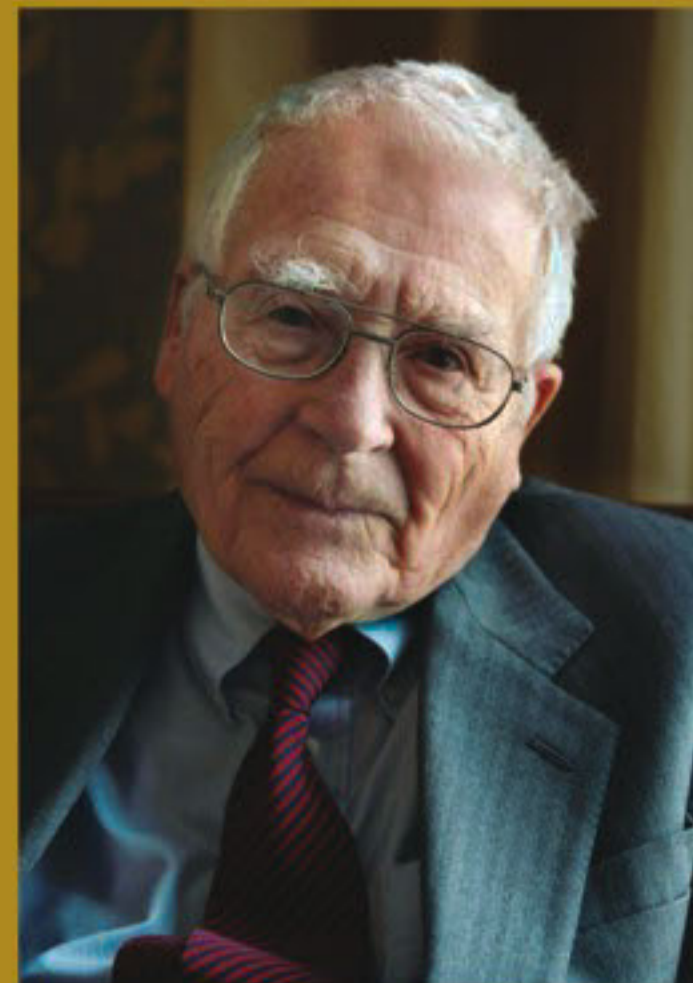
HAQUE has provided Eid dresses to poor and destitute children throughout the country. According to HAQUE, it is the support of its consumers, well-wishers and other stakeholders; which helped bring success to this initiative of spreading happiness.

The writer is a Senior Brand Executive at A.T. HAQUE Ltd.

PEARLS OF WISDOM

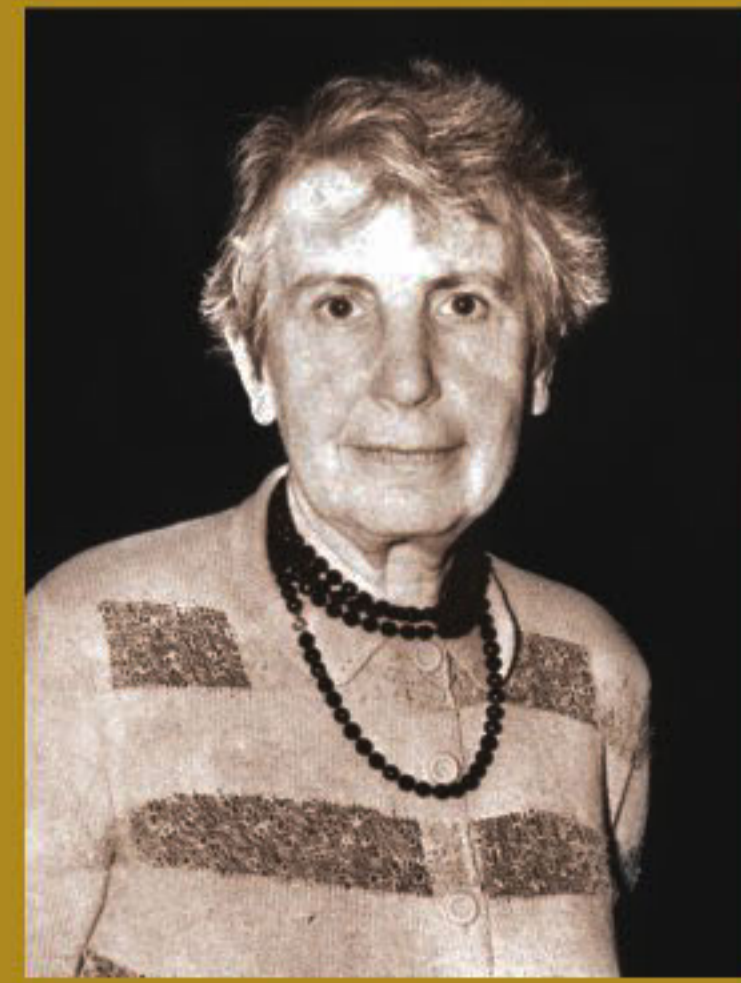
"SADLY, IT'S MUCH EASIER TO CREATE A DESERT THAN A FOREST."

JAMES LOVELOCK
Scientist environmentalist and futurist



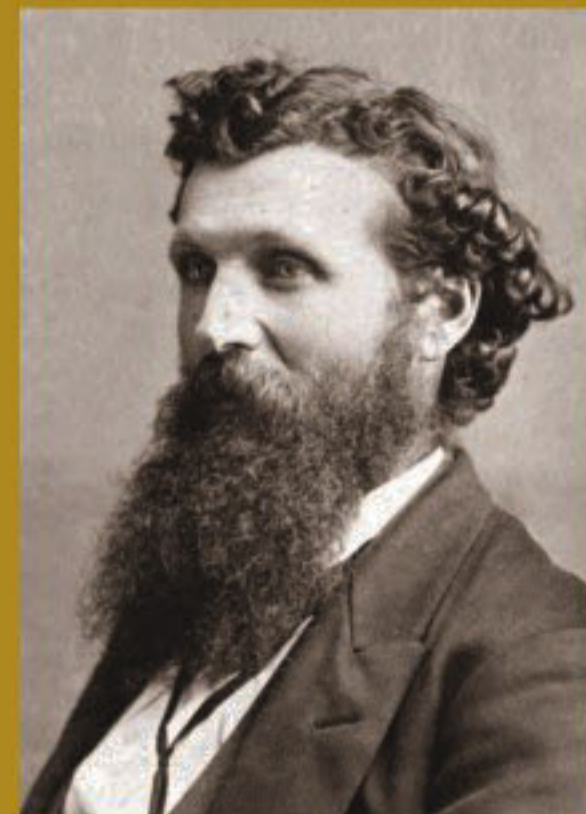
"WE ARE AWARE ONLY OF THE EMPTY SPACE IN THE FOREST, WHICH ONLY YESTERDAY WAS FILLED WITH TREES."

ANNA FREUD
Austrian-British psychoanalyst



"THE CLEAREST WAY INTO THE UNIVERSE IS THROUGH A FOREST WILDERNESS."

JOHN MUIR
Scottish-American naturalist, author, environmental philosopher and early advocate of preservation



HERITAGE

IN GARDEN OF ROSES

APURBA JAHANGIR

PHOTOS: AKIB ABDULLAH

Around the early 1900's, Hrishikesh Das became one of the prominent zamindars in Dhaka. He had a knack for luxury, and was often complimented by his friends for his houses around the area which is now Tanti Bazar. The problem was that he was of a low caste. Around that time, Baldha Garden was where all the aristocrats used

led him to sell the Rose Garden to Khan Bahadur Kazi Abdur Rashid, a zamindar and businessman in 1936. Rashid later renamed the place to 'Rashid Manzil'.

This historical establishment also shares a very important political account of our country. Around 1940's, Rashid Manzil became a hub for politicians. Many of the country's leaders used to gather there, to discuss political issues. In 1949, while experiencing neglect from the West Pakistani government, a group of Bengali nationalists from East Pakistan broke away from the Muslim League which was then Pakistan's dominant political party. These nationalists in a meeting at Rashid Manzil came to a decision to create All Pakistan Awami Muslim League. The party was formed to defend the rights of masses in

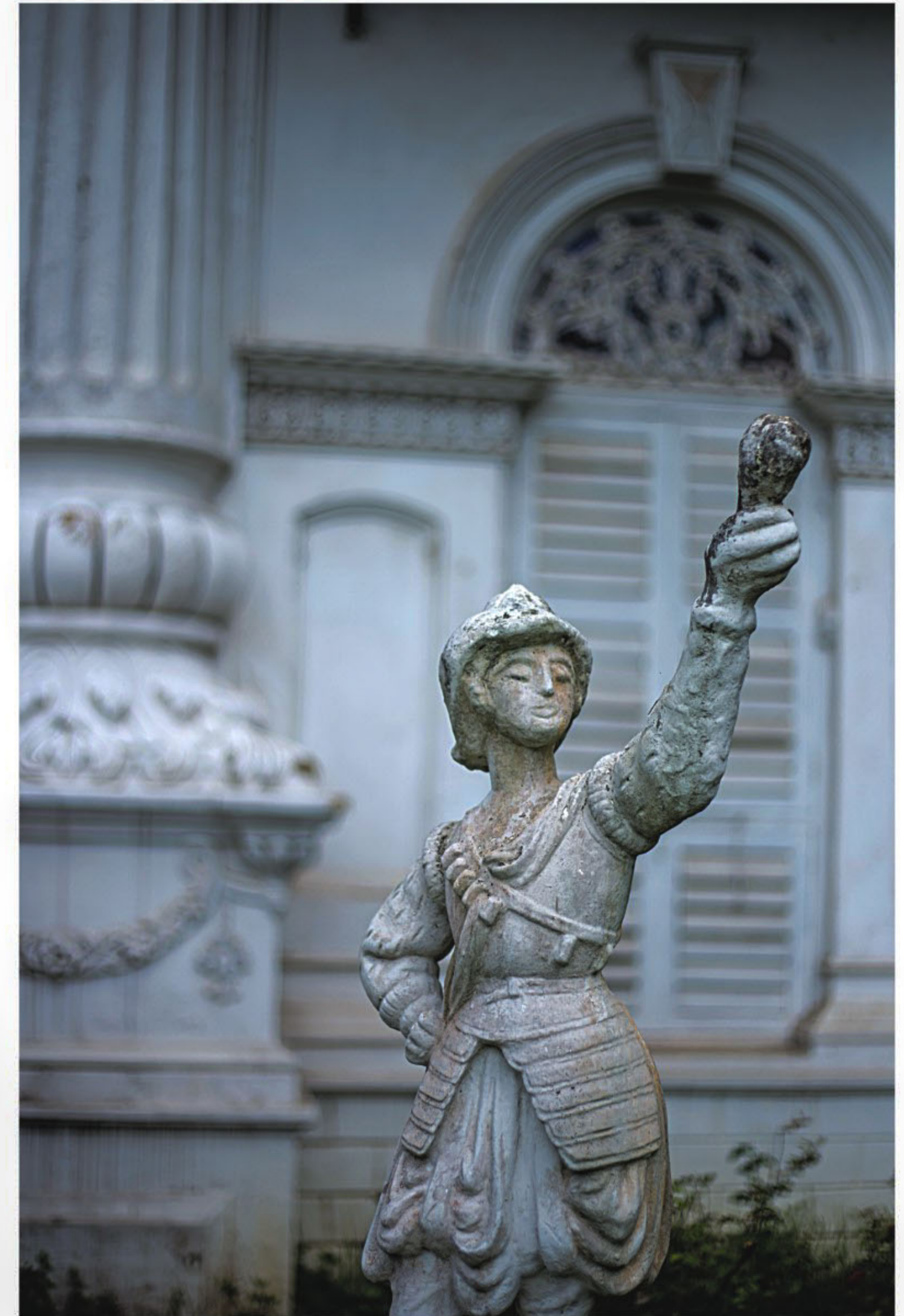


to mingle. It became an important part of the social life of the city's wealthier Hindu residents as most of the *Jalsas* (Parties) were held there. It is said that while attending one of the parties, Hrishikesh was insulted for being of a lower caste. Rumour has it that the insult came from Narendra Narayan Roy Chaudhury, landlord of the Estate of Baldha and creator of Baldha Garden. This offended Hrishikesh Das and he decided to create his own garden which would outshine the Baldha. Thus, he built one of the most prominent heritage sites in Dhaka, popularly known as the Rose Garden.

Situated on K.M. Das Lane in Tikatuly of Old Dhaka, Rose Garden was built just to host parties by Hrishikesh Das. Though the central piece of the garden is an elegant building, it was not created as a residence. It was used for entertainment purposes, mostly musical performances. Hrishikesh was living an extravagant lifestyle and soon became bankrupt. This

Pakistan against the powerful primitive formation led by the Muslim League. Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani and Shamsul Huq were elected the first President and General Secretary of the party respectively, Ataur Rahman Khan was elected the Vice President while Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Khondaker Mostaq Ahmad and A K Rafiqul Hussain were elected the party's first Joint Secretaries. The party is now known as Awami League. Rose Garden witnessed the creation of the biggest political party of Bangladesh.

The place is still owned by the Rashid Family. Around 1960's, the place was rented out to Bengal Studios and Motion Pictures. In no time it became an admired spot for many movies which evolved around the stories of kings and zamindars. The first film which was shot here was 'Harano Din'. Since then, shooting of films and television dramas still take place in this location, making it one of the more



crystal chandeliers, a huge garden of various species of roses and above all luscious landscape makes Rose Garden a palace of incredible architecture. "All the openings are decorated in complex geometric pattern, foliage and animal outlines in wood, coloured Belgian glass and iron," says Anis. "There is a huge marble-floor ball room upstairs. The ceiling of it is floral designed done with green mirrors. There is an intricately designed spiral staircase in front of the ballroom, leading to the roof."

The place is surrounded with high walls. The building is about 45 feet in height and is nearly 7,000 square feet in area. Except for the face of the building, all other sides are rather simple. A major part of the building seemed to be of pink colour. However, an age-old light ash shade hangs over it now.

As days go by and we move towards a more modern era, Rose Garden still stands with its head held high, a witness to years of history. This establishment serves as one of the perfect places where we can be one with our roots in the midst of city life.

popular studios of Dhaka. It is also quite popular as an afternoon refreshment spot. "Most of the time the place caters as a set for TV dramas and movies. We also started to give it for rent for weddings and other functions as well," says Mohammad Anis, Manager of Rose Garden.

The design of this establishment is no doubt one of the greatest in Dhaka, if not Bangladesh. With big Greek style domes, various garden statues and decorations, cascades, ponds, decorative windows, tall

* Some of the information was gathered from the book Charsho Bachhar Dhore, compiled by Alauddin Al Mamun.