

SAMSON H CHOWDHURY - 2000



Chairman of
Square Group

Samson Chowdhury, Chairman of Square Group, is totally a self-made man. Born on February 25, 1926, he completed Senior Cambridge and then management training course jointly sponsored and conducted by the Dhaka University and the Harvard University School.

He along with his four friends set up Square Pharmaceuticals in 1958 at Pabna. The first proprietary medicine was introduced the following year under the name EASTON'S syrup.

It was a small factory with a few thousand-taka investment. Today, the plant's annual sales cross Tk 300 crore. The small plant used to produce a cough syrup.

Square was built on Samson's toil who used to go to his factory, on a 12-mile bus ride.

It was solely through his own vision and efforts that Square has achieved a number of milestones in the country's pharmaceutical industry. It was the first to manufacture and market Metronidazole, Ampicillin, and Cotrimoxazole after the expiry of patents. It also pioneered in exporting antibiotics and other ethical drugs overseas.

Square was also the first to achieve an all time industry high record sales turnover of

USD 25 million. Because of his continuous effort to improve and his colleagues all-out support, Square Pharmaceutical continues to maintain its market leadership for 12 years at a stretch.

Samson's vision is to turn Square into the biggest conglomerate of the country which would be both a labour intensive and capital-intensive company.

With this vision in mind, Samson Chowdhury has gathered a group of high-quality managers whom he treats as family members. Samson also maintains a very close relationship with the employees and despite having a huge workforce, Square never faced any labour trouble because of his

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amicable way of settling issues.

Samson also had a direct contribution towards the Liberation War. He used to supply medicines from his plant to freedom fighters. He was later targeted by the Pakistan army and fled home for a freedom fighters' camp when the army came to pick him up.

It was Samson Chowdhury who took up the bold decision of going for a huge investment in the pharmaceutical plant to get USFDA for export and also to diversify into cosmetics and textiles sectors.

He served the Baptist World Alliance as vice-president for five years since 1985. He is a life member of Bangladesh Bible Society.



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