

Square to begin producing drugs in Kenya by August

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SQUARE

PHARMACEUTICALS LTD.

BANGLADESH

Dhaka : Square Pharmaceuticals Ltd is going to be the first Bangladeshi drug-maker to produce medicines abroad as it starts manufacturing in Kenya by August this year.

The pharma giant has already completed construction of its manufacturing plant in the Kenyan capital Nairobi at a cost of BDT 170 crore.

Square eyes to get hold of the USD 30 million drug market in Kenya and five other East African countries - Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda and South Sudan - and fulfil the unmet demands of medicines in those countries.

All infrastructural work, including installation of all necessary equipment in the factory, is complete, Square Pharma Managing Director Tapan Chowdhury said at a webinar on May 5. "Today [May 5] we had a meeting with the health minister of Kenya. We will be able to start production in mid-July or early August this year," Tapan said.

Company officials say they had a target to start production in the Kenyan factory in 2020. But that did not happen as infrastructural work remained suspended for some time because of the pandemic. Now, all work has finished.

Manufacturing will start soon after discussing with the Kenyan government.