

The Terry Fox Run for Cancer Research Hope for a Cure

by Peggy Herring

On 12 April 1979, a 21-year old man named Terry Fox began a courageous run across Canada. Terry had lost his right leg to bone cancer and wanted to raise money for cancer research. Half way across the country, he was forced to stop. The cancer had spread to his lungs. Terry died in 1981. But, his dream continues. The Terry Fox Run for Cancer Research is now an annual fund raising event in 35 countries. This article is the last in a three part series on cancer and the first Terry Fox Run in Bangladesh. The run will be held in Dhaka on Friday 4 November.

WHEN Terry Fox set out on his Marathon of Hope run across Canada to raise money for cancer research, he had no idea how great an impact his mission would have on developing knowledge and understanding of cancer.

His solo effort turned into an annual international event, raising more than Taka 420 crore for innovative cancer research around the world.

There are cancer research programmes taking place today that would not have been possible without Terry Fox Funds, says Dr Michael Wosnick, Director of Research Programmes at the National Cancer Institute of Canada.

"The Terry Fox money helps us support innovative research programmes and also provides funds to ensure that promising research continues."

Since Terry's run, there has been an explosion of knowledge about cancer in laboratories, research centres and hospitals around the world. Fundamental understanding of the nature and causes of cancer improves daily.

In 1970 only 17 of 100 children diagnosed with leukemia

lived longer than five years. Today, the survival rate is 83 per cent. Similarly, the testicular cancer survival rate has grown to 95 per cent. The survival rate for those diagnosed with Hodgkin's Disease is greater than 90 per cent. For most people, a cancer diagnosis is no longer a death sentence.

Researchers are building on findings with new projects, each one a step closer to discovering the means to prevent and cure cancer. Some recent research projects funded by the Terry Fox Fund include:

Cancer and Genetics : Dr Lawrence McIntosh of the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada is trying to decipher the links between cell growth and DNA. When a cell loses control of its growth, it can multiply and become cancerous. Cell growth and division are normally controlled by factors including the way the cell's genes are expressed. However, proper gene expression depends on certain proteins binding to the cell's DNA. By determining the structure of one family of such proteins, Dr McIntosh hopes to understand how their abnormal activity can

result in cancer. **Anti-cancer drugs :** A promising group of anti-cancer drugs called nucleoside analogs are currently in use or in the process of being evaluated. Their actions occur inside the cell, therefore, they need to pass into the cell through the cell membrane to be effective. Dr Carol Cass of the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Canada is studying how these drugs enter cancer cells. She hopes to understand how they might be modified to make the nucleoside drugs more effective. **Breast Cancer :** The density of breast tissue as shown in a mammogram is related to a woman's risk of developing breast cancer. However, there is currently no agreement on how breast tissue could be classified into risk groups. A team headed by Dr Norman Boyd of the Ontario Cancer Institute in Toronto, Canada, is trying to close this gap. The research group has already clarified the relationship between mammographic densities and cancer risk, identified other risk factors for breast cancer and determined factors that change mammographic densities. This may lead to a better prediction



of who will develop breast cancer and the factors to reduce risk.

However, the work of Drs Boyd, Cass, McIntosh and their teams may take years.

"Research is a little bit like walking down a jungle path", says Dr Christopher Paige of the Wellesly Hospital Research Institute in Toronto, Canada. "You just don't know what lies around the corner. You can take a turn and have the Shangri-La of a major breakthrough staring you in the face, one step away. On the other hand, you could take a turn and find that you're facing a rocky cliff that needs to be scaled before you can take the next step."

Still progress is being made. For those with doubts, Dr Wosnick of the National Cancer Institute of Canada prescribes patience.

"What sometimes frustrates many people, is the seemingly long time frame associated with cancer research. This is especially true of studies that probe the fundamental underlying causes of cancer at the molecular, cellular or biochemical levels. Such studies are crucial if we are ever to understand what these diseases are about. From such understanding will come new, testable ideas for treatment, prevention and potentially even cures for selected cancers," he writes.

This article was prepared with information provided by the National Cancer Institute of Canada June 1994 Newsletter.

Recalling Sher-e-Bangla: His Contribution to Education

by Muhammad Abdul Khaleque

SHER-E-BANGLA A K Fazlul Huq, a great son of this soil was born on 26 October, 1873. His father's home was in the village Chakhar in Barisal district. His forefathers were the inhabitants of the village Bibulash under Baufal Upazilla of Pataukhali district, and his grandfather Kazi Mohammed Akram came to Chakhar and started residing there permanently.

From his very childhood Fazlul Huq was a meritorious student. He obtained scholarship in his mid-level examinations and passed the Entrance examination with distinction in the year 1889. In his FA examination too, he got scholarship. In 1894, he passed the Degree examination with Honours in mathematics, physics and chemistry from Presidency College, Calcutta. Next year, one day when Fazlul Huq was busy preparing himself for his Master's examination in English, one of his friends came and told him that he was studying English because he was not good at Mathematics. Fazlul Huq took it as a challenge and the same year after a few months' preparation, obtained his Master's degree in Mathematics with distinction. It is worth mentioning that he was the first Muslim in the pre-1947 Bengal to obtain MA degree in Mathematics. He also passed the Law examination with distinction in 1897.

During those days the common people of the sub-continent were living simply with illiteracy, poverty and acute frustration. Sher-e-Bangla realised that this backward nation could only be rescued by spreading education. It was next to impossible to remove poverty of the people and restore their political and human rights without education.

Fazlul Huq was one of the pioneers to arrange the 1906 All India Education Conference, where he, in his deliberations, put forward programmes of mass education for the common people. At that time he was only 33 years old. But that speech is still treated as one of the most valuable documents of political, social and economic history of the sub-continent.

In the year 1912 Sher-e-Bangla formed an educational institution at Calcutta under the name and style of Central Muslim Education Institution. Through this he carried forward the education of the de-

prived common masses step by step. In 1914, he delivered a memorable historic speech at the premises of Dhaka Ahsanullah Engineering College on the occasion of the Muslim Education Convention. Because of his ceaseless efforts, the Baker Hostel and Carmichael Hostel were established in Calcutta.

Fazlul Huq in his presidential address at the All India Muslim League and All India Khelafat Convention in 1920 proposed the proposal for boycotting the schools and colleges by the students. In this Convention he categorically stated that it would not do any harm even if all the Hindu boys stopped attending, for they could have their education at home since all the members of their family were educated. But for the Muslim boys boycotting would be suicidal because they had little chance to have education at home.

In 1924 Sher-e-Bangla A K Fazlul Huq accepted the office of Education Minister of Bengal. The tenure of his office was as short as six months, yet during this short period he set up a college in Calcutta. Later on this college was named as Islamia College and Muslim teachers from different parts of India were appointed to this college. This time he also set up a separate Directorate and a separate Muslim Fund for the education of the Muslims. For even the admission of Muslim boys to schools were difficult then. Moreover, the Muslim boys were required to study Sanskrit, because apart from a few Government schools there was no provision for teaching Arabic. As such, he passed orders that in order to get Government assistance every school would have to have one Moulvi teacher and introduced the system of reserve seats for Muslim boys in all schools, colleges, medical and engineering colleges. This system actually helped the Muslims to make significant progress in the field of education.

Another hindrance to the progress of the depressed Muslim students was the system of writing names in the examination scripts. Due to this, some teachers, who were mostly non-Muslims, would not give good marks to the Muslim boys, even if they wrote well. As such the percentage of passing of Muslim boys was very poor. Sher-e-Bangla did away with the system of writing names and only the roll numbers were allowed to be written on the scripts. As

a result, the percentage of passing of the Muslim students really started increasing.

In those days it was also very difficult to get recognition of schools and colleges established for the education of Muslim boys under the Calcutta University. Sher-e-Bangla made a special effort to remove this. Besides these, under his leadership and endeavour, the Elliot Hostel, Engineering College Muslim Hostel and Muslim Institute buildings were set up.

During his tenure of office as Education Minister for six months Sher-e-Bangla played a remarkable role in turning the Aligarh Anglo Oriental College into a university in collaboration with the Aga Khan and Nawab Mohsin-ul Mulik. He was a founder member of the first court of the Aligarh University.

After the 1937 general election, Sher-e-Bangla A K Fazlul Huq became the Prime Minister and unlike all other Prime Ministers of other provinces of India took the charge of Ministry of Education instead of taking Ministry of Home Affairs. He was keen in spreading education and formulating plans and programmes so that the neglected Muslims could get equal rights specially in the field of education.

In the year 1938, Sher-e-Bangla by passing and implementing the Mahajoni Law and Tenancy Act and setting up about a large number of Debt Settlement Boards not only saved the millions of peasants from the clutches of zamindars and usurers but also helped them to carry the light of education to every house as he also set up the Mowla Box Committee for the extension and development of mass education.

During his prime ministership he established the Lady Brabourne College in Calcutta. He helped improve the Sakhawat Memorial Girls' College of Calcutta set up by Begum Rokeya by bringing the college under the control and management of the provincial government.

Sher-e-Bangla contributed much towards the improvement of literature, culture and ideal journalism for the progress and prosperity of the society. He made provision in his cabinet budget for financial assistance to all these fields. From that fund he donated Tk 30,000 to the then Dayi Azad.

Sher-e-Bangla did not like the idea of any prohibitive law to control the voice of news-



papers. So when the then British government introduced the Press Act of India in 1917, he criticised that at the Assembled Session.

In 1940, under his patronage, the Fazlul Huq Hall of Dhaka University and the Haraganga College of Munshiganj were established. This time he also set up a college in his village Chakhar. The madrasah and the school beside the college too were his contributions. He made positive contribution towards the establishment of the University of Dhaka.

The Sarshina Madrasah is one of the famous madrasahs of Bangladesh and Sher-e-Bangla's contribution towards its development was unlimited. He was first to keep provision in his budget for the education of the Tapsili community. He also helped develop the Adina Fazlul Huq College and A K Fazlul Huq School at Rajshahi.

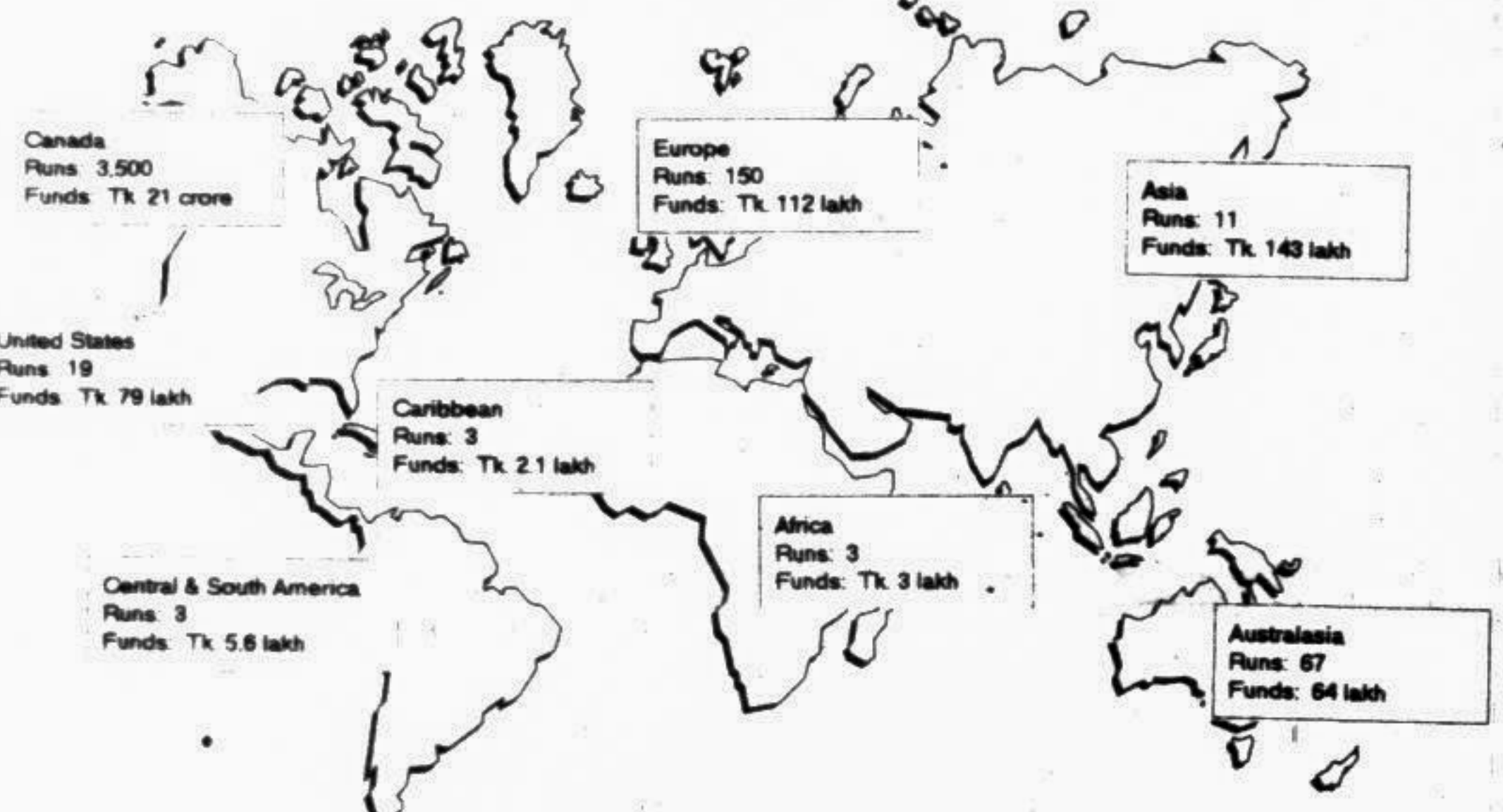
Thoroughly a cultured man and a lover of culture, he loved the company of poet Nazrul Islam and singer Abbasuddin and on many occasions he met and discussed various issues with his favourite poet Rabindranath Tagore. Sher-e-Bangla also had a cordial relationship with Mahatma Gandhi in spite of his difference of opinion on the non-cooperation movement of the latter.

In 1954, after the formation of the cabinet under the leadership of A K Fazlul Huq, the Bengali language got recognition as one of the state languages of the then Pakistan. During his prime ministership the Bangla Academy was established. He also made significant contributions towards the establishment of Eden Girls' College, Teigoan Agriculture College, Bulbul Lalitkala Academy and Central Women's College.

The people of this country irrespective of caste, creed and colour will preserve in their minds forever the sweet memories of the great son of this soil and his unlimited contribution towards education of the masses.

The writer is General Secretary, Sher-e-Bangla Jatiya Smriti Sangsad.

A LOOK AT THE BIG PICTURE - 1993 -



Summary of the Terry Fox Runs and funds raised by location.

Asian diary BY ARJUNA

A Test of Negotiating Skill

THEY are called by a variety of names in many countries of the world: flea markets, bargain basements, bazaars, open markets, etc. Whether you are in Calcutta, Hong Kong, Istanbul, Cairo or Singapore, they offer items or merchandise, fake or genuine, at giveaway or bargain prices.

If one is lucky, he can even unknowingly buy a genuine antique or a priceless painting for the price of a stick of cigarette.

It is no different in the big cities of India where flea markets provide price-conscious locals the opportunity to test their haggling skills against the wiles of bazaar owners and blackmarketeers.

Some Delhi housewives even find it worthwhile to spend their Sundays in pursuit of rare bargains, not minding the hot sun or even the occasional rain shower.

The Sunday bazaar near Red Fort, built by Emperor Shah Jehan, provides a colourful background for fakes and cheap antiques in bargaining sessions.

You have to test your negotiating skill. You must know what the real value of these goods is," says a 35-year-old university graduate and housewife, Rehini. For, she has practised the art to perfection. She has bought old gramophone records pressed in the early forties. These are collector's items. Also, old gramophones, antique tables and even doors and door knobs.

diction. Make no mistake. It is nothing but fine art. It requires finesse. It is like playing poker -- there is calculated precision calibrated deceit and mutual negotiations."

As crafts impresario Jaya Jaitly puts it. "The market basically caters to the poor class and the lower middle class. You get all the basic necessities here and don't have to pay the overhead charges."

But it does offer serious shopping. Located near the walls of the historic Red Fort, the bazaar is almost as old as the fort itself. It is said the market was the selling ground for regal discards during the Mughal period and was actually built within the fort itself.

A daily market in those days, the bazaar went through many place and name changes, being constantly shunted from near Pataudi House to the Victoria Zenana Hospital, to the neighbourhood of Happy School, to Subhas Park, to the road linking Daryaganj with Ring Road, until finally it settled down in its present location.

Mela Ram, vice-president of the Kabari Bazaar Market Association, insists the powers that have been very unfair to them. In 1964, it was a daily market, with shops being set up every morning in the neighbourhood.

The shopkeepers' misfortune, he claims, started during the Emergency, when their place was taken away. And though they have been allotted the Red Fort grounds, they have to vacate it any time is a rally.

The local legend is that in the eighties, stolen goods from all over the town were sold at

the bazaar.

There is the story of a man who came across his own stolen TV set, but could not identify it. So, what could the poor man do? He just bought it again for a couple of thousand rupees.

There are shopkeepers who are ready to defend the reputation of the bazaar and bet their last shirt on it.

For example, 30-year-old Hyder, who makes a good living by selling readymade shirts, says: "It is just giving us a bad name. Clothes here are so inexpensive because they are export rejects. We take only Rs 5 to Rs 10 profit for a shirt."

Hyder reveals a trade secret. Sometimes, entire shiploads of ready-made clothes are returned to India because they are defective, not up to the quality standards specified by the buyer.

So the manufacturer sells them to hawkers all over the place at whatever price these can be sold to cut down their losses.

Then, there are original fakes. These fake sellers could shame anybody in Bangkok, which is the original home of fake goods. You name it, they have it. You can buy Yokohama super digger tyres for jeeps for a mere Rs 500 (US\$ 16). They might cost you Rs 4,000 (US\$ 128) to Rs 5,000 (US\$ 160) in the open market. But everyone knows they are fakes.

Twenty-five-year-old Zamir Khan says: "Sometimes, we make enough money to last us for weeks. Yet, there are lean times when we sell tyres at a loss."

You can find almost anything in those shops. And the seller insists that they are not

fakes. For instance, you can buy Walter Johnson blazers, Benetton shirts, Zodiac ties. Sometimes, the bazaar looks like an upmarket department store. But the prices are so low that you wonder how they ever got them.

There are hordes of Russian tourists, men and women. Others come from Eastern Europe -- all flock to the market. Then there are carpets and their prices are determined by your bargaining power.

The fat men who come with their wives pay the maximum, says a carpet dealer Akram Khan.

Even in affluent Dubai, you will find Indian and Pakistani carpet dealers who claim to buy carpets in Teheran, Pakistan or Kashmir. You can bargain and buy a small piece of rug which is otherwise priced astronomically.

But the real centre of attention are foreign goods -- cameras, watches, sun glasses, perfumes and even condoms displaying youthful women. You can buy anything you want if you have the negotiating skill and the cash.

You can even purchase a Sony Walkman -- made in Japan -- and the price will drop to suit you.

There are occasional bargains like a 300-litre refrigerator which you can buy for Rs 5000 (US\$ 160).

But as one Asian diplomat says, "Don't be surprised if you find your car disappearing from your home and then landing here. The trader will do you a favour by selling it back to you unless someone has bought it before you arrive on the scene."

But the universal complaint is that the tradespeople -- the hawkers who make their weekly living in a tough world of hard cash and bargains -- have to bribe the police, says one hawker. There are so many cops. And everytime merchants have to shell out some money to keep the police happy.

—Depthnews Asia.

Through the Eyes of a Layman

Continued from page 9

In 1911, it has four gates and we entered through the southern Meridian Gate which was once restricted to the use of the emperors only, whereas, the civil and military officials as well as the imperial clansmen used the two side entrances. The palace occupies 720,000 sq m of land in the heart of Beijing. It is the largest and best preserved group of ancient buildings in today's China, with more than 9,000 rooms covering an area of 150,000 sq m, surrounded by a 10m high wall, and a 52m wide moat. The perimeter of the entire palace is six kilometres. The Palace is divided into two main sections -- the Front Palace in the south and the Inner Palace in the north. In the centre of the front palace stand the Hall of Supreme Harmony, Hall of Complete Harmony and the Hall of Preserving Harmony, which are known as the Three Great Halls. In addition to these three, there are the Hall of Military Prowess and the Hall of Literary Glory. In the front-palace, the emperors performed grand ceremonies. The Inner Palace which includes the Palace of Heavenly Peace, the Hall of Prosperity and the Hall of Earthly Peace together with the gardens and various halls in the east and the west was the emperor's domestic quarters where the empress, concubines and children of the emperor lived, worshipped and were entertained. In addition, this section contained storerooms, libraries and a hall of historical archives.



The Meridian Gate opens on to a large square crossed by the golden river which is spanned by five white marble arched bridges. The brick-walled banks of the river are lined with a curving white marble balustrade which appears like a fine belt of jade. After crossing the bridges and ascending the flight of stairs, we arrived at the main palace gate, the Gate of Supreme Harmony which opens up to a vast courtyard of about 30,000 sq m. The Hall of Supreme Harmony stands at the centre with two other minor halls on the east and west. The other two great halls stand in the line of the Hall of Supreme Harmony of the I-shaped terraces which are composed of three layers of white marble, each layer bounded by a low

balustrade. The pillars are ornamented at the top with carved cloud patterns, dragons and phoenixes and panels between the pillars are adorned with vases of lotus leaves. At the base of the pillars is a small channel for water drainage and dragonheads beneath each pillar with a hole in the mouth not only add to the rich architecture but also spurt rain water from the mouth simultaneously in all the three terraces during the rainy days. One cannot but wonder to realise the engineering knowledge of the Chinese five centuries back.

The middle staircase to the north of the Hall of Preserving Harmony is very spectacular with large marble panels framed with a border of swirling flowers' and lower section of ocean waves. In the centre, a sea of curled clouds set off groups of nine (imperial number) coiling dragons (the emperor's personal symbol) that rise out of their midst, all in the high relief. These stone carvings are considered to be finest in whole of China.

The Hall of Supreme Harmony is the largest and highest building in the whole palace complex. It is 55m high and covers an area of 23,000 sq m and majestically decorated with dragons, clouds and flowers including some abstract objects, on the floor, on columns, walls, ceiling and even on the eaves and roofs. At the centre of the Hall, on a dragon platform is the golden throne of the emperor, the son of the heaven. It is said that the centre of the throne is lined with the centre of the earth.

Another piece of wonder in art and craft is the summer palace in between the Kunming Lake and the Longevity Hill with about a half a mile long corridor intricately carved on timber with mythological events of China. It is located at the north-west suburbs of Beijing and a wonderful piece of garden architecture in the palace park with pavilions, terraces, temples, pagodas, stone buildings and the beautiful marble boat on the lake (where Empress Dowager, Xici used to have her afternoon tea), occupying a total area of about 290 hectares of land.

The Great Wall of China, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world, extending over a length of 12,000 miles, is claimed to be the only earthly object which can be seen from the moon. Two stone walls separated by a stone terrace of about 13 ft wide, intercepted with numerous observation towers and halting places comprises the construction of the wall, cutting across the mountainous terrain assuming a serpentine shape. The height of the wall varies as and when required to match the terrain when the inner terrace is replaced by stone steps. The granite stones have decayed a little along with some missing portions due to the impact of time. This is perhaps the oldest structure still existing in its original shape. Standing on a high watch-tower of the wall and looking at its distant stretches, an awesome feeling arrests the mind due to the wall's enormous size in the midst of the calm and quiet even surroundings.

As I am a building designer, the architectural heritage of China has always impressed me. Timber, stone and ceramic tiles was the main building material in old China. Stone cutting and selection of various types of stones for carving and decorations in walls, ceiling and even floors indicating the advanced knowledge in building materials of the ancient Chinese were fully developed along with the silk and ceramic industries before the birth of Christ. Same is true with the art of preserving the timber against termite and natural decay. Preparation and selection of colour in decoration of buildings perhaps, deserve special mention in the history of building architecture. The technique of roof construction of buildings is also unique. It is claimed that no nails were used in typical Chinese roof construction. Astonishing decorations of the roof eaves are worth mentioning.

The garden architecture, now called landscaping also perhaps, was developed first in China as clearly evident in the old palace gardens existing still today. The old culverts on rural waterpools and rivulets are stone arches presenting an aesthetic balance which is maintained till today, replacing stone with concrete. The rail way stations are not luxurious but clean and pleasing to the eye. It must be stressed that nothing of the ancient structures hurts the eye. Such was the aesthetic sense of the Chinese people of the olden days.

Incidentally, China operates the second longest railway system of the world next to India only. And all their progress and advancement in science, engineering and technology are their own achievement, encouraged and inspired by the great leaders, Mao Zedong, Zhou Enlai, Deng Xiaoping who transformed China to what it is today. This is the way the amazing achievement of 12 per cent increase in GNP became possible. Now, of course, things are taking different shape when flooding of modern western technology is rapidly engulfing China after Deng Xiaoping opened the gate with the prospect of transforming China as the country of the largest economic turnover in the world.

The writer, a former Prof of Civil Engg is a consulting engineer.