HE city is a changing

L the actions of commu-

nities and individuals, major

sectors and organisations.

Despite the trait of impe-

rsonality in interaction and

absence of primary social

groups cities are the creation

of individuals through their

organisations. Therefore, the

interaction between social

organisation and city set-

tlement is complex and

living there, they equally re-

ation. But the urban life has

and social life alive. Hancock

Health in the Urban Context

(WHO Healthy City Paper No.

can be considered as a

continually creating and im-

proving those physical and

social environments and ex-

in performing all the func-

tions of life and in developing

To help create and im-

N the last two decades.

both in economic and

social terms, Korea has

been one of the fastest

developing countries in the world. This rapid develop-

ment has brought Korea to

increase global exposure and

recognition. Testifying to this

was the successful hosting of

the 1988 Seoul Olympics and then Taejon Expo '93. Both

the events played an important role in deepening

the ties between Seoul and

nations all over the world

that gave an impetus to the

try's 5,000-year history re-

veals many triumphs and

tragedies, successes and

struggles which have been instrumental in shaping the

Korea and Koreans of today.

The present-day Koreans, while enormously proud of

their country's past, look at its role and reputation from a

more recent historical per-

spective, but in order to understand today's Korea, it's

necessary to be oriented with

the country's rich cultural

dependence days, has devel

oped strong ties with Korea

both from the economic and

social points of view. Ever

since the formal ties started

more than two decades ago,

the two countries have devel-

oped mutually beneficial rela-

tionship. As it's seen these

days, this relationship has

stood the test of time.

Bangladesh, in its post-in-

background.

A look back at the coun-

country's socio-economy.

to their maximum potential."

social

secondary

organism furnished by

### CHITTAGONG HEALTHY CITY PROJECT

# Improved Living Conditions and Better Health

by Rashed un Nabi

South East Asia to join the Healthy City Movement. Health for All and

All for Health

and administrative reasons

Many political economic

have narrowed down the urbanisation process in Bangladesh to growth of a few large urban centres (Dhaka, unique. The city-dwellers require roads and buildings for Chittagong and Khulna). For example, in 1960, Chittagong was a relatively small town of quire open spaces and 10.2 sq km withonly 300,000 greenery for healthy recrepopulation. The city has witbeen wrongly assessed with a nessed an incredible area exview that the city is primarily pansion to 184 sq km in an economic entity. While the 1990. But the population size within this period increased importance of economic diwith a galloping rate and mension can never be undermined nonetheless it stood to 3 million. In the hardly can sustain without early 60s Dhaka had an area keeping city's environment of 819 sq km with less than l million population which expanded to 1510 sq km acand Duhl in their Promoting commodating 10 million people in 1995. The per-1, 1989) describe that a city centage growth of Chittagong city area is relatively slow compared to Dhaka but the healthy place only if it "is population increase rate in these two cities were nearly same. Population increase inpanding those community re- ter alia makes the task of sources that enable people to management of a city diffimutually support each other cult. It affects land use pattern, consumption pattern, social cultural and commercial organisation. In the long run, it affects the health of the city and its dwellers.

prove the urban health and social life, the WHO envisaged the Healthy City Project Healthy City Project is being launched by the Chittagong (HCP) with replicable ap-City Corporation with assisproaches all over the globe. The project advocates protance from the WHO. The motion of health of the cities project incorporates over 30 through public movement. government and non-gov-The first project was initiernment organisations ated in Toronto in Canada by (implementing partners) inthe WHO Regional Office for volved in social and physical Europe in 1986. Since then infrastructure as well as improvement of urban social about 1000 cities in the USA. Japan, Australia and New life. The project tasks commenced with a workshop in Zealand undertook similar Healthy City Projects beside November 1993 where the 19 national HCP networks project partners identified 7 connecting 375 cities, towns major areas of action such as: and communities as network Slum Improvement, Literacy. members. Chittagong is the Water and Sanitation. first city not only in drainage and Sewerage. Town Planning, Economic Bangladesh but in South and

development and Environment Protection and Health Care and Nutrition. The HCP aspires to touch upon all the aspects of urban life through these topical action areas which will be carried out by the existing agencies hand in hand in association with the communities. Therefore, project partners in Chittagong unanimously reached the consensus that Health for All can only be achieved if 'all' of them unitedly stand for health of the city and the community.

### The Foundations of HCP

The fact, HCP is the first of its kind that puts Health in the heart of the idea of urban development. The cities grow centring on purposive human interactions, nevertheless, each city has its own norms. folkways, institutions and social movement that make a Bangalee in Dhaka different from those in Calcutta. HCP for the first time recognises that a healthy city can be grown only if attention is paid to human values rather than infrastructure in isolation. Therefore, it has laid its frame on three pillars namely a) The WHO Definition of Health b) the Ottawa Charter c) the Health for All 2000 strategy. These pillars are shouldered by the participat-Against this backdrop, ing (in HCPs) cities them-

Foy's Lake

A Healthy City

1. A clean, safe physical environment of high quality (including housing quality) 2. An ecosystem which is stable now and

sustainable in the long run. 3. A strong, mutually supportive and non-

exploitative community. 4. A high degree of participation and control by

the public over decisions their lives and well-being. 5. The meeting of basic needs (for food, shelter, income, safety) for all the city's people. 6. Access to a wide variety of experiences and

resources, with the opportunity for a wide variety of contact, interaction and communication. 7. A diverse, vigourous and innovative local

economy 8. The encouragement of connectedness to the past, with the biological heritage of city dwellers,

other groups and individuals. 9. A city forum which is compatible with the

above characteristics. 10. An optimum level of appropriate Public

Health and sick care services for all. 11. High health status high level of positive

health and low levels of sickness.

This conceptual frame has been taken as instruments of the project believing that the project will be able to help look after the poor and marginalised groups that lack access to basic health requirements of clean water and sanitation, education and social and economic opportunity of the city. With ac-

cepting the WHO definition of health as "... a state of complete physical, social and mental well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity" it redefine the meaning of health: traditionally health is equalled with an activity (health care etc). The above definition implies that health is an outcome of all the activities that constitute

the lives of individuals. households, communities and cities. It is estimated by the project that the healthcare system of Chittagong, even if operating effectively and efficiently can produce no more than 10-15 per cent of city health as long as city population's well-being and quality of life are concerned. Therefore, the project proposes to turn attention to living and working condition of the city.

The project framework judiciously identifies the class nature of health status of Chittagong stating that "those living in poorer conditions, greater poverty circumstances will generally have poorer health than their more affluent counterparts in the city." HCP is, therefore, designed to address the crisis and need of the poor who mainly live in the slums and squatters and make up 40 per cent of the city population in Chittagong.

#### Organisation of the Project

The goal of the project is to crate health in Chittagong city and its dwellers and therefore it requires intersectoral action. Basically, the Ottawa Charter puts emphasis on this very crucial issue proclaiming that policy decisions of the sectors other than health may have key

contributions to health. For example, policies which help create supportive environment for health in the economic or social sectors, eventually control the individual, family and community health behaviour decisions. For a concerted and coor-

dinated action of creating city health, a Partnership Task Force (PTF) chaired by the Mayor of Chittagong City Corporation coordinates and carries out the project activities. This PTF is designated to assume the responsibility of new development plans side by side new resources for plans and activities. About 30 government, semi-government and non-government organisations and citizens' forums including representatives from slumdwellers and squatters have been included in the PTF with their chief executives as members. Unlike others, inclusion of representatives of the city's impoverished and marginalised groups in the PTF is not customary. Rather it is a strategic endeavour since without participation of these marginalised groups the project is not as likely to accurately represent the needs of those living in

poverty. The project implementation strategy is divided into two phases. Under the guidance of the Chief Health Officer of Chittagong the first phase is being coordinated by a Magistrate of the city corporation. In addition to the PTF one working group each of the 7 major areas of action will be formed to facilitate progress of the project and include further recommendations in the action plan.

In addition to these action based groups, there will be a geographical component to project organisation and action. A healthy city working group basing on city zones in each of the 7 zones, headed by City Corporation Officer

10-minute Samulnoti with

five performers, five-minute

Fan Dance with nine per-

formers, six-minute Salpu'ri,

a solo performance, and 15-

minute Ch'on-do with 12

ment will be a long 40-

comprising ward commissioners and local leaders is designated to bring forth the ward/area priorities.

For the second phase, the project proposes a large independent project office with somewhat perspective plan of action involving

\$144,420 for 1994-2000 pe-

While the first phase and other preliminary tasks of campaign for forming working group are carried out duly the task of thrust on the second phase is behind its schedule. While most of the intervention priorities were supposed to begin from 1993-94, they have not been taken up yet. Nonetheless, the Healthy City Project has been able to kindle the hope among the professionals as well as the city-dwellers from all walks of life.

#### **Need for Research**

The project puts excessive

importance on health issues and overlook many other significant problems in its study components and project rationale. It emphasises involvement of Departments of Sociology and Statistics in creating a database on health information in Chittagong city through baseline studies. This idea of baseline study emerged, as the project document states, from a WHO review showing significant gaps in knowledge regarding health situation in Chittagong. However, a baseline study only with health indicators will hardly serve the ambitious aim of improving living conditions of Chittagong city - dwellers. In Bangladesh, quantity as well as institutional arrangement for urban research is very poor, Many of the areas like housing for the low-income and moderate-income groups. low-cost transportation, recreation facilities etc., is less explored in urban research. This project should include these unexplored areas in its provision for baseline study. However, the project document?!

The writer is a senior researcher of Proshika

with a painting of peonies.

and the costume became

more like the one worn by

the dancers of the Royal

court with a hwa-gwan

## KOREAN CULTURAL FESTIVAL

## Expressing Metaphysical Emotions

A Preview Compiled by Ekram Kabir



Fan dance

this month. The festival one of the follow-ups of Bangladesh Prime Minister's official visit to Korea - is characterised by affiliation with the Bangladesh government authorities concerned. including Shilpakala Academy, and Korean community in Dhaka.

The Pestival 1995 will be-

series of Korean Cultural Festival here in Dhaka during

In order to further

strengthening this friendly

relations and deeper under-

standing, the Embassy of the

Republic of Korea in Dhaka is

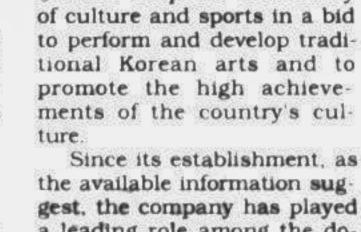
going to present an exclusive



gin with Korean dance per formance tomorrow - sponsored by the Korea Foundation - followed by Charity Food Festival and Handicrafts Exhibition on November 18 and 19 at Korean Ambassador's residence, film show at Dhaka National Museum on November 20, charity fashion show sponsored by LG Fash

ion on November 21 again at the Ambassador's residence.

The Traditional Dance performances on 8th and 9th of this month is part of Seoul Performing Arts Company's tour through Qatar, Bangladesh. India, Sri Lanka and Vietnam. The company chaired by Sang-shik Kim. was established in 1986 un-



gest, the company has played a leading role among the domestic art groups by performing famous works highlighting the traditional Korean arts. Many overseas performances have served to enhance its popularity and ensure high reputation of the company. It contributes to the enrichment of Korea's cultural heritage and to the promotion of the country's performing arts providing the world with the opportunity to enjoy Korean arts.

Although there have been historic and prehistoric mi grations of Chinese, Mongols and Japanese, the people of Korea are very conscious of the ethnic differences and cultural distinctions which give them their unique iden tity. According to the materials made available here Shamanist Buddhist and Confucian rituals, court entertainment, country or folk dances and the mask dance drama are Korea's traditional

ones. Characteristic movements of Korean dancers are the heelwalks and turning on the heels, raising the body gently and lightly from the bentknee position, slight vibrations from the hips up, pulsation from the shoulders, and economy of action and im-

provisation The most distinctive of

movements is the suspended der the auspices of ministry

This conveys a deep sense of ecstatic power. Ecstasy permits all of the types of dance, not only the Shaman's and farmers' folk dance, but even the extremely formal court dance has shoulder pulsations. Korean artistic expression and Asian dance in general differ from that of the west

position, with the dancer bal-

ancing on one foot with the

free leg extended while the

shoulders softly rise and fall.

The western ideal is a dancer with a distinct personality whose body is emphasised with each movement. The Korean dancer is an anony mous figure whose body and gender are hidden and thus de-emphasised. While west ern dancers like to dominate space and play with light. sound, texture and dynamics Korean dancers aren't inter ested in external aspects of acrobatic physical motion but rather in expressing metaphysical emotion.

The dancer's body con cealed in voluminous silks with full sleeves - becomes the image of a pure and abstract landscape, reflecting several thousand years of his tory and culture. Dance, in its origin, is sacred, magical and ritualistic in character. Out of Korean three ritual forms. Shamanist. Buddhist and Confucian - Shamnism is the most highly developed of all. In Confucianism, dancing is minimal and the ceremony is everything.

The entire dance performance will be in two parts. the first one consisting of four separate performances -

Sound of the original life minute 15-trouper performance called Sounds of the

Origin of Life.

Samul means four traditional Korean percussion instruments - Kkwaenggwart (small gong). Ching (large gong). Changgu (hourglass drum) and Puk (drum) - and Nort means 'to play'. The Changgu and Puk made of wood and hide symbolise man and the moon, and Ching and Kkwaenggwari, made of metal, symbolise the sun and the stars. Samulnori is a modern adaptation of peas ants' music and dance wherein each instrumentalist's speciality is fully displayed and a variety of rhythms are presented.

The Fan Dance - as the Korean cultural history reveals - was originally a folk ritual dance in which dancer used a fan to create a passionate artistic effect. Over the years, the fan was changed into a folding one

(flower crown) adorning the performers. The second segdancer's head. The dance itself was transformed into one of

dignified elegance and grace. The accompanying rhythm is quiet, flowing and lighthearted. The most striking feature is revealed when the rhythm quickens and the dancers form a large fluttering cluster of flowers that moves in a circular rotation. This lovely geometrical pattern is made possible by a dipping posture with the fan spread open and move- up-and-down very quickly.

Salpu'ri means "to get rid of evil spirit" or "to release the undesirable" and it's one of Korea's traditional dances performed to Shamanist music. The dancer moves amidst silence using a white scarf and her body to create an aura of mystery and illusion. It depicts both sorrow and ecstasy.

The Ch'on-do performance offers a spiritual vision of life after death in which the living console the departed souls and wish them a comfortable life in the heavenly abode while the dead wish happiness and peace for the living on earth.

As life begins with movements, so does the Sound of the Origin of Life performance in which the artistes and performers search a certain sound that stirs human-beings basic instincts. The moment this pure sound is performed, a bright and orderly world comes into

it's expected that the viewers will come to appreciate the richness of Korean music and dance through these performances. And hopefully, this performance tour will work out a cornerstone of a newer and deeper understanding and friendship between Korea and Bangladesh in the future



A landscape perspection



TODAY IS ODIE'S BIRTHDAY,

NOT THAT YOU CARE!





