

ALTID: New Opportunities for Trade and Growth in South Asia

by Dr M Rahmatullah

THE Asia and Pacific region has been the high performer in the world economic scene for well over a decade now.

Ours is an increasingly interdependent world in which international division of labour is being carried to an unprecedented length.

The dynamic economic, trade and tourism developments in Asia and the Pacific since the early 80s has underlined the need for forging stronger overland transport linkages both among countries in the region as well as to points beyond.

Although relatively new in its present form, the ALTID project, in its spirit, represents a continuation of a process dating back to 1959 when the Asian Highway (AH) project was initiated by ESCAP.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and some developed countries. Today, the AH network covers a total length of approximately 99,000 km of international roads.

Another component of the ALTID project, namely the Trans-Asian Railway (TAR) project was initiated in 1960s.

movements of goods and people across national borders without unnecessary delay and cost.

Under the ALTID project, the railway network of immediate concern to South Asia is the Southern Corridor, mentioned above, linking Bangladesh, India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

at different stages of processing. Various studies have supported the conclusion that the improvement and optimal utilization of existing land transport and communication will increase intra-regional trade and tourism in South Asia.

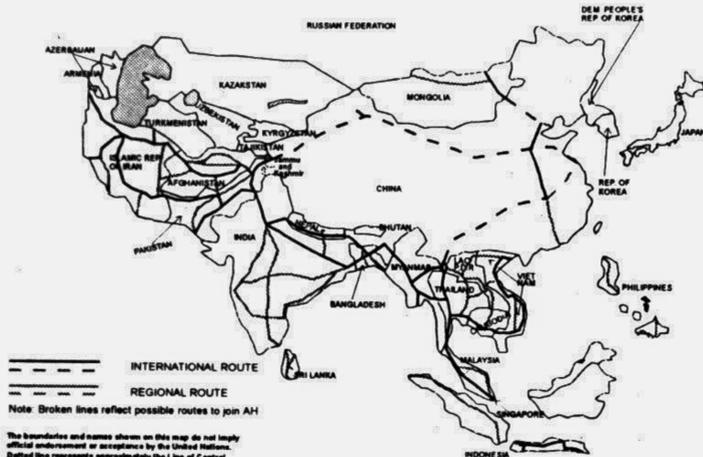
sit facilities, the intra-regional trade will rise to about \$11.0 billion in 2015.

It is important to take a dynamic and long-term, rather than static and short-term, view of the trade potential of the countries in the South Asian sub-region.

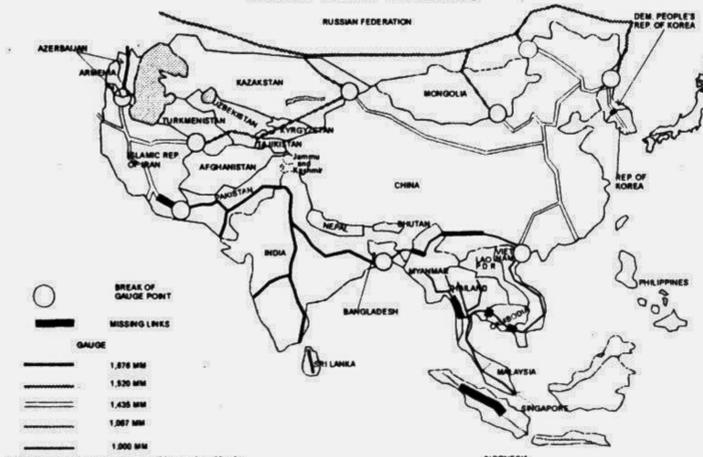
the land-locked Central Asian Republics (CARs), now that these countries have railway linkages with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Responding to increasing economic pressures to promote freer international movements of goods and people, many countries are pro-actively pursuing this goal, as evidenced, for example, by the support extended by the national leaders attending the first Asia-Europe Meeting at Bangkok in March 1996 to establishing a direct link connecting Singapore with Europe.

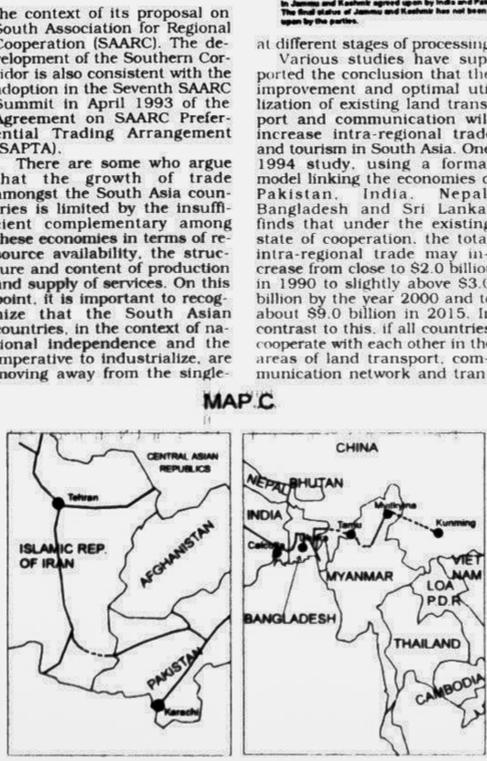
MAP A ASIAN HIGHWAY



MAP B TRANS-ASIAN RAILWAY



MAP C CENTRAL ASIAN RAILWAY



envisioning basic rail links between Singapore and Istanbul via South Asia, and onto Europe. Today, it also includes links from Singapore to North-East Asia, Korean Peninsula and onto Europe, as well as other routes (Map B).

A number of ESCAP studies have confirmed the feasibility of linking existing networks in three main sub-regions:

places particular emphasis on harmonizing transport facilitation measures at the national and international levels and encourages ESCAP countries to accede to various international agreements such as the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Control of Goods of 1982.

In the past, making the above-mentioned corridors operational would have perhaps posed formidable technical difficulties because of the problem concerning the break-of-gauge.

There are some who argue that the growth of trade amongst the South Asia countries is limited by the insufficient complementary among these economies in terms of resource availability, the structure and content of production and supply of services.

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and metre-gauge based South East Asian railway systems and metre-gauge based South East Asian railway systems. Bangladesh, home to both gauge types, can play a pivotal role in providing trans-shipment services.

Possibilities are many, and are waiting to be explored. A fully operational Southern Corridor can lead to much better capacity utilization of the Bangladesh Railway, thereby contributing to the development and modernization of the country's railways and road transport industries, as well as enhance the viability of the Jamuna Bridge.

After more than 15 years, these words ring more true and carry more urgency than ever before.

measures, the ALTID project can help create a larger and more attractive South Asian marketplace in which to invest and more attractive South Asian marketplace in which to invest and provide.

The potential benefit to Bangladesh from removing institutional impediments to cross-border and transit trade to help create a viable South Asian market can hardly be over-emphasized.

These actions, by necessity, would begin with the recognition by all concerned parties that the unhindered international flow of trade and tourism is achievable only within a framework of reciprocal understanding and cooperation.

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The Daily Star Entertainment Guide

Wednesday 30th October (All programmes are in local time. There may be changes in the programmes)

BTV 3:00 Opening Announcement Al-Quran Programme Summary 3:10 Ractation from the Geeta 3:15 Telecast of Selected Programme 4:00 News in Bangla 4:15 Sports Programme 4:45 Tagore Songs 5:00 News in Bangla 5:25 Monee Khatra 6:00pm News in Bangla 6:05 Hijaal Tamal 7:00 The News 7:05 Open University 7:25 Writer Tale Tale 8:00 News in Bangla 8:30 Chhaya Chandro 9:00 Mini Series: 10:00 News in English 10:30 Shasthattha: Health Programme based on Child & Mother 10:35 Badan Hara 11:30 News in Bangla 11:35 Thursday's programme 11:40 Close down

STAR PLUS 6:00am Home and Away 6:30 The Sullivan's 7:00 Aerobics Oz Style 7:30 STAR News 8:00 SKY News 8:30 STAR News 9:00 SKY News 9:30 Aerobics Oz Style 10:00 Graham Kerr's Kitchen 10:00 E! Extreme Close-Up Chris Isaak 11:00 Kats & Allie 11:30 The Oprah Winfrey Show 12:30 Chicago Hope 1:30 Santa Barbara 2:00 The Bold & the Beautiful 3:00 Bonanza 3:30 Reporter 4:00 Home and Away 4:30 Lost in Space 5:30 Adventures of Black Stallion 6:00pm Kate & Allie 6:30 Graham Kerr's Kitchen 7:00 The Road Show 7:30 STAR News (Hindi) 8:00 Small Wonder 8:30 The Bold & the Beautiful 9:00 Tahkkaat 9:30 STAR News 10:00 Allo Allo 10:30 Baywatch 11:30 The Bold & the Beautiful 12:00am Santa Barbara 1:00 21 Jump Street 2:00 Picket Fences 3:00 Quincy 4:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show 5:00 Barnaby Jones

STAR MOVIES 7:30am Future Shock: Dune Warrior 18: (Arabic Subtitles) 9:30 Adventure: Sea Dragon 12 (Arabic Subtitles) 11:30 Classic: How Green Was My Valley PG (Hindi Subtitles) 1:30 Romance: Memories Of Midnight Pt-1 15 (Hindi Subtitles) 3:30 Musical: The Gang's All Here PG (Hindi Subtitles) 5:30 Western: The Cisco Kid 12 (Hindi Subtitles) 7:00 The Movie Show 7:30 Double Bill: Paul Newman The Hustler PG (Hindi Subtitles) 9:30 Double Bill: Paul Newman Harry And Son 15 (Hindi Subtitles) 11:30 Halloween Horror: The Omen 18 (Arabic Subtitles) 1:30 Romance: Lotto Land 18 (Hindi Subtitles) 3:30 Horror: The Haunted 18 5:30 Action: Robocop 18 (Arabic



Around the World in 80 Days - anchor Michael Palin on BBC World, Tonight at 2:05

NBA End Of Season Wrap Up 9:00 World Cup Classics 1990 West Germany v Argentina Final 10:30 Spanish F'ball League HL11:00 The European Tour 1996 Volvo Masters Highlights 12:30 Watersports World 1:00 NBA End Of Season Wrap Up 1:30 World Superbike Championship 1996 Australian GP 3:00 International Motorsports News 4:30 China Open '96 Day 1

Devotional 7:30 Tarane 8:30 Hanste Hanste 9:30 Ajeeb Dastan 10:30 Zandu Balm Dance Mania 11:00 Praful V-11:30 Kam 12:00 D'Signer Quartz People's Club 12:30 Upanyas 1:00 Chalo Cinema 1:30 Anshayan 2:00 Nasir Hussain Special 3:00 Filmi Chait 3:30 Sunny Meri Lorry 4:00 Gambler 4:30 Liberty Public Demand 5:30 Main Nasha Mein Hoon 6:30 Kal Bhi Aaj Bhi 7:00 Hafza Hafza 7:30 Intezaar 8:00 Song Yatra 8:20 Kinetic Haseen Pal 8:30 Teri Bhi Chup Meri Bhi Chup 9:00 Moov Usha Uthup 9:30 Wonder Wings Amar Prem 10:00 Top Of The Tops 10:30 Stand By 10:40 Naam Gum Jayega 11:00 Casper Number One 11:30 Siyaram Kamal Kombination 12:00 Kinetic Haseen Pal 12:10 Suhana Sitar

PTV 8:00am Tilawat Aur Tarjuma/Hamd/Naat 8:20 Cartoon 8:30 Khabrain 8:45 Mansoobajpat Barai Khud Kafalat 9:00 Sur Savana & Sehra Ka Safar & Sada-E-Kasim 9:40 Shana Ba Shana 9:50 Aaj Ki Kitaab-Aik Nazam 10:05 Boor Kay Ladoo 10:30 English Film: Chip And Dale 10:55 Mill Naghma 11:00 Khabrain 11:10 Ali Baba (Drama Serial) 11:35 Naghmazhar (Drama Serial) 12:00 Urdu Khali 12:55 Quran-e-Hakeem 1:02 Bismillah 1:15 Gichain (Drama Serial) 2:00 Inteha (Drama Serial) 2:50 The Earth Revealed 3:20 Arashi Puda 3:40 Natural World 4:35 How Things Work 5:00 Yeh Mumuk In Hange 5:25 Hamara Sehat 5:55 Kitab Quran 6:25 Aou Courses 7:00 Tarun 7:05 Felix The Cat 7:30 Sugh Gup 7:45 English News 8:00 Morven Gold Rectify 8:25 Jawan Rang 8:55 PTV Gold 9:00 Break for Headline News 9:20 Aap Ki Anwar Maqsood 10:00 Khabrainama & Commercial News 11:00 Tes Aasman 12:00 NYPD Blue 12:45 Khas Khabrain/Close down

Music 11:00 Folk Song 11:15 Adhunik Gaan 11:30 Classical Music 12:30 (Serial) 1:00 Janani (Serial) 1:30 TBA 2:00 Amake Dekhun (Serial) 2:30 Comedy Quiz (Serial) 3:00 Teen Kanaya 5:05 Nepal Programme 5:30 News 5:35 Catching Fank 6:00 Path Katha 6:30 Eto Tuku Basa (Serial) 7:00 Drama: Thakhan Bikel 7:30 Bangla Sambad 8:00 Viewers Forum 8:20 Light Instrumental-Mand-Oin 8:30

SONY ET 8:30 Rangela Re 9:00 The Three Stooges 9:30 Dennis The Menace 10:00 I Dream Of Jeannie 10:30 Surf Wheel Of Fortune 11:00 Faasle 11:30 Pechan 12:00 The Nilep Rasoi Show 12:30 Aahat 1:00 Hamse Barker. Goong 2:30pm Cine Matinee-Hindi Feature Film 5:00 Sunday Ki Sunday 5:30 The Three Stooges 6:00 Mere Message Meri Geel 6:30 Dennis The Menace 7:00 Premier 7:30 I Dream Of Jeannie 8:00 Surf Wheel Of Fortune 8:30 Faasle

Aparadhi (Serial) 9:00 Janani (Serial) 9:30 Sab Bhalo Zar Sesh Bhalo (Serial) 10:00 Bengali Movie Club Film Show: Raja Harish Chandra 1:00 Closed

ZEE TV 5:30 Sur Tai 6:00 News 6:30 Jagran 7:00 ZED 8:30 Through The Gears 9:00 Helpline 9:30 Gaane Anjane 10:00 Lakme Khubsurat 10:30 No Problem 11:00 Shayad 11:30 Hum Paanch 12:00 Sur Taa 12:30 Nafat 1:00 ZED 1:30 Asian Sky Show 2:30 Tara 3:00 Kurukshetra 3:30 Celeste 4:00 Suro Bhai Sadho 4:30 Namaste India 5:00 ZED 5:30 Hum Zameen 6:00 Cartoon: 6:30 All Out For No Loss 7:00 Lijat Khana Khazana 7:30 Gaane Anjane 8:00 Aur Ek Minute 8:30 Mr Minto 9:00 Apollite Aap Ki Pasand 9:30 Banegi Apni Baat 10:00 Parampara 10:30 News 11:00 Dream Merchants 11:30 Aap Ki Adait 12:00 Salaam 12:30 Campus 1:00 Hasratina 1:30 Tumhare Liye 2:00 Arabic Programme 2:30 TMN 4:00 Pavvartan 4:30 Insight 5:00 Jagran

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ZEE CINEMA 6:30 Tarana 7:00 Film: Mehfil (Ashok K. Sadhna) 9:00 Movies Masti Magic 9:30 Film: Udhara Ki Sindoor (Jeetendra, Asha) 12:15 Film: Chakkra 12:30 Film: Swati (Meenakshi S.) 3:15 Songs 3:45 Film: Dadi Maa 6:30 Film: Sonva Pinira (Bhopuri) 9:15 Songs 10:00 Film: Andaz (Rajesh K., Sharmi K. Hema) 12:45 Film: Sharara (Raj Kumar, Hema, Shatru S.) 3:30 Aaj Anadi Kal Khadi 4:00 Film: Dhama

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Tom and Jerry DOES YOUR PA SLEEPWALK OFTEN? YES. HOW DOES HE CATCH UP ON HIS REST? I DUNNO... HE'S NEVER BEEN AWAKE LONG ENOUGH FOR ME TO ASK HIM!

Garfield by Jim Davis cartoon strip featuring Garfield, Odie, and Jon Arbuckle.