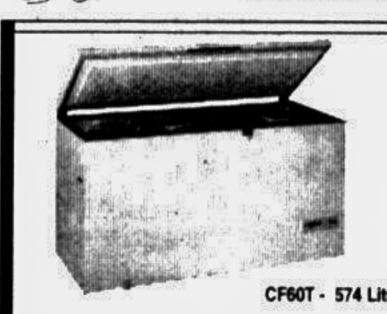


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### Int'l seminar concludes

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### Setting up of regional peacekeeping academy in Dhaka recommended

The International seminar on South Asian Peace-Keeping Experience that ended yesterday recommended setting up of a Regional Peacekeeping Academy in Dhaka, reports

The recommendation was in response to the Suggestion Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina made when she inaugurated the

seminar on February 9. Held in the city, the four-day seminar was attended by representatives from the United Nations and 13 countries, including India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, China, Russia, UK, USA, Indonesia, Canada, Nepal, Philippines, Singapore, Japan and host Bangladesh.

Addressing the closing session, Foreign Minister Abdus Samad underscored the need for peace-keeping in the emerging complexity of the conflicts in the post-cold war era.

He said the complexity of the conflicts have rendered peacekeeping a daunting task. A comprehensive and institutional approach is essential for inter-disciplinary training of peacekeepers and all others involved in the peacekeeping pro-

Referring to the deliberations by experts in the seminar, the Foreign Minister said the second generation peacekeeping operations are multi-functional with political, humanitarian, social and economic missions. Along with soldiers, it should involve civilian personnel, relief workers and nongovernmental agencies, he said

The Foreign Minister reassured Bangladesh's commitment to the efforts at reducing both military and non-military threats to international peace and security. He pointed to

### BNP's letter

From page 1

votes against the party he was nominated for his election. BNP expelled Hasibur Rahman Swapan more than three hours before the BNP lawmaker took oath as a deputy minister in the 'government of national consensus' on Monday evening.

"Despite having knowledge that his own party (BNP) was not a partner or a supporter of the so-called government of national consensus of the honourable Prime Minister, Janab Md Hasibur Rahman Swapan still being a member of the BNP Parliamentary Party, took oath of office on 9-02-1998 as a deputy minister of the present government, ignoring the parliamentary norms and violating party discipline, which, according to the Article 70 (1) of the Constitution, is deemed to be resignation by him from his own party," Khandakar Delwar argued in his letter.

"Therefore, Member of Parliament Janab Hasibur Rahman Swapan's seat has fallen vacant according to the Article 67 (1) (e) of the Constitution," he concluded.

The Opposition Chief Whip also reminded the Speaker that Hasibur Rahman Swapan was elected MP in the last general elections as a BNP nominee from Sirajganj-7 parliamentary constituency

Earlier, taking to The Daily Star at his Sangsad Bhaban of fice, Khandakar Delwar said the government's appointing of BNP MP. Swapan as a deputy minister had further deteriorated the atmosphere.

Until yesterday, Swapan did not attend the parliament ses-

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Bangladesh's involvement in UN peacekeeping operations which was highly acclaimed by the United Nations.

Later, thanking the participants of the seminar. Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen Mustafizur Rahman expressed the hope that the Regional Peace Academy would be located in Bangladesh.

"We have a decade of experience in peacekeeping efforts". said the General, pointing to the involvement of Bangladesh Army in the UN peacekeeping

He also referred to the recent CHT peace accord that culminated in surrendering of arms by the insurgents.

Earlier during the deliberations, Brig Shahidul Anam Khan of BIISS mooted he idea of setting up of a Regional Peacekeeping Centre in Dhaka. His proposal was based on the need for an inter-disciplinary forum involving participation of different actors including diplomats, military, media and humanitarian workers.

Among those who took part in the deliberations of the seminar were Lt Gen Eisele Manfred, Assistant Secretary General of UNDPKO, Major Gen Syed Parvez Shahid of Pakistan. Brig Shiva Kumar of India. Lt Gen Krishna Narayan Singha Thapa of Nepal, and Dr Arun Prakash Elhance of International Peace Academy.

### Gunshot near Ershad's office

Panic gripped the city's posh Baridhara area as unidentified gunmen fired several shots near the Jatiya Party Chairman's office last night, reports UNB.

Quoting witnesses, police said a group of youngmen, who came in a microbus and stopped in front of the office at about 8:30 pm, chanted anti-Ershad slogans.

They left the place after firing several gunshots. None was reported hurt. Police were on the spot when this report was filed at 11:30 pm.

It could not be confirmed whether JP chairman HM Ershad, who returned home yesterday after visiting USA and UK, was in the office or not during the firing.

### Ship detained

From page 1

owner of the ship without unloading the consignment there brought it to the outer anchorage of Chittagong Port after visiting some other ports, port

On receipt of information, the representative of the Singapore-based supplier, took shelter of law in the admiralty court and claimed compensation of Tk 27 crore 8 lakh, the sources

The ship is owned by an influential businessman with close link with the ruling party. the sources informed.

### OC sued

From page 1

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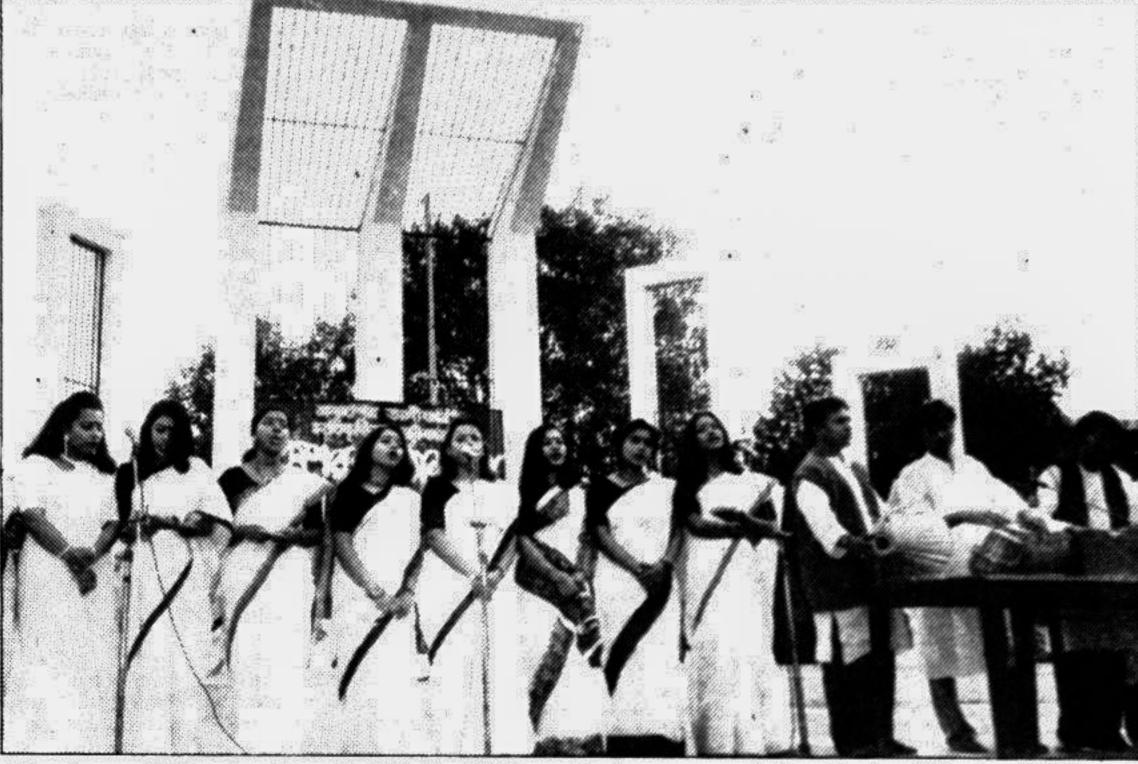
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and ordered the jail doctor to give him medical treatment for early recovery.

But Harun succumbed to his injuries in the jail at 9.20 pm on February 6. The Magistrate, Shawkat

Osman, has, however, ordered judicial inquiry into the matter and asked to submit the report by February 25.



Members of Manglu Sangskritik Goshthi rendering songs at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday as part of the Amar Ekushey programme.

### Three private member's resolutions disposed of

By Staff Correspondent The Jatiya Sangsad yesterday disposed of three private

member's resolutions. All the three resolutions. two of those placed in the House earlier — were, however, withdrawn following requests by the ministers concerned.

Besides, two more resolu tions were placed in the House while another two listed in the order of the day, couldn't be tabled due to absence of the members concerned.

Of the three disposed resolutions disposed of yesterday, one was by Awami League member Joynal Abedin Hajari and another by Wajiuddin Khan of the same party and those were placed in the House earlier. The third one was by another AL lawmaker, Ali Reza Raju. Hajari proposed widening of

the Feni-Sonagazi road while Wajiuddin Khan suggested that a self-employment and youth training centre be set up at Faridpur thana of Pabna district. Raju proposed opening of diarrhoea wards in all the thana health complexes.

One of the two resolutions placed in the House was by Haji Mohammad Selim of AL for in troduction of buses in the city exclusively for women. The other was by Wajiuddin Khan of the same party for setting up a sewing machine training centre at Faridpur thana in Pabna dis-

### Chetia

From page 1

BSEHR, moved the petition at

the CMM's court yesterday. The petitioner also brought it to the notice of the court that Chetia along with the two others who were arrested with him from a flat at Adabar under Mohammadpur thana, were kept in a condemned cell at the Dhaka Central Jail, Alina

Khan told The Daily Star. Arrested under Section 54 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), Chetia now faces three specific cases of - illegal entry into Bangladesh, procuring Bangladeshi passports under fake identity and possessing foreign currency illegally.

The two others arrested with him, however, are charged for illegal entry and stay in Bangladesh.

Chetia was scheduled to be produced in the court of CMM, Dhaka on February 3, was not brought there as he was suffering from blood dysentery. The petition on behalf of Chetia was moved by the Bangladesh Society for Enforcement of Human Rights, a non-government legal aid organisation on January 20.

# Only 60 psychiatrists for 12 lakh patients

Bangladesh has only 60 psychiatrists for nearly 12 lakh patients suffering from schizophrenia, mental health experts told BSS yesterday.

They said 60 psychiatrists. including those serving in the Armed Forces, and fewer than 700 hospital beds are quite inadequate for treating patients suffering from mental illness like unipolar depression, alcohol use, drug addiction, bipolar affective disorder, schizophrenia, and obsessive compulsive disorder.

Professor M A Sobhan, a leading psychiatrist, said, "Unfortunately, the situation is horrible in the countryside where ignorant, helpless and poor people with acute mental disorder seek medicare from ojah, fake spiritual leaders. fake pirshahebs and quacks who do not have minimum medical expertise on psychia-

Prof Sobhan is the secretary of the organising committee of the "First International Conference on Psychiatry '98" that begins in the city on February 15. Experts from Canada, Denmark, Finland, India, The Netherlands, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, United Kingdom, the United States of America and Bangladesh will attend the

The psychiatrists will discuss different themes, including psychogenic headache, poisoning, sex pattern in psychiatric morbidity, suicides, schizophrenia, spiritual healing, distressed marriages, relastatus of the children and intel lectual development, culture bound sex neurosis, epilepsy depression and the state of mental health care in Bangladesh

"It has been found in different studies on non-psychiatric population that at least 30 per cent of the patients who seek treatment complaining physical problems also suffer from psychogenic disorders," one ex pert observed.

Stigma and prejudice are widely prevalent in our society which delay attendance in sc entific mode of treatment and mental patients are usually maltreated by traditional heal ers and untrained persons in great numbers, even in the capital", said Dr AHM Firoz, chief of the Department of Psychiatry of Dhaka Medical College Hos-

Quoting a joint study of WHO, World Bank and Harvard School of Public Health (USA). Firoz said. "Psychiatric and neurological conditions account for 10.5 per cent of the total global burden of the diseases which is five times higher than cardiovascular diseases and seven and a half times higher than malignant dis-

Elaborating the public men tal health care system, another expert said apart from the lone hospital in Pabna, government psychiatric care is offered in Bangabandhu Medical University Hospital, Nimhar, DMCH and Sir Salimullah Medical

### tionship between nutritional US trade show opens

From page 1 turn into billions of dollars very soon," the Ambassador

told the audience. He said that huge prospects in the oil, gas and power sectors of Bangladesh have generated much interest among the US investors. "So the prospect of US investment in Bangladesh is very high," he noted.

In this regard, he regretted that Bangladesh's import from US did not grow much compared to its export to the US. 'To reduce trade gap and ex-

pand economic relation between the two countries Bangladesh should import more goods from the US," Holzman said. AMCHAM President Forest

E Cookson said this year's trade show featured around 12 per cent growth in the number of booths, with wide range of products

Welcoming the participants and visitors at the show, the AMCHAM president said that the visitors will find the US Trade Show an exciting experience. He expected substantial

business to be done over three days of the exhibition. The United States is Bangladesh's most important

trading partner at present as it provides the major market for Bangladesh's export, Cookson Focusing on US-Bangladesh

business relation. Tofail Ahmed said that the US was the largest single market for Bangladesh's exports "Bangladesh has become the sixth largest garments exporting country to the USA and we are trying to export more garments," he mentioned.

Referring to a letter sent by him to the US Secretary of Commerce, Tofail informed the gathering that he had requested him to raise the quota for garments in the US market by at least 30 per cent.

"I also requested the Commerce Secretary to allow dutyfree access of garments made out of imported cotton from the USA," Tofail added.

According to the organisers. a total of 70 companies are participating in the show.

### Imam Bukhari may urge Muslims to

vote out BJP' NEW DELHI, Feb 12: The Imam of Jame Masjid, Syed Ahmed Bukhari, is likely to issue a statement tomorrow urging the Muslims to vote for 'any candidate who can defeat the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). 'The Asian Age' reported today, says BSS.

This is a departure of Syed Bukhari from his earlier stand in which he had categorically stated that there was 'no question' of the Muslims supporting the Congress.

The Naib Imam, who has virtually taken over the jurisdiction of the Jame Masjid as his father, Imam Abdullah Bukhari, is learnt to have prepared a long text to be delivered at tomorrow's Juma congregation where he will castigate not just the BJP and to a much lesser extent the Congress, but the 'secularism' of the United Front as well, the report said.

Syed Bukhari, according to the report, has decided to issue a general appeal making it clear that the Congress was no longer untouchable after Sonia Gandhi's apology for the Babri Masjid demolition and the denial of the ticket to former Congress Prime Minister Narasimha Rao.

# roof, dies

By Staff Correspondent

Maid falls from

A young housemaid died soon after she fell from the rooftop of a three-storey building at Tejkunipara in the city yesterday morning

Police said Majeda, 25, suc cumbed to her injuries on the way to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), at about 7 am. It, however, could not be known immediately how she fell down

Majeda worked as maid at the house of one Masuda Begum of Tejkunipara

Tejgaon police sent the body to the DMCH morgue for au-

#### Export trophies From page 1

warriors of development Sheikh Hasina said "We all have to increase the purchasing capacity of the general people for burgeoning of the industries. "You should make an effort for uplift of the distressed she said

Hinting at the European Union fish ban and duty exemption on readymade garment export, she asked the exporters to comply with EU rules and regulations. 'Try to brighten the image of the country and earn confidence (of importers)." The Commerce and Industries Minister said an amount of 250 million US dollars was in the pipeline for the setting up an Infrastructural Development Company.

He told the exporters that the government was about to finish the selection of consultants and construction firms who would build the World Trade Centre in the city. "Construction work (of WTC) will begin soon.

Yussuf Abdullah Harun warned against a huge gap in the country's balance of payment and said since the prospect of receiving foreign aid was declining, the country had to depend on export earnings to pay for ever increasing imports. He felt that the EPB should

be given more authority to gear up export growth activities. "Bangladesh's foreign missions should play an active role in export enhancement," he said. The EPB vice chairman said

the recipients could use the trophy monogram in their products, packaging materials and letter-heads for three years. "This will brighten the reputation of these organisations at the national and international

# Shantibahini members

From page 1 had left the camp, followed by 58 others in the evening on the same day.

They had left the transit

camp in Khagrachhari on their own arrangement, encashing their cheques for Tk 50,000 each. They were given the money as per the December 2 agree-

ment between the government -appointed national committee on CHT and the Parbattya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) to end the decades-old insurgency. The next batches of the

Shantibahini are scheduled to surrender their arms on February 16, 22 and 28.

Some 500 more are expected to lay down their guns at Baghaichhari in Rangamati district on February 16.

In all. 1933 Shantibahini cadres are scheduled to surren-

Meanwhile, dissident PCJSS sources said one of their leaders in Rangamati, Sachib Chakma and two other activists of the Pahari Chhatra Parishad led by Diptyshankar Chakma, arrested on Wednesday were

charged in two separate cases. They were charged in a case relating to rioting in Naniarchar, leading to death of several people on November 17, 1993. Another case dates back to June 12, 1996, related to assaulting a tribal leader from Rangamati, Gautam Dewan. The latest case relates to the killing of Aswini Chakma last month in Kutubchari, who was an activist of

### Mosque-based

From page 1

ence. Renowned Islamic thinker of the sub-continent Maulana Nuruddin, conducted the akheri munajat.

Zillur informed that the government from the next month is going to introduce Quran-based education in 15 mosques of every district for expansion of the Islamic educa-Under the programme all

students will be provided with books and other educational inputs with free of cost. Addressing the function,

State Minister for Religious

Affairs, Maulana Nurul Islam said the newly-built Hajj Bhaban will be inaugurated shortly The Bhaban has been constructed near the airport in Dhaka at a cost of Tk 40 crore from where the pilgrims will be able to go to perform Hajj from

this year He said the government has also taken Tk 110 crore programme for education, training, employment and other welfare activities for the orphan-

### Advani's desire

From page 1

'reunification'. He demanded that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs should lodge a protest to the Indian government against such utterances by Hindu nationalists leader LK. Advani. The Indian High Commissioner in Bangladesh should be summoned at the Foreign Office to lodge protest in this connection, he said.

Deputy Speaker Abdul Hamid who was presiding over the sitting said there would be good relationship among the three sub-continental countries and not reunification.

### HC judgement

From page 1 Bangla and English, the proviso of Article 153(3) of the Constitution says, "Provided that in the event of conflict between the Bengali and the English text. the Bengali text shall prevail." Earlier late Justice AR

Amirul Islam Chowdhury delivered a judgement in Bangla but it could not attract much at tention as there was no new legal decision. Soon after pronouncement

of the judgement in this month of the historic Language Movement, lawyers and the litigants, present in the Supreme Court promises highly appreci-

#### pro Shantu Larma PCP. Our Khagrachhari correspondent adds: At least 200 shops and houses reportedly be-

longing to the settlers were gutted in a devastating fire at Lawgang bazar under Panchari thana at mid-night Wednesday. Witnesses said the blaze originated from a house at about 12 am, quickly engulfed the bazar, gutting the shops and houses.

At least 131 families lost their homes and businesses, which included seven rice mills, six cloth stores and six medicine shops.

#### Separatists From page 1

200 kg, 60 mm mortar Soviet block-12, pistol-120 and wire-

Mir Shawkat, who is also the BNP vice president, said age of most of the surrendered insurgents was between 20 and 30, and wondered where are these senior Shantibahini men who were fighting since the inception of Shantibahini on January 7, 1973.

He accused the government of confining the Bangalee residents of the hill districts on the day of "farcical" arms surrender and forcing them to hoist white flags instead of the black flags they had hoisted spontaneously after the "black" accord on CHT was signed.

The BNP leader said his party is not against the peace process, but was opposed to the accord as the government signed the agreement with a person like Shantu Larma who is not a people's representative and his organisation is a "terrorist" one.

Reiterating the party's demand, he urged the government to scrap the "illegal" accord and bring peace to the Chittagong Hill Tracts with national consensus by consulting all political parties.

The press conference was also attended by BNP leader Brig (retd) Hannan Shah, Major (retd) Hafizuddin Ahmed MP, Salahuddin Ahmed MP and Shahjahan Siraj.

### **NCBs**

From page 1 operation in the secondary market," the company announced in a statement yester-

Meanwhile, a senior Janata

Bank official told The Daily Star yesterday that the bank is likely to invest some money in the stock market through financial institutions like BSB, BSRS and ICB. The bank's board approved a

proposal to invest Tk one crore in the secondary market and it is likely to start injecting the fund in the market by next week, he said.

We will invest in blue-chip companies with good fundamentals and good profit track records," he said. Private commercial banks

like Dhaka Bank and Prime Bank are already in the scene. Market sources said they expect trading on both the Dhaka and Chittagong bourses to improve with the participation the

# Arsenic

From page 1

tion problem The Minister said little more than 2,000 patients with arsenic poisoning have been identified in the country. "But the number was sure to rise," he

The government has set up an inter-ministerial committee to look into the matter. Present at the concluding

session of the conference as a special guest, Deputy Minister for Shipping Saber Hossain Chowdhury said that with the arsenic pollution problem, another dimension to human rights has come out. "What is the good of political freedom when you cannot ensure safe water to the people.?" asked the deputy minister.

Saber Hossain Chowdhury said. "We would have to come up with our own remedies to tackle the problem taking into consideration our limitations."

# Adoption of 7 inl't conventions

From page 1 for taking responsibility of carrying international cargo, he

Asked whether it be difficult for the ESCAP member countries to mobilise necessary funds for constructing a highway international standard. Dr Rahmatullah said, "There has been very little difficulties in mobilisation of funds for the Asian Highway in any of the

giving priority in the construction of the Asian Highway Road because of its international importance, he added. The concept to have a mo-

torable land route across Asia

was first conceived in 1959 by

Economic Commission for Asia

and Far East (ECAFE), an or-

ganisation of 15 member coun-The route was planned from Singapore through the southern corridor namely Malaysia, Thai-

India, Pakistan, Iran and

Immediately after conceiv-ing the Asian Highway project another project on railway called Trans Asian Railway (TAR) project was also conceived in 1960. Exercise of identification of

the rail route along with the

The 15-member ECAFE countries were Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Nepal, India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran.

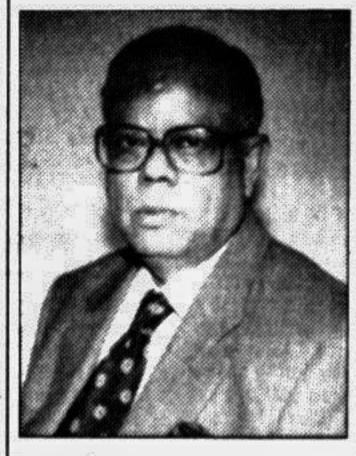
Cooperation in Asia and Pa-A new strategy was adopted

to integrate the Asian Highway and TAR projects into one sin-gle project adding the component of facilitating of international traffic. The project was given a new name called Asian Land Transport Infrastructure Development (LATID) project.

was approved by the ministerial level meeting of ESCAP member during member countries. Seven countries of Central Asia joined as ESCAP member during the same time. Later Turkey, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Korea and Democratic Republic of Korea also joined the ESCAP.

A new study called the Asian Highway study was then conducted in 1993 which was finalised in 1995. Another study on the highway started in 1994 to cover new countries in central Asia.

### THANK YOU MESSAGE



We wish to convey our heartfelt gratitude to all our friends, well-wishers and relatives who stood by us at this hour of our immense grief. We received messages of condolence from different parts of the world, as well as from Bangladesh. As we are still going through a state of shock, it is not possible for us to thank each and everybody individually, though we wish we could. Thank you once again.

Late M Akhtar Ali, former Secretary to the Government.

On behalf of the bereaved family of

Rawshan Akhtar, Arif Iftikhar Ali, Asif Zulfiquar Ali, Riffat Naaz, Sadia Iftikhar and Afshaan

#### highway project continued simultaneously. In 1992, the ALTID Project Vigorous work on identifi-ESCAP member countries". cation, classification and stan-Donors generally have been dardisation of these routes continued till 1975. From the early '60s onward till 1975, UNDP was the main donor.

In 1974 the member countries changed the name of ECAFE and it was renamed as land, Myanmar, Bangladesh. ESCAP (Economic and Social