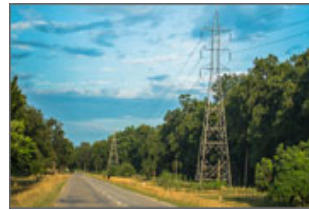




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New Bangladesh-India Friendship Bridge to Herald a New Chapter for Connectivity

9 March 2021: Tripura, India

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and India Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated the 'Maitri Setu' (Friendship Bridge). The Maitri Setu has been built over the Feni river and spans 1.9 kilometers. It links Sabroom in India with Ramgarh in Bangladesh. Prime Minister Modi underscored that the bridge strengthens rail and water connectivity projects that have been realized in recent years. It will improve connectivity of south Assam, Mizoram, and Manipur, along with Tripura, with Bangladesh and Southeast Asia. [Read More](#)

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- **GE Renewable Energy to Upgrade Nepal's Gas Insulated Substations**

GE Renewable Energy to Upgrade Nepal's Gas Insulated Substations

25 March 2021: Kathmandu, Nepal

The Nepal Electricity Authority awarded GE Renewable Energy's Grid Solutions business the contract to upgrade three gas insulated substations in Khimti, Barhabise, and Lapsiphedi in Nepal from 220 kilovolt (KV) to 400 KV. These are critical components of the Nepal SASEC Power Transmission and Distribution Project, and will enable Nepal to trade excess power with neighboring countries.

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- **Bhutan and Bangladesh Discuss How to Overcome Pandemic's Impact**
- **Bangladesh, Nepal Sign MOUs Boosting Sanitary and Phytosanitary Cooperation and Railway Connectivity**
- **Bhutan-India Hydropower Joint Venture Signs Loan Agreement**

Bangladesh and India Reiterate Strengthening Trade, Energy Cooperation, and Connectivity

27 March 2021: Dhaka, Bangladesh

India Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid a state visit to Bangladesh on 26-27 March 2021 to join celebrations for the golden jubilee of Bangladesh's independence and the birth centenary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. His discussions with Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, followed by delegation level discussions, underscored needed initiatives to enhance trade, deepen partnership and cooperation in power and energy, and increase connectivity. They emphasized the need for removal of nontariff barriers and increased predictability of trade policies, and boosting subregional cooperation in energy with Bhutan and Nepal.

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UN TIR Could Be Model for Trade and Connectivity

25 March 2021: New Delhi, India

Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, and Nepal would benefit from the United Nations TIR (Transports Internationaux Routiers) Convention, which could increase regional transport connectivity and reduce the cost of trade among implementing countries.

[**Read More**](#)

Bhutan and Bangladesh Discuss How to Overcome Pandemic's Impact

24 March 2021: Dhaka, Bangladesh

Bhutan Prime Minister Lotay Tshering and Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in official discussions emphasized boosting trade, connectivity, and cooperation in energy. They acknowledged the impact of the pandemic to bilateral trade between Bangladesh and Bhutan, and agreed that all-out efforts must be made to overcome the pandemic's negative impact. The two countries signed a Preferential Trade Agreement in December 2020.

[**Read More**](#)

Bangladesh, Nepal Sign MOUs Boosting Sanitary and Phytosanitary Cooperation and Railway Connectivity

22 March 2021: Dhaka, Bangladesh

The Governments of Bangladesh and Nepal signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Strengthening Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Cooperation on 22 March 2021. SPS, as well as technical barriers to trade, serves as critical nontariff measures that constrain trade in the SASEC subregion. Bangladesh and Nepal have been in discussion to relax SPS measures to promote bilateral trade of their farm and other organic products.

[**Read More**](#)

Bangladesh, Sri Lanka Reiterate Boosting Trade and Connectivity

20 March 2021: Dhaka, Bangladesh

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Sri Lanka Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa comprehensively reviewed various aspects of Bangladesh–Sri Lanka relations, including boosting high level exchanges, deepening trade, and increasing connectivity. Their dialogue reinforced their goal of further strengthening bilateral relations that is based on sovereignty, equality, friendship, trust and understanding for the mutual benefit of their people.

[**Read More**](#)

Maldives President Ibrahim Solih on Key Visit to Bangladesh

18 March 2021: Dhaka, Bangladesh

Bilateral cooperation between the Governments of Bangladesh and Maldives received a boost with the signing of four MOUs, including a joint commission for comprehensive cooperation and bilateral foreign office consultations. The bilateral meeting between Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Maldives President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih agreed to expand mutual cooperation in trade, commerce, and investment, and expedite the finalization of the proposed Agreement on Customs Cooperation. They also discussed plans to establish a direct commercial shipping link between Malé, Maldives, and the three sea ports of Bangladesh through a shipping agreement.

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Inland Waterways to Reduce Shipping Costs

17 March 2021: Dhaka, Bangladesh

A shipment of lychee drinks will be traveling through inland waterways from Narsingdi, Bangladesh, to Kolkata, India. According to Mr. Mohammed Mezbah Uddin Chowdhury, Secretary of the Ministry of Shipping, Bangladesh, developing inland waterways will lower the cost of shipping and increase trade between Bangladesh and India.

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Bhutan-India Hydropower Joint Venture Signs Loan Agreement

15 March 2021: Thimphu, Bhutan

The Kholongchhu Hydro Energy Ltd. (KHEL) signed an MOU with India's power sector financiers under the Ministry of Power for the 600-megawatt hydropower project in eastern Bhutan. KHEL is the first hydropower joint venture between Bhutan and India.

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India, SpiceJet Multimodal Transport Project Carries Cargo from Dhaka to Spain

12 March 2021: New Delhi, India

A multimodal transport project initiative of the Ministry of Civil Aviation of the Government of India, the Airports Authority of India Cargo Logistics and Allied Services Company Limited, and SpiceXpress, the air cargo division of SpiceJet, transported 48 tonnes of cargo from Dhaka, Bangladesh, to Spain. The consignment was first shipped from Dhaka through the Benapole (Bangladesh)–Petrapole (India) crossing, then transported to India's Kolkata airport via road, and then to New Delhi (India) aboard a SpiceXpress air cargo service. A SpiceXpress Airbus A340 cargo plane carried the consignment to Spain.

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Integrated Grid to Reduce Cost of Electricity Transmission in South Asia

10 March 2021: New Delhi, India

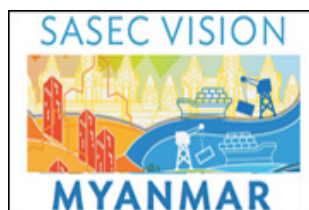
South Asia needs an integrated energy grid to reduce transmission cost and promote regional economic development, said Mr. Harsh Vardhan Shringla, Foreign Secretary of the Government of India. The subregion should bring together buyers and sellers and harmonize regulatory frameworks to harness the potential of the power trade, he added.

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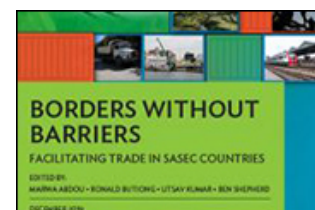
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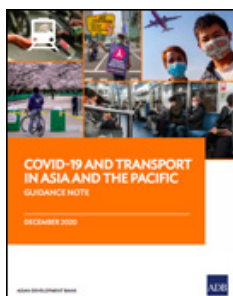
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