



SASEC PROJECTS
ADB SPEEDING UP SASEC
PROJECTS IN SRI LANKA



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SASEC NEWS

THE SOUTH ASIA SUBREGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION NEWSLETTER

ISSUE #98

APRIL 2022

WWW.SASEC.ASIA



Madhup Shrestha via ADB

Nepal's Second International Airport Ready for Takeoff

26 March 2022: Manila, Philippines

Despite challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the construction of Nepal's Gautam Buddha International Airport is nearly complete. The linked article by Binita Shah Khadka, with original photos by Madhup Shrestha, was posted by the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

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SASEC PROJECTS

ADB Loan Package to Strengthen Bangladesh's Cross-border Trade

31 March 2022: Manila, Philippines

ADB supports the improvement of efficiency, predictability, and security of Bangladesh's cross-border trade, approving a \$143 million loan package that will contribute in accelerating the country's growth. Bangladesh: South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) Integrated Trade Facilitation Sector Development Program includes a \$90 million policy-based loan and a \$53 million project loan.

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ADB Speeding Up SASEC Projects in Sri Lanka

16 March 2022: Dhaka, Bangladesh

A delegation from ADB and officials of the Bangladesh Roads and Highways Department (RHD) discussed SASEC projects funded by ADB, during a meeting at RHD headquarters in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

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SASEC NEWS



- **Bangladesh, India, and Nepal Move Toward Finalizing the BBIN MVA Passenger and Cargo Protocols**
- **Fifth BIMSTEC Summit Adopts BIMSTEC Charter and Master Plan for Transport Connectivity**
- **Construction of 132 kV India–Nepal Cross-border Transmission Line Gains Momentum**

Fifth BIMSTEC Summit Adopts BIMSTEC Charter and Master Plan for Transport Connectivity

30 March 2022: Sonipat, India, and Colombo, Sri Lanka

The Fifth Summit of Heads of State/ Government of Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) adopted the BIMSTEC Charter and the BIMSTEC Master Plan for Transport Connectivity. The Summit was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, on 30 March 2022.

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Bangladesh and Sri Lanka Discuss Early Conclusion of the Preferential Trade Agreement

29 March 2022: Dhaka, Bangladesh

Mr. AK Abdul Momen, Foreign Minister of the Government of Bangladesh, and Mr. G.L. Peiris, Foreign Minister of the Government of Sri Lanka, held a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the 18th BIMSTEC ministerial meeting in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Their meeting underscored the importance of the early conclusion of the Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) to help significantly boost bilateral trade between the two countries.

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Planned ICP to Turn Sabroom into Logistics Hub for India's Northeastern Region

27 March 2022: Guwahati, India

The Land Ports Authority of India aims to establish an Integrated Check Post (ICP) in Sabroom (India) by the end of 2022. This ICP is envisioned to facilitate seamless trade and people-to-people movement with Bangladesh. Sabroom is a border town in the South Tripura district.

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Survey for the Second Indo-Bangla Railway Link Completed

23 March 2022: Tripura, India

Survey work being done for three Indian Railway projects in Tripura has been completed, including survey for the Belonia (India)–Feni (Bangladesh) line. This is a 30-kilometer railway link that is planned to be the second Indo-Bangla railway connectivity.

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Construction of 132 kV India–Nepal Cross-border Transmission Line Gains Momentum

20 March 2022: Kathmandu, Nepal

Construction of the Mainahiya (Rupandehi, Nepal)–Sampatiya (Uttar Pradesh, India) 132 kiloVolt transmission line has achieved 60% progress, said the Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA). This transmission line will facilitate electricity trade between India and Nepal.

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ADB Reaffirms Support for BIMSTEC and SAARC

18 March 2022: Dhaka, Bangladesh

Mr. Thiam Hee Ng, Director, South Asia Regional Cooperation and Operations Coordination Division, ADB, visited the BIMSTEC Secretariat to discuss a range of issues related to the broadening of the ADB-BIMSTEC partnership. He also visited the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Secretariat to review the implementation status of the activities under the memorandum of understanding between ADB and SAARC.

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Bangladesh NBR Highlights Roadmap to Modernize Border Customs Ports in Meeting with WTO

16 March 2022: Dhaka, Bangladesh

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) of Government of Bangladesh and the World Trade Organization (WTO) held a meeting on 16 March 2022 on the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement. The NBR highlighted the road map developed to modernize Bangladesh's border customs ports. The NBR has formed a customs legal framework that complies with international standards, and is developing an e-payment system and would adopt an electronic cargo tracking system.

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SANEM Hosts Bay of Bengal Economic Dialogue 2022

12 March 2022: Dhaka, Bangladesh

The South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (SANEM) hosted the 2nd Bay of Bengal Economic Dialogue 2022 on 11-12 March 2022. The session on Infrastructure Connectivity in the Bay of Bengal region noted the need to invest in other forms of infrastructure.

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Bangladesh, India, and Nepal Move Toward Finalizing the BBIN MVA Passenger and Cargo Protocols

8 March 2022: Kathmandu, Nepal, and New Delhi, India

The Governments of Bangladesh, India, and Nepal held a meeting on the Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal (BBIN) Motor Vehicles Agreement (MVA) on 7-8 March 2022 in New Delhi, India. The meeting discussed the Passenger and Cargo Protocols of the BBIN MVA and other issues.

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IWAI Cargo Ship Completes Journey from Bihar to Assam via Bangladesh

6 March 2022: Assam, India

The MV Lal Bahadur Shastri, a cargo vessel of the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI), arrived at the Pandu Port in Assam, India, on 6 March 2022. This completes a journey that began in Patna Port in Bihar, India. Its route included National Waterway-1, Indo-Bangladesh Protocol route, and National Waterway-2.

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Bangladesh, India Commerce Secretary-level Meeting Highlights Trade Growth, Progress in Connectivity Projects

4 March 2022: New Delhi, India

Bangladesh is now India's 6th largest trade partner. This significant growth in bilateral trade between the two countries was highlighted at the Commerce Secretary level meeting held on 4 March 2022 in New Delhi, India. The meeting held extensive discussions on issues of mutual interest, including development of railway infrastructure and port infrastructure.

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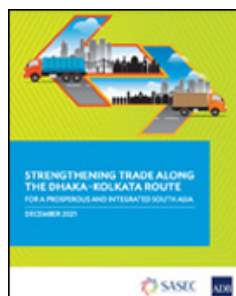
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