



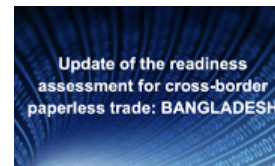
PROJECTS
ADB, BANGLADESH SIGN
DEAL FOR SASEC
DHAKA-NORTHWEST
CORRIDOR



EVENTS
13TH MEETING OF THE
SASEC CUSTOMS
SUBGROUP



NEWS
INDIA, MALDIVES
LEADERS MEET IN
MALE, LAUNCH FREE
TRADE TALKS



PUBLICATIONS
READINESS
ASSESSMENT FOR
PAPERLESS TRADE IN
BANGLADESH



SASEC NEWS

THE SOUTH ASIA SUBREGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION NEWSLETTER

ISSUE #120 AUGUST 2025

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ADB, Bangladesh Sign Deal for SASEC Dhaka-Northwest Corridor

20 June 2025: Dhaka, Bangladesh

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of Bangladesh signed a loan agreement to upgrade the Second South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) Dhaka-Northwest Corridor Road Project. The agreement is for a \$204 million loan, which is the fourth tranche of a \$1.2 billion multitranchise assistance for the international trade corridor.

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SASEC CALENDAR

August

13th Meeting of the SASEC Customs Subgroup
11–13 August 2025: Kathmandu, Nepal

SASEC NEWS



- **India, Maldives Leaders Meet in Male, Launch Free Trade Talks**
- **Installed Electricity capacity for Nepal Reaches 3,878 MW**
- **Bangladesh Launches Fully Automated Trade Clearance System**

Maldives-Sri Lanka Hold Talks to Strengthen Bilateral Ties

28 July 2025: Male, Maldives

Sri Lanka President Anura Kumara Dissanayake and Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu met at the President's Office in Male, Maldives, on 28 July 2025 to deepen cooperation and to strengthen the two countries' bilateral ties with each other.

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India, Maldives Leaders Meet in Male, Launch Free Trade Talks

26 July 2025: Dhaka, Bangladesh

India Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu met on 25 July at the President's Office in Male, Maldives. The two leaders reviewed India-Maldives cooperation and vowed to further strengthen bilateral ties between the two countries.

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India, Maldives Negotiating Investment Treaty to Strengthen Economic Ties -India Foreign Secretary

22 July 2025: New Delhi, India

India and Maldives are negotiating an investment treaty to strengthen economic ties, according to Mr. Vikram Misri, Foreign Secretary of the Government of India.

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Installed Electricity capacity for Nepal Reaches 3,878 MW

20 July 2025: Kathmandu, Nepal

Nepal's installed electricity capacity hit a new milestone when it reached 3,878 megawatts (MW), according to Mr. Deepak Khadka, Minister for Energy, Water Resources, and Irrigation of the Government of Nepal.

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Punatsangchhu-II Hydropower Project Operationalizes Fifth Unit

17 July 2025: Thimphu, Bhutan, and New Delhi, India

The India-Bhutan energy partnership reached a major milestone with the operationalization of the fifth unit of the 1,020 MW Punatsangchhu-II hydropower project on 17 July 2025, adding 850 MW of energy into Bhutan's national grid.

[Read More](#)

Bangladesh Launches Fully Automated Trade Clearance System

1 July 2025: Dhaka, Bangladesh

The Government of Bangladesh has launched a fully automated trade clearance system, making the submission and issuance of Certificates, Licenses, and Permits for import and export mandatory through the Bangladesh Single Window platform starting 1 July 2025. This digital platform, developed by the National Board of Revenue, allows businesses to apply for and receive all necessary documents from 19 major government agencies online, eliminating the need for manual processing.

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Tour Operators from Assam and Bhutan Vow to Strengthen Bilateral Tourism

23 June 2025: Kolkata, India

The 15th annual convention of the Tour Operators Association of Assam, held in Samdrup Jongkhar, Bhutan, emphasized deepening tourism cooperation and unlocking the significant, yet largely untapped, potential for cross-border tourism between Assam (India) and Bhutan. Tourism representatives from both regions met to develop a joint strategy, with a particular focus on promoting Bhutan's underexplored eastern circuit.

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At BIMSTEC's 28th Anniv: BIMSTEC Lauded for Linking South and Southeast Asia

18 June 2025: Dhaka, Bangladesh

On its 28th anniversary, the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) was lauded for linking South Asia and Southeast Asia.

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Bhutan to Launch Sustainable and Smart Gelephu Integrated Check Post

17 June 2025: Thimphu, Bhutan

The new Gelephu Integrated Check Post (ICP) in Bhutan, which will play a key role in the Gelephu Mindfulness City project, is on track for its formal opening. The 25-foot structure built using steel and wood-plastic composite materials features smart technology and sustainable design. It is packed with features aimed at streamlining both travel and trade.

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Nepal Begins Export of Electricity to Bangladesh via India's Electricity Grid

15 June 2025: Kathmandu, Nepal

Nepal began its regular export of electricity to Bangladesh, by sending 40 MW of electricity through India's power grid on 15 June 2025. According to the landmark trilateral agreement between the Nepal Electricity Authority, Bangladesh Power Development Board, and India's NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam, signed in October 2024, Nepal will supply electricity to Bangladesh from 15 June to 15 November for five years.

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India to Extend India-Sri Lanka Ferry Service Subsidy for One Year

14 June 2025: Colombo, Sri Lanka

The Government of India will extend its subsidy for the ferry service between Nagapattinam (India) and Kankesanthurai (Sri Lanka) for one more year. The subsidy, amounting to 25 million rupees (around \$288,000) monthly, will help cover crucial logistical and operational costs, and will ensure the service remains affordable and sustainable.

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India and Nepal Sign MoU to Boost Tourism Cooperation

25 May 2025: New Delhi, India, and Kathmandu, Nepal

The Indian Association of Tour Operators and the Nepal Association of Tour and Travel Agents signed a memorandum of understanding to increase two-way tourism flows between India and Nepal. By fostering closer ties among tour operators, India and Nepal aim to offer a seamless and enriched experience for international visitors.

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Reliance Power and Bhutan Forge Landmark Solar Energy Partnership

19 May 2025: Bengaluru India

Reliance Power of India has signed a major agreement with Green Digital Private Limited, a Bhutan government-owned entity, to develop Bhutan's largest solar energy project. The initiative, valued at Rs2,000 crore (around \$234 million), will generate 500 MW of electricity. This project builds on a partnership between Reliance Enterprises and Druk Holding and Investments for the 770-MW Chamkharchhu-I hydropower project.

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India and Maldives sign 13 MoUs to Enhance Ferry Services

18 May 2025: New Delhi, India

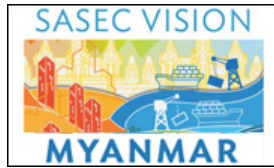
India and Maldives signed 13 new memorandums of understanding aimed at enhancing ferry services across the island nation. Backed by a grant of MVR100 million (approximately \$6.6 million) under the third phase of the High Impact Community Development Project, these agreements aim to improve maritime connectivity, transport infrastructure, and community livelihoods in Maldives.

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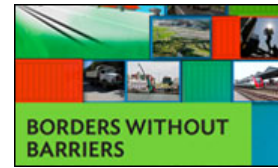
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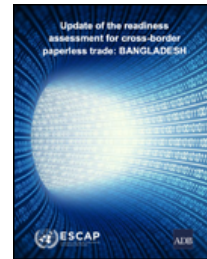
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