



SASEC EVENTS
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SASEC NEWS

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SASEC NODAL OFFICIALS' MEETING

20 June 2022: Online

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SASEC Nodal Officials' Meeting

20 June 2022: Online

The Government of India hosted the virtual South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) Nodal Officials' Meeting, chaired by Mr. Rajat Kumar Mishra, Additional Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance of the Government of India, and co-chaired by Mr. Kenichi Yokoyama, Director General, South Asia Department, Asian Development Bank (ADB). The Meeting endorsed strengthening of the SASEC institutional mechanisms, strategic reorientation of the SASEC Vision, and proposed new initiatives under the SASEC Program. [Read more](#)

SASEC EVENTS



EVENT

**SASEC TRANSPORT, TRADE
FACILITATION, AND ENERGY
SECTOR WG MEETINGS AND
CUSTOMS SUBGROUP
MEETING**

- **SASEC Transport, Trade Facilitation, and Energy Sector Working Group Meetings and Customs Subgroup Meeting**

SASEC Transport, Trade Facilitation, and Energy Sector Working Group Meetings and Customs Subgroup Meeting

13–14 June 2022: Online

The Government of India hosted the virtual meetings for SASEC Transport, Trade Facilitation, and Energy Working Groups and Customs Subgroup attended by over 200 participants. The meetings endorsed studies and projects included in the draft Action Plan for SASEC Initiatives 2022–2024, and discussed new proposals for inclusion in the SASEC program.

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SASEC PROJECTS



PROJECT

**SASEC INTEGRATED TRADE
FACILITATION SECTOR
DEVELOPMENT PROJECT**

- **ADB, Bangladesh Sign \$143 Million Trade Facilitation Project**
- **Commentary: Land Ports in Connectivity, Trade, Growth**
- **Bangladesh ECNEC Approves the SASEC Integrated Trade Facilitation Sector Development Program**

ADB, Bangladesh Sign \$143 Million Trade Facilitation Project

16 June 2022: Manila, Philippines

ADB and the Government of Bangladesh have signed a loan agreement to improve cross-border trade in Bangladesh. The \$143-million policy-based loan aims to improve the volume, efficiency, predictability, and security of cross-border trade in Bangladesh.

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Commentary: Land Ports in Connectivity, Trade, Growth

14 June 2022: Dhaka, Bangladesh

Bangladesh is undertaking projects to strengthen interregional connectivity, such as ADB-supported SASEC initiatives on cross-border connectivity. These SASEC initiatives, through regional and national SASEC transport projects, will develop infrastructure and systems that will improve cross-border connectivity and boost intraregional trade.

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Bangladesh ECNEC Approves the SASEC Integrated Trade Facilitation Sector Development Program

1 June 2022: Dhaka, Bangladesh

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) has approved the South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) Integrated Trade Facilitation Sector Development Project: Bangladesh Land Port Authority (BLPA) Part with Tk 2.17 billion (around \$23.47 million) and SASEC Integrated Trade Facilitation Sector Development Project with Tk 3.13 billion (around \$33.85 million). The meeting was presided by Bangladesh Prime Minister and ECNEC Chairperson Sheikh Hasina.

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SASEC NEWS



NEWS

INDIA SETS UP NATIONAL
FOOD LABORATORY
IN BIHAR

- **\$1.03 Billion Boost for Bangladesh and Nepal's Regional Trade**
- **Government of Bangladesh Opens Padma Bridge**
- **Bhutan and Nepal Prepare to Sign the Bilateral Trade Agreement**
- **India Sets Up National Food Laboratory in Bihar**

\$1.03 Billion Boost for Bangladesh and Nepal's Regional Trade

28 June 2022: Washington, United States of America

The Governments of Bangladesh and Nepal will receive a \$1.03 billion boost in financing—\$753.45 million for Bangladesh and \$275 million for Nepal—to improve key barriers to regional trade. The financing was approved by the World Bank on 28 June 2022 for the project Accelerating Transport and Trade Connectivity in Eastern South Asia (ACCESS) Program Phase 1.

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Government of Bangladesh Opens Padma Bridge

25 June 2022: Dhaka, Bangladesh

The Government of Bangladesh unveiled the Padma Bridge, its largest infrastructure project. The bridge cost an estimated \$3.6 billion financed from domestic funding. The 6.15 kilometer Padma Bridge will connect Dhaka to the country's southern regions, and the southwestern districts of Bangladesh to the country's northern and eastern parts. Smoother movements of goods, services, and people will help boost trade and connectivity.

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Bhutan and Nepal Prepare to Sign the Bilateral Trade Agreement

20 June 2022: Thimphu, Bhutan, and Kathmandu, Nepal

The Governments of Bhutan and Nepal are expediting the process to sign the bilateral trade agreement. At the fourth bilateral trade talks held on 20 June 2022 via video conference, the meeting finalized the Bilateral Trade Agreement and its Protocol and the draft text on the Rules of Origin. The press release from the Department of Trade of the Government of Bhutan noted that the two countries hope to sign the agreement in three months. The trade agreement aims to promote and strengthen trade and commerce.

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Commentary: India, Bangladesh Look at Harnessing New Opportunities in Waterway Development to Aid Faster, Cheaper Mode of Transport

17 June 2022: New Delhi, India

Highlighting new opportunities in waterways between India and Bangladesh, the Government of India has said that waterway transport is faster, cheaper, and environment-friendly.

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BIMSTEC Celebrates its 25th Anniversary

6 June 2022: Dhaka, Bangladesh

The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) celebrated its 25th Anniversary on BIMSTEC Day on 6 June 2022. Mr. Tenzin Lekphell, Secretary General of BIMSTEC, and Mr. Esala Weerakoon, Secretary General of SAARC were present on the occasion. Mr. A.K. Abdul Momen, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh, speaking virtually as the Chief Guest, expressed hope that connectivity in the region would one day lead to visa-free mobility and free mobility of goods and services, and technology and capital.

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Nepal Exports 364 MW of Electricity to India

5 June 2022: Kathmandu, Nepal

Nepal now sells a total of 364 megawatts (MW) of electricity to India through the Indian Energy Exchange Limited (IEX). Nepal started exporting an additional 144 MW of electricity to India generated by the Kaligandaki hydropower plant on 5 June 2022. On 2 June, the Nepal Electricity Authority also began to export around 37.7 MW of electricity generated by Trishuli and Devighat

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India Sets Up National Food Laboratory in Bihar

5 June 2022: Bihar, India

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) inaugurated the new National Food Laboratory (NFL) in Raxaul, Bihar, on 5 June 2022. The facility is equipped with advanced technology and infrastructure, capable of testing food samples exported from both India and Nepal

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Bangladesh Opens More Ports for Bhutan's Use

2 June 2022: Dhaka, Bangladesh

The Governments of Bangladesh and Bhutan met to discuss the Agreement on the Movement of Traffic (Goods) in Transit that will allow Bhutan's goods to pass through Bangladesh, and the amendment of the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the MoU on the Use of Inland Waterways between Bangladesh and Bhutan. The amendment of the SOP agreed to add designated Bangladesh ports of call for use by Bhutan.

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Mitali Express Commences Operations, Linking Northern West Bengal to Dhaka

1 June 2022: New Delhi, India

Mitali Express, the newest passenger rail service between the two countries, started its maiden trip from the New Jalpaiguri Railway Station in West Bengal, bound for Dhaka, the capital city of Bangladesh. The Railway Ministry of India underscored that Mitali Express will boost both countries' tourism by connecting Bangladesh with northern West Bengal and the northeastern region of India.

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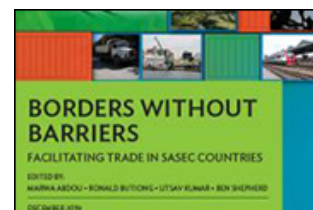
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Top Tweets for June 2022

Nepal has started exporting an additional 144 MW of electricity generated by its Kaligandaki hydropower plant to India through its power exchange market [Read more](#)

National Food Laboratory set up under the Indo-Nepal bilateral agreement to boost trade ties [Read more](#)

Nepal PM Deuba stresses on importance of cooperation among BIMSTEC nations [Read more](#)

Bangladesh's regional trade agreement policy is set to provide guidance in negotiating, signing, and implementing treaties aimed at encouraging free movement of goods and services [Read more](#)

Op-ed: "Regional connectivity is a key factor in maintaining diplomatic relations with our immediate neighbours, especially when it comes to developing countries such as Bangladesh" [Read more](#)

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