



SASEC PROJECTS
ADB VP MEETS
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SASEC WORKING GROUP
MEETINGS AND NODAL
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NEWS
BHUTAN, THAILAND TO
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FOSTERING REGIONAL
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PUBLICATIONS
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SASEC NEWS

THE SOUTH ASIA SUBREGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION NEWSLETTER

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Prime Minister Inaugurates Nepal's Second International Airport

16 May 2022: Kathmandu, Nepal

Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba of Nepal inaugurated the Gautam Buddha International Airport (GBIA), Nepal's second international airport. The opening will contribute to the country's overall development and long-term prosperity, according to Mr. Deuba. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) supported the Government of Nepal to build and upgrade the GBIA through the Asia Tourism Infrastructure Development Project.

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SASEC CALENDAR

June

SASEC Working Group Meetings and Nodal Officials Meeting
13-20 Jun 2022: Online

SASEC PROJECTS

ADB VP Meets Bangladesh PM, Visits SASEC Chattogram–Cox's Bazar Railway Project

13 May 2022: Dhaka, Bangladesh

ADB Vice-President (Operations 1) Shixin Chen visited the South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) Chattogram–Cox's Bazar Railway Project and other ADB-assisted projects during a six-day visit to Bangladesh. Mr. Chen was in Dhaka to meet with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, during which he reaffirmed ADB's commitment to supporting rapid recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

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SASEC NEWS



- **Bhutan, Thailand Agree to Negotiate a Bilateral Trade Agreement**
- **India Assures Nepal of Hydropower Development Support**
- **Nepal Energy Officials, Sri Lanka Hydropower Companies Discuss Potential Hydropower Investment**

Passenger Train Services between Bangladesh and India Resume Operation

29 May 2022: New Delhi, India

Two passenger train service between Bangladesh and India resumed operations on 29 May 2022. The Maitree Express travels between Dhaka, Bangladesh, and Kolkata, India. The Bandhan Express runs between Khulna, Bangladesh, and Kolkata.

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NADI Conclave Highlights Transformative Potential of India's Northeastern Region's Increased Connectivity

28 May 2022: Guwahati, India

Mr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister of the Government of India, highlighted in his inaugural address at the Natural Allies in Development and Interdependence (NADI) Asian Confluence River Conclave 2022 the importance of connectivity. He underscored that the coming together of the "Act East" and the "Neighborhood First" policies have an enormous impact extending beyond South Asia.

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CBIC to Allow Import of Bangladesh Goods via Returning Rail Cargo

17 May 2022: Dhaka, Bangladesh, and New Delhi, India

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) of India has released guidelines allowing import of Bangladesh goods onboard sealed containers that are returning to India by rail after delivering export goods to Bangladesh.

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India Assures Nepal of Hydropower Development Support

16 May 2022: Lumbini, Nepal, and New Delhi, India

India Prime Minister Narendra Modi undertook an official visit to Lumbini, Nepal. Their bilateral meeting discussed further strengthening cooperation in various sectors, including energy. An agreement for the development of the Arun 4 hydropower project was signed in the presence of Prime Minister Modi and Nepal Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba. They also discussed air connectivity, with Nepal requesting for additional air routes.

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Bhutan, Thailand Agree to Negotiate a Bilateral Trade Agreement

11 May 2022: Thimphu, Bhutan

The Governments of Bhutan and Thailand have agreed to sign a bilateral trade agreement during the fourth Joint Trade Committee Meeting. They also agreed to enhance total bilateral trade to \$120 million by 2025, and renew the existing MoU on tourism and handicraft cooperation.

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Nepal Energy Officials, Sri Lanka Hydropower Companies Discuss Potential Hydropower Investment

6 May 2022: Colombo, Sri Lanka

The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Nepal and the Export Development Board (EDB) of Sri Lanka jointly organized a webinar among the Nepal Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation (MOEWRI) and Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA), and around 30 hydropower companies from Sri Lanka.

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Nepal Plans New Transmission Line for Cross-border Energy Trade along Postal Highway

2 May 2022: Kathmandu, Nepal

The Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) is preparing a proposal to construct a 400-kilovolt transmission line along the Postal Highway. The proposed transmission line could be an alternative to the 400kV transmission line being built along the East-West Highway.

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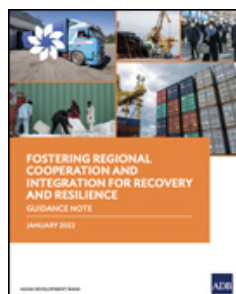
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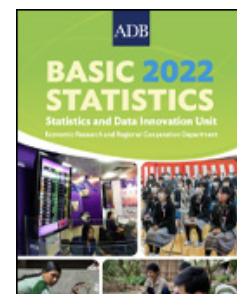
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RHD to introduce country's 1st road operation unit: Highway management set to improve [Read more](#)

ADB to provide \$143 million to Bangladesh [Read more](#)

India, Maldives plan transmission interconnection for transfer of renewable power [Read more](#)

The ADFD provided Dh110 million financing in 2013 for the SASEC Road Connectivity Project, which links Bangladesh with Nepal, Bhutan and north-eastern parts of India [Read more](#)

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