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ADB Approves Loan for Nepal Project to Improve Road Connectivity and Trade

17 May 2023: Manila, Philippines

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved a project loan to support upgrading work on the East–West Highway, which is part of the SASEC corridor. According to Ms. Sin Wai Chong, Transport Specialist for South Asia, ADB, the project will strengthen border trade and logistics, and will improve the lives of rural communities. [Read more](#)



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- **Bangladesh, Nepal JSC Meeting on Energy Cooperation Discuss Fast-tracking Export of Power via India**
- **Pasakha Mega Dry Port Construction On Track**
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Bangladesh, Nepal JSC Meeting on Energy Cooperation Discuss Fast-tracking Export of Power via India

16 May 2023: Patuakhali, Bangladesh

The fifth Bangladesh-Nepal joint steering committee (JSC) meeting on energy cooperation discussed greater bilateral cooperation in the power sector. Both countries agreed to undertake efforts to sign a tripartite agreement with India that would enable Nepal to export 40 MW of power to Bangladesh as early as the upcoming wet season (June-November) using the existing transmission infrastructure of the three countries.

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Pasakha Mega Dry Port Construction On Track

15 May 2023: Phuentsholing, Bhutan

Construction of the mega dry port at Pasakha, Phuentsholing, is on track, amid challenges faced during the COVID-19 pandemic. Work on the dry port began in 2020 and has achieved almost 45% completion. The aim is to complete the dry port by mid-2026. Mr. Ugyen Wangchuk, project manager of the Department of Trade of the Government of Bhutan, noted that with the current progress, the project can be completed on time.

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Petrapole ICP to Build a Second Cargo Gate

9 May 2023: Petrapole, India

Mr. Amit Shah, Home Minister of the Government of India, laid the foundation stone for the second cargo gate at the Integrated Check Post (ICP) of Petrapole on 9 May 2023. This will enhance border connectivity in the busy ICP where around 30% of land-based trade between Bangladesh and India take place.

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Bangladesh Prime Minister, Bhutan King Discuss Establishment of Bhutan Economic Zone, Direct Transit

6 May 2023: London, the United Kingdom

In the meeting between Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and His Excellency Bhutan King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck and Her Excellency Queen Jetsun Pema, Prime Minister Hasina offered Bhutan the possibility of developing an economic zone in Kurigram, Bangladesh. King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck communicated Bhutan's desire to establish direct transit with Bangladesh through India.

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ADB VP (Operations 1) Highlights Role of SASEC

5 May 2023: Incheon, Republic of Korea

Mr. Shixin Chen, ADB Vice-President (Operations 1), spoke at the SASEC knowledge event entitled "Green, Efficient, and Resilient Logistics for Sustainable Growth," which was attended by policymakers from SASEC countries.

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Bangladesh, India Hold 21st meeting of the Joint Steering Committee on Cooperation in the Power Sector

4 May 2023: Dhaka, Bangladesh

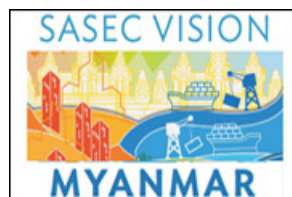
The meeting reviewed several priorities in energy cooperation, including joint development of cross-border trade projects and energy efficiency projects in Bangladesh, and tripartite investment of Bangladesh, India, and Bhutan in hydropower projects in Bhutan, and import of produced electricity to Bangladesh.

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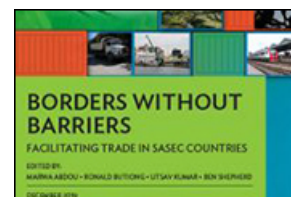
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