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FACILITATING CROSS-  
BORDER LOGISTICS FOR  
COVID-19 VACCINES



**SASEC PROJECTS**  
BANGLADESH ECNEC  
APPROVES SASEC  
CORRIDOR PROJECT



**SASEC NEWS**  
BANGLADESH EXPORTS  
FERTILIZER TO NEPAL  
VIA INDIA



**ASIAN ECONOMIC  
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2021



# SASEC NEWS

THE SOUTH ASIA SUBREGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION NEWSLETTER

ISSUE #86

MARCH 2021

[WWW.SASEC.ASIA](http://WWW.SASEC.ASIA)



## Bangladesh ECNEC Approves SASEC Dhaka-Sylhet Corridor Project

**18 February 2021: Dhaka, Bangladesh**

The Bangladesh Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) approved on 16 February 2021 the South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) Dhaka-Sylhet Corridor Road Development project. The project will improve road connectivity and increase trade with neighboring countries. ECNEC gave the approval during a virtual meeting presided over by Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

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- **Facilitating Efficient Cross-border Logistics for COVID-19 Vaccines**

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## Facilitating Efficient Cross-border Logistics for COVID-19 Vaccines

**4 February 2021: Online**

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) convened a webinar on "Facilitating Efficient Cross-border Logistics for COVID-19 Vaccines" on 4 February 2021 to support the member countries of the SASEC Program in preparing for coronavirus disease (COVID-19) vaccine distribution and logistics. The webinar discussed issues, key actions, and next steps for facilitating efficient cross-border COVID-19 vaccine logistics in the subregion. It also presented the perspective of the private sector on cross-border vaccine logistics.

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## SASEC NEWS



- **Bangladesh Exports Fertilizer to Nepal via India**
- **ECTS: Revolutionizing Nepal's trade**
- **Sri Lanka Launches Improved Trade Information Portal**
- **Bangladesh, Maldives Set Mechanisms to Enhance Trade**

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## India's Ministry of Power Clears Way for Cross-border Electricity Trade

**28 February 20201: Kathmandu, Nepal**

The Ministry of Power of the Government of India endorsed the "Procedure for approval and facilitating Import/Export (Cross Border) of Electricity." The Procedure enables the implementation of laws related to electricity trade between India and its neighbors, such as Bhutan and Nepal.

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## **Better Multimodal Connectivity and Port Infrastructure to Improve Bangladesh-India Cross-border Trade**

**24 February 2021: Dhaka, Bangladesh**

Mr. Vikram K. Doraiswami, Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh, held a bilateral talk with Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Rizwan Rahman on trade issues between Bangladesh and India. Their discussion emphasized the importance of improving multimodal connectivity and port infrastructure to boost trade between the two countries.

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## **Enhancing Siliguri Corridor to Boost Subregional Trade and Transit**

**20 February 2021: Mumbai, India**

The importance of the Siliguri corridor for Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, and Nepal cross-border trade and transit is underscored by Mr. Bipul Chatterjee, Executive Director of Consumer Unity and Trust Society (CUTS) International, and Mr. Prashant Sharma, Assistant Director of CUTS International. Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Nepal depend on this trade and transit corridor for their direct trade and third country trade through ports in Bangladesh and India.

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## **Substation to Be Major Hub for Power Exchange between Nepal and India**

**12 February 2021: Kathmandu, Nepal, and New Delhi, India**

The Dhakelbar substation came online on 1 February 2021. The 400 kV substation enables the state-owned Nepal Electricity Authority to exchange 1,000 to 1,200 megawatts of electricity with India via the Dhalkebar-Muzaffarpur cross-border transmission line. Nepal Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli said the infrastructure will serve as the main gateway to import and export electricity to India.

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## **Commentary: ECTS: Revolutionizing Nepal's Trade**

**12 February 2021: Kathmandu, Nepal**

On 7 June 2017, the Governments of Nepal and India signed a Memorandum of Intent bilaterally agreeing to launch a pilot project to facilitate transit traffic by using Electronic Cargo Tracking System (ECTS) with support from ADB. Mr. Rubal Jain from the Indian private sector discusses the benefits of ECTS since its implementation. This piece originally appeared on the Annapurna Express.

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# Sri Lanka Launches Improved Trade Information Portal

**11 February 2021: Colombo, Sri Lanka**

The Sri Lanka Department of Commerce launched in Colombo an enhanced trade information portal, which provides information on the country's trade procedures. The portal benefits traders by providing transparent and up-to-date information on trade procedures and requirements.

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# Bangladesh Exports Fertilizer to Nepal via India

**9 February 2021: New Delhi, India**

A fertilizer export from Bangladesh to Nepal was facilitated by India through Indian Railways and Bangladesh Railways using the Rohanpur (Bangladesh)-Singhabad (India) rail route in the first week of February. More fertilizer is expected to be exported soon using the same facility.

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# Four Ports of Call Proposed for Bangladesh-India Trade

**9 February 2021: Dhaka, Bangladesh**

The Governments of Bangladesh and India plan to add four more ports of call to further bolster bilateral trade through coastal routes. The proposed ports are Matarbari Port (Cox's Bazar) and Muktarpur Port (Munshiganj) in Bangladesh, and Dhamra Port (Odisha) and Kamarajar Port (Chennai) in India.

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# Bangladesh, Maldives Set Mechanisms to Enhance Trade

**8 February 2021: Dhaka, Bangladesh**

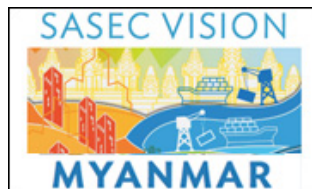
Bangladesh and Maldives are considering two regular consultation mechanisms to boost trade and investment: (i) a joint commission for comprehensive cooperation to be led by the respective foreign ministers and (ii) annual foreign office consultations to be led by the respective foreign secretaries.

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