Bangladesh, ADB Ink Agreement for the First Tranche of the SASEC Dhaka-Sylhet Corridor Road Investment Project
4 October 2021: Dhaka, Bangladesh

The Government of Bangladesh and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed an agreement for the first tranche of the South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) Dhaka-Sylhet Corridor Road Investment Project worth $400 million. The first tranche will finance widening of approximately 210 kilometers (km) of the Dhaka-Sylhet section of the existing National Highway No. 2 to improve its efficiency, connectivity, and safety.

Read More
Sri Lanka: Post Clearance Audit for Customs Officials

8-12 November 2021: Colombo, Sri Lanka and Online

ADB organized a training on Post Clearance Audit (PCA) for customs officials of Sri Lanka on 8-12 November 2021 virtually and in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The training is part of the implementation of a PCA system in Sri Lanka being supported by the ADB technical assistance Implementing Trade Facilitation Initiatives under the SASEC Program.

Read More

SASEC PROJECTS

- ADB Boosts Industrial Corridor Development in India
- Bangladesh Projects to Improve SASEC Road and Other Corridors
- Bangladesh, ADB Ink Agreement for the First Tranche of the SASEC Dhaka-Sylhet Corridor Road Investment Project

Bangladesh Projects to Improve SASEC Road and Other Corridors

24 November 2021: Dhaka, Bangladesh

The Bangladesh Planning Commission is aiming to improve the communication network of Benapole, Asian Highway, including Bhomra Land Port and Mongla Sea Port, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation Highway Corridor, the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Road Corridor, and the SASEC Road Corridor with the northwestern region of the country.

Read More

ADB Boosts Industrial Corridor Development in India

29 October 2021: Manila, Philippines

ADB approved the Industrial Corridor Development Program (Subprogram 1) loan support for India worth $250 million with a $1 million “Knowledge Services for Industrial Corridor Development Program” technical assistance support.

Read More
Bangladesh and Maldives Hold First Bilateral Consultation, Agree to Promote Maritime Connectivity

27 November 2021: Malé, Maldives, and Dhaka, Bangladesh

The first bilateral consultation between Bangladesh and Maldives acknowledged the excellent relations between the two countries and discussed cooperation, with emphasis on deepening linkages by concluding several bilateral instruments, including agreements on trade, connectivity, and tourism for enhancing people-to-people to contact.

Commentary: Bangladesh Needs to Expand Trade with Its Neighbors

24 November 2021: Manila, Philippines

Bangladesh’s trade with its neighbors accounts for only 10% of national trade. Mr. Yasushi Tanaka, Principal Transport Specialist, Transport and Communications Division, South Asia Department, ADB, explains how small investments in land customs stations and land ports, trade facilitation policy reforms, and cooperation between government agencies can help make Bangladesh a trade and transport hub in South Asia.

Japanese Economic Zone in Bangladesh Set to Raise $1 Billion Investment

23 November 2021: Dhaka, Bangladesh

In the Araihazar upazila of the Narayanganj District, Bangladesh, a Japanese Economic Zone is being developed by the Government of Bangladesh and the Japan International Cooperation Agency.

Bangladesh, Sri Lanka Aim to Boost Air and Maritime Links

15 November 2021: Dhaka, Bangladesh

Mr. Gamini Lakshman Peiris, Foreign Minister of the Government of Sri Lanka, paid a courtesy call to Mr. AK Abdul Momen, Foreign Minister of the Government of Bangladesh, on 15 November 2021. He was in Bangladesh to attend the 21st meeting of the Indian Ocean Rim Association’s Council of Ministers.
West Bengal to Strengthen Subregional Connectivity with 7 Planned ICPs

14 November 2021: Kolkata, India

The Government of West Bengal, India, will set up seven Integrated Check Posts (ICPs), which includes five ICPS on borders with Bangladesh and one each on borders with Bhutan and Nepal, according to the Land Port Authority of India.

Read More

Seven Additional Entry/Exit Points for Bhutan-India Trade

3 November 2021: New Delhi, India

The Governments of Bhutan and India agreed to open seven more entry and exit points to further increase trade and connectivity. The two countries formalized the agreement through Letters of Exchange, forming an addendum to the 2016 Protocol of India-Bhutan Agreement on Trade, Commerce, and Transit.

Read More

Nepal Gets Nod to Sell Electricity in India's Energy Exchange Market

2 November 2021: Kathmandu, Nepal

The Central Electricity Authority of the Government of India gave Nepal the go-ahead to sell its electricity in India's power exchange market, the India Energy Exchange Limited, upon the approval of India's Ministry of Power. Nepal is permitted to sell 39 megawatts (MW) of electricity produced by the 24 MW Trishuli Hydropower Project and the 15 MW Devighat Hydropower Project.

Read More

BIMSTEC Nations Urged to Develop a Strategy to Finance the BIMSTEC Master Plan for Transport

25 October 2021: New Delhi, India

The Government of India has urged BIMSTEC member countries to collectively develop a strategy for financing and implementing the BIMSTEC Master Plan for Transport Connectivity. Mr. Harsh Vardhan Shringla, Foreign Secretary of the Government of India, noted that work on this matter has already started with the first consultative workshop on financing of the Master Plan organized by ADB.

Read More
Jaynagar-Kurtha Cross-border Rail Link Converted to Broad Gauge

23 October 2021: New Delhi, India, and Kathmandu, Nepal

The Government of India financed the gauge conversion of the Jaynagar (India)-Kurtha (Nepal) cross-border rail link from narrow gauge to broad gauge. On 23 October 2021, India handed over the completed section totaling 34.9 km to Nepal.

Read More

Multimodal Container Depot Emphasizing Railways to be Developed in Chattogram

19 October 2021: Dhaka, Bangladesh

A multimodal container depot will be constructed in Chattogram City to enhance the port's capacity to handle imports and goods bound for export. Saif Logistics Alliance Ltd. will invest around BDT300 crore (around $35 million) to develop the facility on a design-build-finance-operate-maintain-transfer basis.

Read More

India Launches Gati Shakti National Masterplan for Multimodal Connectivity

13 October 2021: New Delhi, India

The Government of India, led by India Prime Minister Narendra Modi, launched the "Gati Shakti—National Masterplan for Multimodal Connectivity," bringing together 16 ministries for integrated planning and coordinated implementation of infrastructure connectivity projects.

Read More

Economic Cooperation with Bangladesh a Priority for Sri Lanka

8 October 2021: Colombo, Sri Lanka

Mr. Tareq Md. Ariful Islam, High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Sri Lanka, and Mr. G.L. Peiris, Foreign Minister of the Government of Sri Lanka, discussed bilateral cooperation between Bangladesh and Sri Lanka during a courtesy call. They exchanged views on initiatives such as joint tourism ventures, trade expansion, and sharing intelligence in combating and countering terrorism within the region.

Read More
Bangladesh's Agricultural Products Receive Trade Facilitation Boost

7 October 2021: Dhaka, Bangladesh

A trade facilitation project of the Government of Bangladesh aims to help expand and diversify the country's exports in food and agricultural products by ensuring their safety and quality and improving institutional systems for agricultural trade.

Read More

India Turns Over Koshi Corridor Transmission Line to Nepal

6 October 2021: Kathmandu, Nepal

The Government of India completed and handed over the 220 kV double circuit Koshi Corridor power transmission line (Inarwa-Basantapur-Baneshwar-Tumlingtar) to the Nepal Electricity Authority. The 106-km Koshi Corridor transmission line is set to facilitate smooth power evacuation from Arun and Tamor river basins with power output estimated around 2000 megawatts.

Read More

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

SASEC VISION
SASEC VISION MYANMAR
SASEC OPERATIONAL PLAN 2016-2025 UPDATE
BORDERS WITHOUT BARRIERS: FACILITATING TRADE IN SASEC COUNTRIES

Field Diary Phuentsholing: Largest Commercial Hub in Bhutan
Key Indicators for Asia and the Pacific 2021
Reforming Port Processes in India for Logistics Efficiency
Field Diary Chattogram Port:
Transition from National to Regional
Transportation Hub

@sasecprogram

Top Tweets for October-November 2021

Travel South Asia: India’s tourism connectivity with the region Read more

India and Nepal review the implementation of ongoing cross-border railway links and overall bilateral cooperation in the railway sector Read more

The #Bangladesh Dhaka–Sylhet corridor will support a new trade route that connects Chittagong (Chattogram) port with India’s northeastern states Read more

Linking land borders: India’s integrated check posts Read more

This brief by ADB publications presents a framework to facilitate seamless transshipment movement through Chattogram port in #Bangladesh Read more

How India’s Gati Shakti Plan can have an impact beyond its borders. via @IndianExpress Read more

India and Bhutan to add 7 more entry and exit points as part of measures to increase trade connectivity Read more

With the right policies and investments, Bangladesh can become a trade and transport hub in South Asia. via @ADB_HQ Read more

India gives go ahead for Nepal to sell surplus power Read more

Potential Exports and Nontariff Barriers to Trade: Bhutan National Study. via @adb_HQ Read more