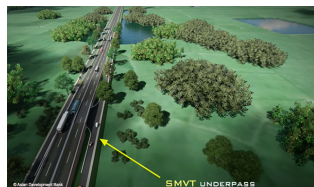




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BANGLADESH SIGNS
DEAL TO DEVELOP
SASEC ROADS



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SASEC NEWS

THE SOUTH ASIA SUBREGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION NEWSLETTER

ISSUE #92 SEPTEMBER 2021

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ADB Approves \$1.78 Billion for SASEC Dhaka-Sylhet Corridor to Improve Transport and Regional Trade in Bangladesh

27 August 2021: Manila, Philippines

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$1.78 billion loan to improve regional trade along the Dhaka–Sylhet trade corridor in Bangladesh. The project, under the South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) program, will support trade by helping connect Chattogram Port with India's northeastern states.

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SASEC PROJECTS



- **Bangladesh Signs Deal to Develop SASEC Roads**

Bangladesh Signs Deal to Develop Roads in Northern Region under SASEC

22 August 2021: Dhaka, Bangladesh

The Bangladesh Roads and Highways Department has signed an agreement for two packages under the SASEC road connectivity project. The project aims to develop connectivity between Dhaka and the country's northern region.

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Bangladesh Committee Approves Creation of Road Research and Training Center under SASEC Road Project

11 August 2021: Dhaka, Bangladesh

The Bangladesh Cabinet Committee on Government Purchase approved the establishment of a Road Research and Training Center as part of the SASEC Road Connection Project, which will upgrade the Elenga-Hatikumrul-Rangpur Highway to four lanes. The project was approved by the committee during the virtual meeting chaired by Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal.

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- **Nepal Enacts Sixth Customs Reform and Modernization Plan**
- **E-Commerce Portal Makes "Made in Bhutan" Products Accessible Globally**
- **Restored Haldibari-Chilahati Rail Route Boosts India-Bangladesh Freight Transport**

Maldives and India Undertake the Greater Male Connectivity Project

26 August 2021: New Delhi, India

The Governments of India and Maldives held a signing ceremony for the Greater Male Connectivity Project. India will provide around \$400 million line of credit and a grant of \$100 million. The GMCP construction will build a 6.74 km bridge and causeway link connecting Male with the adjoining islands of Villingli, Gulhifalhu, and Thilafushi.

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Bangladesh Constructing 7 New Land Ports

26 August 2021: Dhaka, Bangladesh

Bangladesh is constructing seven new land ports to improve land connectivity with India's northeast region. The ports will be set up in cooperation with the states of Assam, Meghalaya, and Tripura in India to increase trade and improve regional connectivity.

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Nepal Enacts Sixth Customs Reform and Modernization Plan

18 August 2021: Kathmandu, Nepal

The Ministry of Finance of the Government of Nepal launched the Sixth Customs Reform and Modernization Plan. It emphasizes (i) trade facilitation, (ii) realistic revenue collection, (iii) protection and security of society, (iv) automated customs system, and (v) organizational development and capacity building.

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E-Commerce Portal Makes "Made in Bhutan" Products Accessible Globally

18 August 2021: Thimphu, Bhutan

The Royal Monetary Authority of the Government of Bhutan launched an e-commerce portal that promotes "Made in Bhutan" products and makes it accessible to the international market.

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Ninth Meeting of the Nepal-India Oversight Mechanism

16 September 2021: Kathmandu, Nepal

The Governments of India and Nepal held the Ninth Meeting of the Nepal-India Oversight Mechanism on 16 August 2021. The meeting reviewed the progress of projects being implemented under bilateral cooperation.

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Bangladesh's National Board of Revenue Issues Rules to Expedite Release of Perishable Goods

11 August 2021: Dhaka, Bangladesh

Bangladesh's National Board of Revenue has issued the 'Speedy disposal and Release of Perishable Goods Rules-2021,' taking effect beginning 11 August 2021. It covers around 64 types of goods. The rules aim to allow the expeditious release of the perishable goods to maintain quality and quantity, and provide stability to the supply chain.

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Restored Haldibari-Chilahati Rail Route Boosts India-Bangladesh Freight Transport

1 August 2021: New Delhi and Kolkata, India

Indian Railways and Bangladesh Railway commenced the regular operation of freight trains on the restored Haldibari (India) - Chilahati (Bangladesh) Rail Route. Indian Railways dispatched a freight train loaded with stones from the Damdim Station of Northeast Frontier Railway (India) to Bangladesh.

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Commentary: India's Integrated Check Posts Are Boosting Regional Connectivity But Challenges Remain

29 July 2021: New Delhi, India

Ms. Riya Sinha, researcher for Research Associate at the Centre for Social and Economic Progress, New Delhi, looks at the increasing trade and passenger movement between India and neighbors Nepal, Pakistan, and Bangladesh, and examines Delhi's push for border infrastructure development. This is an excerpt from a piece that appears on The Print.

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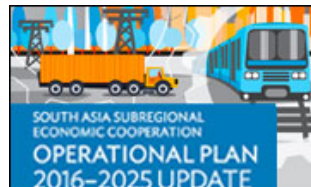
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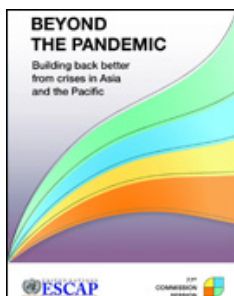
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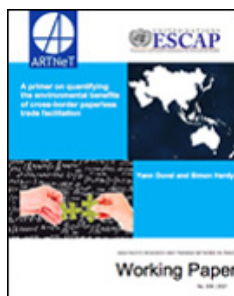
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Top Tweets for August 2021

India, Nepal revise the Railway Service Agreement. This move is set to boost rail transport between the two neighboring countries [Read more](#)

India will export 150,000 tonnes of rice to Bangladesh as agreed in the recent bilateral trade agreement signed by the two countries [Read more](#)

\$1.78 Billion ADB facility to improve transport, regional trade in Bangladesh Indian Energy Exchange sees good demand from cross-border customers [Read more](#)

Trade facilitation was already underway in SASEC countries when the pandemic started, such as introducing automation, single window systems, and risk management programs, enabling efficient movement of cargo in transit to land-locked regions. [Read more](#)

Express cargo clearance system launched in Jaipur [Read more](#)

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