



Opinion in Lead

Tariff burdens Nepal's merchandise exports to Bangladesh

Despite enormous prospects owing to proximity and close bilateral ties, including a shared free trade agreement, the available evidence shows that Nepal's export potential to Bangladesh remains severely underutilized.

Economic relations between the two nations have remained under par over the years—for instance, the volume of bilateral trade is relatively low considering the Kakarvitta (Nepal)-Panitanki (India)-Fulbari (India)-Banglabandha (Bangladesh) road corridor that hosts almost all of Nepal-Bangladesh trade is a mere 54 km stretch. Especially, the exports of Nepal to Bangladesh have been consistently decreasing, which is largely dominated by a single product (red lentils), and consists of very few commodities.

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News



Bangladesh lowers cash incentive for exporters to prepare for post-LDC era

Bangladesh has cut the export subsidy for almost all sectors to reduce the pressures on Bangladesh's coffers and bring down the rates gradually since the country can't provide such subsidies after LDC graduation.

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India rice rates spring to record highs on dwindling supplies, firm demand

Rates of parboiled rice exported from top hub India advanced to record highs this week on limited supplies and steady demand from Asian and African buyers, while prices eased in Vietnam and Thailand.

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China says rivals trying to sabotage its ties with Nepal

Visiting Chinese leaders have publicly claimed that certain countries are trying to destabilise the good relations between Nepal and China, while some elements are also defaming the Belt and Road Initiative by calling it a 'debt trap'.

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Ready to upgrade CPEC, says Beijing

China has said it is ready to work with Pakistan to upgrade the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and accelerate the building of an even closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era.

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Nepal ships first batch of exports under transit deals with China

Nepal started the first batch of exports under transit deals with China, five months after the South Asian country shipped its first batch of imported goods via the northern neighbor.

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India to become main driver of incremental oil use by 2030

India's petroleum consumption climbed to a new record last year and the country is on course to overtake China as the primary driver of incremental oil consumption before 2030.

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Nepal looks to Pakistani, Russian, Chinese markets to diversify its tea trade

Nepal has resumed the export of crush, tear, and curl (CTC) tea to Pakistan after years, according to Nepali traders, who are now eyeing former Asian buyers to diversify the market currently limited to India.

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India to relax commodity export restrictions for Bangladesh, Modi assures Hasina

New Delhi will relax export restrictions for Dhaka to stabilise the market for key staples such as sugar, onions, rice, and wheat, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has assured his Bangladesh counterpart Sheikh Hasina.

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India will impose non-tariff barriers on reciprocal basis

India will impose non-tariff barriers on a reciprocal basis, commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal and asked industry to get out of the subsidy mindset.

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Nepal-India ink long-term power trade agreement

Nepal and India have signed a long-term Power Trade Agreement to ensure a market for the electricity produced in the hydropower-rich Himalayan nation.

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Events

Workshop for journalists in Karnali Province

SAWTEE, in collaboration with the Federation of Nepali Journalists (FNJ-Surkhet), conducted a media workshop for journalists in Surkhet, Karnali Province. The main objective of the programme was to enhance the capacity of media professionals in reporting on topics such as balance of payments, Nepal-India trade, and Nepal-Bangladesh trade.

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Dialogue between information technology stakeholders and the High-Level Committee for Tax System Reform

South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE) organized a discussion between the High-Level Committee for Tax System Reform and businesses and experts from Nepal's information technology (IT) industry on 3 January 2024 at SAWTEE office. The committee, chaired by former minister and finance secretary Vidyadhar Mallik, received inputs on opportunities, problems, and changes essential for accelerating the growth of Nepal's IT sector.

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