Opinion in Lead

South Asia's Challenges towards SDGs

Halfway through the deadline to meet the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, countries in South Asia are way off the mark. The latest figures raise concern that South Asia will be left behind.

The region accounts for nearly two-fifths of the world's income poor, hosts nearly half of the world's stunted children, has the largest number of undernourished people, and ranks second to sub-Saharan Africa in terms of the severity of its economic inequalities.

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Inequality in South Asia

The region is haunted by numerous social issues that manifest themselves in strained infrastructure gaps. The countries are dealing with malnourished children, which is one of the world's pressing challenges.

Bangladesh's average import tariffs higher than in most countries

India has agreed to cut import duty to 5-10% on some processed food items.

Rice export ban is regulation rather than restriction

India has defended its export ban on rice, stating that it is a regulation rather than a restriction and is necessary for the food security of its 1.4 billion people.

Cotton waste the new cash cow for Bangladesh

Cotton waste is turning into a new cash cow for Bangladesh as it is increasingly being sold abroad.

New container terminal near the country's main port

The Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) has given their initial approval to Copenhagen-based Maersk Group to set up a new container terminal near the country's main port.

SAWTEE and the Federation of Nepali Journalists (FNJ) organized a workshop for economic journalists in covering issues related to international trade and external sector.

India steps up coal use to stop outages

India has stepped up the use of coal to generate electricity in a bid to stop outages caused by lower renewables.

SAWTEE organized two discussion programmes on 1 September 2023 as part of a seminar on “Small State Capabilities: Navigating Competition and Foreign Policy Priorities in Nepal”, led by The Asia Foundation.

The WTO flagged the European Union’s proposed carbon border adjustment mechanism (CBAM) rules for transition from linear to circular economies.

WTO flags trade concerns over proposed CBAM rules

This comes before the implementation of the European Union’s carbon leakage rules, which are planned to start next year.

India agreed to cut import duty to 5-10% on some processed food items

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has called for a reduction in import duties on processed food items to make them more affordable for developing countries.

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