

# No border for vehicles by end of 2015

Bangladesh to sign deal with India, Nepal, Bhutan June 15

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In a major push towards sub-regional cooperation, four South Asian countries are set to sign an agreement on June 15, which would allow movement of vehicles through their borders just like in the 27 European Union countries.

Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal (BBIN) have finalised the deal for a seamless transit of passenger, personal and cargo vehicles between

their countries by end of 2015.

The agreement will allow vehicles to ply designated routes in the four countries and reduce cost and time of unloading and loading of people and goods at the borders, making cross-border trade more efficient, officials said.

Diplomatic sources in Dhaka yesterday told The Daily Star that transport ministers of the four Saarc (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) countries would meet in Thimphu, Bhutan, on June 15 and sign

the Motor Vehicles Agreement (MVA).

Though there are several procedural matters to implement the agreement, officials, however, were confident of expeditiously completing all negotiations and start plying of vehicles by the end of this year.

"This connectivity between the four countries will be considered as a milestone in regional communication and development," said Obaidul Quader, road transport and bridges minister.

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