# **Deep seaport needs** feasibility study first, cautions committee

#### **RAFIQ HASAN**

A high-powered committee recommended the government conduct an extensive feasibility study on the site of the proposed deep seaport before going for the ambitious project

The eight-member committee, led by Director General of the Department of Shipping Captain AKM Ahsanul Azim, submitted its report last week to the shipping ministry, suggesting floating of a yearlong project to run a study to identify suitable location for the

seaport that requires several thousand crores of taka.

ministry said.

**STAR REPORT** 

The committee, after a month's cial assistance of foreign private study, also submitted a technical investors, and an international assistance project pro-forma tender should be floated on comple-(TAPP) to the government detailing tion of the feasibility study, sources all the requirements for the study said. that would cost Tk 4.74 crore. The government also favours the

The government would share 50 idea of involving the neighbouring land-lock countries like Nepal and per cent of the cost and the rest Bhutan in the project. The distance would come from foreign sources, the report mentioned. and road communication facilities The TAPP has already been sent with those countries will come into to the Planning Commission for its

consideration for selecting the site. approval, officials at the shipping Under the study project, 22

GP to cut tariff for pre-paid subscribers MUSTAK HOSSAIN

GrameenPhone (GP) Limited plans to offer a tariff reduction package for its pre-paid subscribers soon.

The GP wants to halve per minute call charge from midnight to 8:00am and that for a particular number round the clock, a senior GP official said yesterday

He said under the reduction package, per minute call charge will be Tk 3.00 from Tk 6.00.

Pre-paid subscribers, who constitute about 90 per cent of more than one million GP subscribers, created pressure on the GP authorities to reduce call charges as they had already reduced call rates for post-paid users from July 1.

Other cell phone operators also reduced call charges later. SEE PAGE 11 COL 7



**Divers vesterday** search for people feared drowned after an overcrowded bus slid into a ditch. killing four instantly and injuring at least 25, in Chhoto Sadipur on the Dhaka-Chittagong Highway.

## AL cuts hartal LDCs need to unite hours for **Sylhet**

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The main opposition Awami League (AL) has reduced tomorrow's hartal hours in Sylhet Division due to a religious programme there.

In the districts under Sylhet Division, hartal will be observed from 6:00am to 12:00noon, a party press release said yesterday.

Elsewhere in the country the hartal will be enforced from 6:00am to 6:00pm

Earlier, the AL had shifted to Bangladesh lie in consolidation and reform of the multiliateral trading SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

# Dr Debapriya talks on Cancun debacle

Many may cheer at the breakdown

of the Fifth Ministerial Meeting of the

WTO at Cancun, but there are also

reasons to think that the meet

actually made some headway in a

number of crucial areas, which

needed to be clarified and

concretised through further discus-

Interests of small countries like

sions and negotiations.

regime through critical engagement

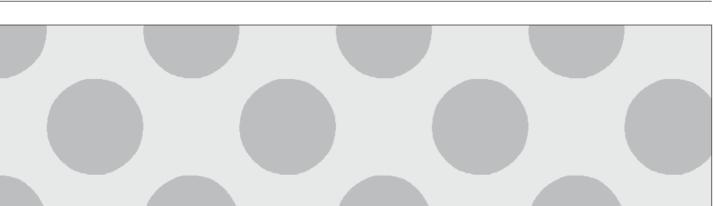
in the WTO. Talking to The Daily Star about his personal experience and views about the Cancun meet, Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya spoke on wide spectrum of issues that were raised during the five-day meet, the way they were dealt with, the doublespeak, the slippery process of talks, the hopes and the despair and the final breakdown He feels the outcome of the

The deep seaport is expected to

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be built with the technical and finan-

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3



### Shot Iraqi councillor dies

### AP, Baghdad

Aquila al-Hashimi, one of three women on Iraq's American-picked Governing Council, died yesterday five days after she was shot and critically wounded by assailants, the US-led Coalition Provisional Authority reported.

She died about 11:30 a.m., said Gary Thatcher, coalition director of strategic communications.

Six men in a pickup trick ambushed al-Hashimi as she drove near her home in western Baghdad Saturday, shooting her in the abdomen. She was preparing to attend the United Nations General Assembly, which opened in New York on Tuesday.

Provisional Authority and all its members, I offer condolences to her SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

Free trade deal Dhaka to open talks with Delhi, Colombo,

#### UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh will shortly open bilateral dialogue with several countries including India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka on Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

As per Indo-Bangladesh agree-ment reached at the last Joint Economic, Commission (JEC) meeting, Dhaka and New Delhi are due to start talks on the proposed

"The ministries concerned of Bangladesh and India are working on fixing the date for discussion on the FTA," Foreign Secretary Shamser Mobin Chowdhury told

## **ADB** approves grants for good governance

#### BSS, Dhaka

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved \$9,50,000 in technical assistance (TA) grants to support good governance initiatives in Bangladesh under an integrated strategy to fight corruption.

In two phases, the TA will support the government to develop a legal framework for secured transactions in public and private sector and creation of an independent anticorruption commission, an ADB press release said yesterday.

The first phase of the TA will help develop a legal framework of a transparent registry and also support institutional governance SEE PAGE 11 COL 8

# FTA next month. "On behalf of the Coalition

**Eight Marines** hurt in Mosul attack

Islamabad soon



months.

some other countries including Pakistan and Sri Lanka within a few

neeting scheduled to be held in New Delhi on September 29-30, the foreign secretary said, "We're having preparatory meeting to d e v e l o p o u r

About the Indo-Bangladesh JRC

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#### REUTERS, Baghdad

Eight US soldiers were wounded and their vehicle destroyed when their convoy was attacked in the northern Iragi city of Mosul vesterday, a US military spokeswoman said.

"At 0910 (1:10 a.m. EDT) this morning there was a complex attack on a two-vehicle convoy in western Mosul," the spokeswoman said.

"The attack consisted of two IEDs (Improvised Explosive Devices) followed by small arms fire. Eight soldiers were wounded in action, three seriously. One Humvee was destroyed." The attack was the latest in a

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	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Sept 26		5-51 pm
Sept 27	4-49 am	

Prayer Timings

September 26 Azan Jamaat 4-45 5-15 Fajr 12-15 Juma 1-20 4-30 4-45 Asr Maghrib 5-57 6-02 Esha 7-45 8-15 Source: Islamic Foundation

