

**RANGPUR ELECTION**

The new city corporation goes to maiden polls today

PAGE 8

INTERNET TO GO FASTER

BTRC sets 1 Mbps as the standard broadband speed, from 128 Kbps

PAGE B1

PERSON OF THE YEAR

Time magazine accords Obama the honour for the second time

PAGE 7

FULL VERDICT ON 7TH AMENDMENT RELEASED

Martial law stays illegal for good

SC terms declaration of it an act of high treason

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK and ASHUTOSH SARKAR

Declaration of martial law is an act of high treason against the state, says the Supreme Court in its full verdict in the historic case on the seventh amendment to the constitution.

The SC has recently released the 125-page full text of its judgment, 19 months after pronouncing the verdict in the case on May 15 last year.

"Any person who declares Martial Law and ousts an elected government or attempts to do so, he and his associates

would be liable for high treason against the Republic of Bangladesh," says the judgment.

Terming it a clear violation of the constitution, the apex court said, "No condonation is allowed for those who violate the Constitution which is the worst kind of offence that may be committed against the Republic and its people."

The SC said, "There is no such law as Martial Law or no such authority as Martial Law Authority in Bangladesh.

"Constitution cannot be violated on

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Fearing vandalism ahead of today's hartal, only a small number of buses plied the streets of the capital that left thousands of commuters stranded at bus stops yesterday afternoon. The photo was taken at Farmgate intersection.

Sufferings on hartal eve

Violence in 4 dists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

City commuters suffered from gruelling traffic in the pre-hartal evening yesterday as 12 Islamist and likeminded parties are set to enforce a countrywide dawn-to-dusk strike today.

In Dhaka, the shutdown will remain in force till 2:00pm, while the Rangpur City Corporation area has been kept outside the purview of hartal for the polls to RCC, Zafrullah Khan, member secretary of the 12-party combine, told The Daily Star last night.

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Foundation stone by this govt

Hopes Muhith about Padma bridge

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Finance Minister AMA Muhith hopes that the foundation stone of the Padma bridge will be laid during the tenure of the present government.

"I hope that the foundation stone of the bridge will be laid, and the

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2001-2010

\$14.059b siphoned off

Reveals Global Financial Integrity report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of \$14.059 billion had been siphoned off from Bangladesh in 10 years since 2001 through trade mis-invoicing, corruption, bribery and tax evasion, said a report of Washington-based Global Financial

Integrity (GFI).

Of the money, \$10.597 billion [almost 75 percent] were transferred through under- and over-invoicing of exported and imported goods, said the report styled Illicit Financial Flows from Developing Countries: 2001-

2010, released on December 17.

Bangladesh has been ranked 44th out of 143 developing countries from where money is transferred illegally to developed economies. In South

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EDITORIAL ON PAGE 14

NEWS ANALYSIS

BANK OWNER CUM MINISTER Clear violation of constitution

SHAKHAWAT LITON

Home Minister Muhiusuddin Khan Alamgir's recent move to become chairman of the proposed Farmers' Bank clearly goes against the country's constitution.

SEE PAGE 12 COL 1

**Recognitions of Dutch-Bangla Bank on Mobile Banking:**

National Digital Innovation Award



Asian Banker Award



Mobile Money Transfer Award



e-Asia Driving Economy Award



The Computer World (USA) Laureate-2012 for Economic Development

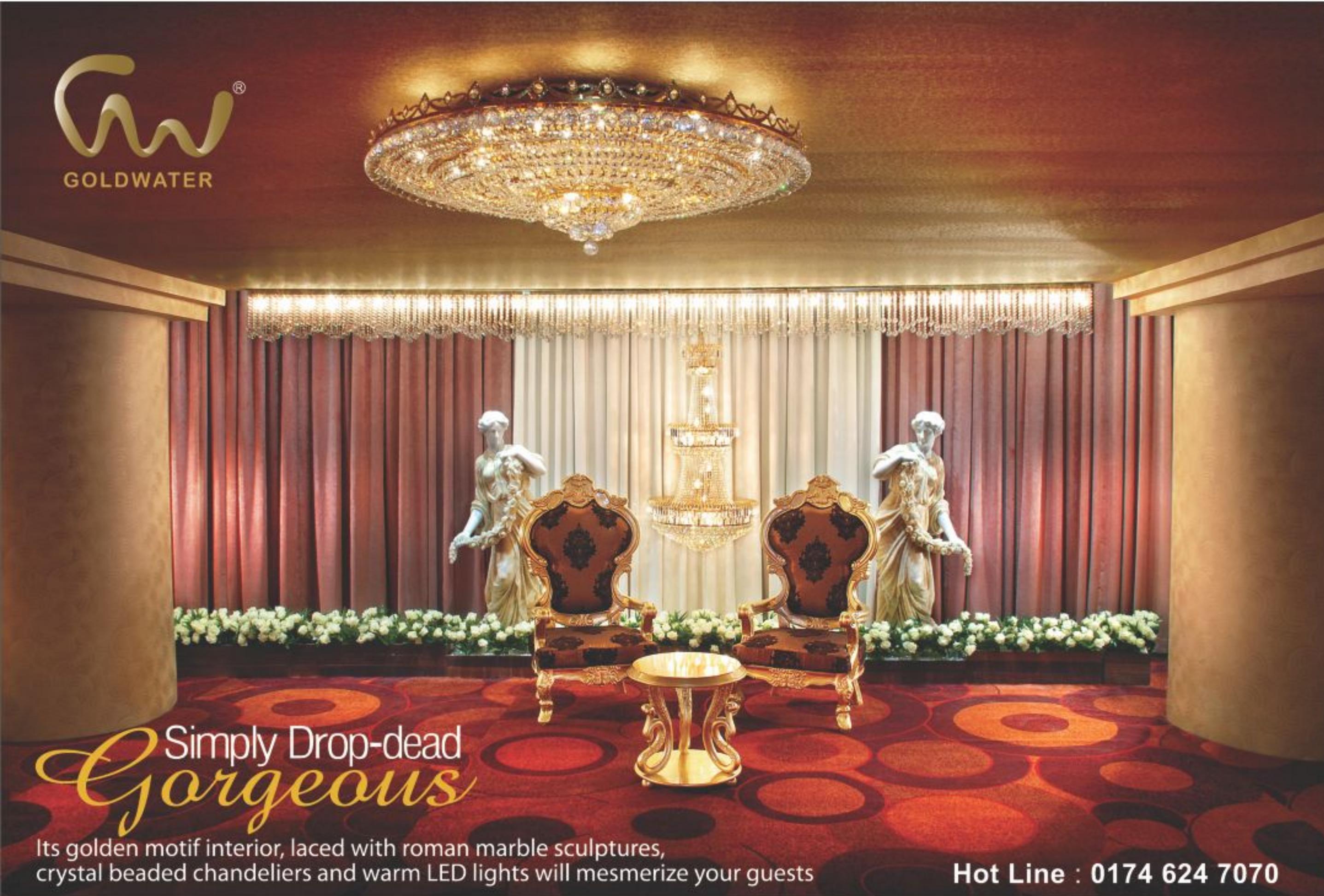
Dutch-Bangla Bank Mobile Banking on Robi Network

On 12 December, 2012, Mr. Michael Kuehner, CEO of Robi Axiata Ltd. and Mr. K.S. Tabrez, Managing Director of Dutch-Bangla Bank have jointly signed an agreement for Mobile Banking in order to provide banking services to the unbanked population through the Robi network. Under this agreement, Robi subscribers will be able to conduct financial transactions using their mobile phones at an affordable price. This partnership will make financial inclusion a reality for customers in Bangladesh.

Mr. Rozano Marius Planta, Country Head, Digital Services of Robi, Mr. Abul Kashem Md. Shirin, Deputy Managing Director and Mr. Mir Mominul Huq, Head of Mobile Banking Division of Dutch-Bangla Bank were present at the signing ceremony.

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