545 Ordinances of Martial Law Regimes

## Examination task falls on parliamentary body

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The onus to examine and seek experts opinion on 545, now void, ordinances promulgated during past two martial law regimes now falls on the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Law Ministry.

This is due to the fact that the ministries, which implement the ordinances, did not examine and come up with bills to replace those.

The observations came in reports, placed by the committee in the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday, scrutinising two bills the law minister placed in parliament on February 19 to replace two ordinances.

The president promulgated the two ordinances on January 21 to continue operation of the 545 ordinances.

The committee did not get the adequate time required to carry out the duties as the president's two ordinances cease to have effect tomorrow, said the report.

The committee also drew the Speaker's attention to the crucial point of being given too little time to scrutinise the two bills and requested to be granted necessary time.

Through the 5th and 7th constitutional amendments, all actions, including promulgation of the ordinances of the martial law regimes by Gen Ziaur Rahman and HM Ershad, were ratified and validated.

The House in June 2011, after the Supreme Court declared the amendments illegal and void, deleted the two amendments' provisions through the passage of the 15th amendment. But in the last 19 months, the law ministry did not take any step in this regard. Amid such a situation, the committee

seemed to have found no alternative but to give consent to the passage of the two bills. The committee, however, expected

that the ministries concerned would examine the ordinances and come up with separate bills to replace those which need to be kept.

Aiming to avert criticism, the committee recommended new provisions in the bills, saying passage of the bills would not be considered as giving confirmation and ratification to any action done by the illegal and unconstitutional martial law regimes.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina hands over a compensation cheque to a family member of a victim of fire at Smart Export Garment Ltd in the Prime Minister's Office yesterday. Seven workers died in a blaze at the garment factory in the capital's Mohammadpur area on January 26. PHOTO: BSS

## **RUVC** hires 26 under ruling party pressure

RU CORRESPONDENT

By using his special power, Rajshahi University Vice Chancellor Prof M Abdus Sobhan yesterday gave appointment to 26 more employees on an ad-hoc basis under pressure from ruling party men.

Earlier on Saturday, a group of local Awami League, Jubo League and Bangladesh Chhatra League activists vandalised the university's administrative building and besieged it for an hour demanding jobs.

"Following the vandalism and continuous pressure, the VC finalised the appointment of 26 more employees. Most of them have been recommended by the ruling party men," said a RU official seeking anonymity. Prof M Abdus Sobhan and Pro-VC M Nurullah could not be contacted as their cellphones were found switched off.

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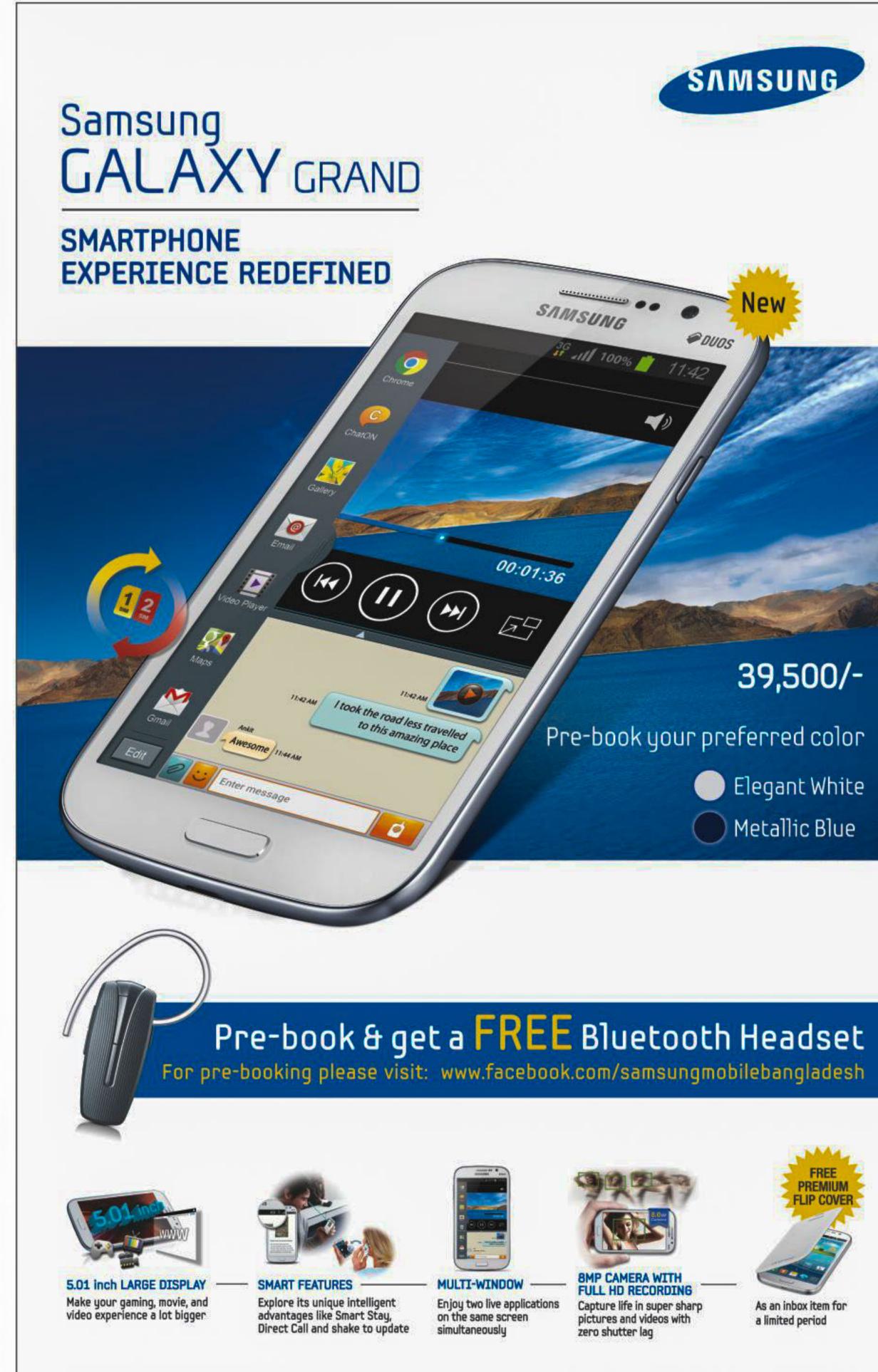
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