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Jatiya Jukta Front for stronger JS

JSD pledges to cut prices of essentials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Jukta Front, a new electoral alliance initiated by AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury and Dr Kamal Hossain, announced its election manifesto yesterday with commitments to ban hartal and never boycott the parliament.

Gono Forum Presidium Member Pankaj Bhattacharya read out the Jatiya Jukta Front election manifesto at the Jatiya Press Club in the capital

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SC to settle who to try poll offences

Govt to go to court for letting executive magistrates do job of judicial ones

SHAKHAWAT LITON

Both the home ministry and Election Commission (EC) have moved to controversially vest executive magistrates with the authority of judicial magistrates, allowing them to try electoral offences and ensure a free and fair parliamentary election.

As the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) does not allow executive magistrates to do the job, both have asked the establishment ministry to seek permission in this regard from the Supreme Court (SC), EC and home ministry sources said.

As per the CrPC, only judicial magistrates are authorised to try electoral

offences as these are punishable with imprisonment, fine or both.

Executive magistrates have no authority to award imprisonment for any offences, and they can only fine individuals for offences.

But according to the Representation of People Order (RPO), an individual could

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Opposition's Abhisit new Thai PM

AP, Bangkok

Opposition leader Abhisit Vejjajiva was chosen as Thailand's prime minister yesterday in an effort to end

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Saddam's lawyer for Bush attacker

Farewell Iraq tour marred by shoe assault

AP, AFP, Baghdad/Washington

An Iraqi official says a reporter who threw his shoes at President Bush is being held for questioning by Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's guards and is being tested for alcohol and drugs.

The official tells The Associated Press that Muntadar al-Zaidi is being interrogated over whether anybody paid him to throw his shoes at Bush during a news conference Sunday.

The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not supposed to talk to media.

Saddam Hussein's former lawyer said on Monday that he was forming a team to defend the Iraqi journalist who hurled his shoes at US President George W Bush during his farewell visit to Baghdad.

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Zafar, Alamgir cannot contest JS election

HC upholds EC decisions

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday upheld the decisions of the Election Commission (EC), which cancelled the candidatures of Kazi Zafar

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OVERSEAS JOB SEEKERS Magnetic chip to be given for security

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is to provide a magnetic chip card to all migrant workers going abroad for work as part of new initiatives to ensure their security and rights while working abroad.

Director General of the Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training (BMET) Mohammad Abdul Malek yesterday said that the card is being developed under a six-month project undertaken by the government recently.

Each card will contain data about the worker, including details of the recruiting agency through which he secured the job contract, and this information would make it easier for them to get legal or social support abroad.

Speaking at a dialogue at the BIAM auditorium in the city, Malek said the magnetic card would make the process of migration smoother and more secure.

The follow up dialogue on 'Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) and Implementation of the Bangladesh

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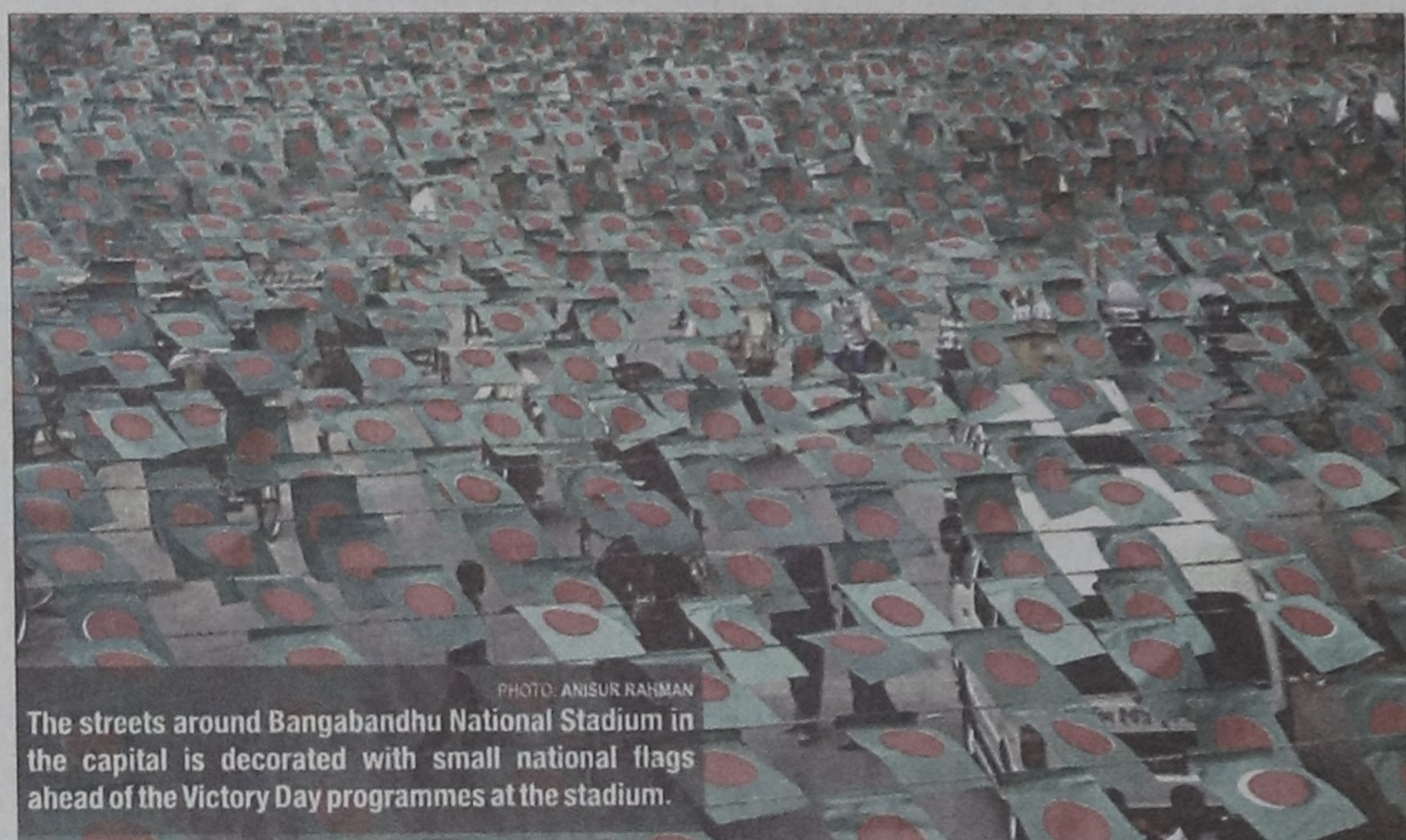


PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN
The streets around Bangabandhu National Stadium in the capital is decorated with small national flags ahead of the Victory Day programmes at the stadium.

Indian minister warns against cross-border insurgency

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

India yesterday said it is the duty of Bangladesh not to allow its territory to be used for "anti-India activities."

"The message must go to Bangladesh that it was duty-bound... it cannot allow its territory to be a safe haven for the insurgent groups," Indian Home Minister P Chidambaram said in the Lok Sabha.

"In the long run, Bangladesh is hurting itself if it does not enjoy good relations with India," he said winding

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Prayer Timing

December 16

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-20	5-55
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	3-45	4-00
Maghrib	5-22	5-25
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation



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