

Judgement against 2 JMB men May 22

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The first judgement in Dhaka of the case against two Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) members will be delivered on May 22.

The case under the Explosive Substances Act was filed with Ramna Police Station against the two for possessing powerful bomb hidden in a sweetmeat packet and a small bouquet on December 31 last year.

The accused are Hafez Ahmed Kader Mainuddin alias Uday, 21, of Hathazari in Chittagong and Sheikh Arif Uddin alias Hakim, 30, of Kachua in Bagerhat.

After completion of arguments from the prosecution and the defence, Judge Mohammad Helal Chowdhury of the Special Tribunal-12 will pronounce the verdict at 1:00pm, court sources said.

Earlier, the court recorded statements of 14 out of 22 prosecution witnesses in three workdays.

The Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested the two JMB men in the city and seized a powerful bomb from one of them.

The law enforcers came to learn that

a member of the JMB suicide squad would carry out attack in the capital. On December 30, the elite force became confirmed that the bomber had reached the capital.

The members of Rab-2 arrested madrasa student Uday while he was getting into a taxicab at Maghbazar at around 2:00pm with the bomb hidden in a sweetmeat packet and a small bouquet.

Following leads from Uday, the Rab men raided Eastern Plaza at Hatirpool and arrested another JMB member Arif. Dismantling the bomb, Rab officials found two small bottles of diesel, 40 ball bearings and 45 barbed wires. A circuit, a switch and pencil batteries were fitted with the bomb by electric wire.

A student of Jamia Ahmedia Sunnia Hefzokhana at Hathazari in Chittagong, Uday rented room No. 113 at Hotel Sebika in Moghbazar at around 10:30am on that day.

Assistant Public Prosecutor Mahfuzur Rahman Patwary appeared for the state while no lawyers stood on behalf of the accused.



Telelink Group takes out a colourful procession at Shahbagh in the city yesterday marking the World Telecommunication Day.

PHOTO: STAR

'Make budget for 2006-2007 fiscal disabled-friendly'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Alliance of Disabled People's Organisations yesterday called on the government to make the budget for 2006-2007 fiscal disabled-friendly in order to bring the physically and mentally challenged people into mainstream society.

People with disability make up almost 10 per cent of the total population and they should be provided with quality education, training, treatment facilities and employment opportunities through budgetary allocation, said the leaders of the Alliance at a press conference in the city.

They also called for allocation of adequate funds for the organisa-

tions working for the physically and mentally challenged people.

Funds are also needed to conduct research activities for their welfare and find out the exact number of people with disability in the country, they said.

It is a matter of great regret that no survey has been conducted in the last three decades to find out the number of physically and mentally challenged people, said Alliance President Abdus Sattar Dulal.

Senior Vice-President of the Alliance Shawkat Hossain Bhuiyan, Vice-President Saiful Islam, Secretary General Jahangir Alam and Joint General Secretary Habibur Rahman were also present at the press conference.

Moniruzzaman made envoy to Belgium

UNB, Dhaka

The government has decided to appoint AHM Moniruzzaman, Secretary (Multilateral), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as ambassador to Belgium.

A career diplomat, Moniruzzaman joined BCS (Foreign Affairs Cadre) in 1979.

He served in various capacities in Bangladesh missions in Kolkata, New York, Kuwait and Paris. He established the Bangladesh Embassy in Madrid as its Charge d' Affaires.

Ashraf-ud-Doula

Meanwhile, Ashraf-ud-Doula, Bangladesh High Commissioner to Australia, has been appointed ambassador to Japan.

During his diplomatic career, Ashraf-ud-Doula has held important positions in the foreign ministry and served in the Bangladesh missions in Berlin, Rome, London, Singapore, Canberra and Colombo in various capacities.

IBA Alumni Assoc installation tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The installation ceremony of the new committee of IBA Alumni Association will be held at Winter Garden, Dhaka Sheraton Hotel tomorrow, says a press release.

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan and Governor of Bangladesh Bank Dr Salehuddin Ahmed will be present at the programme as chief guest and special guest.

Interested alumni can contact Salahuddin Ahmed, publication secretary of the association for registration, (cell: 01711-649798, phone: 4611819).



Today is the International Museum Day. The theme of this year is 'Museums and young people'. The National Museum has drawn up various programmes to mark the day. It organises various programmes such as handwriting and drawing competitions and exhibitions regularly to raise awareness among the young people and promote cultural heritage. This photograph shows children taking part in a painting competition on the museum premises in the city.