Bangladesh 20 years ago, he said the

country since then has made tremen-

dous progress in agriculture and food

production has gone up to help raise

at the high growth rate of population

and gave assurance that USAID will

Schieck suggested that develop-

ment partners should initiate a

dialogue on how to make Bangladesh

an attractive place for more private

He said the government cannot

provide jobs for all and should create

a favourable investment climate to

Elaborating on USAID-aided

projects, USAID Bangladesh Mission

Director Gene V George said the

agency helps establish links between

ocal and US universities and is

assisting shrimp growers in obtain-

ing a quality seal to help sustain the

and order and state of individual

rights remain a big concern here.

JP (Ershad)

Replying to a question, he said law

The American Centre Director

Karl Fritz and USAID Chief of

Programs Caryle Cammisa were

The ministers heard their demands

and assured them of taking necessary

walkout from the Sangsad on Monday

protesting a deputy minister's remarks

against legislators from Rangpur and

alleged anomalies in relief distribution

in the monga-hit areas. The JP

demanded that the minister apologise

After the meeting yesterday, JP

lawmakers hinted that Mannan

Bhuivan will urge them from the

House today to return to it. He will also

say sorry on behalf of the deputy

for his remarks.

Lawmakers of the JP staged a

continue to support the family plan-

He, however, expressed concern

living standards.

foreign investments.

help create jobs.

export market.

Deport illegal 'Bangladeshis' quickly

Court orders Delhi

A New Delhi court yesterday ordered the city to speed up the deportation of 'Bangladeshis' who live illegally in the

Court gave the city government three weeks to show it was deporting illegal immigrants and asked for monthly

The court was ruling on a petition by a New Delhi-based lawyer who claimed that 2.8 million 'Bangladeshis lived illegally in the city, taking government benefits meant for "real" Indian citi-

grants had been given voter cards and could impact elections. New Delhi is due to hold polls for its local assembly

The judges complained the city had been slow to act since the same court on September 24 ordered authorities to deport illegal Bangladeshis.

The bench of Chief Justice BC Patel and Justice AK Sikri said the city was initiating 300 to 400 deportation cases against 'Bangladeshis' a month, down from the 100 a day that was the target in a plan presented to the court in September.

Indian Deputy Prime Minister Lal Krishna Advani in January announced a drive to deport 'three million Bangladeshis' he said were in the country illegally and could pose a security

The drive enraged Bangladesh, which has traditionally had warm ties with India and denied there was any illegal emigration to its larger neigh-

Israel, are firmly convinced of the threat

The EU's so-called "big three"

Britain, France and Germany -- have

proposed a resolution critical of Iran to be

considered at a meeting this Thursday of

the International Atomic Energy Agency's

Amendments to

Order challenged

The High Court yesterday issued a rule

asking the government to show cause

in three weeks why the amendments to

the Bar Council Order should not be

two advocates challenging the amend-

ments made in September to the Bar

to the Bar Council of anyone for two

consecutive terms. These provide for

mandatory submission of its annual

audit report for scrutiny to the

Parliament's Public Accounts

Committee and inclusion of Supreme

Court judges in the enrolment commit-

Military attaché of

The rule came upon a writ filed by

The amendments barred election

well short of US demands

Bar Council

in High Court

declared illegal.

Council Order 1972.

But, according to diplomats, it falls

posed by Tehran, Europe has taken

softer line.

Iran nukes

covert attempts to develop nuclear weapons in violation of international agreements, US officials said.

In addition, he was seeking beefed up EU backing for US plans to accelerate the return to self-rule in Iraq, a subject that drove deep wedges between Washington and many of its traditional European allies earlier this year.

Other issues on the table at the day of talks, after which Powell flies to London to join President George W. Bush on a state visit to Britain, include a simmering dispute over EU defence plans and a spat over US steel tariffs.

But with the European Union generally satisfied with the new US plans for Iraq -- forced into fruition by

worsening violence and instability -- the Iran issue appeared set to take the center In fact, Powell's first meeting here was not with a European official but rather with visiting Israeli Foreign Minister

Silvan Shalom, whose country regards Iran and its nuclear ambitions as the greatest threats to its security. While the United States -- whose

president has labelled Iran part of an "axis of evil" -- and its main Middle East ally,

50 lakh female students get stipends

A total of 50 lakh female students up to higher secondary level are getting government stipends across the coun-

Education Minister Dr Osman Farooq revealed the statistics at the parliament yesterday. Replying to a call attention notice brought by BNP lawmaker Shamsuddin Ahmed, Dr Farooq said the government is providing the stipends as part of its initiatives to promote girls education in the

In his notice, Shamsuddin alleged that the under the existing system, only the students enrolled in the board affiliated schools and collages were getting the stipend while the institutions which were just allowed to teach the students remained beyond the government programme.

Although the students of higher secondary level schools are not covered under the programme, female students in such institutions are getting stipends up to class nine, the

minister said. The existing system does not allow colleges without board affiliation to

have the facility, he added.

Judiciary FROM PAGE 1

judges through the Public Service Commission illegal. It requested the court to suggest the way the government should recruit new judges.

The Appellate Division said the government would be able to form a judicial service commission to recruit new judges through implementing the

12-point directive. The Appellate Division full bench of Chief Justice KM Hasan, Justice Ruhul Amin, Justice Mohammed Fazlul Karim, Justice Syed JR Muddassir Husain, Justice Hamidul Haque and Justice Tafazzul Islam heard the petitions, while Attorney General AF Hasan

Ariff appeared for the government.Since the 1999 directives, the Awami League government took seven extensions, the caretaker government three

and the present BNP government five. The caretaker government in early October 2001 was all set to implement the directives, but it left the job for the $new\,government\,after\,the\,BNP\,won\,the$

During the last election campaign, the BNP promised that it would sepa $rate \, the \, judiciary \, if \, voted \, into \, of fice.$

AL slates 'propaganda' against Hasina

The main opposition Awami League (AL) yesterday protested 'propaganda' against its President and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina by the ruling BNP.

properly, the ruling alliance is trying to put the blame on the opposition, said an AL statement issued by Deputy Office Secretary BM Mozammel Haq.

Monga-affected people of the northern districts, leaders of the BNP are engaged in a propaganda campaign against Sheikh Hasina, who is now in the Monga-stricken areas to observe the situation and distribute relief, the

It said the government did not take any precautionary measure to save people ahead of the Monga (a nearfamine situation) and has failed to

prime minister's visit to Saudi Arabia to perform Umrah, saying that her 10day visit is not for religious activities, but a luxurious trip with family mem-

tion, she (prime minister) is spending her days abroad, it alleged.

always stands beside the people in every national disaster whether she is in government or in opposition, it

Judgement on Sergeant Ahad murder today

A court in Dhaka delivers judgement in the sensational Sergeant Abdul Ahad

Court of Second Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge will pronounce the verdict at noon, court

Sub-inspector Mesbahuddin filed a murder case with Motijheel Police Station on October 28, 1999, the same day when a gang of muggers allegedly killed on-duty Sergeant Ahad at Shapla

Motijheel police pressed charges against 13 persons on June 13, 2001. The court framed charges against the accused on March 19 last year and trial in the case began two months later on

Of the 13 accused, 11 including Zakir alias Kangali Zakir are now in police custody while Abu Taleh Rana is on bail and Abdur Rouf absconding

Kangali Zakir confessed his guilt to metropolitan magistrate and dis-

US Embassy sees seized M-16 for himself

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna The military attaché of the US Embassy

in Dhaka visited the arsenal at Boyra Police Lines in Khulna Monday to see M-16 rifles seized at the outer anchorage of Mongla Port on November 6.

Khulna Metropolitan Police Commissioner Mustafizur Rahman, Additional Police Commissioner Shaikh Sajiad Ali, another US Embassy official and some top personnel of different intelligence agencies accompanied the military attaché.

He was astonished to see the M-16 rifles, made exclusively for the US soldiers, and took video footage of the sophisticated firearms, Mustafizur Rahman said yesterday

Customs officials recovered the rifles from MV Banga Lanka, a liner of

Saifur's son

the city's Mirabazar area early in the morning.

Nuruzzaman, executive director of construction firm Yunus and Brothers, alleged at a press conference in Dhaka on October 24 that Naser Rahman MP son of the finance minister, demanded Tk2 crore in toll from him.

He also alleged that by abusing his power Naser had his Tk 20 crore work orders cancelled as he refused to pay the money.

Naser refuted the allegation and filed a case with Moulvibazar Sadar magistrate's court, which issued a warrant of arrest against Nuruzzaman. However, Nuruzzaman obtained a four-month ad interim bail from the High Court on Sunday.

But a fresh case under the Speedy Trial Act was lodged Monday night with Srimangal Police Station. Nuruzzaman was taken to the police station first and then produced before the magistrate's court yesterday afternoon.

The court sent him to jail custody. When asked, a police official said Nuruzzaman was arrested in two cases lodged with Srimangal Police Station.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

On its failure to govern the country

Instead of standing beside the

provide relief among them.

The statement shot down the

When people are dying of starva-

On the contrary, the AL chief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Judge Hossain Shahid Ahmad of the

Proceedings of the case were completed on November 3 after recording statement of 36 prosecution witnesses.

Chattar in the city's Motijheel area.

Tender on subway feasibility study next month

UNB, Dhaka

International tender will be floated next month for feasibility study on underground metro railway in the capital city, Communications Minister Nazmul Huda said yester-

The minister sought technical assistance from Moscow when Russian Ambassador Oleg S Malginov called on him at his office.

In response, Malginov said private investing institutions of his country and the government would like to support infrastructure development n Bangladesh through a consortium.

Huda informed the ambassador that underground metro train lines would be constructed on the basis of BOT (build, operate and transfer).

The ambassador welcomed the plan and assured the minister of his country's possible assistance to implement it.

JS passes 2 days

vesterday was interrupted while he was

replying to lawmakers' queries because of excessive noise created by the lawmakers. He urged the speaker to reintroduce headphones in the House. The 8th parliament began its

journey amid the absence of the main opposition Awami League. But the other three opposition parties -- Jatiya Party led by Ershad , Jatiya Party led by Moniu and Krishak Sramik Ianata League led by Kader Siddiqui -attended the session. Awami League rejoined parliament proceedings on June 24 last year and again began boycotting the session since June 26 this year.

Following the footsteps of the main opposition Awami League, the Jatiya Party led by Ershad started to boycott parliament proceedings since last Monday. On Monday and yesterday the two other opposition parties also remained absent in the House.

Internet telephony

including the Middle East and Saarc. The

On BTTB's using VoIP technology, he BTTB offers a 25 percent off-charge said it can use the internet gateway during the off-peak hours, starting from without obtaining licence as per the 8:00pm to 8:00am. country's telecoms act. The BTTB will also reduce the incom-

Cellphone operators meanwhile said ing call charge of overseas operators to the telecoms market regulator 3.5 cents for Dhaka and 6.25 cents for Bangladesh Telecommunication elsewhere after the benchmark calls. The Regulatory Commission (BTRC) -BTTB regards certain number of calls should frame modalities for both private made by overseas operators as benchand public operators before awarding mark calls, current rate of which is 14.2 licence for internet telephony. centsaminute Private and public operators will se

"This will help the BTTB to remain their own criteria to terminate and competitive after the emergence of the generate calls through VoIP from day internet telephony in the private sector," one, an official with a leading cellphone operator said. The BTTB plans to handle the fresh

He said the market regulator should ensure a level playing field for both public and private operators.

Leaders of the Internet Service Providers Association (ISPA) termed the BTTB call charge reduction a move to hinder the growth of the information and communication technology in the

Launch ticket

tickets one or two days before Eid at an exorbitant rate. But the staffs denied such allegation.

said a senior BTTB official.

Exchange (ITX), he said.

surge of calls through a special alterna-

tive gateway through which it will re-

route phone calls without terminating

the link to its International Trunk

voice quality through a managed net-

work compared to the VoIP operators,

who will for sure struggle to mange

"We would also be able to offer better

Among the luxury launches Parabat. Sagor, Rajdoot and Surovi, Parabat-4 was charging Tk 475 against Tk 250 for a single cabin and Tk 900 against Tk 500 for a double cabin for a one-way trip to Bhandaria though 80 per cent of their cabins have been sold out. Akram, a But staffs of another launch Parabat-

said advance booking for Barisal till November 25 has been completed. They charged Tk 400 for a single and Tk 700 for a double cabin, they said. Ticket sellers of Surovi-6 said all the

cabin tickets have been booked. They charged Tk 300 for a single and Tk 500 for a double cabin, the staffs claimed. Several launches of Overseas Gulf Navigation Company titled Sagoor have charged Tk 400 for a single and Tk 1,000

for a double cabin ticket to Patuakhali

The countermen are still selling advance cabin tickets at the terminal. The rush of passengers increased at the Sadarghat terminal yesterday. Launch operators were still charging normal fare from the passengers, while the rate would be increased from

November 20, launch staffs said. "We are charging a reduced rate of Γk 60 for Barisal but it would soon be Tk 100 to Tk 110 by November 20," said a staff of a launch, adding that they were not following the government fare chart o be competitive.

Yesterday afternoon, most of the

launches were found anchored in the midstream and the passengers were seen boarding those on boats.

However, the shipping ministry recently issued a directive to the trans port authorities not to charge extra from the passengers prior to the Eid festival According to sources, a monitoring team would check overloading at the terminal from November 20.

The Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) has decided to arrange extra launches on 17 routes from November 20 to 30 to reduce the pressure on river transports.

Special launches would run on routes from Dhaka to Bhola, Barisal, Barguna, Chandpur, Ichuli, Madaripur Kalaiya, Borhanuddin, Patuakhali, Amtali and from Narayanganj to Chandpur-Ichuli, Taltola Ramchandrapur, Machuakhali Sureshwar, Torki and Matlab.

The BIWTA would also press into action ro-ro ferry service for transporting homebound passengers during Eid.

Besides, Bangladesh Railway was selling advance tickets since November 16 for Chittagong, Sylhet, Khulna and Raishahi, which would continue till November 20. Passengers collected tickets at Kamlapur Railway Station vesterday.

The Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation, as part of its Eid special service, inaugurated a special Dhaka-Chittagong-Raozan bus service yester-

Baghdad darkness

supply, but crashes on the national grid

regularly affect distribution across the city. Even when the grid is fully operational. prompting Iraq's US-installed interim leadership to seek additional supplies from abroad until generator capacity can

Jordanian Energy Minister Azmi Khreissat said in statements published Monday that Iraq will be linked to Jordan's electricity grid as part of the kingdom's efforts to contribute to the reconstruction of its war-wrecked neighbour.

Khreissat told the pro-government Al Rai newspaper that he reached an agreement to this effect in talks Saturday with Iraq's interim Electricity Minister Ayham al-Samarrai, who visited Amman on his way to the United States.

"It was agreed to carry out an electricity link-up between the two countries through the Risha power plant and to carry out the necessary studies concern-

Khreissat did not give further details but he said that a team of Iraqi experts will visit Iordan soon to discuss "technical

The Risha power plant is located near the northeastern Jordanian town of Ruweished, close to the border with Iraq.

Pneumonia

deaths, 583 in Mymensingh with 22 deaths, 700 in Meherpur with 17 deaths, 33,000 in Chandpur with 17

deaths and 538 in Cox's Bazar. Seven people reportedly died of pneumonia in Magura with 78 affected, six died in Bandarban with 40 affected, one died in Jessore with 100 affected, 15 died in Dinajpur with 200 affected and seven died in Narail with 288 affected till yesterday.

Moreover, 138 pneumonia natients were treated at Dhaka Shishu Hospital till vesterday.

Bush, Blair close ranks

suicide bombings in Istanbul adding to

British commentators say the visit will be uncomfortable for Blair -- under fire at home over Iraq, especially within his own left-leaning Labour Party. But Blair has remained steadfast. In a

said critics of the war should accept that Iragis were better off without Saddam. and denounced what he called a "propaganda monster about America." Foreign Secretary Jack Straw took up the theme on Tuesday, writing in the Wall Street Journal of a "parody of America that almost demonises its power and its

key foreign affairs speech last week he

world at its door." Despite much talk in the media about how unpopular Bush is, a poll in the leftleaning Guardian newspaper showed more British voters welcome the visit than reject it, and that 62 percent think America "a force for good, not evil, in the

purpose and seeks to put the ills of the

Bush and Blair are expected to hammer out details of plans discussed last week for speeding up the transfer of sovereignty in Iraq to an interim govern-Blair will hope to clinch a deal on British detainees at the U.S. camp in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. There are now

10 Britons among more than 600 prison-

ers there, and London has complained

about plans to try some under special

military tribunals.

Bush plans to meet relatives of British soldiers who died in Iraq and has put special emphasis on those meetings in interviews ahead of the visit. But relatives of fallen soldiers are now among the most potent critics of the war. Reg Keys, whose military policeman

son Thomas was killed by an angry mob near the Iraqi city of Basra in June, said he wished he was on the list to meet Bush. "I wouldn't shake his hand, I'd love to meet him, but I'd refuse his hand," he

stained with the blood of my son."' Blair will also hope for a concession over trade. Bush could use the opportunity to announce he is lifting tariffs on steel after losing a case at the World Trade

said. "I'd say: 'I can't shake that hand. It's

216 judges' posts

The districts are Comilla, Sylhet Khulna, Bogra, Gazipur, Rangpur Maulvibazar, Noakhali, Brahmanbaria Feni, Bhola, Gopalganj, Rajshahi, Barisal, Bagerhat, Dhaka, Cox's Bazar, Pabna, Thakurgaon, Madaripur, Mymensingh and Munshiganj. Besides, another two-storey build-

district and sessions judge's court in The works of the court buildings have been taken under the Legal and Judiciary Capacity Building Project, the

35 secretaries appointed on contract basis

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has so far appointed 35 secretaries out of 55 in the civil administration on contract basis since November 2001.

Post and Telecommunications Minister Aminul Haque, who is also in charge of establishment ministry in the parliament, disclosed the list of contractual government appointment at the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday.

Responding to a question raised by Awami League lawmaker Kazi Sirajul Islam, the minister said the government signed a total of 195 officials including secretary, secretary-incharge, additional secretary-incharge and others officials on contract since November, 2001.

According to the list submitted before the parliament, 27 secretaries, eight secretaries-in-charge, four additional secretaries-in-charge and other officials were appointed to various government posts.

BCL man shot dead in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Armed youths shot dead a former Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) leader at Guadandi in Patiya yesterday. Four armed youths fired at Shah

Alam alias Rinku, a student of Chittagong Law College and former leader of Patiya College unit BCL, from a CNG three-wheeler when he was standing by the road after iftar, witnesses said. Doctors at Pativa health complex

cadres killed Rinku, alleged a leader of local Awami League. The BCL brought out a protest procession and marched different

declared him dead. Local Jubo Dal

Charges pressed against Nasim, 19 others in murder case

streets of Patiya, sources said

ing day.

Charges were pressed yesterday against former home minister Mohammad Nasim and 19 others in Advocate Shaikh Shahidullah Bachu muder case.

The Criminal Investigation

Department (CID) of police submitted

the charge sheet to a court here, impli-

cating Mohammad Nasim and 18 other leaders of the district units of the Awami League, BNP and Jatiya Party. Bacchu, a former chairman of Pabna Pourasava, was killed on the night of April 4, 1997. His body was found in his car at Tebunia Agriculture

Farm, 7 km off Pabna town, the follow-

The other accused are Awami League leader and incumbent Pabna Pourasava Chairman Mosharraf Hossain, former pourasava chairman and Vice President of District BNP Zahurul Islam Bishu, Organising Secretary Quamrul Hasan Mintu, General Secretary of District Jativa Party Azizur Rahman Arzu, Chairman of Latif Real Estate Alhai Abul Latif Biswas, Ward Commissioner and Awami League leader Saidur Rahman Ekram, former Commissioners Faridul Islam Dalu, Shafiqul Islam Mona and Anwar Hossain Surja, Jubo league leaders Motahar Hossain Mutai, Masud Ahmed, Firoj Hossain and Helal Uddin. Poura Awami League leaders Abdul Bari Baki, Jubo league leaders Motahar Hossain Mutai, Masud Ahmed, Firoi Hossain and Helal Uddin. Poura Awami League Leaders Abdul Bari Baki, Abdur Razzak, Razaul Karim Chapal, Abdul Mannan, Mohammad Abul Quashem Fazlul Haque and Mozammel Haque Biswas.

DGFI DD

FROM PAGE 12 his office room. But she did not go there and was waiting at the passengers service desk. After a while, Mostafa came

Later, she went to his office at around 10:00am to get her duty pass back. The DD did not return it, instead he made an attempt to violate her. She somehow saved herself, the complainant said. Later, Sheuli went to Airport Police

Station to file case against the two. But

police refused to take the case against

them, as they are influential persons, she

there, frisked her and took her duty pass

After a hearing, Metropolitan Magistrate Mamun-Al-Rashid took the case into cognizance and directed the officer-in-charge of Airport Police Station to register the complaint as first informa-

BNP MP FROM PAGE 1

Kabir also criticised the commerce

ing is being constructed for a new secretary, who asked him to file a written However, Speaker Jamir Uddin Sircar suggested him to give a notice to

the parliament so that he (the speaker) could ask the minister concerned for a

US official

International Development (USAID). who is on a visit to see the progress of USAID-funded projects.

"Outsiders can show the way and share ideas ... but it is really up to the people and the political parties to make parliament work," Schieck said while talking to a group of journalists at the US Embassy.

Referring to the country's successful holding of three elections, he said fair election alone does not mean fully-fledged democracy unless other democratic institutions

develop "Without political will, democracy will not get institutional shape,' he added.

Commenting on the country's energy scenario, Schieck said export of excess gas could be an interesting opportunity for Bangladesh, which has a large natural gas reserve.

Countries all around the world are exporting their excess gas, he said, and observed that Bangladesh could use the proceeds from export of its additional gas for the social sector.

Schieck lauded Bangladesh's progress in agricultural sector and food production. Recalling his visit to

Third force

report, of the much-speculated campaign by B Chowdhury to launch political front dubbed the 'third force'. "I'm not with the former president

as the people of Munshiganj are

grateful to Prime Minister Khaleda Zia," said Hye, who was elected MP from a constituency in Munshiganj, the home district of the former president who was also elected MP from another constituency there in the 2001 elections. "I'm not with those who speak against the party either because they

ost some position with the party or didn't get something from it," he said, referring to B Chowdhury. Speaker Jamir Uddin Sircar said the House does not take cognizance of press reports and suggested that

the lawmaker send a rejoinder pro-

"The newspaper is legally bound

to print your rejoinder. If it does not,

then you can go to court," the Speaker

"If the government does so, we will return to the House tomorrow (Wednesday)," JP legislator GM Quader said at a press briefing at the Sangsad Bhaban.

At the meeting yesterday, the IP also raised allegations of indecent remarks by State Minister for Housing and Public Works Alamgir Kabir against the party lawmakers from northern districts.

12,000 species

testing the report.

threatened. There and on the islands of the Galapagos archipelago, snails are under threat, from other snails or from aliens

like goats, pigs and fire ants.

the Galapagos, Hawaii and the Seychelles are famed for their beauty, which owes itself to the diversity of plants, animals and ecosystems. "The Red List tells us that human activities are leading to a swathe of

extinctions that could make these islands ecologically and aesthetically barren." Continental species are also in trouble: the Mexican black howler monkey, the variegated spider monkey and the pied tamarin are all upgraded to

In A sia the giant cat fish of the Mekong

basin, which can grow to three metres (10

feet), is now listed as critically endan-

gered, because of overfishing, habitat

30% since 1990. South Africa's riverine

nigher risk categories

loss and the obstruction of its migration routes by dam-building. Its numbers have fallen by more than

rabbit, also uplisted to critically endangered status, is now thought to number wer than 250 breeding pairs.

Apart from habitat loss, it faces

trapping, and hunting by feral cats and Achim Steiner said: "Places such as The oldest seed plants on Earth, cycads, which resemble palms, are

> among the most threatened plants Of 303 evaluated this year, 155 were listed as threatened. Seaweeds and lichens feature on the list for the first time, with Bennett's seaweed declared extinct: it was found only at two Australian sites, and has not been seen

> > IUCN is worried about two cetaceans,

the Mediterranean sub-population of

the short-beaked common dolphin, and

the Rio Grande do Sul/Uruguay subpopulation of the franciscana, a river Among the countries with the highest numbers of threatened birds and animals are Indonesia, India, Brazil, China

and Peru. Plants are declining fast in

Ecuador, Malaysia, Indonesia, Brazil and

Bogra ammo haul

and Altu Mian.

Khanam Bithi, Harun-or-Rashid Jalal

The law enforcers also failed to

track down Samrat and Boss, named in the chargesheets. The numbers of the accused is six and witnesses 40 in two cases -- Nos. 14/70 and 15/71 -- with the findings in the chargesheets being almost the

same. Six people are accused and 38

others are witnesses in the other two

cases -- No. 16/72 and 17/73. But differences surfaced between the FIRs, statements of witnesses and the charge sheets, police said.

The charge sheets of No. 14/70 and 15/71 cases say Bithi, one of the accused, admitted that her husband Pintu with the help of rickshaw-van puller Abdus Samad brought five sacks of goods from the truck and stashed them in garbage. But Samad was not named in the statements of witnesses.

According to the FIR of the Nos.

16/72 and 17/73 cases, Mozam

Mondal saw Pintu and Sohel in the brick-kiln on the night of June 27 and Mozam called out another witness Altaf as the conversations between Pintu and Sohel seemed suspicious. Mozam and Altaf saw a few including Pintu coming forward, and Pintu

claimed the truck was laden with machinery parts, which they said would be kept in a friend's house because of hartal the next day, the FIR

Pintu resisted Mozam and Altaf, as they wanted to see what was inside the truck. They informed Dupchanchia Police Station about it.

But the charge sheets say the

witnesses and other villagers together

questioned Pintu and he answered

that Jubo League leader Atikur

Rahman Dulu sent the machinery parts in the truck. The FIR says Altaf informed the police station on suspicion. But the charge sheets say he saw sacks full of bullets in the truck and the accused

fled after he shouted.

The statements of the witnesses, claiming to have seen pineapples covering the upper part of the truck, raised suspicion among police, as the site where the vehicle was parked for unloading had no light. The sacks were tied and Altaf is not expected to have seen bullets inside, police added.

All charge sheets say the ammunition and explosives were smuggled into Bangladesh under main opposition Awami League leaders and blamed them for conspiring to unseat the government by spreading disor-A CID official seeking anonymity

said statements of only three arrestees were recorded by the court under section 164, but no-one mentioned the smugglers of the ammunition and explosives in confessionals.

Indian capital. A two-judge bench of the Delhi High reports on its progress The petition said some illegal immi-