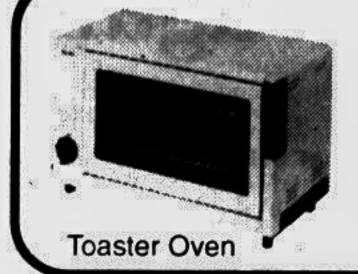
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Down to Earth Growing Menace from Poly Bags

The steadily growing use of polythene bags has posed an ominous environmental problem for the city as well as in rural areas. The latest reports show that 162 crore polythene bags are dumped every year in the city alone. The Dhaka City Corporation and the WASA are unanimous in their opinion that the substantial causative factor for clogging the drainage and sewerage systems of the city is the stupendously high volume of discarded shopping bags.

Since the polythene materials are not biodegradable or, in other words, since they do not decompose through natural process, whenever a polythene bag is thrown away, it contributes to the accumulation of indestructible wastes of permanent nature. As such they create a barrier to the process of natural decomposition. If anybody cares to look at the garbage dumps like those at Syedabad or Kallyanpur, it will be seen that although other garbage matters get decomposed and merged into the soil, the discarded polythene bags of many colours stand out bravely These polythene bags not only choke the city's drainage and sewerage networks, but also act as environmentally hostile agents all over.

There are quarters who argue that new technology is now available under which it is possible to recycle used polythene bags for other useful purposes However, in the opinion of

monoxide and sulpher dioxide

It is further argued that if polythene shopping bags are abolished, it will involve shutdown of the plants producing these bags. In this respect, we tend to lose sight of the fact that on account of introduction of polythene bags, the manufacturers of jute bags have already been thrown out of employment, though compared to polythene bags, jute bags are cheaper, environment-friendly and offer greater opportunities for employment. There are other possible alternative uses of plastic/polythene materials in other fields, for instance, in

of various kinds of uses.

implemented because of a contrary trend of opinion. And under pressure from the vested quarters, the processes of manufacture, sale and use of polythene bags continue unabated

It is understood that the authorities are now seriously considering recycling with proper safeguards against environmental pollution. But, according to keen observers, mere recycling won't do. Import of raw materials for polythene bags, if discouraged, will go a long way in tackling the growing menace. Since a considerable part of the population has their living linked with poly bag production, a complete freeze on it abruptly is not felt advisable. Rather a slow but sure plan to phase it out is considered to be the answer.

in this context, it may be mentioned that, according to a report, back in 1993, the drainage system in the city of Mumbai in India was greatly choked by the inordinate accumulation of used polythene shopping bags in the drainage channels, as a result of which use of polythene bags was forbidden there.

The bottom line on the issue is that it is time to effect gradual discontinuation of the use of polythene shopping bags and at the same time explore all possibilities for alternative uses of polythene/plastics by setting up suitable industries in these respects, which need to be environment-friendly.

Acute power shortage in Barisal region

BARISAL, Mar 20: Nearly 13 mw power is being supplied in Barisal division since 6 pm to-

day against the demand for 35

The Barisal region includes Barguna, Jhalakathi, Swarupkathi, Gournadi, Bakergani. According to PDB sources

during day time today. The disruption was caused as two units of a gas turbine power plant here remained shut down from today due to technical

It also protested the way the girl was questioned for identifying the arrested accused man, Obayedul Matber. "Police have this manner," it said.

save the culprit policemen following Yasmin's rape in Dina-

Acquittal of some of the accused policemen including an SP in the Yasmin rape and murder case gave a sense of immunity to such criminals. Besides, due to faulty investigation, the court was bound to release the policemen involved in Shima rape case, said the SNS press release.

ment of all the criminals," the

were deployed at the ghat. Ferry services between

sumed after 11 am today. The injured policemen were

The newly constructed Natakhola BIWTA terminal was inaugurated on Wednesday by Shipping Minister A S M Abdur Rob amid stiff resistance

From Page 1

Research Council recently.

Some others were trying to get

him removed to become the DG

He admitted that about 45

scientists left BARI in the last

three-four years. Most of them

went abroad. Dr Mazed however

said that they were now trying

to attract young scientists giv-

ing them scholarship and other

benefits so that they stay in the

is now working in an interna-

tional organisation said a

number of scientists left the in-

stitute and some of them went

abroad because there was no

Dr Mazed was made OSD

when he was a Director of BARI

in 1992. Earlier in the year, he

had issued an order claiming

himself as Director General of

the institute. Later, the Min-

istry of Agriculture made Dr.

atmosphere for research.

A former BARI scientist who

country.

of the institute, Dr Mazed al-

from ghat workers.

Jamaat's return

From Page 1 CHT treaty, had a discussion

with ruling party leaders on March 12 on the their contention about joining the ses-Emerging from the meeting.

Telecommunication Minister Mohammad Nasim told journalists they had assured Jamaat MPs that the government would produce the accord in the House for discussion and would not pass anything repugnant to the country's Constitution. With the Jamaat MPs standing beside him, the Minister further told newsmen that following the assurance, the Jamaat would return to the House during the current session of Parliament.

Meanwhile, Jamaat MPs informed the party's central executive committee about what had transpired in the meeting with the ruling party leaders. while the party has resolved to scrutinise the bills before returning to the House.

"The government has assured our parliamentary delegation that it would not propose anything in the bills which would be inconsistent with any constitutional provision. We want to see first whether the Treasury bench keep its commitment." Jamaat secretary general Matiur Rahman Nizami said last night.

Meanwhile, Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs minister Abdul Matin Khashru told The Daily Star that he would try to move the bills in the House during the current session. "Before moving the bills, they would be scrutinised by a certain wing of the Law Ministry, the cabinet and the parliamentary standing committee concerned

Sharif From Page 1

"I assure you that we, in Pak-

istan, are ready to go the extra mile in journeying towards cooperative and good neighbourly relations with India," the Pakistani leader said.

He said Pakistan hoped that our sincerity will be reciprocated in removing the underlying causes of conflict and tension so that durable peace based on justice and equity can be brought to our region.

Sharif said Pakistan and India stand at the cross-roads at a time of massive global transformations. We are the inheritors of proud civilisations but our rich potential for economic growth has remained subdued."

"We have a special responsibility to step out of the old mind set of confrontation and tension to a new outlook enthused by the ideals of peace and development," he said, adding "this what we owe to our peoples.

BUET incident: 65 teachers contradict report

By Staff Correspondent

A section of BUET teachers yesterday contested reports that "the general students" abstained from attending classes at all on Thursday.

"All their classes except the first period were held as scheduled," they said in a statement. Contradicting the claims by

architecture students, 65 teachers, including the Dean of Architecture Prof Faruque A U Khan, signed the statement to say that "a portion of the adjoining fence" was indeed "cut open to let the students in" but that too was done to ensure safety of the protesting stu-

"A very large number of students voicing their intention to attend classes on Thursday. were trying to force their way in. Since 40-50 students of Architecture department, including some girls, were preventing a large number of students from going to their classes, a number of teachers present and the Vice Chancellor took the initiative to repeatedly request them to open the gate. They ignored the appeal of their teachers and continued to argue and curse

Fearing for the safety of these few architecture students, who could be possibly hurt by a possible stampede, the teachers ordered that a portion of the adjoining fence be cut open to let the students in. This move by the teachers saved the protesting architecture students who had earlier hacksawed the BUET lock and used their own locks to implement their

They also claimed "the general students had brought out a procession the previous night soon after some students gave slogans calling for strike.

The statement also charged the resigning architecture teachers with "involving students and provoking them against their university" and called it an "unholy alliance." Meanwhile, the BUET Regis-

rar gave a similar statement and claimed that the classes were held as usual.

ALCWC From Page 1

be taken up at the meeting.

Last month's induction of two BNP lawmakers - Dr Alauddin and Hasibur Rahman Swapan - into the council of ministers may also come up for discussion. Besides, ALCWC members

representing various regions of the country may raise the issue of power disruption in the ensuing summer the sources said

BIMSTEC meeting From Page 1

Thailand for Economic Coop-

eration. The original idea of the grouping was mooted by Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, India and Thailand and was initially referred to as the Bay of Bengal Economic Cooperation Organi-

The alliance was initiated considering the great potential for increasing the trade among these countries by taking advantage of geographical proximity of the countries in the Bay of Bengal region and also on the eastern coast of the Indian Ocean.

"BIMSTEC is being seen as a bridge between three SAARC countries - Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka and two ASEAN nations-Thailand and Myanmar. It is in fact the first and only institutional link between SAARC and the ASEAN," a top foreign ministry official said.

A South Asian diplomat said, "the bridge-link between SAARC and ASEAN could only expand the potential of BIM-STEC. It would help increase the vibrancy of the region as a business and a commercial hub both for inter-regional trade and as a catalyst for attracting

Abul Hasan Chowdhury felt that many of the experiences of ASEAN-both its tremendous successes and some setbacks since its inception— will now be

readily available to BIMSTEC countries. In fact the launching of BIMSTEC took place on June 6, 30 years after the launching of ASEAN on the same day, he pointed out. Meanwhile, on March 6-7

some 80 businessmen from all the five BIMSTEC countries formed an Expert Group at a meeting in Bangkok. A S M Quasem, immediate past president of the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industries, was elected the first Chairman of the BIMSTEC Economic Forum. The Business Forum will hold its first meeting in Dhaka shortly to identify the inhibiting factors in the process of fostering business cooperation among these countries. The meeting will also recommend corrective measures for boosting intra-regional trade, both at the government and at the private levels.

Diplomatic observers feel that the new alliance, if directed cohesively, may be able to act as a powerful sub-regional grouping not only in South Asia but also in the Indian Ocean region.

Earlier, 14 countries bordering the Indian Ocean launched a loose but potential trade alliance known as the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IORARC) Bangladesh is still to be included in the grouping, but is seriously pursuing for it.

Bureaucracy a major obstacle to privatisation process: Nasim

Speakers at the concluding session of a seminar in the city yesterday found privatisation a complicated and sensitive process which needs government's strong political will and a consensus among major parties, reports UNB.

Privatisation Board and Rapport Bangladesh Ltd jointly organised the two-day seminar on Privatisation in Bangla-

Addressing concluding session at Hotel Purbani in the afternoon. Telecommunications and Housing Minister Mohammad Nasim sought positive cooperation from all political parties, including BNP and Jatiya Party, to make privatisation programme a success.

38 children

From Page 1 Bangladesh in small groups The newspaper also claimed that some of them said their parents had sold them.

Despite signs of poverty on their faces, the children were found cheerful, the newspaper said. They ask visitors in Bangla, "have you come here to take us home?"

The elders told the newspa per that they were not part of the racket but only accompanied the children posing as parents for money. One of them, Farid, a school teacher, said the agents had assured him a safe passage to the Gulf. Vidyakar, who runs Uduvum

Karangal told the daily that the children may face psychological problems if they are taken back home immediately. "Repeated pleas and repre-

sentations to various authorities have, so far, fallen on deaf ears," The Hindu quoted Vidyakar as saying. Vidayakar suggested that the Indian government should take up the issue with some international rehabilitation organisations for the safe return of the chil-Soon after the children were

rescued, an official of Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi visited them at Madras, promising steps for their return home. But no action followed. the daily said.

Aurora

From Page 1

comed at the Zia International Airport by Prof Anisuzzaman. Akku Chowdhury and Tarig Ali, the trustee members of Muktijuddho Jadughar (Liberation War Museum) which hosted the Indian general's

Foreign Ministry official Masud Mannan and Indian High Commission officials Brig D Lahiri and Devashish Chakravorty were also present at the airport.

General Aurora is here on a five-day visit at the invitation of Muktijuddho Jadughar to join its second founding anniversary ceremony on Sunday. He will deliver the "Museum's Anniversary Lecture" in the afternoon at its premises.

The retired general, commissioned in Indian Army during the British rule in 1938 and hailing from Jhelum district of Punjab, was the Eastern Command Chief of the Indian Army in 1971. He will go to Savar today to

place wreath at the National Memorial. Aurora will also meet Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

"Government is firmly committed to privatisation. which is to be carried forward for encouraging private entrepreneurs and rejuvenating the economy," Nasim said.

He added, "If all political parties support the programme. we need not seek advice from foreign consultants."

Former finance minister and BNP lawmaker M Saifur Rahman chaired the session while Jatiya Party's labour wing leader Shah Mohammad Abu Zafar, N K Alam Chowdhury MP, journalist Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, Privatisation Board Chairman Kazi Zafarullah and Finance Secretary Dr Akbar Ali Khan also spoke.

Speaking as chief guest, Nasim identified bureaucracy as a major hindrance to the privatisation process. "Why does a life take five

months to reach the next table? Why will it need so many signatures?" he asked, stressing the need for simplifying the proce-

Apparently unhappy with the private sector's performance in telecommunications, the minister said Grameen Phone has violated its commitment and failed to give proper services to its subscribers.

CHT agreement implementation body meets today

KHAGRACHHARI, Mar 20: The first meeting of the Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Accord Implementation Committee will be held at the circuit house here tomorrow, reports UNB. Convenor of implementa-

tion committee Chief Whip Abul Hasnat Abdullah, Chairman of Refugee Rehabilitation Task Force Deepangkar Talukder and Parbatya Chattagram Janasanghati Samity (PCJSS) President Joytirindra Bodhipriya Larma alias Santu Larma will attend the meeting. Minister Kalparanjan

Chakma, Chittagong City Mayor A B M Mohiuddin Chowdhury and Bir Bahadur, MP, were invited to attend the meeting. Formation of interim CHT

Regional Council, increase in number of the members in the three hill district councils and rehabilitation of the PCJSS members are likely to figure in the meeting. Besides, the formation o

Land Commission to settle land disputes in the hill districts may also come up for discus-

7-yr-old girl

From Page 1

was brushing teeth and walking in front of their house. The man, wearing a lungi, then took her to nearby PC Banarjee Lane and raped her. Hearing the scream of the

girl local people rushed to the spot, but the rapist fled the scene. She was rushed to Mitford Hospital and then shifted to the DMCH. Police suspected that the

rapist attacked the girl as movement of people on the road was very thin in the early morning. The victim's father filed a

case with Sutrapur thana in this regard under Women and Children Repression Act of

Nasim said the telecommunications sector needs to remain under the government's management until a sense of competition and of providing better services develops among the private operators of cellular phones.

Former finance minister M Saifur Rahman said, "If the economy is to be rescued from its present state, we must find out ways and means for privatisation.

The process will always face opposition even within the party in power itself, Saifur Rahman said, admitting that he had the same problem when he was the finance minister. "Even there'll always be

criticism that a valuable public enterprise has been sold out at a throwaway price. Yet the privatisation process must go forward," he said.

He said when World Bank or IMF prescribe selling out the SOEs, they should help find out the buyers as well. Because, in Bangladesh context, it is not easy to get so many buyers intending to buy whatever the government wants to dispose of

The BNP leader favoured strong regulation and supervision of the government to ensure a good result of privatisa-He said the judicial proce-

dure regarding the privatisation should be expedited.

Three raped From Page

and police arrested one Syed Ahmed in connection with the incident. In another incident, a

Rakhain girl, Mong Mong. 17, was allegedly raped by five youths at Jhaliapara in Teknaf. She was admitted to Sadar Hos-Police arrested two people.

Shamsul Alam and Taib, for their alleged involvement in the incident. In Ukhia thana, an 8-year-

old girl, Romana Barua, was allegedly raped at Jadimura in Rajapalang union.

She blamed a monk of a local pagoda for violating her, but he denied the allegation.

Vajpayee

From Page 1

weapons into its arsenal. Although India is believed to be capable of making nuclear weapons, previous governments have never publicly advocated

On Thursday, Pakistan, also believed to be nuclear capable, said it was willing to enter into an agreement with India to restrict the 'development of nuclear bombs, missiles and conventional weapons.

Vajpayee sought to dispel tension, telling reporters in New Delhi on Thursday: "We want friendly relations with Pakistan." In a friendly gesture. Vajpayee greeted a Pakistani field hockey team visiting India to play a series of matches.

BSS adds: Defence Minister George Fernandes said today that his country would not fight shy of inducting nuclear weapons or conducting repeated tests of Agni ballistic missile to ensure its security, territorial integrity and unity.

"If there is a need to take hard decisions we will take them," the minister told newsmen soon after assuming the charge of the high-profile defence portfolio.



তিতাস গ্যাস ট্রান্সমিশন এভ ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন কোম্পানী লিঃ (পেট্রোবাংলার একটি কোম্পানী) ফোন ঃ ৯৫৬৩৬৬৭, ৯৫৬৩৬৬৮, ৮১৯৩৭৯ (দিবা রাত্র)

বিশেষ দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণী বিজ্ঞপ্তি

তিতাস গ্যাস কোম্পানীর পরিবহণ ও বিতরণ নেটওয়ার্ক পাইপ লাইন "প্রাকৃতিক গ্যাস নিরাপত্তা বিধিমালা, ১৯৯১" অনুযায়ী মাটির নীচে স্থাপিত। ভূ-গর্ভস্থ বিভিন্ন ব্যাসের গ্যাস পাইপ লাইন কোন কারণে ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত হইলে স্বাভাবিকভাবেই গ্যাস প্রবাহ বিঘ্নিত হয়, গ্যাস বিতরণ ও সরবরাহে সমস্যা দেখা দেয় এমনকি দুর্ঘটনার কারণে জানমালেরও ক্ষয়ক্ষতি হইতে পারে

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকারের "প্রাকৃতিক গ্যাস নিরাপত্তা বিধিমালা, ১৯৯১" অনুযায়ী সকল উচ্চচাপ সম্পন্ন গ্যাস পাইপ লাইন ও পূর্তকর্মের মধ্যে নির্দিষ্টকৃত নিরাপদ দূরত্ব বজায় রাখিতে হইবে এবং উক্ত নিরাপদ দূরত্ব লংঘন করিয়া কোন ব্যক্তি কোন সংরক্ষণীয় পূর্তকর্ম স্থাপন করিতে পারিবেন না। বিধিমালায় আরও উল্লেখ আছে যে, কোন জন-উপযোগিতামূলক সংস্থা উহার সেবা প্রদানের স্বার্থে গ্যাস পাইপ লাইন কর্তৃপক্ষকে আগাম অবহিত করিয়া ও নিরাপত্তা ব্যবস্থা অক্ষুণ্ন রাখিয়া প্রয়োজনীয় কার্যকলাপ পরিচালনা করিতে পারিবেন।

ক্রমবর্ধমান উনুয়নের ধারায় নতুন নতুন শিল্প কারখানা, প্রতিষ্ঠান, জনবসতি ও সড়ক জনপথ বিস্তার লাভ করিতেছে। কোথাও কোন প্রকার খনন বা নির্মাণ কাজের পূর্বে সেখানে গ্যাস লাইন আছে কিনা উহা নিশ্চিত হইয়া এবং স্থাপিত গ্যাস লাইনের নিরাপত্তা বিধানের জন্য যথাসময়ে তিতাস কর্তৃপক্ষকে অবহিতকরণসহ প্রাকৃতিক গ্যাস নিরাপত্তা বিধিমালা অনুসরণ করিবার জন্য সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলকে অনুরোধ করা যাইতেছে।

গ্যাস একটি মূল্যবান প্রাকৃতিক সম্পদ। গ্যাস ব্যবহারের নিয়মকানুন মানিয়া চলুন এবং গ্যাস লাইন রক্ষণাবেক্ষণ ও নিরাপত্তা বিধানে সহায়তা করিয়া জানমালের ক্ষয়ক্ষতি রোধ করুন।

তিতাস/জনসংযোগ/১৪/১৭-১৮ किछ-२०७

কর্তৃপক্ষ

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Senior Assistant Secretary

feasibility study to construct Ganges barrage for maximum use of Ganges water available in the river Padma during dry seater treaty.

ducted earlier.

"A window of opportunity

(GDA) to take early advantage of the opportunities provided by the Ganges water sharing

ject by June this year to ensure dry season flow in the Gorai, official sources told BSS yes-They said donor agencies and countries including the

\$250m Gorai restoration

project by June this yr

Netherlands and Belgium were providing fund to implement the project. the suffering of the millions of The project has been undertaken on a priority basis following the three-point action plan adopted unanimously by the representatives of the donors at the three-day inter-

The government is expected

to launch a 250-million US dol-

lar Gorai river restoration pro-

sources management held in Dhaka last week. The action plan suggested a short-term programme of dredging of the Gorai river as soon as possible to provide some immediate alleviation of the environmental degradation of the Ganges dependent area

national seminar on water re-

has opened up with the signing of the 30-year Ganges water sharing treaty." Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak said adding. "We want to ensure optimum use of Ganges water by

taking up programmes like

barrage.

Gorai restoration and Ganges

He said work of the Gorai excavation with the financial assistance of the donors would begin in the current financial year (1997-98) to divert the flow of Ganges water in the river Gorai for ensuring dry season flow in it On completion of the project

people of the country's southwestern region caused by the shortage of water in the river Gorai will be mitigated, Razzak The minister said the multilateral and bilateral donors had also supported the government's initiative to conduct a

son after the signing of the wa-Razzak said the updating of the pre-feasibility studies for identifying the areas of feasibility study to construct Ganges barrage had already started to complete it within three

months, according to threepoint action plan. According to sources, the experts have also taken into consideration the three separate pre-feasibility studies con-

Dated: 10-03-98

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Ministry of Education

No. S 14/13U-3/93/60/Edn NOTICE

It is recently observed that, some individuals/ entrepreneurs' organisations, immediately after submitting application for establishing private university to the government have been operating fullfledged programme of university including appointment of teachers, admission of students (male/female).

It is notified for information of all in this regard that, after submitting application to the government, it is outright illegal to operate any programme of university prior to issuing permission/certificate on consideration of the submitted application under Rule 6 of Private University A ., 1992. The entrepreneurs concerned are requested to refrain from such operation of insti-

- Besides, advertisements are being published in the press to the effect that BBA/MBA including other degrees would be conferred under different foreign universities by some institutions. But conferment of any such degree, diploma or certificate also come under Private University Act, 1992. In such cases it is illegal to operate education programme without taking any permission from the government.
- All concerned are requested not to start any such programme without taking prior permission from the government including approval of education plan, syllabus & teachers' list by the University Grants Commission. Guardians are also requested to verify, prior to
- admitting students (male/female) to any institution, whether it is Govt approved or not. DFP-5736-15/3 Md. Mosharraf Hossain

G-539

By AS M Nurunnabi many experts, this line of argument is not acceptable in the present state of recycling technology available in our country for such wastes. It is pointed out when polythene bags are dissolved through chemical and other means, they produce an adverse impact on environment through exudation of carbon

into the air.

effect by way of saving our trees If such a shift takes place, it will also have appreciable impact in dealing with the problem of unemployment. In this context, jute-plastic industries hold great prospects for growth

the field of furniture-making. All this may have a beneficial

It may be recalled that government issued orders banning manufacture of polythene shopping bags from January 18. 1994. But these orders were not

From Staff Correspondent

power supply was only 5 mw

faults, the sources added

no right to torture a child in The women's forum alleged that the process of identification of the rapist and other related incidents were similar to the strategies which were followed by high police officials and the then government to

We are demanding punishrelease added.

50 injured From Page 1 and additional police forces

Natakhola and Aricha were disrupted for 12 hours and readmitted to Bera thana health complex and Sirajganj Hospi-

foreign investors."

Mismanagement, internal politics Mazed's order ineffective as Dr Mohammad Hossain Mondal was holding the office of the DG. Dr Mondal was also made OSD at that time. He was later appointed DG of Bangladesh Jute Research Institute.

> Dr Mazed was made BARI's Director General in 1995. Since then, he is 'all in all' to take decision in any matter. Most of his decisions are taken to protect the interests of his 'own people.' This has created frustration among the scientists, some officials alleged.

ing the congenial atmosphere, they said. Citing one of many instances, they said, a junior Chief Scientific Officer (CSO) has been given the charge of Plant Breeding Division although there were at least two senior scientists to head the

Dr Mazed's move in 1992 to

'capture' the post of the DG cre-

ated a division among the offi-

cials and employees, hamper-

wing. Similar placement has been made in the Plant Pathology Division. A renowned wheat researcher and plant breeder has been posted in the Tuber Crops Research Centre and a potato researcher in the coconut research wing, they A CSO who had been charged with at least 10 offences under

the BARI service rules is still

heading the Soil Science Divi-

The CSO had allegedly 'captured' the office of the Director of Support Services on February, 1995 and 'seized' some research papers, valuable slides and documents, according to a complaint made by the Director to the DG. Dr. Mazed admitted feud

among some senior officials

but said it was not so serious or

to hamper research activities. Asked about non-publication of annual reports, the DG said it was due to shortage of manpower.

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