

SYLHET: Khondaker Abdul Malik, MP, speaking at a seminar on 'Education for All, Drugs for None' organised by the Lions Club of Sylhet, Green in observance of the club's October service week recently. Professor Abul Fateh Fattah read out the key-note paper while it was also addressed by the Deputy Commissioner Abu Taher Khan, Dr Abul Hossain, president of the club. — Star photo

Misappropriation

58 cases filed against 118 people in Noakhali district

NOAKHALI, Oct 11: The District Anti-Corruption Bureau (DAB) filed 58 cases against 118 persons including government officials, public representatives, contractors on charge of misappropriating wheat, rice, CI sheets, government property and cash money. The total value of the embezzled cash and kind stands at Tk 1.66 crore.

The DAB also forwarded money files to concern higher authority for departmental actions against alleged officials.

According to the DAB sources, acting on secret information the District Anti-Corruption Officer (DACO) Nirayan Palit along with three other magistrates paid a sudden visit at the Local Supply Depot (LSD) of the food department at Chamuhani of Hatia thana and sealed the godowns. They investigated

charge of misappropriating of CI sheet and cash money allotted for rehabilitation programme.

In 1991 about 13 hundred bundles of CI sheets and cash Taka 8,50,000 were sanctioned for rehabilitation of cyclone effected poor people donated by Saudi Arabia. An ex-PIO Idris Mia of Companiganj allegedly lifted 1300 bundles CI sheets and cash Taka 8,50,000. He also allegedly misappropriated 172 bundles of CI sheets and cash Taka 1,53,500 in collaboration with Abu Sayed, UPC of Shirajpur, Nurul Amin, former union parishad chairman (UPC) of Char Parbati, Abu Sayed, UPC of Char Hazari, Nur Nabi, UPC of Char Kakua, Idris Mia, UPC of Char Fakira and Ali Ahmed, UPC of Rampur. The price of misappropriated CI sheets was Taka 5,34,000.

Mass hunger strike to press for Mymensingh division

MYMENSINGH, Oct 11: An eight-hour mass hunger strike and mass signature campaign were held at Shaheed Firoj square in the town Monday to press for a new administrative division in Mymensingh, reports UNB.

The programme organised by the Division Implementation Action Council, was inaugurated by Awami League leader Rafique Uddin Bhuiyan.

Council President, Saleh-uz-Zaman announced the future programme — sending letters and telegrams to Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina — from Tuesday till October 14, Friday.

Vice-Chancellor of Agricultural University Dr Mohammad Faruk, BNP leaders A D M Fazul Haque MP and Abul Kasem, Awami Leaders Shamsul Haque MP and Prof Matur Rahman, President of Mymensingh Press Club A H M Mottaleb, President of District Lawyers Association Advocate Al-Nur Tareque and Mymensingh Union of Journalists President Ataul Karim spoke on the occasion.

Poor condition of bridges on Dhaka-Aricha highway

SAVAR, Oct 11: Movement of heavy-traffic on the Dhaka-Aricha Highway has become risky as 12 out of 48 bridges along the highway have been seriously damaged, reports UNB.

It may be mentioned here that everyday several hundred vehicles ply on this highway, the only road-link between northern and southern parts of the country.

Seriously damaged bridges are Dhulivita, Jubijangal, Bathulia, Bhautia, Sutipara, Barabaria 1, Barabaria 2, Golra, Mahadevpur, Uthali, Boali and Jorpool.

These bridges were badly damaged by the flood of 1988. However, concerned authorities did not take any step to repair the bridges.

Meanwhile, a survey conducted by some students of the Dhaka University, identified the damaged bridges as one of the major causes of accidents on the Dhaka-Aricha Highway. At least 28 per cent road accidents on the route, occur due to damaged bridges, it added.

Police raid

Pipe guns, ammunition recovered

From Our Correspondent KUSHTIA, Oct 11: Kushtia police in a raid conducted Tuesday recovered five country made pipe guns, one Indian shutter, three rounds of 303 rifle ammunition, two rounds of bullets and two swords from a place near the poura grave yard. No one has yet been arrested.

Daulatpur thana police in a special raid on Monday arrested one notorious dacoit, Belayet Hossain, 40. According to his confessional statements police recovered two more shot guns and 11 rounds of bullets from a house in village Jamalpur. Arms remained hidden in a ditch inside the house.

BFRI symposium on moral development approach held

The Bangladesh Forest Research Institute (BFRI), organised a symposium on "A Proposal to the United Nations on Moral Development Approach: A World Order for Peace" at the BFRI auditorium on Monday, says a press release.

The key-note paper "was presented by Dr. Abu Obaidul Husein, Professor and Director of Bangladesh Institute for Advancement of Science and Technology Teaching (IASTT) Dr. Haque in his paper said that the upholding of moral values to curb today's widely talked about problems of AIDS, violation of human rights, environment pollution, oppressive on women, terrorism, drug abuses, smoking etc.

Afzalur Rahman, Senior Research Officer of BFRI and Junaid Kabir Chowdhury, Divisional Forest Officer of Chittagong, among others, present participated in the Discussion.

Speakers in the symposium unanimously expressed that this proposal to UN on moral development is unique and timely; and they appealed to the UN and its member states to come forward to consider and implement it in the greater interest and welfare of mankind to ensure durable peace and justice.

Dr. M A Sattar, Chief Research Officer, BFRI presided over the symposium.

Timber worth Tk 18,000 seized in M'bazar

From Our Correspondent MOULVI BAZAR, Oct 11: Customs and forest officials seized about 21 fibres of Teak wood (Segun Timber) worth about Taka 18 thousand from Monu railway station under Kulara thana recently.

It is learnt, acting on a tip, customs and forest officials at Kulara raided the platform of Monu railway station and sized the said timber. The source of the concerned officials said, the timber was brought at the station by smugglers who tried to load the lot on rail wagons.

One killed in Sirajganj

SIRAJGANJ, Oct 11: A man was allegedly killed at his in-law's residence at Rangaligat village in sadar thana on Friday night, reports UNB.

The dead was identified as Sihabuddin son of Ajgar Ali of Fongacha in sadar thana.

Sihabuddin who married one year ago, went to his father-in-law's house on Friday evening.

His in-law's house sources said Sihabuddin committed suicide by taking poison.

But police said they found marks of wounds on the body. Ajgar Ali admitted his son Sihab to Sirajganj General Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries after two hours.

A case was filed with the police.

How Devi Durga's colour changed to red at Panchgaon

From R K Goswami

MOULVI BAZAR, Oct 11: "Durgapuja" is one of the greatest religious festivals of the Bangladeshi Hindu community. The Hindus have been observing the festival since time immemorial. The festival starts in the Bengali season of 'Sargat' (Autumn). So it is popularly known as 'Sharadiya Utsav' (autumn festival).

According to the Hindu mythology, Devi Mahamaya (Durga) is worshipped by her devotees twice in a year. First in the 'autumn' and again in the spring. In the autumn She is 'Durga' by name and She is 'Basanti' in the 'spring'. History tells us, King Rama Chandra worshipped Durga on a specific occasion. In that period, he wanted to win Lanka of Raban' to rescue his wife Sita, who was kidnapped by Raban. But the Hindus had been following King Surath to worship Basanti and not Durga.

It was Kangsanaryan, the King of Tahirpur State (now in Rajshahi region of Bangladesh), who, for the first time, observed 'Durgapuja' in this region in 1580. After that, Durgapuja, the 'Sharadiya Utsav' became popular among the Bengalee Hindus and it is being observed with great enthusiasm, generation after generation.

A Durgapuja Pandal, situated at a remote village under Rajnagar thana of Mulvibazar district, is famous for its history and tradition of about 300 years.

Panchgaon Durgapuja Pandal and its red colour image of Durga is popular in the greater Sylhet region. Every year, devotees from far flung areas of the region even from other parts of the country come to 'Panchgaon village' to attend the festival.

Devi Durga at Panchgaon Pandal has a glorious history and tradition. Devotees in this modern age have a belief that Devi Durga at this Pandal is always embodied. Devi always listens to her devotees' prayer and bless them. Devotees come to Panchgaon village to pray. It is believed by the devotees that the honest prayer is always approved by Devi.

In every festival, costly or-

naments made of gold and silver, sarees, pure ghees (butter) etc. are brought by the devotees for the Durga and hundreds of goat and buffaloes are sacrificed before Devi Durga. Thousands of devotees participate in the 5-day long Puja-festival in Panchgaon village.

Durga at Panchgaon Pandal has a long history of about 300 years. It is gathered that, one Sarbananda Das, of the village, a 'munshi' by profession under the then Badshahi government, had ar-

to fulfil his desire accordingly. Sarbananda selected a 'Kumari' (girl) for the purpose. After being worshipped by 'munshi', Sarbananda, the colour of the human image of Durga (Kumari) had changed and turned red. The Kumari then asked munshi what he desired. Sarbananda said in reply that he wanted nothing but blessings of the Devi and added that he wished to worship the Devi at Panchgaon village with same colour from next year. Devi (Kumari), fulfilled his desire.

Since then 'Devi Durga' has been worshipped with red colour at Panchgaon every year. The colour of the image of Durga, according to 'Shashtra' is yellow but, in Panchgaon, Devi is red in colour.

There was no pucca temple for 'Durga' at Panchgaon. Since starting of this pandal, Puja had been observed in a Kachcha and temporary temple. Two years ago, people of

the Hindu community built a pucca temple at Panchgaon for the 'Durga'.

At present, Sanjoy Kumar Das is the 'Sebayet' (manager) of the Pandal. He is the sixth generation of Sarbananda, the founder organiser of the pandal.

Sanjoy says, proofs of her (Durga) greatness are left by the Devi every year at this temple. She has unbounded blessings for her devotees. Sanjoy mentioned that, during the Liberation War, the entire Panchgaon village was ruined by mass killings by Pakistani occupation army. Number of the 'shahed' families in this village is the highest in the Sylhet region. During the war the 'Durga-mandap' of Panchgaon village remained intact as the Pakistani army tried to destroy it.

This year, all preparations, have already been taken up to observe the Puja festival with great enthusiasm.



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Ustad Suren Roy's contributions will be recalled for years

From Aroop Talukdar

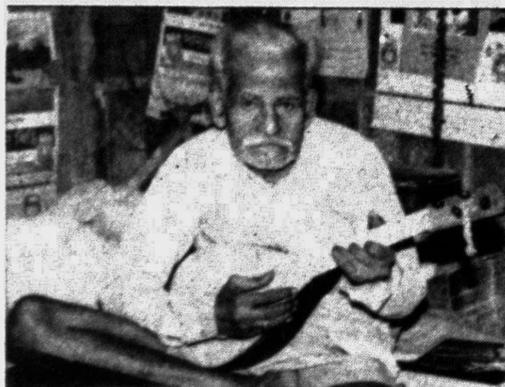
BARISAL, Oct 11: Ustad Suren Roy a legendary name in the music world of Barisal glittered for about last fifty years and perhaps will glitter for another century.

Suren Roy has passed away recently at the age of 86 leaving many music lovers of a wide circle to mourn his death. He was born on 1st November, 1908 in a family having musical environment. His father, Haranath Roy used to play musical instruments which inspired young Suren to be a musician from his boyhood. He took lessons in playing piano from his father. He only inspired many people playing piano at a function in Barisal Oxford Mission at the age of only 11. After that young Suren came in touch with Father Sores and Sister Rose from whom he took lessons in playing violin and piano.

Suren Roy went to Bangalore (India) where he came in touch with well known ustad's. But Suren a homesick came back to Barisal after some years. On return to Barisal he took a government service as PA to the then DM of Barisal, side by

side he continued his practice on music. Suren Roy, normally played instruments like violin, piano and guitar. He developed many melodies. He believed, to enrich and appreciate music, one should listen to western music but not ignoring our own traditional music.

He retired in 1968 after



Ustad Suren Roy

long 33 years of government job. After retirement he stayed in Barisal town for some time. He then left for 'Tapash Villa' in Agailjhara Bazar, a remote thana area of Barisal.

Ustad Suren Roy lived in at his own dilapidated cottage for about 22 years, almost uncared. But still some of his fol-

lowers remembered him for his unparalleled and outstanding contributions.

Among his followers Arniya Sarkar, a well-known violinist, died few years ago. Another renowned follower Altaf Mahmud who composed the music 'Amar Bahier Rakte Rangano Ekushe February' written by eminent journalist, Abdul Gaffar Chowdhury, Altaf Mahmud was killed by the occupation Pak Army during the Liberation War of 1971. Lalit Das, Asbke Das, Arshad Talukder, Tapan Naha, Abdul Matin and Ruben Biswas often used to learn art of music from Suren Roy, at his home at Agailjhara.

In his long lifetime, Suren Roy, did not wish to become popular musician like others. Udichi, Barisal unit, offered him 'Gunjan Sambardhana' in 1992. He lived in peace alone leaving all sorts of chaos and confusions of urban life style. He once said, "I didn't want any more in life-as I didn't need it."

Ustad Suren Roy, a dedicated musician left us, but his contributions will be recalled for years.

Arms recovered in Brahmanbaria

From Our Correspondent BRAHMANBARIA, Oct 11: Police recovered a pipegun and ammunition from Aliabad market in Nabinagar thana headquarters on Tuesday, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip, police raided the area and recovered the arms and ammunition from the north side of the market.

A case was filed with Nabinagar thana.

Another report says: Ten out-going channels of 20 under nationwide direct dialling system in the district headquarters have gone out of order for the last two weeks causing immense sufferings to the town-dwellers.

The worst sufferers are local journalists, businessmen, and government officials.

Meanwhile, T&T Board authorities told UNB that they are trying to resume the lines within a week.

Train services in Chandpur Poor condition of coaches, engines, travellers suffer

From Our Correspondent CHANDPUR, Oct 11: Train services to and from the district has long been a hazardous one.

Frequent engine disorders, absence of light, water, waiting sheds and carrying of smuggled goods are the main features of the service in different routes to and from the district. Moreover, disturbance of hawkers, and beggars adds more miseries to travellers.

The engines and coaches purchased during British and Pakistan period have worn out and unfit for services. These are used in different routes which are causing frequent accidents. Many repair works on these coaches at a cost of huge sum of money produced no good result. The deplorable condition of coaches and engines cause much sufferings to the passengers. The engines go out of order frequently and cause delay in travelling. Smugglers and dishonest traders are regularly carrying contraband goods including fish in the passenger trains in collaboration with dishonest railway employees, it is alleged. The hawkers, beggars and passengers without tickets have made the train journey troublesome in all the different

Beggars on rise in Brahmanbaria

From Our Correspondent BRAHMANBARIA, Oct 11: Influx of beggars in the district headquarters has increased abnormally in last two months, causing inconveniences to the town dwellers, reports UNB.

Most of these beggars are women and children. The beggars, mostly floating people affected by natural calamities, are pouring into the town in large numbers from the rural areas of the district in search of food and work.

The destitute finding no alternative to earn their livelihood, have taken up begging as a profession.

Many of these people are also resorting to anti-social activities, the townspeople alleged.

They also complained that with the onrush of beggars different types of infectious diseases have broken out in the town, particularly in slums and areas frequented by these rootless people.

These floating people respond to call of nature in open fields and on roadsides polluting the environment of the town.

The townspeople felt that the authorities would have to take immediate steps to rehabilitate these distressed people so that they could engage themselves in income generating occupations.



BARISAL: The Bangladesh Shishu Academy, Barisal chapter brought out a colourful procession recently to mark the World Childrens Day — '94. — Star photo