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## A devoted teacher

From Our Correspondent

PANCHAGARH, Nov. 10:—That "Education is the backbone of a nation" is an admitted fact. Teachers, who devote themselves to educate the people are the makers of social workers. About 15 years back, teachers of non-government secondary schools, had neither social status nor any recognition by Government. They had to live from hand to mouth with the scanty salary, payment of which, was not always regular.

Mr. Nurul Hussain, former Assistant-Headmaster of Boda Pilot High School, who retired at the age of 65, on September 18, 1981 recalled his experiences in an informal talk with me recently. He served the Boda High School for 40 years, 2 months and 20 days.

He passed BA examinations held under the University of Calcutta in 1938. He completed BCS Examinations held in February, 1939. He was posted at Darjeeling in the Forest Department.

He also completed the Secretariat Clerkship Examinations in 1939 and was offered an appointment in the Secretariat, Calcutta, but he declined it as he had already been in service at Darjeeling. He acted as Assistant Manager, Rajimabad Tea Estate, Duars, Jalpaiguri for some time.

In recognition of his service, he was awarded a medal on November 18, 1979 by the Sub-Divisional Officer, Thakurgon.

He secured the highest marks in Arithmetic in all examination. He was a brilliant student and always held the top most position in all examinations.

He comes of a respectable and educated Muslim family of village Majhgram, Boda, in the district of Panchagarh (Jalpaiguri prior to 15th August, 1947).

His eldest son AIMM Reza Noor, Dulal, a Colonel in the Bangladesh Army and second son Abu Md. Noor Alam Belal, is Deputy Director, Bangladesh Geological Survey.

Mr. Husain is now 80. He is quite active and pupils from neighbouring high schools come to him for coaching.

When asked why he had given up Government service, he replied "Teaching is a social service. I prefer social service to earning money. Teachers are the nation-builders. I like to throw light of education to the young men of our village and make them good citizens".

He held a unique position in the society. Teachers well experienced like Mr. Hussain, are very few. Every body calls him "Sir".