hat's on today

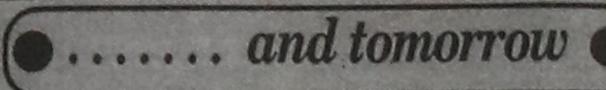
Cultural programme: Bangladesh Rabindra Sangeet Shilpi Sangstha will present two cultural programmes to mark the 59 death anniversary of Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore. Venue: Shishu Academy auditorium. Time: 9.30 am and 6.00 pm respectively

ITEXPO 2000: The two-day long ITEXPO 2000, Indian Textile Exhibition will be inaugurated. Organisers: High Commission of India and the Synthetic and Rayon Textiles Export Promotion Council of India. Chief guest: Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad. Venue: Poolside, Hotel Sheraton. Time: 10.30 am.

Discussion meeting: Prottrodh Joddha Parishad will hold a discussion meeting on "the fight of the Mujib soldiers in the period after Bangabandhu's assassination and today's Bangladesh." Venue: Jatiya Press Club auditorium. Time: 4.00

Uttam Kumar Retrospective: Zahir Raihan Film Society will screen Sagarika starring Uttam Kumar and Suchitra Sen. Venue: Auditorium of High Commission of India, Rd No 2. Dhanmondi, R/A. Time: 6.15 pm.

ABC meeting: Assistance for Blind Children (ABC) will hold a review meeting of its activities. Venue: ABC head office, 2/11 Tajmahal Road, Block C, Mohammadpur, Time: 4.00 pm.



BSAF Seminar: Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum (BSAF) will organise a seminar on "child labour in Bangladesh: NGO Interventions and Future Directions," Venue: Women's Voluntary Association (WVA), House No 20, Rd No 27, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 9.00 am.

Discussion meeting: Barrister Abdus Salam Talukdar Smriti Sangsad will hold a discussion meeting on the BNP eader in observance of his first death anniversary. Venue: Jatiya Press Club auditorium. Time: 4.00 pm.

Uttam Kumar Retrospective: Zahir Raihan Film Society will screen Harano Shoor starring Uttam Kumar and Suchitra Sen. Venue: Auditorium of Indian High Commission. Rd No 2, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 6.15 pm.

Weather

Rain likely

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind may occur at many places over Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Dhaka, Khulna and Rajshahi divisions during the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Slight rise in day temperature is expected over the country. Met office said.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 34.8 degree Celsius was recorded at Chuadanga and the lowest of 24.2 degree at

The sun sets in the capital today at 6.26 pm and rises tomorrow at 5.37 am. Maximum and minimum temperature and humidity

recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	32.1	26.0	82	61
Chittagong	33.0	25.0	73	78
Rajshahi	33.4	26.5	79	77
Khulna	33.8	26.0	76	78
Barisal	31.8	26.6	92	76
Sylhet JUS	1) (83:0) 1)	BC24.871	11983171	1 44 4 83
Cox's Bazar	32.8	25.4	72	82
Cox s Bazar	32.8	20.4	72	8

Three arrested for following Shamim Osman's car

From Our Correspondent NARAYANGANJ, Aug 21: Three people were arrested to day for suspiciously following the car of local MP Shamim

The arrested were identified as Gouranga Modak, 20, Mizanur Rahman, 25, and Sajjad Hossain, 22. Later, they

were sent to jail. The three youths were alon Dhaka-Narayanganj link others on May 10. road, police said.

New chief engineer of LGED

Md Ataullah Bhuiya, senior

most Additional Chief Engineer, has been appointed as The new Chief Engineer of LGED with effect from August 17, says a press release.

He replaces Md Monowar Hossain Chowdhury who has been transferred as Chief Engineer to Facilities Department, Ministry of Education.

Oppositon

From page 12 sion from Mohakhali. Mirpur. Kafrul and Pallabi units from Mirpur no 10 round square, Mohammadpur and Dhanmondi thanas from said. Newmarket, Hazaribagh thana from Gajmahal Shishu Park and Shayampur thana from Alam super market premises.

City BNP President sadek Hossain Khoka MP has urged party leaders and activists to attend the torch processions and make tomorrow's half-day hartal a success.

Death anniversary



The 12th anniversary of death of Begum Khwaja Selima Khatun, a journalist, educationist, polilician and women

leader will be observed today. says a press release.

Beguni Selima was a commissioner of Jessore municipality. She was the editor of the weekly Banhi and also the publisher of weekly 'Matribhumi' which came out in 1969. She was the vice-president of Jessore Press Club.

Selima Khatun was the member of National Social Welfare Council, one of the founder directors of national women cooperatives and the chairman of the Jessore branch of relatives. of Jatiya Mohila Sangstha. after Asr prayers today.

Mondal's house

he could recognise the assailants but did not disclose their names, some sources said. Mondal was an aspiring

candidate in the next elections in Ward No 83. Besides, Mondal was the de fence counsel in some cases in which rivals of ward commis-

sioner Shahid were accused. Some people had warned Mandol not to defend Shahid's rivals, the sources said.

Shahid's former bodyguard Quader had filed a case against legedly following the car of Pintu in connection with the Shamim Osman by a motorbike killing of his brother and two

Mandol was defending Pintu, the principal accused in the triple murder case.

Shahid was a member of Jatiya Party and became a ward commissioner during Ershad's rule. He later joined Awami

Shahid, who started life as a vegetable vendor made fortune by grabbing land. He is also accused in several murder cases. they alleged. Local people also alleged

that Shahid influenced some DB personnel in the incident in which 23 year old Sumon was killed in the city on February 9. His brother was involved in the killing of a rickshawpuller. Afik alias Oli, on July 30. they claimed.

Meanwhile, in an unprecedented move, the chief of DB Police on Sunday expressed his Tejgaon thana from Farmgate, intention to investigate the Mandol murder case, sources

5 PBCP members on 6-day remand for interrogation

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Aug 21: Five members of the out-lawed PBCP, ar rested on Saturday in the city have been taken on police remand for six days each today for interrogation under Arms

Four firearms and huge ammunition were recovered

from their possession. A case was lodged against them with Sonadanga thana in this connection.

The outlaws taken on remand are Bitu, Imon, Khur Saeed, Sadia Islam, Chandana and Dolly

They were lodged in the custody of Sonadanga thana for interrogation, KMP official said.

Obituary

AM Fakhruddin, a retired chief engineer. Housing Settlement, PWD, died at Sohrawardi hospital on August 19. He was 60, says a press re -

He left behind his wife, two sons, two daughters and a host

His quikhwani will be held A milad mahfil will be held at his Dhanmondi residence after Asr prayers today. leader," he added.



Shikkhak Karmachari Oikya Parishad staged a token hunger strike in front of the National Press Club yesterday to press for its 6-point demand. - Star photo

REB warns govt organisations against non-payment of bills

By Staff Correspondent

contributed to the suffering of Failure of different govern ment and non-government or "Equipment worth several ganisations to pay bills is one crores have so far been stolen of the key factors hampering from the samities," he inrural electrification process.

It will be quite impossible

for the authorities to continue

with customer services unless

the government takes up more

effective measures to realise

these accumulating arrears and

put forward at the Annual

Performance Target Agreement

(PTA) of Palli Bidyut Samity

(PBS, rural electrification as-

sociation) at the Rural

Electrification Board (REB) au-

ditorium in the city yesterday.

REB organises the programme

every year to evaluate and en -

sure quality performance and

ferent parts of the country are

unable to continue their ser-

vices because of the outstanding

dues of different institutions,

Anwar Hossain, chairman of

Mymensing-2 PBS said while

nections and use of transform-

Besides, he said, illegal con-

"Many associations in dif-

accountability of PBS.

addressing the meeting.

These were the main points

ensure timely payment of bills.

formed the meet. Chairman of REB Mesbah Uddin Ahmed while giving details of the ongoing activities of PBS said that number of electrification Samities (associations) now stood at 67 till June 2000. up from 54 at the end of June

"During this period; the number of villages brought un der the electrification programme has been increased by 3,463. Of the 68,000 villages in the country, so far we have been able to cover 29.684 villages which is roughly 43 per cent in terms of village area.

Mesbah Uddin said that the total system loss fell to declined at 16.24 percent in June 2000 from 18.81 per cent in June 1999 while bills realisation stood at 96.93 per cent in June 2000 up from 93.87 per cent in June 1999. "The number of subscribers have gone up by 4,96,403 in the period.

PBS has saved Tk 11.31 crore through reduction of sys-

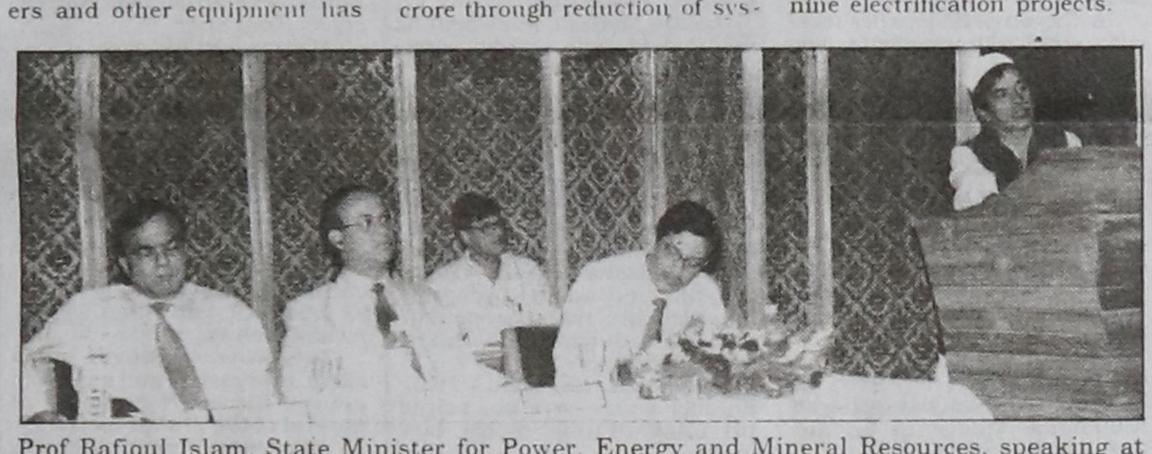
tem loss in the last fiscal. State Minister for Power, Euergy and Mineral Resources Prof. Rafiqul Islam was the chief guest at the programme. It was addressed, among others, by members of the parliamen tary standing committee on the ministry of power, energy and mineral resources AB Tajul Islam MP and Imran Ahmed. MP, Energy Division secretary of the ministry Arbinda Kar and PBS member M Touhidul

Arbinda Kar said REB supply electricity to three crore people while PDB and DESA supplies to one and 4.5 crore people re spectively.

Referring to a government decision to provide power supply to each house in the country by the year 2020, he said this will only be possible if system loss can be reduced and bills are realised on time from the subscribers.

Prof. Rafigul Islam said that the above can only be attained if PBS, PDB and DESA launch a concerted effort to do so.

He also informed that the government has so far approved nine electrification projects.



Prof Rafiqul Islam, State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources, speaking at the Annual Performance Target Agreement of Palli Bidyut Samities at Rural Electrification Board auditorium in the city yesterday.



The shareholders of BAPEX approved the new name of the company at a meeting yester day. The company has been renamed Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration and Production Company Ltd. Chairman of the Board of Directors of the company Md Mosharaf Hossain is



Islami Bank Bangladesh Ltd opens its Head Office Complex branch in the city yesterday. Md Ataur Rahman, Chairman of Board of Directors of the bank, speaking at the opening - Star photo ceremony.

BNP protests statement of DB chief

By Staff Correspondent BNP joint secretary general Ashraf Hossain yesterday protested the statement of Deputy Commissioner (DC) of the Detective Branch (DB) Abdul Hannan regarding the killing of BNP leader Habibur Rahman

Mondal. In a statement, Ashraf said such comment made by a DC of DB before the investigation into the killing is "unprecedented." "The DC has no right to make

such comment. "It is a political killing and to compare Mondal with a top mous. Bangladesh has invested terrorist is nothing but an evil design to malign the BNP SAARC and it is our interest to

Shafi Sami to carry letter

From page 12 the Pakistani ruler had made a

request for a meeting with the Bangladesh Prime Minister. Shafi Sami said that the contents of the letter to the Pakistan ruler would be to share her (Hasina's) perceptions and concerns regarding regional peace and stability

cooperation lar would be discussed, Sami replied "Of course, SAARC would figure in the discussions. Regional cooperation and SAARC are almost synonyheavily in time and energy in see SAARC revitalised."

The Foreign Secretary, responding to questions, said that he would take the opportunity to meet other high officials in Pakistan including his counterpart Enamul Huq Sami said that he was not

the first government represen tative to travel to Pakistan. State Minister for Sports and need for enhancing Obaidul Kader and State Minister for Jute Faezul Huq Asked if SAARC in particu - visited Pakistan. However, their trips were unrelated to any contacts with the Islamabad government and were for participation in con-Abdus Samad Azad had also met his Pakistan counterpart on the sidelines of the Cartenga Summit

DU Senate polls now on Sept 3

Dhaka University authorities have advanced the date of election to the posts of 35 teachers' representatives in the Senate to September 3, reports

The election was scheduled for August 30, but was shifted due to countrywide dawn-todusk hartal sponsored by BNPled opposition alliance.

The other schedule of the election will remain unchanged, official sources said.

The decision was taken at a meeting of DU teachers with DU Vice Chancellor Prof AK Azad Chowdhury in the chair.

According to the schedule announced by the DU authorities on August 14, the polling will be held at the Teachers-Students Centre (TSC) from 9 am to I pm without any break.

City BNP meeting today

By Staff Correspondent An emergency meeting of the city BNP will be held at 11.30 am today at party's central of-

fice at Nava Paltan. The meeting has been called following the killing of city unit joint secretary Advocate Habibur Rahman Mondal.

Vice presidents, secretarial body, all thana unit presidents, general secretaries and organising secretaries. BNP-backed DCC Ward Commissioners will attend the meeting.

City BNP president Sadek Hossain Khoka MP and general secretary Abdus Salam in a statement requested all con-

Action Council (APAC) meanwhile will hold a milad mahfil at BNP central office after the Asr prayers tomorrow to pray for Habibur Rahman Mondal.

From page 12

Jubo League Chairman Fazlul Karim Selim in a doublepronged attack on Barrister Mainul Hosein said people know the role of that Barrister during the War of Liberation. and after Bangabandhu killing. "We know you very well, and

we know what you have done during the War of Liberation, what you have told Niazi and Farman Ali, how Sirajuddin was killed," Selim said. He said after the killing of

Bangabandhu, the newspaper of Barrister Mainul identified the killers as "heroic sons." "Now Mainul is speaking about contempt of court, about human rights, but when

killed, he said nothing." Janmastami

Bangabandhu was killed

women and children were

From page 1 gregation of Hindu religious leaders, worship in temples and discussion on the life and deeds of Lord Krishna.

day will be recitation from the Sreematbhagawat Geeta, recitation of Padabali, rendering of Kirtan, Bhajan Baidik dance, Nandoutsava and distribution of prosad among the devotees

President Shahabuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina issued separate messages on the day wishing overall well-being and prosperity of the Hindu community in Bangladesh where complete religious harmony and amity among all communities have been established.

Shahabuddin described the day as a unique event for the Hindu community and wished that they would contribute towards further strengthening the existing bonds of brotherhood among all religious communities in Bangladesh.

Hasina in her message said Lord Krishna carried the message of eternal love for mankind on this earth where he fought against all evils and established the rights of the "The people in Bangladesh

are religious but not communal They, irrespective of caste, creed and religion, have been living in this part of the world for hundreds of years in utmost amity, brotherhood and har mony," she said. The day will be a public holiday. Bangladesh Betar and

Bangladesh Television will put up special programmes while newspapers will publish special articles on the significance of the day. Mayor of Dhaka Mohammad Hanif will lead a Janmastami procession to be brought out from the Dhakeswari Mandir here. The International Society for Krishna Consciousness has chalked out a 10-day pro-

gramme beginning today with a discussion on the life and deeds of Lord Krishna. Other events include recitation from the Sreematbhagawat Geeta, Padabali, rendering of Kirtan. Bhajan, Baidik dance, Monipuri dance, Nandoutsava, discussion and distribution of prosad. Sree Krishna Seba Sangha also announced a five-day programme beginning today

In Chittagong and other parts of the country, the Hindu community will also celebrate the day.

Chehlum

Chehlum of Col (retd) A Maleque, Awami League Advisory Council member, former Dhaka city mayor and minister, and Chairman of today in the Russian media and Sunlife Insurance Co and among many ordinary people of Bangladesh Thai Aluminium | the way the government han-Group of Companies, will be | dled the rescue operation. held at his village home in ferences. Foreign Minister | Manikganj today, says a press | cept Western aid and gave con-

associates and admirers re- the crew only to later back quested to attend the chehlum.

Mondal's murder

From page 1

protest and mourning programme, BNP, Jatiya Party, Jamaat-e-Islami, Islami Oikya Jote and some other parties held a joint rally at Muktangan under the banner of All Party Action Council (APAC) and brought out a huge mourning

procession. The rally was presided over by APAC Convenor and city BNP President Sadek Hossain Khoka MP.

Speaking at the rally, oppo sition leaders blamed the government for the killing Mondal was killed on the day the lawyers filed a contempt petition against the Prime Minister. It was pre-planned to foil the opposition movement, they alleged.

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan said the ruling party resorted to killing and repression to cling to power. Killing of Mondal will only hasten the fall of Awami League government, he said.

He said murder has now become an everyday affair as the ruling Awami League is patron ising its armed cadres, instead of taking action for such incidents.

The AL government has no moral right to stay in power as it has completely failed to ensure security of life and property to people and even to us party men, Bhuiyan said.

He urged the AL government to step down immediately. "If you hand over power to us, we will ensure security to people and your party men," he added.

Bhuiyan strongly protested cerned to attend the meeting in | the remarks of DB police chief. who told some newsmen on The city unit of All Party | Sunday that Mondal was a ter-

A police official who is not in charge of investigating the murder can not make such comments before trial. This is a stances, reports UNB. conspiracy, he added. He claimed that some gov-

ernment officials including the

DB chief were "nakedly support-

ing" the AL government and

asked them not to do "excess" or be involved politics while in "If you want to do politics. you resign. We will not object if

you join Awami League." He called upon the people to intensify the current oust-government movement and observe countrywide half-day

Contempt case

From page 1 President Barrister Mainul Hosein and a group of pro-opposition lawyers filed two separate petitions with the High

Deputy Leader of the April. Opposition in Parliament and BNP Standing Committee member Prof AQM Badrudozza Chowdhury is the plaintiff of the case and filed the petition on behalf of 110 MPs belonging to BNP, Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami.

Although Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and The main attraction of the BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and Jatiya Party Chairman H M Ershad signed on the vokalatnamas, but finally they were dropped from the petition list as the lawyers apprehended that court might feel 'embarrassed' if they became

> Moudud Ahmed told news men that the MPs who signed vokalatnamas are 95 from BNP, 12 from JP and three from Jamaat.

plaintiff of it.

Earlier, more than 50 opposition MPs assembled at 29 Minto Road, the official residence of the Leader of the Opposition in the morning before filing of the petition. Despite instruction, no JP

MP was seen at Minto Road.

From Jamaat, only MP Delwar

Hossain Saidee went there. Besides Badrudozza Chowdhury, prominent MPs including M Saifur Rahman. Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Oli Ahmed, Khandaker Delwar Hossain. Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, Col (Retd) Akbar Hossain, Nazmul Huda, M Shamsul Islam, MK Anwar, Kurshid Jahan Haq. Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf. Ziaur Rahman Khan, Amir Kashru Mahmud Chowdhury. Major (Retd) Hafizuddin Ahmed, Shamsuzzaman Dudu. Ziaul Haq Zia, Mohammad Shahjahan, Barkatullah Bhulu, Amanullah Aman. Prof Shahidul Islam, Salahuddin Ahmed, Nazimuddin Alam. Ruhul Quddus Talukder Dulu. Nadim Mostafa, Goutam Chakrabarti and others were present at the court.

Russian sub

From page 1 came clear that the submarine

was flooded, they said. A British rescue mini-submarine was not used because the divers determined there was no point, officials said

Russian officials said they were concentrating on raising the Kursk and recovering its two nuclear reactors. The Norwegian divers found no sign of radiation leaks on Monday

Deputy Prime Minister Ilya Klebanov said Moscow would make an international appeal for funds to raise the Kursk because of the enormous expense He indicated it would take weeks just to draw up plans for

the salvage operation. "Not a single country on its own can handle such an operation," he was quoted as saying by the ITAR-Tass news agency.

Moscow initially refused to actradictory reports, claiming for Relatives, friends, political days that it was in touch with

Strong criticism continued

hartal on Wednesday and dawnto-dusk hartal on August 30 to

hasten its fall. JP Secretary General Naziur Rahman Manjur warned of tough programmes to paralyse the AL government if it does not

step down immediately. 10J Secretary General Fazlul Haq Amini urged the government to resign "before the situ-

ation turns too bad for you". Sadek Hossain Khoka said Deputy Commissioner of DB Abdul Hannan made a "false" statement to influence the Mondal killing case and protect the "Awami terrorists". He demanded immediate removal of the DB chief for his "unlawful

interference" "People like Abdul Hannan will be given a befitting reply on the streets of Dhaka after fall of

the AL government," he warned. The rally was addressed by, among others. Jamaat-e-Islami leaders Abul Ahsan Mujahid and ATM Azharul Islam, JP leader Saifur Rahman and IOJ

leader Abdur Rab Yusufi. The procession terminated in front of BNP central office at Nava Paltan.

Senior BNP leaders Abdul Matin Chowdhury, Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, Anwar Zahid, ZA Khan, Mirza Abbas, Amanullah Aman and JP leader Kazi Firoz Rashid were among others who led the procession.

NU exam dates changed

GAZIPUR, Aug 21: The examinations of BA, BSc, BCom and BSc subsidiary part-2 of 1999, scheduled for August 23 and 30 under National University, will now be held on September 3 and 4 due to unavoidable circum-

According to changed schedule, examination of third papers of History, Islamic History and Culture and Physics will be held on September 3 while those of Social Welfare, Social Science, Accounting and Zoology on September 4, said a NU press re-

Cabinet From page 12

located for innovative activities on environment and rehabitation' in municipal areas during the current fiscal in the

Trustee Board of Housing Fund. It was also apprised of the report of Bangladesh delegation that attended the World Education Conference held in the Senegalese capital Dakar in

Arsenic

From page Asked what he meant by deeper aquifer, he explained "It does not necessarily mean that the tubewell pipe has to go deep into the soil. For instance, in North Bengal (in West Bengal), deep means at what depth the

impervious layer is. "If the water is drawn from a layer after crossing two impervious layers, you can be absolutely sure that the water is

Asked about ecological effects in the command area in West Bengal, Ray said, "It is too early to comment because we started applying the new method in 1994".

mentalists do not apprehend any ecological imbalance due to "We are ready to provide Bangladesh with technical support in this regard. In fact, our Minister for Housing and Pubic

He however said environ-

Health Goutam Dev offered such help earlier". About 53 lakh people are at risk of drinking arsenic contaminated groundwater in 67 blocks in eight districts, nine municipalities and 15 town-

Petition

ships in West Bengal.

From page I

in Kotalipara weighing 76 kg and the recent killings in Chittagong, Khulna, Jessore and the killings of cultural workers of Udichi and recent killings of political leaders in various districts indicate a frightful design to destabilise the country and destroy the nascent democracy following autocratic rule.

Ctg port

From page 1 forced the officials concerned to suspend ship movement at the port channel today, sources

Port sources said if the work abstention continued, it could lead to severe congestion at Chittagong Port. Port users said they would have to pay demurrage of \$6000 per day to each of

the waiting ships. Meanwhile, security has been beefed up in and around the Port. A large number of police force has been deployed to face 'any possible untoward in-

Boral murder From page 1

police said. The SP of Bagerhat, quoting Saeed's confession. said there were five armed men in the killing squad.

Barhobaria village under

Son of Atiar Rahman of

Chitalmari thana. Saced is an armed cadre of outlawed PBCP. police said. Another person Mantu Rishi, 40, arrested after the murder, is also being questioned as he is one of the eye

witnesses. Police recovered two used cartridges from the place of oc-

currence on Sunday.