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VOL. VI NO. 300 REGD. NO. DA 781

AGRAHAYAN 8 1403 BS.

DHAKA THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21 1996

RAJAB 9 1417 HIJRI

16 PAGES : PRICE TAKA 6.00

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### DSE MARKET

DSE price index	3298.04
Market capital Tk	23498.06 cr
Transactions in volume	270419
Transactions in value Tk	16.64 cr

### CSE MARKET

CSE price index	1554.82
Market capital Tk	17660.21 cr
Transactions in volume	68697
Transactions in value Tk	3.81 cr

### Prospectus

Two-page prospectus of first BSRS Mutual Fund  
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### Supplement

Today's 16-page issue of The Daily Star contains a 4-page supplement on Armed Forces Day  
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### NEWS BRIEFS

#### Sit-in at Golapganj from Nov 26

From Staff Correspondent  
SYLHET, Nov 20: All-party Action Committee of Golapganj will stage a dawn-to-dusk sit-in for three days from November 26 to press its 6 point demand. The action programme was announced at a rally held at the thana headquarters of Golapganj yesterday afternoon.

The president of Thana JP Osman Harun Chowdhury presided over the rally.

#### Kathin Chibor Dan today

The main festival of the country's Buddhist community, "Shuvo Kathin Chibor Dan," will be observed today. To mark the day, Bangladesh Buddhist Federation will hold a national Buddhist grand conference at Antarjati, Boudhbar Bihar at Merul Badda in the city. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to attend the function as chief guest, said a press release yesterday, reports UNB.

#### 2 river traffic policemen closed

From Staff Correspondent  
BARISAL, Nov. 20: Two constables — Sahajalal and Abdul Kader — of the River Traffic Police (RTP) were closed to the police lines here today. The action was taken following a case filed by one Abdul Wahab alleging that two police personnel had snatched a silver chain from his daughter.

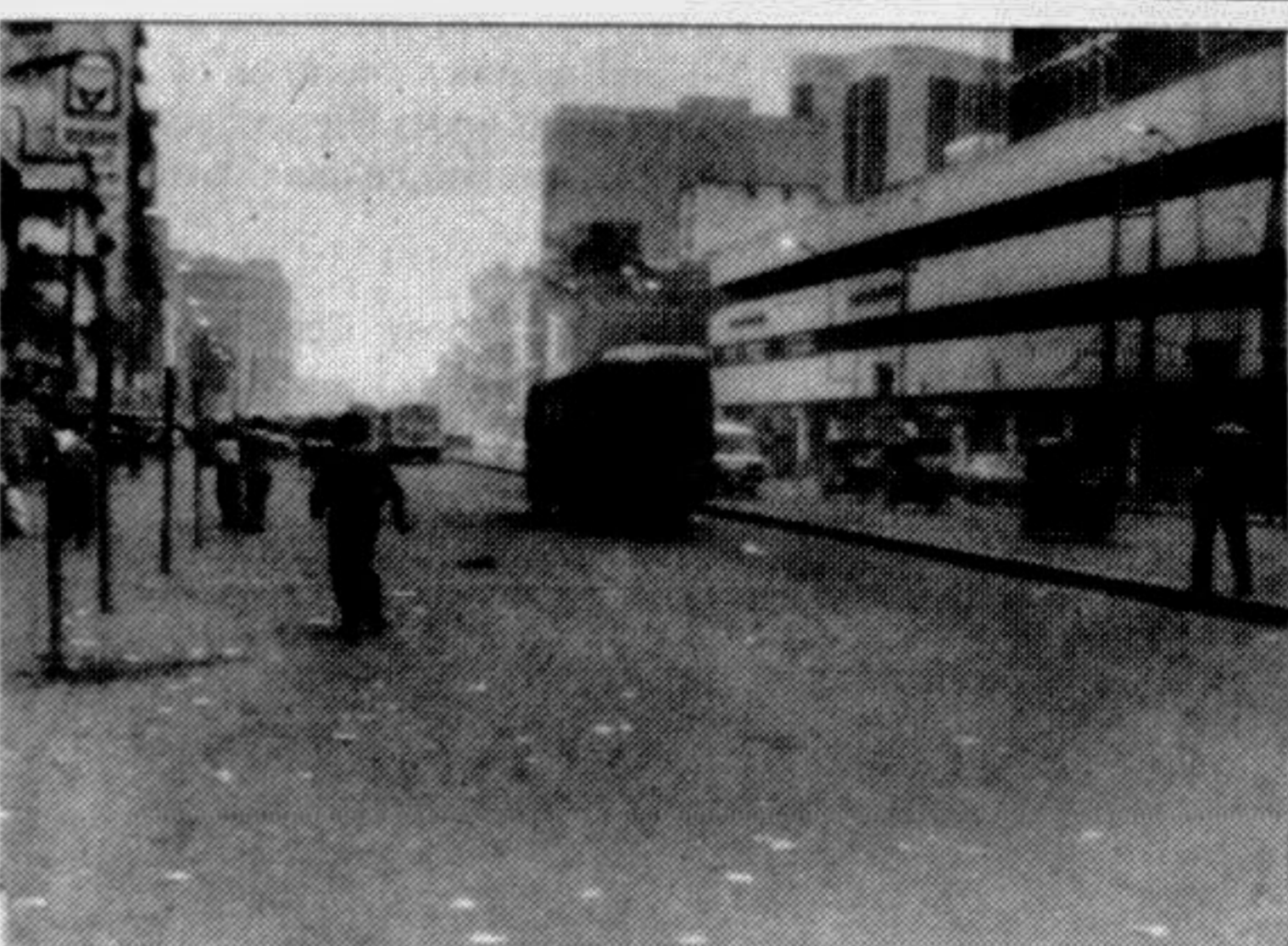
#### AL leader held on kidnapping charge

From Staff Correspondent  
KHULNA, Nov 20: Police arrested Awami League leader Abul Hossain Sona Tuesday night in connection with a kidnapping case.

Police said, the AL leader of Dakop thana had kidnapped a fish trader, Rezaul, from the city on Nov 12. He was rescued by police while being taken in a trawler to an unknown destination. But Abul Hossain managed to escape.



Kerb market share traders lay siege to the DSE building protesting fall in share prices (L), police in front of the building (C) and the desolate stock market area after police lobbed tear gas shells (R).



— Star photo

## Kerb market traders siege DSE bldg protesting fall in share price

Plummeting share prices in the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) after a spell of bull run sent traders in the kerb market berserk, prompting police to teargas the agitated crowd who laid siege to the DSE building yesterday, reports UNB.  
Witnesses said some 10 people were injured as law enforcers baton-charged and teargassed twice to disperse the new brand of retail investors who went wild seeing the stock prices falling sharply for the last three days.  
They demonstrated in front of the DSE building at Motijheel and prevented everybody from going in or coming out of the building for the whole day since 10 am, causing a thin trading on the floor for only one hour.  
They beat up a number of people suspecting them as 'dawal' of the DSE members, who were accused by the kerb market operators of 'manipulating the share prices for aggrandising their own interest.'  
They blamed the members for the 'deliberate' downslide of the stockmarket which caused loss of their hard-earned, in most of the cases borrowed at high rates of interest, capital.  
The DSE officials, however, denied the allegations and said

no stock market in the world could be in a bullish trend for weeks. Ups and downs in the share prices are quite natural and normal.  
"They are demanding that we should enhance the share prices... How we can do that? We do not control the price," Sahiq Khan, Secretary of the DSE, said, adding that their lives became endangered in the situation.  
He sought protection from the government for the members and officials of the stock exchange.  
But small investors like Nur Mohammad and Mohammad Ali Mintu claimed that the trading floor of stock market was being controlled by the DSE members rather than functioning on the classic demand-and-supply factor.  
"They are controlling everything in a planned way," said Nur Mohammad, who purchased shares of different companies at higher prices, but now sees prices sinking fast, eroding his capital.  
DSE Chairman Imtiaz Hossain, who did not go to the market as the demonstrators demanded that he make announcement enhancing the share prices, said the investors became

panicky due to the price fall.  
He told UNB that the DSE council, the bourse's highest decision-making body, would hold an emergency meeting today to review the situation and discuss a way out.  
He also informed that the market would remain open today as 'we are law-abiding' people in the stock market, but trading would not take place if the members and officials of the DSE are not allowed to enter into the building.  
DSE Vice-Chairman Ahmed Iqbal Hasan said the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), the market regulator, had been informed about the incidents in front of the stock-exchange building.  
The investors in the kerb market read out in the rally in front of DSE an eight-point charter of demands which include bringing back equilibrium in share trading on the floor and kerb market and installation of a computerised display board outside the trading floor.  
They demanded immediate implementation of the demands, failing which they would continue the siege and demonstration.

## BNP allegations of political harassment

### Hasina suggests independent probe by President

By Reaz Ahmad

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has suggested to President Shahabuddin Ahmed that he could make an independent probe into BNP's allegations of harassment of political opponents' and arrest of its leaders and workers in 'false cases'.  
According to Awami League sources, Sheikh Hasina made this suggestion during her meeting with the President on Tuesday evening at the Bangabhaban on her return from Italy. While briefing the President about her foreign trip, Hasina took the opportunity to discuss the issue of BNP's abstaining from attending Jatiya Sangsad session since November 10.  
The Prime Minister, briefed her party MPs about her discussion with the President on

the issue when she chaired a meeting of Awami League Parliamentary Party (ALPP) at the Sangsad Bhaban early yesterday afternoon, the sources said.  
Leaders of the ruling party and influential members of the ALPP told The Daily Star Hasina had told the President that if the latter saw the need, he could even ask BNP for a list of those arrested and make an independent probe to check whether or not opposition workers were being unjustly harassed.  
She also said she would welcome any initiative by President Shahabuddin Ahmed for a dialogue between the ruling AL and the main opposition BNP to resolve the present crisis.  
Hasina had also informed

the President that her over-four-month-old government did not detain a single leader on political grounds and all arrests during the period were made on specific charges.  
In addition, issues of fertiliser distribution, employment generation and mass awareness drive against 'motivated' propaganda and passing of derogatory remarks 'came up for discussion in the 150-minute ALPP meeting.'  
Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, Chief Whip of the Sangsad Abul Hasnat Abdullah and Prime Minister's Parliamentary Affairs Adviser Suranjit Sengupta said the ruling party was always eager to hold unconditional dialogue.  
See Page 12 Col 6

## 4 JS standing committees formed

The Jatiya Sangsad yesterday unanimously formed four committees under different heads, reports BSS.  
These are: Standing Committee on Public Accounts, Committee on Estimates, Committee on Public Undertakings and Committee on government Assurances.  
Chief Whip Abul Hasnat Abdullah proposed the formation of the committees on behalf of the Leader of the House and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.  
The 15-member Standing Committee on Public Accounts has been formed with SM Akram (AL-Narayanganj) as chairman. Other members of the committee are Mohammad Saifur Rahman (BNP-Moulvibazar), Colonel (ret'd) Shawkat Ali (AL-Shariatpur), Dr Mizanul Haq (AL-Kishoreganj), MK Anwar (BNP-Comilla), Hussain Muhammad Ershad (See Page 12 Col 8)

## JS session prorogued

### We're ready to hear any constructive criticism: PM

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has called upon the main opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad to return to the House in the next session and put forward their suggestions in the interest of the nation.  
The Prime Minister said that her government was committed to making the Sangsad the centre of all activities. "If you have any contention, speak out in the House. We are ready to give patient hearing to any constructive criticism against the government."  
She was giving her winding-up speech before prorogation of the second session of Jatiya

Sangsad at 11:00 last night. Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury read out the prorogation order of President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed.  
The 10 working-day session began on November 1. BNP had abstained from attending the session since November 10.  
Referring to the general discussions on the country's law and order, industrial policy and energy policy during the session, Sheikh Hasina who is also the Leader of the House said that had the BNP been present in the House, the government would have benefited.  
See Page 12 Col 1

## AL-BNP dialogue: Both sides blame each other for lack of sincerity

By Nazmul Ashraf

The ruling Awami League and the main opposition BNP yesterday blamed each other for 'lack of sincerity in improving the strained relations between the two parties over the question of working of the Parliament'.  
Leaders of both the parties, however, expressed their readiness to sit across the table if the President initiated a dialogue.  
Besides, prorogation of the second session of the seventh Jatiya Sangsad with the BNP continuing its abstention from attending it was also termed 'unfortunate' by both sides.  
"Neither the Speaker nor the ruling party took adequate steps to bring us back to the House... We're now awaiting the President's intervention into the matter", Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Parliament

AQM Badruddoza Choudhury told newsmen at his Sangsad Bhaban chamber last night.  
Asked if his party would join any talks initiated by the President, Choudhury said, "That's why we met the President and told him about our grievances as he is also a part of the Parliament."  
Chief Whip of the Opposition in Parliament Khandker Delwar Hossain, who was also present at Choudhury's chamber, said they were very eager to return to the House to discharge their duties as people's representatives. "But the Treasury Bench must allow us to perform our duties smoothly and uninterrupted," he added.  
Prime Minister's Parliamentary Affairs Adviser Suranjit Sengupta, MP, said his

## Bill to convert BCI into bank placed

A Bill was placed in Parliament yesterday to reorganise Bangladesh Commerce and Investment Ltd (BCI) a non-banking financial institution into a bank for the interest of its depositors, reports UNB.  
Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria introduced the Bangladesh Commerce and Investment Ltd (Reorganisation) Act 1996 in the House, seeking to convert the BCI into a full-fledged bank.  
Kibria also proposed to send the Bill to a special committee to examine and scrutinise it. The committee will submit its report within next one month.  
Functioning of the BCI, a non-banking financial institution not authorised to get involved in banking operation, had been stopped on April 28, 1992 by the government as the interests of the depositors were violated.  
The government has permitted to reorganise the institution into a bank considering the huge losses of the depositors and on humanitarian ground, the Finance Minister said in the objective of the Bill.

## Bank Company (Amend) Act placed in JS

A Bill was introduced in Jatiya Sangsad yesterday seeking effective legal measures for plugging siphoning off bank money by directors, reports UNB.  
Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria placed the Bank Company (Amendment) Act 1996 seeking amendments and insertions into the law to update and make it applicable and more effective.  
The government move aims to mainly deal with loan default by the directors of banks and financial institutions against the backdrop of several incidents of such kind.  
On the proposal of Kibria, the bill was sent to a special committee to examine and scrutinise. The committee will submit its report within next one month.  
The bill proposes that the post of director will fall vacant if he or she fails to repay advance, loan, installment, interest or security money within two months of serving notice on

## Plan to convert 4 dist jails into central jails

By Mizan Ali

The government has taken up a plan to upgrade four district jails to central jails and ensure better management of those officials said.  
There are now over 46,000 prisoners in the jails, almost double their capacity.  
Besides, there is a plan to set up 31 more district jails, of which four have already been completed, they added.  
Twenty-six jails at thana level, however, lost their utility after the dissolution of upazila system, the sources pointed out.  
According to the government plan, district jails of Barisal, Sylhet, Rangpur and Mymensingh will be converted into central jails within a short time.  
Officials said that those district jails had sufficient space inside and outside and fulfilled the criteria for conversion into central jails.  
The existing four central jails are located in Dhaka, Comilla, Rajshahi and Jessore respectively.  
More central jails and dis-

trict jails are being set up to ease the existing congestion in various jails in the country and ensure better management of those officials said.  
There are now over 46,000 prisoners in the jails, almost double their capacity.  
Central jails are for long term prisoners and district jails for short term prisoners, one source said, adding that for security reasons and better management, the number of central jails needed to be raised in the shortest possible time.  
The existing four central jails have become too crowded with increasing number of long term prisoners. They cannot be kept in district jails for security reasons," the source noted.  
Long term prisoners from Barisal and Sylhet divisions are presently sent to Jessore and Comilla central jails while those from greater Rangpur and Mymensingh districts are sent to Rajshahi and Dhaka Central Jails respectively.

## JCD, BCL reach agreement

### 16-day stalemate at JU ends

By JU Correspondent

The stalemate at the Jahangirnagar University ended yesterday after an agreement was reached between the Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) through the mediation of the university Proctor, officials said.  
A joint meeting of the rival student bodies and the JU authorities was organised by the university Proctor Afsar Ahmed to end the stalemate on the campus for the last 16 days due to the indefinite strike called by JCD protesting the capture of four residential halls by the BCL (S-F) on November 5.  
Presided over by the VC Prof Amirul Islam Chowdhury, the five-hour-long meeting began from 3:30 pm at the VC office yesterday.  
The meeting was also attended by the pro-VC, deans,

provosts, proctor and syndicate members.  
The agreement was reached when the two feuding student bodies — JCD and the BCL(S-F) — pledged to abide by the 'code of conduct' set by the university authorities for bringing back a congenial atmosphere on the campus, according to the university official.  
The student leaders assured the JU authorities of extending all cooperation in taking stern action against the terrorists and outsiders on the campus. It was also decided at the meeting that the ousted political activists would be rehabilitated to their respective halls, they said.  
A 'review committee' headed by Proctor Afsar Ahmed comprising one representative from each of all the five student bodies at JU was formed to monitor and oversee the law and order situation on the campus.  
Meanwhile, Bangladesh Chhatra Union (BCU) and Samajtantrik Chhatra Front (SCF) of JU at separate press conferences yesterday demanded immediate action against all the terrorists on the campus to restore congenial atmosphere.

Detention of JCD leader declared illegal  
The High Court yesterday declared illegal the detention of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal Vice-President Tariqul Islam Boni, reports UNB.  
A bench of the High Court comprising Justice Mohammad

## Miraculous!

By DMC Correspondent  
A three-year-old boy miraculously survived when his mother jumped with him from the ninth floor of the PG hospital in the city.  
The mother, reportedly a psychiatric patient, however died instantaneously, police said.  
Shahina Akter, 25, a resident of 70/B Afzaruddin Road in Rayer Bazar under Dhanmohi thana, went to the hospital yesterday for an X-ray. All of a sudden, she jumped from the ninth floor along with child.  
The baby, who was under treatment at the emergency unit of the hospital, till last night sustained injuries in his neck and shoulder, police said quoting doctors.  
Shahina's husband, Dulal, is an employee of a tannery in Rayer Bazar area, police said adding the body was handed over to the family in the afternoon.  
Father of Shahina, Abdul Jabbar Khan, filed an unnatural death case with Ramna thana.

## Cargo handling hampered

### Workers gherao chairman of Ctg port for 8 hrs

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Nov 20: All operational activities including loading and unloading of cargo were suspended for about eight hours today as port employees, led by their CBA leaders abandoned work and gheraoed the Chairman of the Port authority to press their 16-point demand, Port sources said.  
The demands include stoppage of deduction of ration allowance and cancellation of the privatisation move, the sources said.  
Talking to The Daily Star, Chairman of Chittagong Port Authority Captain Zahiruddin Mahmud said, "I was under gherao from 9 am to 4:30 pm today in my office by the CBA leaders and workers."  
The gherao was withdrawn and port functioning resumed after 4:30 pm when the Mayor

of Chittagong City Corporation ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury gave an assurance to the agitating workers to sort out the problem in next 10 days," he said.  
He said that during the gherao cargo handling in the vessels anchored at the port jetty was stopped and delivery of goods to and from the port was also suspended.  
The Port Chairman said that the main reason for today's agitation was to force stoppage of deduction of ration allowance.  
Port sources said that about 16 ships were waiting at the port jetties for handling of both import and export cargo. The agitating employees also staged demonstrations at the port premises.

## Armed Forces Day today

The Armed Forces Day will be observed today, reports UNB.  
An elaborate programmes have been drawn up to observe the day in a befitting manner in all army garrisons, naval ships and establishment and airforce bases across the country.  
President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in separate messages on the eve of the Day recalled the contributions of the members of the Armed Forces who had embraced martyrdom in the War of Liberation in 1971.  
BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition Begum Khaleda Zia in her message yesterday greeted the members of the armed forces on the occasion of the Armed Forces Day.  
See Page 12 Col 1

## Detention of Shahriar Rashid declared illegal

By SC Correspondent  
The High Court Division yesterday declared the detention of Lt Col (ret'd) Sultan Shahriar Rashid Khan illegal and without lawful authority.  
The division bench of the HC comprising Justice MM Haque and Justice M A Matin by their verdict on the writ petition filed by Mashura Khan, wife of the detenu, also ordered his release if he is not wanted in any other case.  
The order detaining the detenu for 30 days was issued on August 13 and it was extended for 3 months on August 18.  
Shahriar Rashid has also been shown arrested in the August 15 and November 3, 1975 killings in which he is yet to be granted bail.  
Earlier the same court on November 18 set aside the detention of Major (ret'd) M Khairuzaman who was also served with the order of detention on August 13.

## Action being taken against Zakirul Islam, private secretary to the Leader of the Opposition in parliament, for violating the prohibitory regulation against carrying arms in and around the Jatiya Sangsad during its session. Home Minister Rafiqul Islam told parliament yesterday.

Responding to a call attention notice served by six treasury bench members, he said that under the relevant sections of the prohibitory order by the DMP Commissioner actions are being taken against Islam, an administrative cadre service officer.  
He further said that on November 1, Special Branch officials detected the revolver in a bag after Zakirul Islam was passing the metal detector. He did not deposit the gun at the SB control room in parliament but sent it, through someone else, to the control room afterwards. Later, he also brought his licence from his residence.  
According to the notice brought to the notice of the parliament secretariat, Rafiqul Islam added.

## Terrorist caught, snatched away by accomplices

An armed terrorist, caught by a restaurant worker in the city yesterday was later snatched away by his accomplices leaving behind a sawed-off rifle, reports UNB.  
Witnesses said six youngsters came to Padma Hotel and Restaurant at South Goran in city at noon yesterday and took their meal there.  
The group later tried to leave the restaurant pointing a gun to the cashier without paying their food bill. But a restaurant boy caught one of them along with a rifle.  
Five others, who managed to leave the restaurant, returned after a while and snatched away their colleague. They, however, failed to recover the captured firearm.  
The sawed-off rifle was later handed over to the police. A case was filed with Sabujbagh thana in this connection.

## 2 snatchers held with revolver from DU campus

Police arrested two snatchers with a revolver from the road adjacent to Dhaka University central mosque on Tuesday night, reports UNB.  
Acting on a tip off, police picked up the two youths — Raju and Bedon — when they were trying to snatch a pedestrian at about 9:45pm, a DMP press release said yesterday.  
According to the confessional statement of the arrested youths, police later recovered some gun powder from the garden of the university central mosque.