

## Nation needs new, inclusive leadership

### Speakers tell seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Academics at a seminar yesterday called for a new and inclusive leadership who would rise above party politics to find common ground on key national issues.

Both Prof Ataur Rahman of Dhaka University and Zillur Rahman Khan from Wisconsin University said the opportunity to redefine Bangladesh would be lost if new leadership does not emerge to meet the core challenges of the nation.

Bangladesh Political Science Association (BPSA) and the Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS) organised the seminar titled 'National security and leadership challenge: Bangladesh perspective' in the city.

The major issue is whether or not Bangladesh can sustain its democratising process without sliding back to

military rule periodically like Pakistan," said Zillur.

He said the real challenge for Bangladesh's leadership is that when facing 'insurmountable' problems, they have to choose whether they 'want to find a common ground on which they are able to close ranks and rise above dysfunctional politics.'

"Or, they may refuse to confront that reality and continue to bask in a denial mode of isolated, elitist prosperity, and let a rare opportunity to make a real difference in the course of a promising underdeveloped country slip into the black hole of history," he added.

Zillur said political leaders may consider de-linking themselves from organised labour groups and student wings and more strongly enforce and abide by the law, eliminating militant forces and installing a new form of

leadership.

A new leader must be 'knowledgeable, experimental, and intellectually and morally inspiring', he said.

Prof Ataur Rahman, also chair of BPSA, said, "After 1/11, we are witnessing a search for new leaders who can deal with new security, democratic and development challenges of the country."

"The new model of leadership must emerge in the light of new security and governance imperatives of Bangladesh rather than the old ways of electing non-performing, hereditary leaders captive to a short-sighted and jaundiced view of democracy," he said.

Prof Ataur said the 1/11 heralded the dawn of a new era in Bangladeshi politics, which he called the 'search for a new model: connecting, performing and accountable'.

The President's Military Secretary Maj Gen Aminul Karim also spoke at the seminar presided over by BISS Chair Mufleh ROSmany.

## Bullion traders observe strike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

All the bullion traders in the city's Tantibazar and Shankharibazar yesterday observed a daylong strike in protest against the arrest of eight traders by Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and seizure of 660 tolas of gold from five shops on Wednesday night.

They also demanded immediate release of the arrested persons and return of the seized gold.

"We have called a meeting at 3:30pm tomorrow to discuss the matter," said MA Wadud Khan, president of Bangladesh Jewellers Samity while talking to The Daily Star.

Sub-Inspector Manjur Kader of Kotwali police said Rab members handed over the arrested persons to them and filed five separate cases in this connection.

The arrested traders are Dulal Ghosh of KC Bullion Store, Mohammad Harun and Mohammad Nazrul Islam of Harun Bullion Store, Narayan Ghosh of Maa Gold House, Alok Das of Ajoy Bullion Store, Suranjit Sur, Sagor Ghosh and Sukumar Nandi of Tanmay Jewellers.

Flight Lt Humayun Kabir of Rab-10 told The Daily Star that they arrested the traders as they could not show any papers.

## College student shot by muggers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Muggers yesterday shot a student of Tejgaon College in the city and snatched away Tk 1500 and two cell phone sets from him and his girl friend who is also a student of the same college.

Injured Shakhawat Hossain, fourth year honours student of economics department, was admitted to Pangu Hospital with a bullet in his left leg.

Members of police and Rab arrested one of the muggers identified as Nazrul Islam with a pistol when he, along with three other muggers, was trying to flee the scene in a black taxi cab.

The law enforcers also seized the taxi cab, but other muggers managed to escape the arrest.

Police said Shakhawat with his girl friend went for an outing at Aftabnagar in Badda at around 5:00pm and fell victim to the muggers.

## Khulna Shipyard website inaugurated

UNB, Dhaka

Chief of Naval Staff Vice Admiral Sarwar Jahan Nizam yesterday visited Khulna Shipyard Limited (KSY) and inaugurated its website [www.ksynb.com](http://www.ksynb.com).

Navy chief expressed his satisfaction over the activities of KSY and hoped that inauguration of the new website will provide KSY a unique identification in the international arena.

Sarwar Jahan also laid the foundation of new barrack house for sailors' and crews' of Khulna Shipyard.

Khulna Shipyard was handed over to Bangladesh Navy due to its huge loss and bankruptcy in 1999. The shipyard, which now turned into a profitable organisation, paid a tax of Tk 23 crore to the government exchequer during 2006-07 and reduced its losses.

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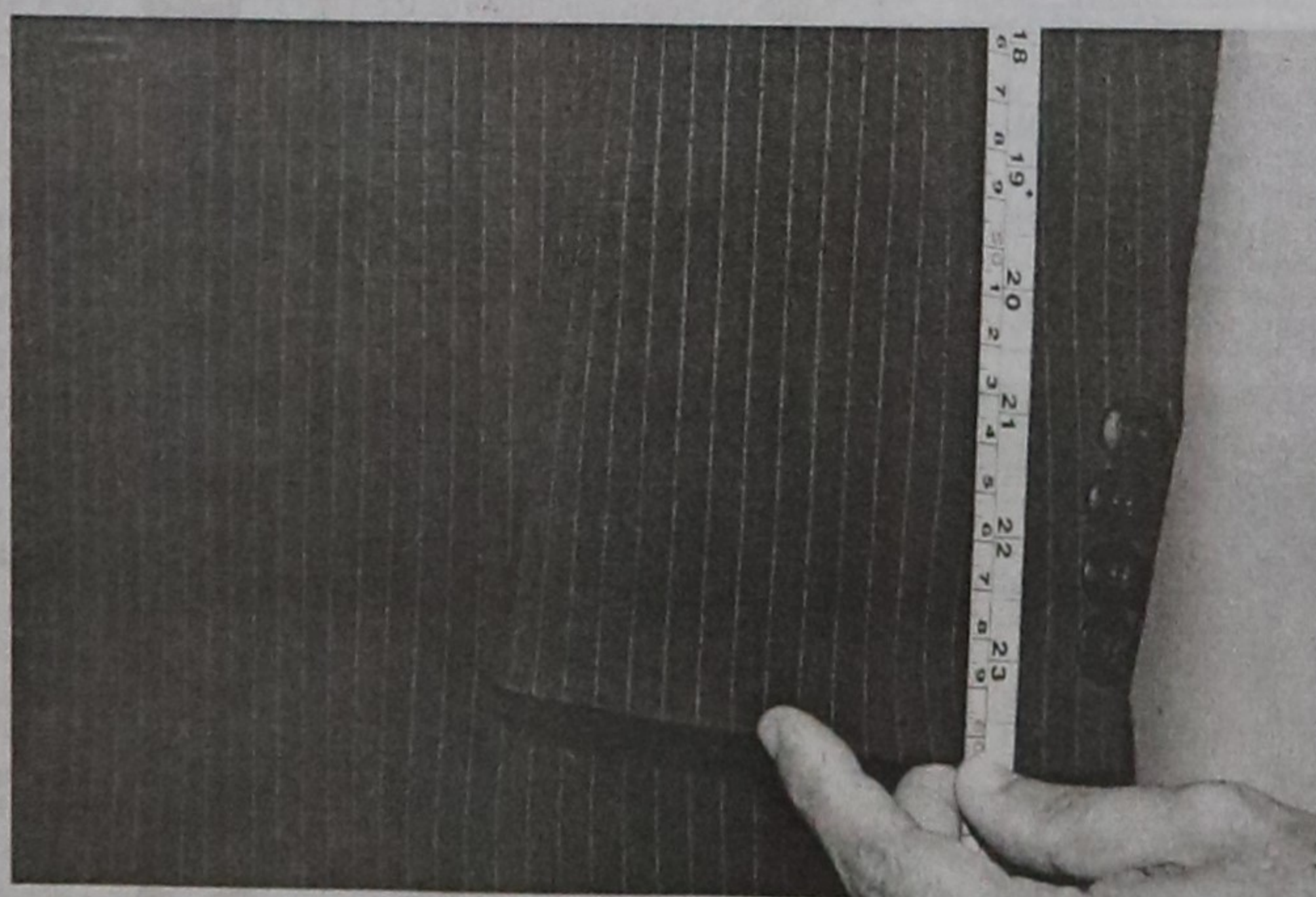
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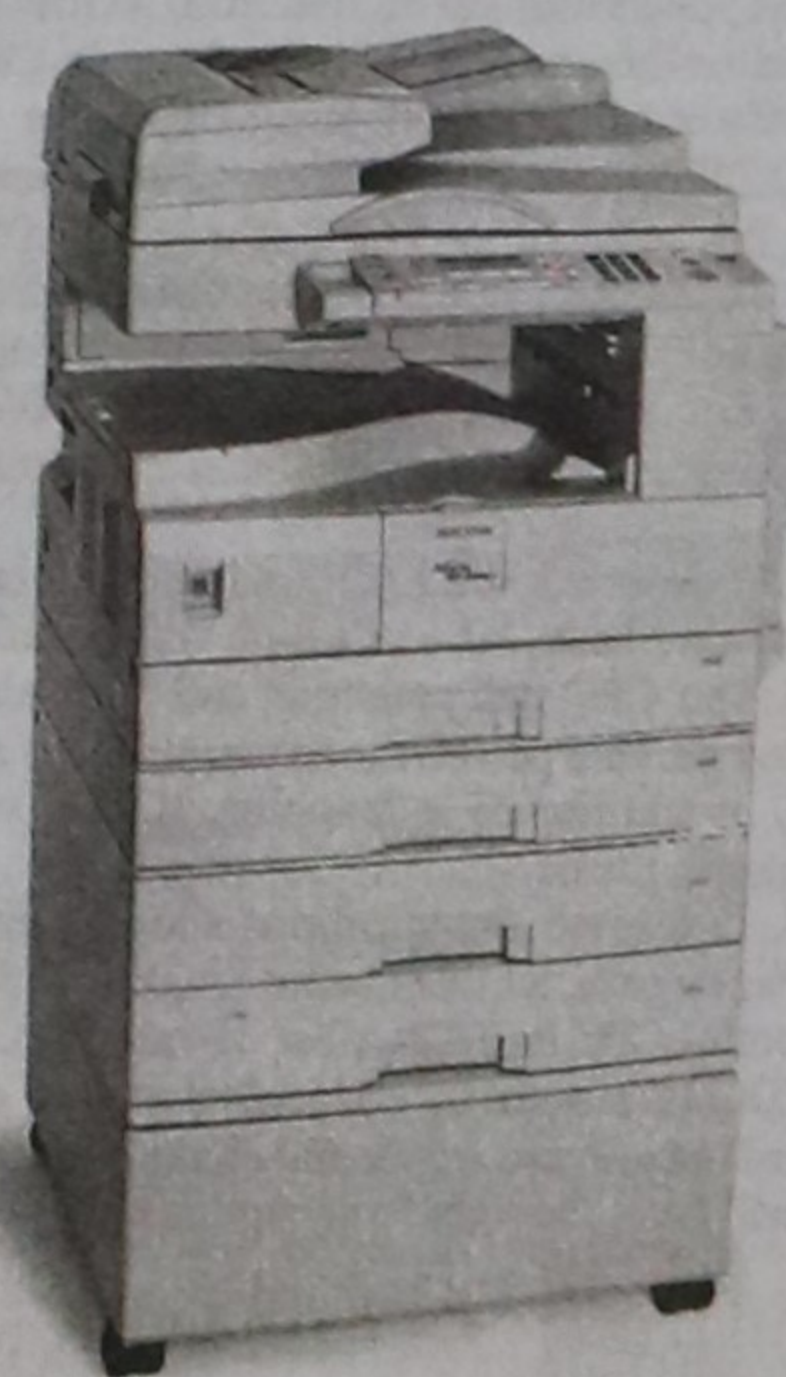


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