

## An example of honesty

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

 It was around 9:00am in the morning. Like any other day, Sergeant Samaresh Mandal was discharging duty along with his colleagues near a fish market in Merul Badda area in the capital on Tuesday.

Suddenly, he saw a bundle of money lying on the road.

The police officer of traffic (north division) picked up the bundle, not more than Tk 1 lakh, and tried to find the owner. But nobody was around.

Samaresh then informed the incident to his senior officials right away and waited there till 12:30pm, hoping that the person whom the money belonged to might come by.

Since nobody showed up, he handed the money over to the custody of Dhaka Metropolitan Police media office.

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Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon and students of several educational institutions form a human chain in front of the Abahani playground in the capital yesterday, demanding limiting noise pollution as a measure to ensure proper development of children.

PHOTO: STAR

## Physiotherapy still understated

### Prothom Alo roundtable told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Physiotherapy, a useful part of modern treatment, is not getting proper recognition in the country as it deserves, said speakers yesterday.

Therefore, a proper recognition of physiotherapy is very necessary as it is ignored in many ways, they said.

The experts made the remarks at a roundtable organised by the Bangla daily Prothom Alo at its office in the capital.

The speakers also demanded that a regulatory body should be formed to ensure that real physiotherapists are providing treatment to patients, and a separate institution should be established for the physiotherapists so that they get proper education.

Ten percent people of the country are affected by different kinds

of disabilities, and tens of thousands of people are affected by road accidents, and natural and manmade disasters. Physiotherapy is badly needed for these people, said Md Farid Uddin, general secretary of Bangladesh Physiotherapy Association (BPA), in his PowerPoint presentation.

Demanding appointment of physiotherapists in all government hospitals, Farid said where the country needs more and more physiotherapists, posts in the government hospitals are vacant.

Acknowledging the importance of physiotherapy, Social Welfare Minister Rashed Khan Menon said the government is going to prepare a law in this regard and it is under process.

Dalilur Rahman, president of BPA, said the necessity of physiother-

apy is increasing in the society, and to fulfil the demand, it is necessary to appoint physiotherapists in all the government hospitals by creating posts.

Though there are around 3,000 graduate physiotherapists in the country, most of the posts in the government hospitals are vacant, he said.

"There are 1.50 crore elderly people in the country which will rise to 2 crore in 2020, 4 crore in 2050 and 5 crore in 2060, for which the necessity for physiotherapy is increasing day by day," said ASM Atiqur Rahman, secretary general of Bangladesh Association for the Aged and Institute of Geriatric Medicine.

The people, who are not actually physiotherapists, are running

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## Rights activists concerned over growing incidents of child rape

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different human rights organisations including Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) yesterday expressed grave concern over the growing incidents of child rape across the country in recent times.

At a protest rally at the Central Shaheed Minar in the capital, speakers demanded that the government take effective measures to prevent violence against children.

They mentioned that 99 children became victims of

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## Fire kills woman, child

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A woman and her seven-month old child were burnt to death after a fire broke out at a building in city's Mirpur area Tuesday night.

The deceased are Mina Begum, 22, and her son Tamim, police said quoting neighbours.

Mina's husband Manik, 30, a security guard of the building, was admitted to the burn unit at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) with around 95 percent burn injuries.

The fire originated with a huge explosion around 11:40pm on the ground floor of a four-storey building in Mirpur-11.

The victims were in the room when the incident

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## Empathy promotes democracy

### Agree young leaders of AL, BNP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Young leaders of two major political parties have agreed that the practice of empathy among the political parties can ensure a healthy political culture in the country.

If the political leaders express empathy for their political opponents, the very practice can contribute to establishing a sound democratic culture, they emphasised.

They made the observation at the certificate giving ceremony of "Young Political Leaders Fellowship Programme" at a hotel in the capital yesterday.

US-based Democracy International (DI) organised the event to award certificates to the 21 young leaders from both ruling Awami League and BNP, who completed the programme.

The fellowship, started in December last year for four months, was provided under a project, titled "Strengthening Political Landscape", jointly funded by USAID and UKAid.

During the fellowship period, the political leaders learned various issues including the

role of political parties in a democracy, intra-party democracy and campaign management as well as promoting peaceful elections.

Besides, during the programme, the leaders from the two major parties worked together to solve different problems such as waterlogging and waste management in their respective communities.

Speaking at the ceremony as a guest, AL Organising Secretary Barrister Mohibul Hassan Chowdhury said, "Empathy is necessary to maintain a healthy political culture."

He reminded the young leaders that politics should be practised for the betterment of people.

So, the competition to grab the state power shrugging off the interest of the people cannot be considered a good practice, he added.

Another guest speaker, Rasheda Begum Hira, training affairs secretary of BNP, said the culture of political mudslinging discourages young generation from getting

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Expressing concern over the growing incidents of child rape across the country, various human rights organisations hold a protest rally at the Central Shaheed Minar in the capital yesterday. Twenty-two rights organisations including Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) participated in the rally.

PHOTO: STAR

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