

Swimming training must for students

Education ministry's proposal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Students of schools, colleges, madrasas and technical institutes will have to take swimming training as part of their regular academic activities.

The education ministry made the decision and posted a draft circular on its website yesterday, seeking public opinion.

Quoting a Unicef study done on children aged between five and 17, the circular said more than 48 children drown every day (about 18,000 kids every year) in the country as they cannot swim.

"That's why the government has decided to introduce swimming training at all higher secondary, secondary and junior secondary schools, equivalent madrasas and technical educa-

tional institutions of the country as part of the regular academic activities," the draft circular said.

Ministry officials said they would issue the circular after evaluating the public opinion.

The draft circular instructed all the educational institutions to clean their ponds, to be used for training and practices. The institutions that don't have their own ponds will use the ones of nearby educational institutions.

According to the draft, the institutions will have to arrange life jackets and other safety gears for the students.

Physical education teachers or swimming instructors must be present during the training, to be conducted separately for boys and girls.