

## Dhaka Day by Day

### Swimming Lesson for Children

by Tulip Chowdhury

Enthusiastic children line up beside the swimming pool of the Officer's Club, Baily Road, Dhaka. Their swimming lessons begin with free-hand exercises under the guidance of a well-trained coach. Once in the water the children receive expert instructions. They receive practical demonstrations on how to move their hands, feet and to stay afloat.

It was the first day of the sixteen-day long swimming course offered by the Officer's Club. The sight was quite splendid. Children splashed around, enjoying their first experiences of being in the water. Most of them were five to ten years of age. But few of them were only three and a half years old. These little ones were first sitting around the pool, experimenting with their toes. But once satisfied that nothing was hurting them, they slowly immersed themselves in the water of the baby swimming pool. The older ones were too enthusiastic and would hardly wait till the instructor reached them. They were continuously going in and out of the water, exploring the new sensation of staying in water. Some worried parents were calling out to their children to be careful about the depth. But soon they relaxed as they watched their children joyfully learn the first strokes of swimming under their instructor's guidance. After all, the first lessons begin for the children in the swimming pool which is only two feet deep. But later on they will move on to the adjacent larger pool.

Many parents were enrolling for swimming lessons after watching their children in the pool. It seems as though they have missed this wonderful sport of joy and health for much too long.

Swimming is a much needed life saving skill in Bangladesh, a country with a network of rivers, lakes and ponds. Natural disasters such as floods, cyclones and tornados are quite frequent. One would be on the safer side to learn how to swim in this land of waters. The swimming pool of the Officer's Club offers excellent opportunities.

The swimming pool was opened to the public in 1993. Many Dhakaites find it a great relief to go for a swim once in a while and to be able to let their children enjoy the benefits of a well-kept swimming pool in the heart of the city.



Tentative steps in water.

— Photo: The writer



The Diploma Nurses' Association brought out a procession in the city yesterday demanding rehabilitation of unemployed nurses.

— Star photo

### Probe body formed to investigate Postagola fire

Fire Service and Civil Defence Department has constituted a three-member inquiry committee to investigate Tuesday's fire at the government flour and animal-feed mills at Postagola, reports UNB.

Director General of the department yesterday constituted the probe body comprising its deputy director (operation), Atiqur Rahman, assistant director (fire prevention) Sotaiman Chowdhury and deputy assistant director, Abdul Gani Hawlader as chairman, member secretary and member respectively.

Fire service sources said the committee would submit report in a week after inquiring into the cause of the fire incident and state of implementation of regulations and preservation of fire-protection system.

### Joint replacement surgery introduced in BIRDEM

For the first time in the country, BIRDEM hospital has introduced artificial total knee, shoulder and hip joint replacement surgery in their routine operation list, says a press release.

Patients of complicated knee, shoulder and hip diseases and destroyed joints are requested to contact Dr M K Izzharul Quayyum Chowdhury, Consultant (orthopaedics) on Saturday, Monday and Wednesday, from 8 am to 10 am at BIRDEM, Room No 121.

### What's on today....

**Nari Grantha Prabartana:** A discussion meeting on 'Women in Different Profession' will be held. Venue: Nari Grantha Prabartana. Time: 3 pm.

**Seminar on rural development:** The two-day seminar on Bangladesh Rural Development Infrastructure Strategy Study will begin. LGRD Minister Zillur Rahman will inaugurate the seminar. Venue: Purbani Hotel. Time: 9 am.

### Weather

### Light rainfall likely

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at many places over Chittagong, Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Dhaka, Barisal and Khulna divisions during the next 24 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Met Office said a moderately heavy falls may also occur at places over Rajshahi division during the period.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged throughout the country.

In its outlook for the next two days Met Office says rainfall activities may increase. While giving an extended outlook for the subsequent five days weathermen predicted a little change.

The country's highest temperature yesterday was recorded 35 degrees Celsius at Khulna and the lowest 25 degrees at Sylhet.

Meantime, Dinajpur experienced the country's highest 139mm rainfall followed by Rangpur with 78mm rains.

The sun sets today at 6:49 pm and rises Monday at 5:20 am.

The maximum and minimum temperatures and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday are:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius	Humidity in percentage
Dhaka	33.6	70
Chittagong	34.7	75
Rajshahi	34.8	70
Khulna	35.0	80
Barisal	33.0	82
Sylhet	32.4	90
Cox's Bazar	33.5	79
	26.7	81



A delegation of the Jatiyatobadi Chhatri Dal, led by its president Fazlul Haq Milan, called on Minister for Home Affairs Major (rtd) Rafiqul Islam, BU, at his office yesterday. — PID photo

### 'Urea may be smuggled to India'

Urea may be smuggled out to India in larger volumes as the Indian government is planning a price hike for it, raising the subsidy on other fertilizers, reports UNB.

The apprehension was raised by trading circles in Dhaka in view of the authorities in New Delhi having recently announced a new concession on imported phosphate and increase in existing subsidies on indigenous phosphate and potash fertilizers.

The new measures, which will cut the prices of potash and phosphate fertilizers, aimed at raising the domestic consumption of these two fertilizers, addressing the nutrient imbalance between urea and phosphate.

The fresh subsidies for potash and phosphate, coupled with a 20 per cent price rise on urea because of rise in price of naphtha — a raw material of the fertilizer — could result in a decline in domestic urea consumption.

The Indian government is currently considering a price hike of urea — from Rs 320 per ton to Rs 400 per ton — and a decision on this respect is expected shortly, sources in the fertilizer trade circles told UNB yesterday.

But if the price of urea is raised in India, increased quantity of the fertilizer is

likely to be rolled out into Indian markets from Bangladesh as the price level in Bangladesh is far less than that of the neighbouring country.

The current rate of ton urea in Bangladesh is Tk 3,725 or Tk 186.25 a bag of 50 kilogram, a very lucrative price for smuggling the fertilizer to India where the official price will be Rs 350 a bag.

The price will further increase at the retailers' level, inviting more Bangladeshi urea fertilizer, which is of better quality than that of India, in the neighbour's market, sources said.

Already, they said, there has been huge smuggling of urea from Bangladesh to India and another neighbour, Myanmar, because of a firm world price. The price of urea last time here was downward adjusted in July 1994.

According to available statistics, consumptions of urea fertilizer have been jumping every year although the foodgrain output in the country remained static or in a downward trend in recent years.

The consumption of urea, which was 12.21 lakh tons on 1990-91 fiscal, rose to 15.87 lakh tons in 1993-94, 17.45 lakh tons in 1994-95 and 20.42 lakh tons in 1995-96 fiscal year.

The Ministry of Agriculture had projected the demand of 19 lakh tons for the 1995-96 seasons, but the actual consumption surpassed the projection. The ministry projected the demand of 23 lakh tons for the current 1996-97 fiscal.

This was an unusual jump. The sale growth last year was 17 per cent, said a source, suspecting a huge quantity of urea fertilizer being smuggled out of the country every year.

As the demand of fertilizer is increasing every year, there is no new fertilizer coming up or in the pipeline since the inception of the Jamuna Fertilizer Factory in 1991.

In India, the government is providing concession on imported phosphate fertilizer of Rs 1500 (43 US dollar) per GCO for statement on students' 10-pt

demand in JS

By DU Correspondent  
Gantantrik Chhatri Oikya (GCO), a conglomeration of some left leaning student organisations, yesterday demanded a statement of the government on the 10-point demand of the students in the first session of the Parliament.

GCO demanded that a bill be passed in the first session of the Parliament for the trial of war criminals in a special tribunal.

GCO took the decision at a meeting held at the central office of Bangladesh Chhatri League (KCI) Abdurrahman Qaum presided.

The meeting welcomed the government's initiative to include true history of the War of Liberation in the text-books. It also demanded inclusion of crimes committed by the Jamaat Shibir clique during the Liberation War.

GCO also demanded government statement on the incident of abduction of Kalpana Chakma.

318 arrested

Police rounded up 318 people, including 42 under warrants of arrest and four listed terrorists, from different parts of the city yesterday, reports UNB.

The arrested also included 32 people held on charges of murder, dacoity, mugging, extortion and terrorism.

### Reopen DMC by Monday: DMCSU

By Staff Correspondent  
The leaders of the Dhaka Medical College Students' Union (DMCSU) yesterday demanded reopening of the college by Monday.

The DMCSU, in a memorandum to the principal of the college yesterday morning, also demanded withdrawal of the ban on student politics in the college campus immediately, union sources said.

The DMC authorities had declared the college closed sine die following a series of clashes between the activists of Chhatri League and Jatiyatobadi Chhatri Dal during the golden jubilee celebrations Wednesday afternoon. The next day, the academic council of the college imposed a ban on student politics for an indefinite period.

The DMCSU also brought out a procession on the campus and held a rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club, which was addressed, among others, by Towhidul Islam John, Redwanul Islam, Ashraful Alam Nipu and Rafiqul Islam.

The leaders of the union also demanded holding of scheduled elections to the new committee of the DMCSU July 25.

Meanwhile, the activists of the JCD also submitted a memorandum to the principal of the college yesterday.

### French Embassy closed today

By Staff Correspondent  
The French Embassy in Dhaka said its offices will be closed today as elsewhere in the world on the occasion of the 207th French National Day (Bastille Day).

On this day in 1789, people of Paris stormed the fort of Bastille, that was considered a symbol of oppression. The incident triggered the French Revolution.

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They attended receptions, luncheons and dinners hosted by the Daily Star editor, Arif Islam and chairman of China-Bangladesh People's Friendship Association, Mahmudul Huq Chowdhury.

They visited a tea garden at Fatikchhari and attended a dinner tonight hosted by Major (retd) Mujibul Huq, chief patron of Bangladesh-China Cultural, Economic and Mass Communication Centre.

The five-member Chinese journalists delegation is led by Jiang Ping, a member of the council of All China Journalists Association.

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Former Chief Justice Badrul Haider Chowdhury speaking at a memorial meeting on former Attorney General Aminul Haq at the Bangladesh Supreme Court Lawyers' Association office in the city yesterday. The meet was organised by the Aminul Haq Memorial Committee to commemorate the first anniversary of his death. — PID photo