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STOCK MARKET

DSE price index	766.77 (-0.17%)
Market capital Tk	47.23 billion
Transactions in volume	211523
Transactions in value Tk	38.50 million

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NEWS BRIEFS

PM shocked at Fukuda's death
 Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia has expressed deep shock at the death of former Japanese Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda. In a message to the Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama, Begum Zia said Fukuda was a great friend of Bangladesh and its people. She also conveyed her sympathy to the bereaved family members and prayed for salvation of the departed soul, reports UNB.

Hasina condoles deaths
 Awami League President Sheikh Hasina yesterday expressed deep shock at the sad demise of former Japanese Premier Takeo Fukuda. In a message, she recalled the significant contribution of Fukuda in rebuilding his country's economy. In a separate message, the Awami League Chief also expressed shock at the death of Justice Ansar Ali. She said country's judiciary has lost a learned judge at the sudden death of Ansar Ali, reports UNB.

Four electrocuted in Sherpur
 From Our Correspondent
SHERPUR, July 6: Four people were electrocuted at Tookerchar under Melandah thana yesterday. They were electrocuted when an electric pole suddenly fell on them while they were taking their midday meal on the fishing boat. The victims were identified as Kuruno (30), Muzammel (35), Zafarul 25 and Hamidul (20).

Presidential reference SC to hear 8 top law experts July 16

By Staff Correspondent

President Abdur Rahman Biswas made the reference on Tuesday asking for interpretation on four points relating to the vacation of seats of the MPs continuously boycotting the parliament sessions for over 90 days.

The full bench chaired by Chief Justice ATM Afzal also fixed July 16 as the date of hearing which would continue without adjournment.

The Court decided to notify the President of the Supreme Court Bar Association, Dr Kamal Hossain, Barrister Ishfaq Ahmed, Barrister Rafiqul Haq, Khandaker Mahub Uddin-Ahmed and S R Pal to give their views on the points mentioned in the reference.

Barrister Asrarul Hossain, who has been appointed by the Government specially for this case and Attorney General Aminul Haq would also be heard by the court.

A group of curious people and reporters from different Dhaka dailies thronged the court in the morning to witness the procedure of first ever reference case of the country.

After brief hearing, the Chief Justice said that court is not the place to settle political disputes and is not interested to hear the parties. The court would do nothing about the Parliament and would just examine the legal aspects relating to continued boycott of the lawmakers, referred to by the President.

At this stage, Barrister Hossain said it is the discretion of the court to hear or not to hear any party.

Determining the procedure, the Chief Justice said the court would accord the highest priority to expeditiously settle the matter.

The full bench of the Appellate Division comprises five judges

Bomb threat delays Biman flight at Delhi

Star Report

A bomb threat delayed a Bangladesh Biman flight for around six and a half hours yesterday at the Delhi airport.

An intensive search by an anti-bomb squad however, did not find any bomb or explosives on board the DC-10 aircraft.

The plane which landed early in the morning at the Delhi airport reached Dhaka with all its passengers at 1.55 pm.

The captain of the flight — BG 012 — was instructed by the Delhi airport control tower to taxi the plane into a special area and disembark all the passengers after it landed on its scheduled stop, according to sources.

The flight from New York was on its way to Dhaka via Amsterdam, Dubai and Delhi. The Delhi control tower told the pilot that it had been alerted by Dubai authorities that a bomb had been planted in the aircraft. It could not be ascertained immediately who gave the threat or how it was conveyed.

Ershad gets 3-year jail in boat purchase case

A Special Judge's court yesterday sentenced former President Hussain Muhammad Ershad to three years' simple imprisonment on charges of corruption and abuse of power, reports UNB.

The court found him guilty of criminal misconduct in the purchase of Japanese relief boats in 1988.

Additional Sessions and District Judge Jintara also imposed a fine of Taka 10,000 on Ershad and, in default he will have to suffer another four months of imprisonment.

The judge read out her 67-page verdict in the court adjacent to the Dhaka Central Jail where Ershad has been confined since April 1991.

The court, however, acquitted K Inoyama, a Japanese national, who was the lone co-accused in the case. Inoyama was the senior executive of Marubeni Corporation, a Japanese multinational company, involved in the boat deal.

The former president, already convicted in two other cases of corruption and sentenced to ten years' imprisonment, appeared slightly perturbed after hearing the judgement in the case in which he was the principal accused.

Clad in an off-white full-sleeve safari suit, Ershad told newsmen in the court that he would appeal against the judgement.



H M Ershad

Announcement
 Today we carry a 4-page (pages 5, 6, 7 and 8) special supplement on SAVE DHAKA consisting of the transcript of the Roundtable held on June 8, '95. For this reason our Weekend Magazine will consist of four pages only.

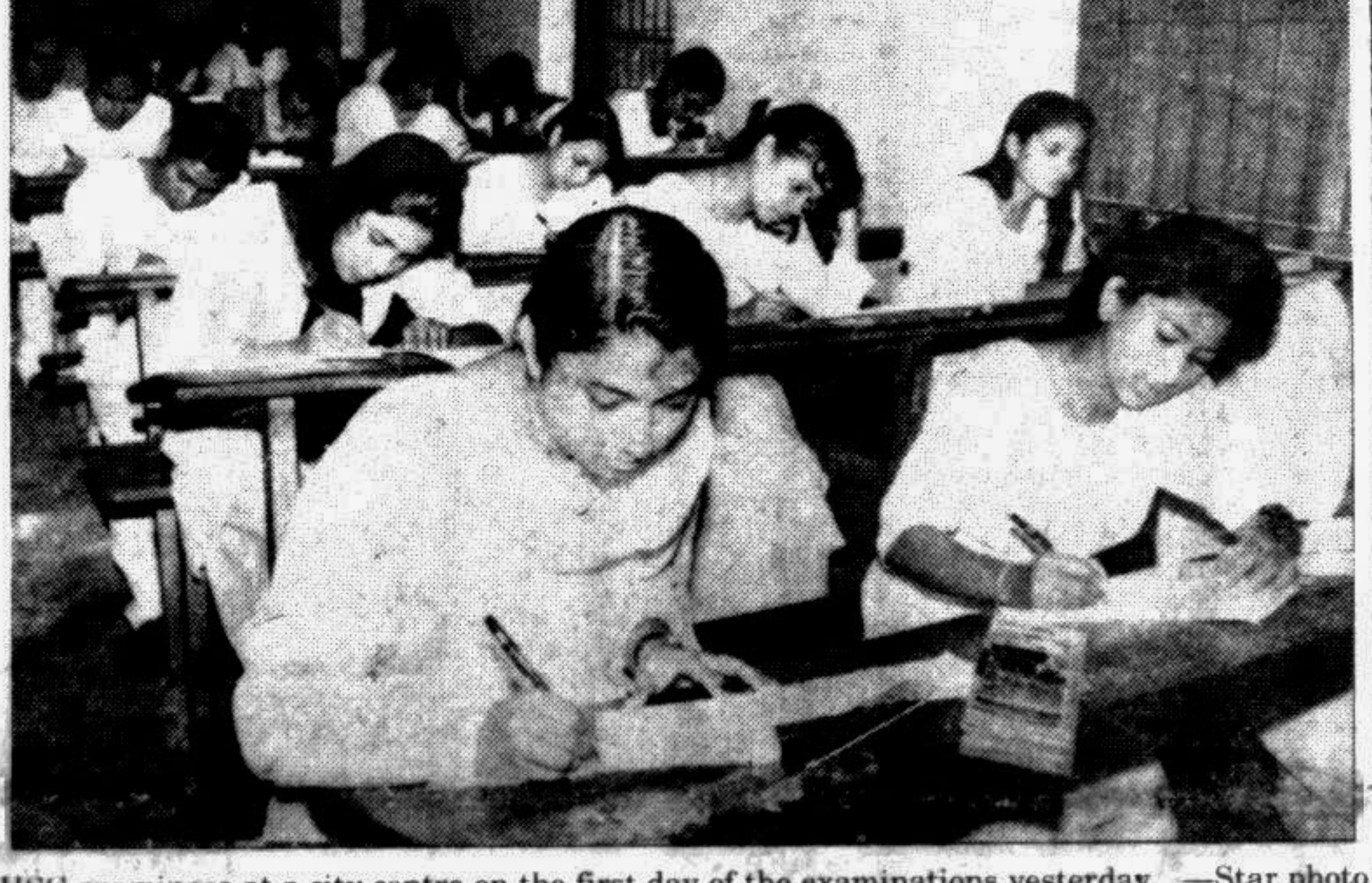
Constitutional vacuum won't be allowed: PM

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia reminded that present political crisis could only be settled within the ambit of the Constitution and said the government would not allow constitutional vacuum in the country on any plea, reports UNB.

"We cannot allow any constitutional vacuum in the country on the unreasonable and undemocratic pleas of the Opposition, she said while talking to newly elected members of the Editors' Council at 30 Hare Road last night.

The Prime Minister said the next general elections would be held on schedule, but did not say when it is going to be held.

Asked if the Opposition does not join election without a caretaker



HSC examinees at a city centre on the first day of the examinations yesterday. —Star photo

Flood situation deteriorates

By Staff Correspondent

Continued rise in water levels of all major rivers further worsened the flood situation in the affected districts and more people were marooned as fresh areas went under water yesterday.

Onrush of waters from hilly regions across the border and heavy rainfall over the last two days made lakes of lakhs of people miserable. Thousands of acres of croplands were inundated and many houses were washed away.

Fresh areas in various thanas of Sherpur, Gaibandha and Netrakona districts were inundated by the flood waters and roads and dams at many places were badly damaged, according to reports received from our correspondents from the flood-hit areas.

In Sherpur, one woman — Kabutar Begum, 29, and her 10-year-old baby Surui — drowned in flood waters while over one lakh people were affected, nearly half of them marooned.

Sherpur, Jamalpur and Dhaka-Sherpur roads were damaged at several points. Besides, a flood protection embankment and 11 bridges and culverts were washed away.

Our Gaibandha correspondent reports that 31 unions in four thanas in the district were inundated afresh while the district town itself went under knee-deep water following incessant rainfall since Wednesday.

Over one lakh people were marooned in the district and 17 roads were badly damaged. The rivers Brahmaputra and Ghagor were flowing above their danger marks.

Due to a strong current and erosion at Bahadurabad ghat, a Dinajpur bound train — Ekota Express — reached Gaibandha seven hours behind schedule. An HSC Examination centre at Phoolchhari College was shifted to a nearby primary school as the college compound went under flood water.

More areas in Netrakona town were submerged yesterday following onrush of water from the Garo hills in India. Over 5,000 thatched houses and a number of roads, bridges and culverts were damaged.

Standing crops on 21,000 hectares of land went under water in the district where over 10 lakh people were affected.

Our Staff Correspondent from Sylhet adds: Rains and onrush of flood waters from the upper stream continued in Sylhet and Sunamganj districts for the third day yesterday, worsening the flood situation in four thanas. The river Surma was flowing 49 cm above the danger mark at Kanaihat and 34 cm above near Sunamganj town. However, it was flowing 3 cm below danger level in Sylhet town. 62-mm rainfall was recorded in Sylhet during the 30 hours ending at 6 pm yesterday.

7km long queue of vehicles at Aricha

MANIKGANJ, July 6: Hundreds of trucks and inter-district coaches with thousands of passengers remained stranded at Aricha, Nagarbari and Daulatdia ferry terminals today as the movement of vehicles became almost standstill due to traffic jam, reports UNB.

The traffic control system at Aricha was totally collapsed due to a seven-kilometre long queue of vehicles and haphazard parking, causing difficulties in loading and unloading of vehicles on the ferries.

According to official sources, about 1,800 vehicles, including 600 coaches with at least 30,000 passengers were waiting at the three terminals for their turn round to ferries.

The coaches which reached at Aricha Wednesday night, got their ferries on Thursday morning.

However, all the ferries of BIWTA were in operation, which usually take 2,500 vehicles everyday between Aricha-Nagarbari and Aricha-Daulatdia routes. About 4,000 vehicles reach to the three ghats daily.

973 expelled on first day of HSC exams

At least 973 examinees were expelled on the first day of the Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) Examinations that began yesterday under the country's four education boards, reports UNB.

This year, 4,98,391 students registered for appearing at the examinations in 811 centres, including six abroad.

The Dhaka Board sources said 904 candidates were expelled for adopting unfair means on the first day of examination on Bengali 1st paper. Of them, 2 were from the city, one from Narayanganj, 74 from Gazipur, 24 from Narsingdi, 7 from Munshiganj, 47 from Manikganj, 35 from Tangail, 55 from Mymensingh, 24 from Jamalpur, 42 from Netrakona, 30 from Sherpur, 8 from Shariatpur, 9 from Faridpur, 6 from Gopalganj, 3 from Rajbari and 37 from Madaripur.

Rajshahi Board sources said examination was held peacefully in different centres under the board. As many as 482 candidates were expelled.

Three of them were from Rajshahi sadar, 10 from Natore, 34 from Chapainawabganj, 32 from Naogaon, 9 from Pabna, 6 from Lalmonirhat, 74 from Bogra, 38 from Gaibandha, 82 from Rangpur, one was from Sirajganj, 43 from Kurigram, 49 from Nilphamari, and 104 from Dinajpur.

Jessore Board expelled some 50 students. Area-wise breakdown is as follows: Jessore 1, Barguna 3, Pirojpur 5, Barisal 1, Khulna 2, Kushtia 30, Jhenidah 3, Magura 5 and Narail 1.

Comilla Board sources said 37 examinees were expelled from different exam centres of the board: 14 from Comilla sadar, 10 from Brahmanbaria, 10 from Feni and 3 from Chittagong.

Under Dhaka Board, about 1,70,217 students were to appear at the examination in 200 centres, including six overseas. The number of examinees in other boards are: Comilla 1,15,399 in 203 centres, Rajshahi 1,15,034 in 223 centres and Jessore 97,958 in 185 centres.

Of the total, 75,800 male and 39,599 female were to sit for the exam under Comilla Board while 80,108 male and 34,926 female under Rajshahi Board and 66,483 male and 31,475 female under the Jessore Board.

Education Minister Jamiruddin Sirac along with the Chairman of the Dhaka Education Board visited Dhaka College and Eden Girls University College centres.

Two top CU officials dismissed

CHITTAGONG, July 6: Two top officials of the Chittagong University, including the Controller of Examinations, were today dismissed from service for their involvement in an examination scandal, reports UNB.

Campus sources said the university authorities also took punitive action against four teachers of the Philosophy Department for the same allegation.

The university Syndicate took the action against the accused at a meeting with Vice Chancellor Rafiqul Islam Chowdhury in the chair today.

The Syndicate dismissed the Controller of Examinations GM Latif Khan and senior examination official Abdus Sattar after the allegation of

Floods to match '88's?

By Reaz Ahmad and Masud Arif

Experts said yesterday that it would be premature to foresee a '88-like flood condition this time. But they did not outright reject a possibility either.

The country is poised to undergo added flood vulnerability as the rain shifted from the southern regions towards the northern by the influence of a very active monsoon, they said.

"Monsoonic rainfall began to concentrate in the northern half of the country from yesterday. In addition, migratory water from the hilly areas across the border is contributing to the saturation of major rivers

Infight sapping JP comeback in Ctg

From Nurul Alam

CHITTAGONG, July 6: Internal feud in the Chittagong chapter of Jatiya Party has been crippling its activity here ever since the ousting of Ershad government in the face of popular movement of 1990. Most of the JP leaders here went into hibernation after the fall of their government and when they somehow surfaced by and by they did less than half a will and that too covered all the way by internecine conflict.

JP leadership in the port city suffered a straight division following a fall-out between former mayor Mahmudul Islam Chowdhury and former MP of Kotwali constituency, Harun Khan. Party insiders say Mahmudul Islam's slippery and changing stand on

Principal assaulted for admit cards

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, July 6: One hundred and sixty-five HSC candidates of the Janata College of Dumki thana of Patuakhali district could not appear at the examination today as they did not get their admit cards.

Witnesses and police said, the angry students brought out a procession in the morning and ransacked the office of the principal. They also manhandled the principal.

The students also put up barricades on the Patuakhali-Baoufal road disrupting the communication for about three hours.

According to sources, two of the 23 students of the Islamia College and Barisal City College also did not get their admit cards.

20 mid-level towns to be developed

By Staff Correspondent

The government has taken up a project to develop 20 mid-level towns in the country with financial assistance of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Jatiya Sangsad was informed yesterday.

Replying to a question by Begum Rawshan Ara Hena, Deputy Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Abdul Hye said that under the project, 20 towns, including the Barisal divisional headquarters and Munshiganj and Sharishabari towns, would be developed by improving infrastructure and civic amenities.

The government has no plan to

Just a number of jets could do, but ...

CAIRO, July 6: President Hosni Mubarak has dismissed Sudanese threats to tamper with the Nile River and boasted that Egypt could, if it wanted, quickly put an end to the Sudanese regime, reports AP.

"I do not want a war with Sudan," Mubarak told Kuwait's Al-Watan newspaper in an interview published today. "All that would be needed are a number of planes from here, and they will put an end to everything. But the size of hurt and damage will not be small."

AFP adds: Sudan would be flooded if it carried out a threat to hold back the waters of the river Nile

JP's protest march in city tomorrow

Jatiya Party acting chairman Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury yesterday condemned the killing of a Chhatra Samaj activist, saying Swapan was killed for lack of security and negligence of the government, reports UNB.

At a press conference at his Gulshan residence yesterday he also announced an action programme including a protest march from the National Press Club tomorrow.

Swapan Kumar Ghosh, a JP activist, was hacked to death on July 5 while the motorcade of JP leaders and workers came under attack from unknown assailants at Mymensingh town.

Jatiya Party leaders and workers were attacked when they were going

Talks with MQM put back to Sunday Fierce crackdown on militants

KARACHI, July 6: In a fierce crackdown on ethnic militants, security forces cordoned off the eastern district of the city today, leaving hundreds of thousands of residents trapped in their homes without food or water, report AP, AFP.

Vultures picked at rotting bodies strewn on the streets of the impoverished area of Karachi, Pakistan's largest city and commercial center, where security forces battled with rebels.

Meanwhile, much-awaited talks between the government and ethnic Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM) on resolving the Karachi crisis have been put back to Sunday.

Ajmal Dehvi, and Sheikh Liaquat, key negotiators of the five-member MQM team, arrived here today from London for what the party termed a 'preliminary round' of talks with factory workers and labourers. Police said the death toll was expected to climb as fighting raged late into the evening.

Two other people were killed by snipers and stray bullets in different parts of this sprawling port city.

In Korangi, crows and vultures picked at corpses that lay in the street as temperatures surpassed 32 degrees centigrade, according to residents reached by telephone. Most of the dead were young men or teen-age boys.

More than 1,000 police and paramilitary troops surrounded the district, closing off all routes in and out. Residents said anyone who entered the area was shot on sight.

The firing is so intense that nobody can go out. Bullets are flying in all directions," 45-year-old Iqbal Khan



Residents of the troubled Korangi district of south Karachi leaving for a safer part of the city yesterday. Many families are relocating to avoid the continuous fighting between security forces and militants. —AFP photo

Minister tells JS Steps taken to reduce city's water shortage

By Staff Correspondent

The government has undertaken several steps to reduce the existing shortage of 53 crore litres of water supplied by the Dhaka WASA.

Presently, the WASA supplies 76 crore litres of water against the demand for 129 crore litres a day, Deputy Minister for LGRD Abdul Hye said in reply to a question from Nizamuddin Khan in parliament yesterday.

The deputy minister said that installation of 50 deep tubewells with a total capacity of supplying 16 crore

Wimbledon Result HIGHLIGHTS
 Courtesy
 KLM
 Royal Dutch Airlines

Women's singles (sems):
 Arantxa Sanchez Vicario (Spain) def Conchita Martinez (Spain)
 Steffi Graf (Germany) def Jana Novotna (Czech Rep)
 Men's singles (qrs):
 Boris Becker (Germany) def Cedric Pioline (France)