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INTERNET: <http://www.dailystarnews.com>**World hit by unlucky run of deadly tremors**

EDINBURGH, Sept 21: Big earthquakes are not striking the earth more often this year than before, but the world is suffering an unlucky run of deadly tremors near vulnerable populated areas, scientists said today, reports Reuters.

The powerful earthquake that rocked Taiwan on Monday and has claimed at over 1500 lives came only a month after devastating tremors that killed some 15,000 people in Turkey and at least another 122 in Greece.

"Earthquakes happen all the time, and this year we are not seeing more than usual. We've just had a bad year in terms of the casualties," Alice Walker, a seismologist at the British Geological Survey in Edinburgh, told Reuters.

While three major quakes in just over one month may seem like a lot, the world is hit by 18 earthquakes measuring 7.0 or greater every year on average, and four or five above the very dangerous 7.6 level, according

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**BNP stages sit-in near UN HQ**

By Staff Correspondent

BNP leaders and activists in New York yesterday staged a sit-in near the UN headquarters protesting Awami League government's "anti-people and anti-state" activities and submitted a memorandum to the office of the UN Secretary General.

According to a BNP press release issued here, hundreds of BNP activists joined the sit-in protesting the "government's decision to provide corridor to India, deterioration in law and order, politicisation of the administration, incidents of rape on campuses, arrest and killing of opposition activists and filing of false cases against them."

During the demonstration, BNP activists also chanted slogans against the government's fascist, undemocratic and

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**BNP to stage countrywide demonstration today**

By Staff Correspondent

The BNP-led opposition alliance will stage demonstrations across the country today to protest various issues, including "latest government clampdown" on opposition leaders and activists.

The opposition campaign is also aimed to protest "attack on sit-in-demonstration on Sept 12, killing of Juba Dal leader at Natore on Sept 13, deterioration of law and order, government decision to provide transit to India, arrest of and harassment of opposition activists, filing of false cases against them and price hike of essentials."

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Western protectionism forces poor nations to rely on foreign funds: UNCTAD

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**Prayer Timings**

September 22

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4:30	5:00
Juma	12:15	1:30
Asr	4:30	4:45
Maghrib	6:05	6:09
Esha	7:45	8:15

Source: Islamic Foundation

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# The Daily Star

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## Quake kills over 1700 in Taiwan

TAIPEI, Sept 21: Thousands of dazed Taiwanese — many wearing only underwear or pajamas — stumbled into dark, chaotic streets early today, shaken awake by an earthquake that killed more than 1,700 people, destroyed thousands of homes and toppled buildings islandwide.

Officials struggled through the day to rescue survivors and recover bodies, but as night fell the death toll kept rising and hundreds were believed still alive but trapped in collapsed buildings.

With a preliminary magnitude of 7.6, the quake was the strongest to hit Taiwan in a decade. It was about the same strength as the devastating tremor that killed more than 15,000 people in Turkey last month, although the damage here appeared far less severe.

The quake's epicenter was 145 kilometers south of Taipei, the US Geological Survey's National Earthquake Information

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