IRDIA

SEISMIC ZONING MAP OF BANGLADESH

What's on today

Painting exhibition: A three-week long painting exhibition on Rickshaw and Baby-taxi will be inaugurated. Some 500 paintings will be on display at the show. Venue: Alliance Française. Time: 5.00 pm.

Film show: The British Council organises a three-day film show British films in Dhaka. Today's film: A Letter to Brezhnev.

Venue: British Council auditorium. Time: 4.00 pm. CDC seminar: A three-day seminar on 'Communication, New Technology and Development' is being held under the auspices of Centre for Development Communication. Two sessions will be held today. Venue: CIRDAP auditorium. Time: 9.30 am and 3.00

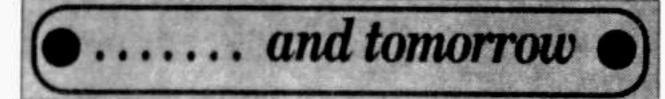
Film show: Three French movies will be screened — Wages of Fear, Familyless and Elisa. Venue: Alliance Française. Time: 11.00 am, 4.00 pm and 6.00 pm respectively.

Discussion: Iranian Cultural Centre has organised a discussion meeting on the occasion of birth centennial of Imam Khomeini. Venue: Cultural Centre auditorium. Time: 4.00 pm.

Seminar on AIDS: Lions Club International District 315 B1 has organised a participatory seminar on 'AIDS Prevention: Response by Civil Society.' State Minister for Health Prof M Amanullah will be present as chief guest. Venue: Seminar room. BCIC Bhaban. Dilkusha. Time: 4.00 pm.

Musical soiree: The launching ceremony of noted artist Shimul Yusuf's CDs on Lalon Geeti (Aasha Shindhur Tirey) and Nazrul Geeti (Alo Andhar Adho Andhar) will be held. A solo musical programme by the artist will follow the ceremony. Venue: National Museum auditorium. Time 6:30 pm.

Discussion meeting: Naripakkha will hold a discussion meeting as part of their programme to observe October as a month to create awareness against breast cancer. The discussion will be followed by a cultural programme. Venue: Save the Children (UK), House no 28, Road no 16 (New) 27 (Old), Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 4.00 pm.



Musical soiree: Rabi Rashmi, a cultural organisation will hold an evening of Rabindra Sangeet to celebrate its 1st anniversary. Venue: Public Library auditorium. Time: 6:30 pm.

CDC seminar: Two sessions of a three-day seminar on Communication, New Technology and Development, organised by Centre for Development Communication, will be held on the last day. Venue: CIRDAP auditorium. Time: 10:00 am and 3:00 pm.

Seminar: The British Council has organised a day-long seminar on 'Women, Careers and Leadership.' Venue: British Council auditorium.

Workshop: Institute of Training and Development Education (ITDE) will hold a day-long workshop on 'Executive Development: Key Factors for Success. Venue: WVA auditorium. Time: 9.30 am.

Conference: The Regional Conference: SAARC NGO Women for Peace' will be inaugurated, jointly organised by Women for Women: A Research and Study Group and UNIFEM. Venue: BRAC Centre, Mohakhali. Time: 10:00 am.

Clinical meeting: Z H Sikder Cardiac Care & Research Centre organises a clinical meeting on 'Exercise Tolerant Test' Venue: Conference Hall of the Research Centre. Monica Estate. West Dhanmondi. Time: From 9:00 am to 10:00 am.

Meeting: An extended meeting of the Social Welfare Alumni Association will be held. Venue: TSC premises on DU campus. Time: 4:00 pms

Weather

No change in temperature

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers with temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over Barisal, Khulna and Chittagong divisions and at one or two places over Dhaka, Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions during the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country during the period. Met office said.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 34.5 degree Celsius was recorded at Srimangal and the lowest of 22.9 degrees at Chandpur. The sun sets today at 5.46 pm and rises tomorrow at 5.50 am.

Maximum and minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were :

City/10wn	in Celsius		percentage	
200 5	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	34.3	26.5	69	81
Chittagong	33.2	24.7	76	82
Rajshahi	33.8	26.3	84	80
Khulna	32.0	27.5	84	90
Barisal	32.0	26.4	90	95
Sylhet	33.0	25.0	87	82
Cox's Bazar	32.5	24.0	73	85

HERE and THERE

BMC

A regular meeting of the guardians advisory committee of Bangladesh Medical College (BMC) was held on Tuesday at the college conference hall, reports BSS

BMC co-chairman M M Zaman presided over the meeting. said a press release The meeting reviewed the

academic environment, results of examinations and other relevant subjects.

A number of suggestions made by the guardians were accepted by the college authori-

BIBM

A 3-day workshop on Treasury Management in Banks" concluded at the Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management (BIBM) yesterday. reports UNB.

A total of 27 senior executives of banks and financial institutions participated in the workshop.

The workshop was designed to develop knowledge and skills for effective handling of treasury management functions of banks and financial institu-

Transhipment talk

From page surgents

The planning minister also made it clear that the government would consider giving land transhipment facility to India only after being sure about its economic benefit He said the government

would act on the advice of the Task Force, which is now assessing the economic impact of the proposed transhipment. Bangladesh Institute of De-

velopment Studies (BIDS) ar ranged the roundtable to get views of politicians, economists and journalists on the contentious transhipment

Dr Alamgir observed Bangladesh's advantageous geographic location leaves a scope for her to bargain for transit or transhipment with India. An accord signed in 1980 during BNP regime agreed to give India transit and it can be amended to maximise economic benefit from transhipment.

He ruled out the security concerns, as ventilated in the roundtable by most of the speakers, saying that there is no such instance of security hazard caused by railway and waterway transit already existing with India for last 50 years.

Speakers advised security reasons should be given serious consideration before giving transhipment facility to India under a bilateral agreement. They suggested a multilateral arrangement rather would reduce the security concerns. Workers Party leader Rashed Khan Menon said border trou-

bles and Indian military buildups along Bangladesh border left enough reasons for Bangladesh to be cautious about security

Quoting an article he said India took 20 years to give Bangladesh a 300-year corridor to Dahgram-Angarpota enclave only because of security rea-

Security aspect seriously arises if India is given land transit through Bangladesh. The security threat will reduce if a multilateral arrangement can be made, he felt.

Former vice-chancellor of Dhaka University Prof Moniruzzaman Mia said security would remain protected if there was multilateral interdependency. He favoured the transit should have a multilateral coverage to reduce the security threat.

He criticised India for using bilateral deal as a means to bother others. He said India on various fronts tried to press Bangladesh to give transit on bilateral basis.

The Weekly Holiday editor Enayetullah Khan also criticised India's attitude of pursuing the tactics of bilateral negotiations by passing the multilateralism under the umbrella of SAARC

Adviser to the Task Force on Transhipment M Saiduzzaman. BIDS director general Abu Abdullah, senior research fellow Dr Sajjad Jahir and research director of the Institute Dr KAS Morshed were, among other speakers.



FBCCI president Abdul Awal Mintoo giving away the best area manager award yesterday during the relauncing of Johnson's pH 5.5 shampoo at a local hotel yesterday.

Johnson's pH 5.5

shampoo relaunched

in new pack

ceremony of Johnson's pH 5.5

Shampoo and Facial Wash in a

new pack, Johnson and John-

son hosted a function at Winter

Garden. Dhaka Sheraton Hotel

on Wednesday. This is the first

time Johnson and Johnson ar-

ranged a product launching cer-

emony in Bangladesh, says a

FBCCI President, Abdul Awal

Mintoo made a brief speech and

formally inaugurated the prod-

uct. Nasreen Awal MD, MF Con-

sumers Ltd (Importer of John-

son and Johnson products in

Bangladesh) delivered the wel-

come speech while DM Khan.

Advisor of MFCL and Mr

Prasenjeet Chatterjee also

plained the usage of Johnson's

pH 5.5 Shampoo and Facial

Wash to the audience. During

the programme special awards

were given to the best sales persons of different zones of the

country. The relaunching cere-

mony was followed by live music from Tapan Chowdhury and

Beautician Keya Shelly ex-

spoke on the occasion.

Jhumu Khan.

As the special guest of honor

press release.

To mark the relaunching

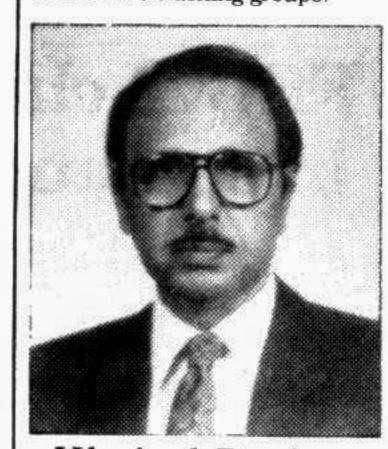
10 hurt as BCL factions clash in Chittagong

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Sept 30: At least ten people were injured in a gunfight between two rival factions of BCL at Agrabad commerce college today, witnesses said.

The injured were admitted to private clinics in the city. Police arrested four BCL ac-

tivists from the spot. Police and witnesses said, the trouble started at around 12 noon. The activists of two rival factions (Nasir and Kader) exchanged fire and exploded crackers during an hour-long

Later, a large contingent of police rushed to the spot and chased the clashing groups.



Khairul Bashar new Secy-Gen of PFA

Khairul Bashar has been appointed Secretary-General of the Press Foundation of Asia (PFA), based in Manila, Philippines, says a press release.

His appointment came following a board resolution adopted by PFA directors and trustees meeting in New Delhi-in February and he has taken over the charge recently. Bashar is the second

Bangladeshi media-personality after renowned journalist late S M Ali, Founder-Editor of The Daily Star, to serve the PFA as its chief executive.

Bashar has been working as Executive Director of Asian Institute for Development Communication (Aidcom) based in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia since 1986. Prior to that, he served UNESCO and other international organisations. His journalistic career began in the late 50's and he worked for a number of national dailies published from Dhaka

Bashar obtained masters degree and post-graduate diploma in Mass Communication and Journalism in the USA and Sweden

Founded in 1967. PFA is a 150-member regional association of publishers and editors. In 1991. PFA won the Ramon Magsaysay Award for International Understanding for its committed service in upgrading standards in the Asian press.

Four of Bashar's predecessors are Magsaysay journalism awardees: Mochtar Lubis (1958). Tarzie Vittachi (1959). Ami tabha Chowdhury (1961) and Raul Locsin (1999)



An appeal for help

Sloki Pradhan, a meritori ous first year student of Sand-Dhaka Dental College has been suffering from acute Myeloblastic Leukaemia (Blood Cancer). The only treatment for this disease is an immediate bone-marrow transplant involving a huge amount of money in medical costs which will be quite impossible for her family to bear, says a press release

Sandhani. Dhaka Dental College, has taken the responsibility to conduct a campaign to collect part of the total ex-

Sandhani appeals to all to extend a helping hand to save her life.

tribûte may contact Sandhani Dhaka Dental College. Ph 9665140, or Dhaka Dental Col lege Hostel, Sobhanbagh, Ph

Contributions can also be sent to: A/c Holder: Prof. S Mozammel Hossain, Principal Dhaka Dental College. Account Number: Current 19. Branch: Janata Bank, Dhaka Medical College Hospital Br.

Disorder From page 1

With unchecked growth of

many other business establish ments and apartment complexes. Dhanmondi seems to have a bleak future unless the authorities take up immediate measures to trash out a solution, residents fear. They said at least some

roads had to be made one-way thoroughfares during school hours. Besides, encroachers have to be penalised and their materials removed from the pubic roads, they also said. While authorities of some

schools have written to parents. local Ward Commissioner and even to the students' drivers. most of the schools have remained oblivious to the problem they are partially responsible

Noorjahan Begum, Vice-principal of Junior Section of Scholastica School, said her school not only wrote to the parents and drivers in Bangla, but also sent copies of the letters to other schools in the vicinity urging them to follow suit.

"We are constantly urging parents to abide by the traffic rules and telling them how best they could drop and pick up their kids without creating nuisance," she said.

The vice-principal also said this year they had two traffic policemen from the DMP's Traffic Department to manage traffic during school hours.

Some busy schools like Sunbeam, South Breeze, Sunnydale and Scholastica have chalked out routes and asked guardians to follow them for dropping and picking up children. But the problem arises when there are other not-so-caring schools on the same road. While one school's traffic is directed to a particular route, others use the opposite side.

The principal of a busy school, requesting anonymity. said she believed the entire traffic problem could be solved by enforcing traffic rules and turning some roads one-way thoroughfares with bold and visible road signs.

Guenter Grass

"Here he comes to grips with the enormous task of reviewing contemporary history by recalling the disavowed and the forgotten: the victims, losers and lies that people wanted to forget because they had once believed in them. ...," the academy said.

"It is not too audacious to assume that "The Tin Drum." will become one of the enduring literary works of the 20th cen-Combining naturalistic detail

with fantastical images and events. Grass established his reputation with The Tin Drum, "Cat and Mouse' and "Dog Years," published between 1959 and 1963. Collectively known as The Dangzing Trilogy, the novels cap-

tured the German reaction to the rise of Nazism, the horrors of war and the guilt that lingered in the aftermath of Adolf Hitler's regime. Grass is the fifth consecutive European to win the prize and

Germany's seventh Nobel literature laureate. He is a heralded social critic. admired by his literary contemporaries but also controversial because of his political views. He argued against the speedy reunification of East and West Germany in 1990. In 1997, he called the then conservative German government's refugee

and asylum policies "democrati-

cally covered barbarism." The Swedish Academy noted the award is for Grass' body of work, including his most recent novel, "My Century," which

taken to avoid any untoward

parties guarded against any

confrontation and ensured a

peaceful siege programme. They

did not try to break the barbed

wire barricades put up by police

BNP organised a big gather-

ing at Kalabagan Krira Chakra

playground and held a rally be-

fore marching towards the EC

Secretariat. City BNP Convenor

Addressing the rally, BNP

Sadek Hossain Khoka presided.

Secretary General Abdul

they would resist any move to

hold any polls in the country

under the present Chief

Election Commissioner and

ernment to hold any polls un-

der CEC Muhammad Abu Hena.

Prior to any polls, he must quit

and our other demands must be

met. If necessary, election laws

have to be amended and

government and its 'subservient

CEC are conspiring to hold the

upazila polls, keeping BNP

away. The conspiracy would be

He claimed that a total of 14

resisted at any cost, he added.

people were killed and an un-

specified number injured in last

one year's movement against

ties, who represent 70 per cent

of the people, expressed their

no confidence in the CEC and

have been agitating for about a

year for his resignation. "But he

is still holding office, imple-

menting all evil designs of this

autocratic government and

conspiring to prolong Awami

simultaneous one-point oust

government movement and EC

siege programme. Bhuiyan said

There is no conflict between

the two. We will go for election

Referring to the Opposition's

League rule in the country."

He said the opposition par-

Bhuiyan alleged that the

changed.

the CEC.

"We will not allow the gov-

keeping BNP out of the race.

Mannan Bhuiyan warned that

to halt the processionists.

Leaders of the opposition

incident.

came out this year. Academy secretary Horace Engdahl, who made the announcement, said the academy didn't take into account Grass' controversial

Jose Saramago of Portugal won last year's Nobel Prize in literature. Nobel Prize winners receive their prizes, this year worth

960,000 dollars on December Thursday's announcement of the 1999 literature prize was a break from tradition. The Swedish Agademy, usually names the winner on a Thursday in October. It did not say why the winner was announced

River transport

sooner this year.

From page 1 ties concerned to find out a reasonable solution after having discussion with the representatives of the WTOA and Transport Workers' Association.

Commerce and Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed and Prime Minister's Political Advisor Dr S A Malek were pre-

The WTOA was represented by Mahmudur Rahman, Mahbub Uddin Ahmed, Kalimuddin, A T M Giasuddin, Habibul Alam. Golam Mawla and Mashiur Rahman.

It threatened to go on a nonstop strike from midnight last night to press for withdrawal of 15 per cent VAT imposed on river transport sector.

Opposition programme Police personnel were deployed on all roads, lanes and by lanes in Dhanmondi area and restricted movement of

> Sheikh Ishtiaque had to his credit four solo cassettes and a good number of mixed cassettes with other artistes. The songs made him famous among the fans are Ekdin Ghum Bhengey Dekhi, 'Nilanjana,' 'Bhagyer Dakter, and Kon Ba Doshey Atylo Pireet.

Members of artistes' guild and Bangladesh Film Journalists' Association condoled the death of the promising singer.

No gold From page 12

Sri Lanka bagged the silver in this category. The

173-member Bangladesh contingent has so far managed a lone gold in the women's 50m free rifle team event. Kazi Shana Parvin, Sabrina Sultana and lovely Chowdhury clinched the gold on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, on completion of the sixth day of the Games. runaway leaders India remained at the top of medals table with 74 golds followed by Nepal. Fourteen out of Nepal's 17 golds however came from 16 karate events.

Sri Lanka, with 15 golds. and Pakistan, with 7 golds, remained glued to their previous positions of third and fourth.

Medals Table (Day SIX) 46

В 20 140 - 5 14 36 23 21 1 7 24 32 0 0

(Extracted from Bangladesh National Building Code 1993, HBRI-BSTI) Mymensingh and Sylhet re-Other RAJUK officials pregions. Zone-2 covers Dinajpur, Rajshahi. Dhaka. Comilla and

Quake could be catastrophic From page

INDIA

INDIA

data base that would help remain prepared for a quake and meet the eventualities in the event of a seismic jolt. This, the country lacks rather badly, including the capability to respond to post-quake scenario above Richter scale impact of

The database would update the seismic map in the country with the help of the data from the Jorhat observatory in neighbouring Assam. India. Jamilur Reza Choudhury, Professor of Civil engineering at the BUET told the Star last

"We are making a risk analysis of the selected areas of Dhaka city, gathering data of building quality, structures and accessibility in case of a disaster", he said adding that Tk 500,000 project would be completed by June, 2000

From Jorhat we have got last five years' data. By next year we would get the data up to 1999. which would help us get better prepared for the possible quake scenario, the professor added.

Choudhury, who helped prepare the 1993 Bangladesh National Building Code (BNBC) said "we designed the building code. There is a complete code on building including power. gas and water systems on the basis of a seismic map". But the book does not have a Bangla version for which work is under

way , he said. The seismic map divides the country into three zones. Zone-3, the most vulnerable fault line' runs through Rangpur.

Chittagong. Zone-1 encompasses the South Western region which is less risky. BNBC codifies the design for a building on the basis of the zoning and risk factors, in sim-

ple terms spells out how to fortify the buildings to withstand quakes up to 7 on the Richter "But the problem is, none of this is being cared for. Most homes are not built according to specifications and are designed by architects. Non-engi-neers prepare the design and

nately, no one is supervising". the professor complained. "If there is a nightmarish situation like the collapse in 1985 of an auditorium at the Jagannath Hall of Dhaka University, there would be no preparation for rescue operation by means of a crane to pull up the beams. Eventually an Army crane had to be brought to do the job", the professor re-

structural details. Unfortu-

called. The present situation poses far more serious threats than a disaster. It is going to be a catastrophe. There is no agency to respond to an emergency situation to carry out rescue operations, he added.

But the Professor also had a few words of consolation. Those who are living in high rises, built according to specifications, supervision and tested to withstand up to Richter scale 7 jolts, would survive. He said such buildings would not crumble down like card -board homes. One has to find a competent builder to examine the de-

On supervision, he said that the be designs should be duly signed by an architect and a structural engineer. There should be a professional body like chartered engineers of UK or professional engineers like those in the USA to certify it. It would then be possible to pinpoint responsibility. He added that the buildings having faulty designs or at risk, could be 'retrofitted'. For ordinary homes, he recommended iron rods and concrete pillars on four corners with a view to reinforcing the brick walls.

Professor Chouhdury said that buildings above nine story must be certified by an independent engineer. Currently, he said, from builders are getting designs for high rises checked from BUET

Badrul Huda, an architect suggested that details of master plan of major cities especially those falling under the critical earthquake factor applicable for the area must be prepared. The building construction rules may restrict the heights of the buildings depending on the severity of earthquake factor in the zone, identify unsafe buildings like old structures, poor quality construction and the

Huda said recent Turkish and Taiwanese earthquake suggest that we should be prepared for any eventuality since Dhaka and Chittagong lies within the fault area, he noted.

Huda suggested that profes sionals must group together to develop a body to supervise and approve the buildings and oversee irresponsible jobs done by builders. Azizul Huq. Chairman of

RAJUK, the city's building authority admitted that his organisation lacked manpower to supervise the constructions and completed buildings. There are only 24 engineers and 60 inspectors for a metropolis. whose master plan covers 1528 sq km area. Apart from Dhaka City Corporation, there are five municipalities where nearly 9 million people live.

ferring anonymity admitted that lack of manpower for supervision is leading to low quality work. They observed that there should be necessary legislation.

Citing two examples of buildings caving in or collapsing in Basabo and Kalabagan recently because of faulty construction, constructed without pilings on wetlands, they said that legislation were required urgently to prevent constructions on unstable lands like filling up a wetland without on April 15 last year Prime

Minister Sheikh Hasina ordered that there should not be any construction on parks, lakes, wetlands etc., beyond the city's master plan. But the problem originates from the private owners who are converting their wetlands and ditches for selling them to builders or undertake construction by themselves, the sources said

They pointed out that before buying a flat or a home the buyer must ensure that the property adheres to all safety measures and had been built according to specification. He or she must ensure that there are fire exits, fire extinguishers, alarms etc to meet emergencies. the RAJUK officials said.

Shikdar

From page 12

formal request by from the KMP to bank authorities to freeze his accounts, sources Meanwhile, twenty-three

leaders of district and city units

of BNP, including former

Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali MP

and city Mayor Shaikh Tayebur

Rahman today observed a token hunger strike at the Maharaj Square demanding death penalty to Ershad Shikdar and immediate arrest of his associ-The city mayor, who returned to Khulna on Wednesday from one-month long pleasure trip in the USA also demanded

of the government of necessary measures to hand over the land where Shad-Moni Shopping mall was built by Ershad. The land will be used for building a shishu park, he said. Former Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali MP has also denied the allegation of his link with Ershad Shikdar during BNP

rule. Ershad Shikdar was not

even a primary member of

BNP, the former speaker said

while addressing a gathering at the venue of token hunger All unauthorised structures including 17 semi-pucca buildings were demolished at Rup-

sha ferryghat under Khulna thana this morning They were built illegally on the lands of Road and Highways (RHD) department. Most of the structures belonged to activists of the 'whip group' of Awami

League, said a source in KMP. Onion

From page 1 rest of the demand is met through import by private sector, mainly from India

shortfalls in India too, they frequently impose restriction on export of the item. Bangladesh also imports onion from Australia. Iran.

However, due to production

Myanmar, Turkey and some Central Asian countries. "With the duty waiver on

onion import, the government hopes that the private sector will be encouraged to import onion to meet the market demand at fair prices," said the handout

Persons interested to con-

after toppling the Awami League government through the one-point movement. This is why the movement against the CEC and for realising other demands relating to EC will continue till total success is achieved.

The rally was also addressed by M Shamsul Islam MP Shahjahan Siraj, Lt. Gen (Retd) Mahbubur Rahman, Maj Gen (Retd) ZA Khan, Abdullah Al Noman, Selima Rahman, Mirza Abbas, Gayeshwar Chandra Roy, Fazlur Rahman Patal MP, Maj (Retd) Hafizuddin Ahmed

sand BNP leaders and activists started marching towards the EC secretariat at 12:12 pm and they were halted at Dhanmondi Road -- 27 crossing at 12:25pm.Top leaders of the party including Moudud Ahmed, Abdul Matin Chowdhury and Tanveer Ahmed Siddique led the pro-

Huge contingents of riot police equipped with water cannons were deployed earlier and birbed wire barricade was put up on the road. BDR personnel were kept stand-by inside the Bangladesh Institute of Management

Witnesses said some 10,000 BNP leaders and activists joined the procession from

programme, Jatiya Party leaders and activists reached near the barricade in a small procession and staged demonstration there.

vehicles for several hours, resulting in heavy traffic jam. Ishtiaque From page 12 A play-back singer of films,

MP and Amanullah Aman MP. After the rally, several thou-

BNP activists did not try to break the barricade, sat on the road and demonstrated for some time. Sadek Hossain Khoka briefly spoke there.

Kalabagan playground but most of them did not go up to the barricade. Some 2.000 activists stayed till the end of the programme. It then seemed that the number of police personnel there was more than that of BNP men. As soon as BNP concluded its

Country India Nepal Sri Lanka 15 35 Pakistan pangladesh Maldives

Bhutan