



A section of the crowd that gathered at a station to listen to Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday. Quader went to Nilphamari on the train and held rallies where the train stopped. PHOTO: COLLECTED

AL on campaign trail in North

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The usual activities of the station were also hampered due to the gathering of several hundred AL men, sources said. Quader spoke at a meeting there. Usually, the train enters this station at 10:10am and leaves at 10:12am, said Station Master Jalal Uddin. "But today, the train arrived at 10:35am and departed at 11:05am."
Ashok Kumar Chakraborty, assistant station master of Natore station, said almost all the trains that touched this station were delayed as a result. Nilsagar Express reached the Natore station at 2:15pm, some 1.10 hours behind schedule.
Of the trains, Dhaka-bound Rangpur Express got late by 2.40 hours, Khulna-bound Rupsha Express by 1.30 hours and Dinajpur-bound Ekota Express by 1.10 hours.
Shamim Hossain, a passenger of Nilsagar Express, told The Daily Star at Natore station, "I have to go to Nilphamari quickly but the train is delayed by over an hour. The political leaders should think about common people."
Abdul Malek, a passenger of Rangpur Express, said, "It is very disgusting that an express train is late by three hours because of a minister."
Quader, also the road, transport and bridges minister, addressed a rally at Santahar station in Bogra and the train stayed there for 25 minutes. Usually, it halts there for around 5 minutes.

Contacted at 10:15pm, Railway Minister Mazibul Hoque declined to make any comment, saying, "I am now at a meeting."
Nazmul Ahsan, divisional railway manager (Pakshi), said no special schedule was made for this tour of AL team.
Azimuuddin, officer-in-charge of Ishwardi Police Station, said they came to know about his visit and meeting through official channel as Obaidul Quader is a minister.
Asked whether permission was taken for the meeting, held at Muladuli station in Ishwardi and addressed by Quader, the OC replied in the negative. **NO MORE INTRA-PARTY FEUD**
The main message of the AL general secretary at the rallies was that intra-party feuds won't be tolerated and those who will contest the election ignoring the party decision will be expelled.
He said the party will pick MP candidates considering popularity.
"Don't try to build houses within a direct action," Quader said while addressing a rally at Tangail station, reports UNB.
Earlier in the morning at the Kamalapur station, Quader said the aim of the train journey is to highlight the development projects taken up by the AL government and strengthen the party.
The organisational activities of the party will play an important role in

making the grassroots aware of the "rumour politics" of BNP and Jamaat, he said.
"The upcoming election will be a competitive one and we've to take preparations considering this. If there's any internal dispute, we've to solve that. This campaign is to revitalise the grassroots leaders."
Speaking at Natore station, Obaidul said the BNP will not be able to wage any movement in the next two or three months like it could not organise any in last ten years.
'NOTHING TO SAY'
Whenever the train reached a station, the platform and surrounding areas turned into a rally ground, said Khondaker Ashrafur Islam, a NGO worker.
"I have nothing to say. To whom I will complain? Who will give us solution of this problem?" he told this paper.
Nazma Begum, a 56-year-old kidney patient, said, "Our lives have no value to the politicians."
"My condition improved after treatment in Dhaka but it has deteriorated now as it took so long to reach Nilphamari," Nazma said while two relatives were helping her walk at the Nilphamari station.
Ali Reza, a businessman from Stationpara of Nilphamari town, "We want an end to such politics where politicians benefit making people suffer."

Dev without democracy not sustainable

Speakers tell a roundtable in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Lack of democracy and good governance was apparent in the country and it posed a challenge to achieving sustainable development, experts said at a discussion yesterday.
The country's economic growth was not achieved based on the principle of equality as the rich-poor gap increased in recent years, they observed.
The Dhaka Forum (TDF), a non-political platform of cross-section citizens, organised the roundtable on "Development, Democracy and Good Governance" at the Jatiya Press Club.
Speakers, including economists, former bureaucrats, political scientists and good-governance campaigners, at the programme stressed the need for establishing rule of law in the country and making the government institutions accountable to achieve prosperity.
In his keynote speech, former Bangladesh Bank governor Salehuddin Ahmed said it was not right to consider development and democracy separately as they were interrelated.
Development in some countries, where democracy was absent, had been brought to the fore at times as examples, he said.
Such development was neither sustainable nor equality-based, he said, adding that only materialism and consumerism flourished in those countries rather than values and individual freedom.
"We don't want Bangladesh to take a similar path."
Salehuddin, also the president of TDF, said although there is no political tension in the country now, uncer-

tainty is there.
Whichever political government takes over power, people don't see good governance, he said.
"This lack of good governance meant absence of transparency and accountability... if someone committed an offence, he was not unpunished."
The economist also said the country's banking sector has been facing multiple problems for long and its biggest problem now is lack of good governance.
There are international standard laws and rules for the sector, but those are not being implemented properly, Salehuddin added.
He said the government must ensure democracy and good governance and bring back discipline and dynamism in the financial sector to help sustainable and equality-based development.
"Democracy and development must go hand in hand. If you only ensure development and overlook democracy, you can't establish a sustainable, equality-based and meaningful society."
Former cabinet secretary Ali Imam Majumdar said income disparity has worsened due to corruption. Besides, corruption grew within institutions due to a culture of impunity.
Pointing at the lack of quality in the evening courses of some public universities, he said this happened due to "governance failure" of the state's monitoring and regulatory bodies.
It would not have happened if the University Grants Commission and other related government bodies looked into the matter seriously, he said.
Political scientist Prof Dilara

Choudhury said politicians would formulate policies and the citizen's role was to create pressure on them by holding them accountable for their activities.
"Unfortunately, the people don't speak out as the government is repressive."
She said civil society members should also take the responsibility of making the government accountable.
About the upcoming parliamentary polls, former caretaker government adviser M Hafizuddin Khan said it was the Election Commission's constitutional responsibility to hold free and fair elections.
He said the EC would have to "face punishment" if it failed to deliver on its responsibility.
A movement should be waged demanding free and fair polls as the national polls are only months away, he observed.
Former caretaker government adviser Mainul Hossain said the country should be ruled based on "people's constitution".
He also said party politics and partisanship would prove meaningless if the political parties failed to make the election process free and fair.
Mainul alleged that the police was made controversial as the force was used in doing politics.
Senior journalist Amanullah Kabir said decentralisation of the administration was necessary to ensure development.
"The country's politics has been 'polluted' since the businessmen got involved in it, he added.

5 girls

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Authorities have found that once they got out, some of the girls made phone calls to accomplices who sent them money through mobile banking services.
Most of the escaped girls used the money to flee Mogorkhal area where the home is located.
Dilruba said a three-member committee headed by a magistrate was formed to look into how the girls escaped. The committee was asked to submit its report in seven days.
Meher Afroz Chumki, state minister for women and children affairs, visited the home yesterday.
Mirzapur police said six of the eight girls caught there have speech impairment.
Police also detained a 17-year-old boy who was with the girls at the time.
Locals detained them at Mirzapur Rail Station and handed them to police, Mizanul Haque, officer-in-charge of Mirzapur Police Station, said.
They boarded a train at Airport Rail Station in Dhaka in the morning. They were forced to get down at Mirzapur as they didn't have tickets, he added.
The girls told police that they were tired and bored of the life and unappetising food at the home.

Egypt sentences 75 to death

FROM PAGE 16
Islamist President Mohamed Mursi by the military -- led at the time by Egypt's current president, Abdel Fattah al-Sisi -- security forces violently broke up the demonstrators at Rabaa square.
They arrested hundreds of people who were charged with inciting violence, murder and organising illegal protests.
Rights groups have criticised the trial for including many peaceful protesters and journalists.
"We condemn today's verdict in the strongest terms," Amnesty International said in a statement. "The fact that not a single police officer has been brought to account... shows what a mockery of justice this trial was."
Since Sisi was elected president in 2014, authorities have justified a crackdown on dissent and freedoms as being directed at militants and saboteurs trying to undermine the state.
Death sentences have been handed down to hundreds of his political opponents on charges such as belonging to an illegal organization or planning to carry out an attack.
Supporters say a security crackdown is needed to stabilise Egypt, which still faces an Islamist insurgency in the Sinai Peninsula and is reeling finan-

cially from years of unrest.
Critics say the erosion of freedoms and silencing of political opponents is the worst Egypt has seen in its modern history.
Count 100m
FROM PAGE 16
The parents soon realized how impossible it is to finish the task, which the teacher reportedly gave students two days to complete.
"How can I store around 1.67 tonnes of rice at home?" asked one parent. Another one wondered if it is a "brainteaser," while a third one said, "If we could count three grains of rice in one second, it will take about one year to finish the homework!"
The mathematics teacher defended the assignment, saying she intended to teach students what "estimation" is, adding that she wanted children to use their brains.
"I actually never hoped my students would directly count the rice [grains one] by one. I hope my students will count 100 grains first and then multiply the figure by 10 or 100 until the figure reaches 100 million," she was quoted by local media as saying.
Indeed, some parents said they found the homework to be instrumental in fostering critical thinking and analytical skills.
One parent noted she would help her daughter count 100 or 1,000 grains first, weigh the amount then use simple multiplication to help her get a gist of what the number 100 million is.
The workload on students has been an issue of much debate in China amid ongoing reforms in the educational system, with more emphasis on innovation and meaningful and active learning.
A survey by education firm Afanti published last year found that Chinese students spend around three hours every day on their homework, 3.7 times more than their Japanese peers and 4.8 times that of South Korean pupils.
Local authorities across the country have been trying to ease the homework load, and hence stress, on students, rolling out policies in multiple cities that ban paper-based homework for students below second grade, and discourage assignments that take more than one hour to complete for older students.

Free Shahidul

FROM PAGE 1
"In 1971, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the leader of Bangladesh's freedom movement and father of the current Prime Minister, said -- I have given you independence, now go and preserve it. We urge Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Wazed to honour her father's words. To preserve independence means to preserve the freedom of the press. Free Shahidul Alam," the statement, tweeted by Indian journalist Salil Tripathi, said.
Acclaimed photographer Shahidul, 63, is now in Dhaka central jail in a case filed under the controversial Section 57 of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Act.
Police charged him with "spreading propaganda and false information against the government".
Shahidul was picked up by plainclothes men from his home in the capital's Dhanmondi on August 5.
Police filed the case against him and produced him before a Dhaka court the following day.
He was placed on a seven-day remand.
In court, Shahidul said he was tortured in custody. Police denied the allegation.
On completion of his seven-day remand, Shahidul was denied bail and sent to jail by a Dhaka court on August 13.
On September 4, a judge of the High Court bench felt "embarrassed" to hear Shahidul's bail petition in the case against him.
The bench, however, did not disclose a reason for it.
Many notable personalities, including Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen along with 11 other Nobel Prize winners, have also called for immediate release of Shahidul.

Road safety campaigner

FROM PAGE 1
SROTA Convener Hossain Zillur Rahman said, "Mr Chowdhury's arrest will confuse and demoralise all those who are actively working to build awareness on road safety."
In a statement, SROTA said JKS recently presented the statistics on road accidents during the Eid-ul-Azha. It said JKS sources had confirmed SROTA that Mozammel was on his way to a talk show at ATN Bangla at the time of the alleged extortion at 5:00pm on September 3.
Newspaper reports published on September 7 had exposed serious inconsistencies in the first information report based on which Mozammel has been arrested, it added.
"SROTA is deeply concerned whether Mr Chowdhury is an unfortunate victim of malicious action by vested quarters because of his activism on road safety and passenger welfare."
Mozammel and JKS has been championing government's call for greater awareness and responsible action by all stakeholders to deal with the national problem of road safety.
It called for unconditional release of Mozzamel and urged the government to ensure an enabling environment for stakeholders' engagement in promoting awareness and accountability for better road safety.

Police arrested Mozammel at his Sanarpar home in Narayanganj, two days after the case was filed with Mirpur Model Police Station.
In the case statement, complainant Md Dulal alleged that Mozammel, claiming to be a transport sector leader, demanded Tk 2 lakh from him, and he gave Mozammel Tk 10,000 in front of Sony Cinema Hall in Mirpur on September 3.
Meanwhile, Safe Road and Transport Alliance yesterday expressed deep shock and concern at the arrest of its member Mozzamel.

Won't be

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food storages in the county to ensure storage of up to 22 lakh tonnes of food to meet the demand during any crisis, the premier told the programme.
She blasted the post-1975 governments led by Ziaur Rahman, HM Ershad and Khaleda Zia, saying those never wanted Bangladesh to be self-sufficient in food.
Hasina alleged that those governments had violated the agriculture policy framed by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and also never wanted the welfare of farmers and improvement of people's lifestyle.
Earlier, the PM inaugurated the KIB convention by hoisting the national flag and releasing balloons.
Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury was present as a special guest at the programme, chaired by KIB President AMM Saleh.

Three of a family

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Hospital. Tania is being treated there.
After the accident, locals blocked the highway demanding arrest of the bus driver. The highway was blocked until late at night.
Police went to the spot to recover the bodies and clear the highway.

UP chairman

FROM PAGE 16
around 11:00pm, witnesses said.
Six men on two motorcycles arrived and one of them shot Mosharaf from close range, they said.
Locals rushed Mosharaf to Kaliganj Upazila Health Complex with bullet injuries in his mouth and head and doctors there declared him dead, they added.
Sabuj Hossain, president of Krishnanagar Union Awami League, said he heard four to five gunshots from his home nearby.
An Inspector of Kaliganj Police Station said they were looking for the assailants.

Progress

FROM PAGE 2
Myanmar's deportation of the Rohingya population to Bangladesh.
Amnesty International has said the ICC decision is a significant step in the right direction which opens up a clear avenue of justice for the Rohingya who were driven out of their homes.

5 'Bangladeshis'

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that the five were staying in India without valid documents and were working as workers at various construction sites in Pune.
They had fraudulently obtained Indian Permanent Account Number (PAN) Cards needed for filing income tax returns and opening bank accounts, multipurpose identity Aadhaar cards, election cards and ration cards in fictitious names by providing fake or forged documents, the NIA statement read.
The five "Bangladeshis" used the said Aadhaar and PAN cards to obtain Indian SIM cards, open bank accounts and seek employment in India.
The NIA said its probe also brought out that the arrestees in 2017 provided shelter and money to one Tushar Bishwas alias Tanvir, a member of the Ansarullah Bangla Team, against whom a charge-sheet under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act of 1967 was earlier filed by the NIA.
Ansarullah Bangla Team has been banned in Bangladesh following which it has been operating by the name of Ansar Al Islam.

Trump 'capitalising'

FROM PAGE 16
keeping a relatively low profile since leaving office in January 2017, accused Republicans of being unwilling to safeguard democracy or offer a check on Trump's policies or worst instincts.
He said voters would have to do it instead. The former president implored the young Illinois audience to take a stand in November, warning "our democracy depends on it."
Trump was dismissive of Obama's speech.
"I'm sorry, I watched it but I fell asleep," he said during a fundraiser in North Dakota. "I found that he's very, very good for sleeping."
The November elections have been seen as a referendum on Trump, who has fulfilled campaign promises to cut taxes and regulations but who faces a widening special counsel probe of Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election and growing questions about his fitness for office, even by some within his administration.
Obama ridiculed Trump for taking credit for economic gains that began under Obama's administration, and said Trump was exploiting cultural fears and economic anger that have grown in recent years amid societal upheavals.
"It did not start with Donald Trump. He is a symptom, not the cause," said Obama calling the present president by name. "He's just capitalizing on resentments that politicians have been fanning for years."
Until now, Obama had been reluctant to criticize his successor publicly, although last week he appeared to chide Trump, without naming him, in a eulogy for the late Republican Senator John McCain.
But he dropped that political reticence in Illinois, the state where he launched his own political career, saying a vote against Republicans

could restore "honesty and decency and lawfulness" to government.
"If you thought that elections don't matter, I hope these last two years have corrected that impression," he said. "The politics of division and resentment and paranoia has unfortunately found a home in the Republican Party."
Republicans shrugged off Obama's criticism.
"In 2016, voters rejected President Obama's policies and his dismissiveness towards half the country. Doubling down on that strategy won't work in 2018 either," said Republican National Committee spokesman Michael Ahrens.
If Democrats win control of one or both chambers in Congress in November, they would be able not just to stymie Trump's agenda but to launch investigations of the Trump administration.
Trump told supporters in Montana on Thursday that Republicans needed to maintain control of Congress to stave off possible impeachment proceedings against him, although Democrats have played down any discussion of that approach.
"If it (impeachment) does happen, it's your fault, because you didn't go out to vote. OK? You didn't go out to vote. You didn't go out to vote. That's the only way it could happen," Trump told the rally.
Obama was to hit the campaign trail yesterday, appearing at a campaign event in southern California before heading to Ohio next week and to Illinois and Pennsylvania later in the month.
In August, Obama endorsed 81 Democratic contenders in 14 states, emphasizing young, diverse candidates running for state-level offices in an attempt to help new party leaders establish themselves.