



'WHAT'LL WE DO?'

Patients suffer in Chittagong as pharmacy owners continue strike over police drive

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TURKEY-RUSSIA ROW

Ankara to hand over the body of Russian pilot killed after his plane was shot down

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IN LOVING MEMORY

Star remembers pioneering artist Qayyum Chowdhury on his first death anniversary

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TEJGAON TRUCK TERMINAL Eviction drive sparks clash

DNCC mayor's initiative to free road stumbles as transport workers go rowdy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Several hundred transport workers went berserk and fought pitched battles with police during an eviction drive against illegal structures at the capital's Tejgaon Truck Terminal yesterday.

This happened when Dhaka North City Corporation Mayor Annisul Huq himself was leading the drive, which began around 1:00pm.

In the face of the rowdy protest, the drive had to be abandoned and the mayor had to take shelter at the nearby office of Bangladesh Truck and Covered Van Drivers Union.

He remained virtually confined there for about three hours till around 5:00pm and was later escorted out of the office by police and Rab members.

At least three people suffered pellet injuries, as police opened fire on the agitating workers who responded by throwing brick chips. A traffic cop was hit by bricks and was seen bleeding.

The workers assaulted several journalists, including The Daily Star photographer Anisur Rahman and bdnews24.com photographer Tanvir Ahmed. Two city corporation employees were also attacked.

Tanvir's camera was smashed and he was taken to Samorita Hospital for treatment. Media vehicles of Channel i and Ekushey Television, and two pickups of the city corporation were vandalised.

The agitating workers put trucks and covered vans at several points on Karwan Bazar-Sat Rasta Link Road in front of the terminal, obstructing vehicular movements for about four hours.

They also burned tyres on the road and chanted slogans against the mayor, witnesses said.

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PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



Transport workers burn tyres to block a street near the Tejgaon Truck Terminal in the capital yesterday, protesting an eviction drive against illegal structures. **Bottom left**, a traffic policeman bleeds after being hit by a brick chunk. **Bottom right**, a damaged microbus of TV station Channel i.

TOP QUOTE

The government made a CHT accord implementation committee. But it has no office, no fund and no office assistant. It's not possible to find even a file of the accord implementation committee."

SANTU LARMA
AT A DISCUSSION AT THE DAILY STAR CENTRE YESTERDAY.

'Muscle power won't work'

Annisul firm on drive to free roads for traffic, pedestrians

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka North City Corporation Mayor Annisul Huq said he would not back off from his stance on making the city roads available for traffic and pedestrians.

"I am telling you this mayor will be very tough in future and showing muscle power won't work. There will be no compromise," he said after an eviction drive led by him at the capital's Tejgaon Truck Terminal yesterday turned into a clash between police and transport workers resisting it.

"There are some people with vested interests here. We know each of them," the mayor told journalists as he was



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'Killer' cop escapes from court

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A suspended police officer escaped from police custody at a Dhaka court yesterday moments after he was denied bail in a case filed for the custodial death of a businessman in 2012.

Rezaul Karim Patwari, a former sub-inspector (SI) of Kafrul Police Station, snuck passed court policemen at the Metropolitan Session Judge's Court in Old Dhaka in the afternoon due to police negligence, said court sources.

Later, sub-inspector Mufakharul Islam of the court police filed a case

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Parties divided on campaign by MPs

BNP backs restriction; AL, JP push for lifting it; EC might not meet vote-deferral demand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP yesterday asked the Election Commission to retain the provision in the new electoral code of conduct that restricts lawmakers from electioneering for mayoral candidates.

However, the ruling Awami League and the main opposition Jatiya Party urged the EC to change the provision, allowing MPs to join election campaigns in the December 30 municipal polls.

In a 14-point demand submitted to the EC, the BNP called for deferring the municipal polls by at least 15 days.

The three political parties conveyed their views to the commission at separate meet-



ings with it at the EC Secretariat in the capital's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar yesterday.

At the meeting with Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad, the JP delegation sought deferment of the municipal election without mentioning any specific time.

As the CEC informed the delegation that it would not be possible to defer the election, the JP leaders requested him to extend the deadline for submission of nomination papers by at least 10 days.

According to the polls schedule, the last date for filing nomination papers is December 3.

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Prayers resume at Bogra Shia mosque

Police form probe body

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Devotees resumed offering prayers yesterday at the Shia mosque in Shibganj upazila, where an armed attack three days ago left one killed and three others bullet hit.

There were more people offering Zohr prayers at the mosque than usual, local people said.

A khadem of local Imamia Janakolyan Foundation, Ukil Mia, has been temporarily appointed as muezzin of the mosque after the killing of the previous muezzin, Moazzem Hossain, in the attack.

LIFE led by his heart

ANISUR RAHMAN and EMRAN HOSSAIN

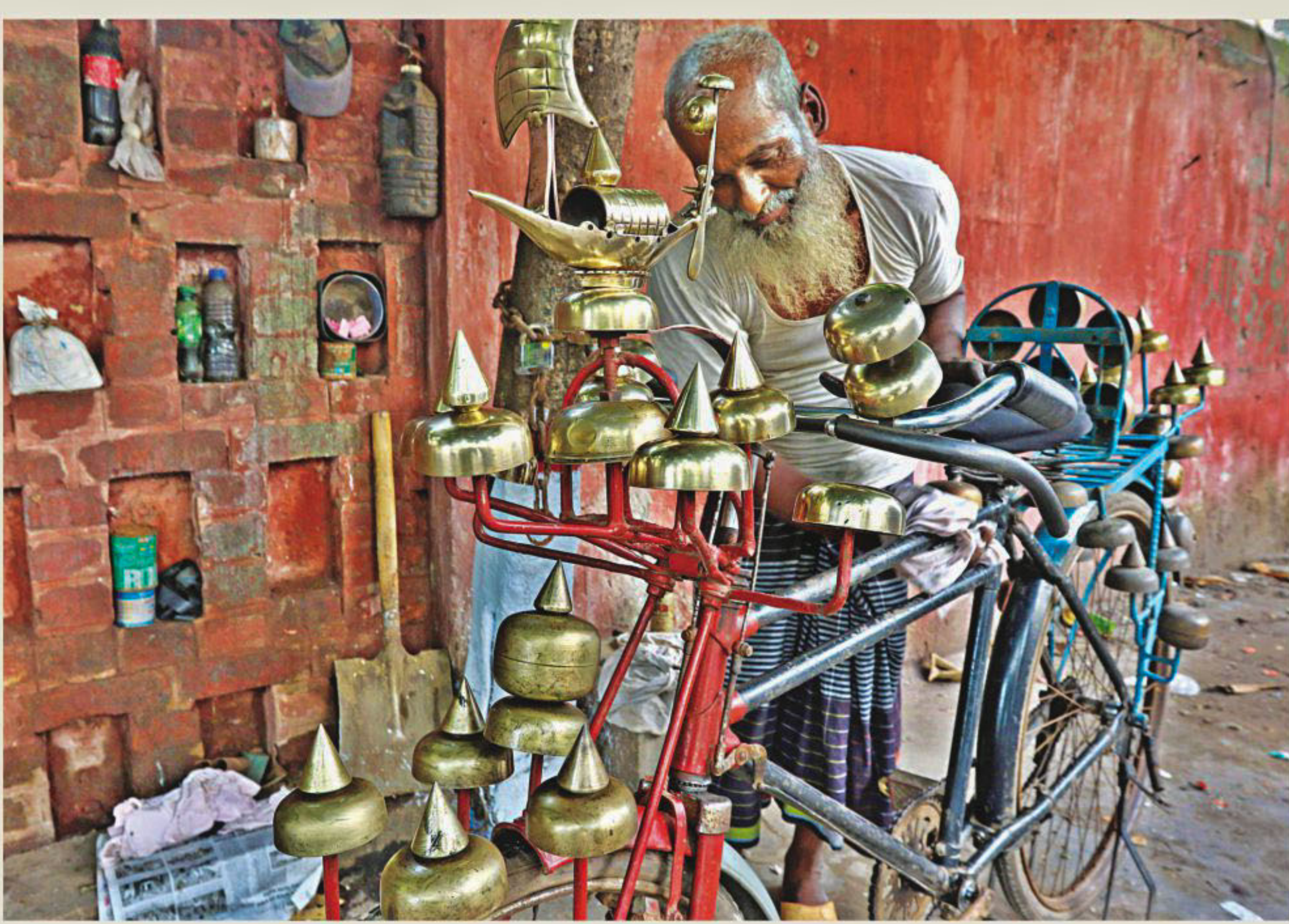
Abdul Hamid's life started to go downhill 15 years ago.

Sitting on a separated rickshaw seat near his rickshaw garage on Dhakeshwari Road in the capital, the septuagenarian man recalled the darkest period of his life when all his four children, one by one, started to part with him, eventually estranging him from his wife as well.

"None of them seemed to have realised that I had a heart too," he said. "All they cared about was money."

"And one day, I felt that I

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Abdul Hamid polishing his bicycle on Dhakeshwari Road in the capital.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Be patient, have faith in govt

Gowher Rizvi assures CHT people of full implementation of peace accord

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dr Gowher Rizvi, the prime minister's international affairs adviser, has urged the indigenous community to be patient and have faith in the government about implementation of the CHT peace accord.

"I know you have already shown enough patience, but I would like to request you to keep faith in the government. This government has signed the accord and this government would implement it," he said.

Speaking as the chief guest at a discussion two days before the 18th anniversary of the accord signing, Rizvi said, "The implementation process is taking some time. But the government is honest about implementing the accord. Once the land commission law is amended, 90 percent complexity of implementing the accord would be solved."

Kapaeng Foundation, a non-government research organisation on indigenous communities, organised the programme at The Daily Star Centre yesterday.

In response to indigenous people's demand for a road map to quickly implement the accord, Rizvi acknowledged the government should make a road map with a timeline that will show how and when the government would implement it.

As speakers mentioned that indigenous women and girls were being raped with impunity, Rizvi said women victims could file cases to get justice. He requested indigenous people to contact the Prime Minister's Office if local law enforcers did not take necessary steps.

Santu Larma, president of Parbatya Chattagram Jana Samhati Samiti

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