

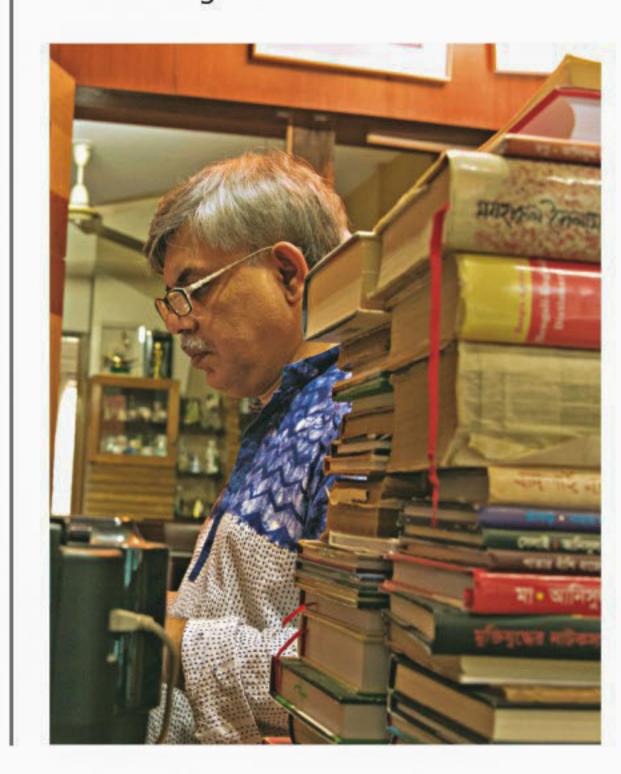
Anisul Haque is undoubtedly one of the most beloved writers of our time. With his superb novel on the liberation war, Maa, alongside many other stories, he has become a household name. Other than being a novelist, he is also a script writer and a journalist.

It is from his home-office from where such great novels and publications are churned out. However, his office is not like other offices. It is more like a reading room.

Tall bookshelves rise from the floor.
There are books here and there.
Paintings, artworks and sketches hang
on the wall.

Perhaps the best word to describe the room is 'compact'. The area is rather small – even congested to a certain extent.

And although there is a veranda on one





side, the view you will get is that of the veranda of the next building. Even the table where he has his laptop on is quite a small one, with little space left for anything else other.

Hidden among the books and notes, Anisul Haque types away for hours and hours. "My writing experience is somewhat similar to that of sleepwalking. I enter into a trance," Anisul Haque said.

This just shows the level of concentration any creative work demands. "Talent is not everything. Hard work, patience and focus and concentration on your work are vital. This is true for writers as it is true for cricketers, as it is for in other professions," he explained.

Meanwhile, innumerable cups of tea help him power through. The relevant books for his current write-ups lie around him, making an utter mess. "I often forget where I keep what," the writer admits. "Since I lose books – or rather, don't find them when I need them – I buy them again. Therefore, my bookshelf has more than one copy of some of the books."

What would his workstation look like if he was born a few decades ago? Instead of the laptop, there would be a typewriter and the space would rattle with the sound of the writer typing. Travel back in time even further, and we would see Anisul Haque noiselessly scribbling away with a quill! It's obvious how technology has contributed to the workstation of many professions, but nevertheless the evolution is astounding.

There is nothing overly exciting about his workstation. A writer, after all, does not need much except his books, notes, papers and computer. He does not require a critical setup – like people from many professions do, such as a painter or a scientist or even a goldsmith.

No, for the writer, the drama is in his head. How successfully he translates that to paper is what that matters!

By M H Haider Photo: Sazzad Ibne Sayed

