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Stories of joy and sorrow WRITTEN BY HAND

It took a lot for me to study up to HSC. But after passing it, I had to stop my studies altogether due to financial troubles.

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali
In this day and age of digital printing, the bi-monthly "Andharamanik" is a curious phenomenon. Published by Kalapara upazila's own Hasan Parvez, the paper is actually handwritten by Hasan himself!
Locals treat the paper as something of a miracle. Due to its remote location, the upazila is generally inaccessible to vehicles that can bring daily newspapers. As a result, locals are left without the means to stay updated with not only the world, but their own area as well.
What's more, as stable network is hard to come by, the area doesn't have much internet to be able to access news sites regularly.
Publishing a newspaper or magazine also requires heavy investment. Cameras, cutting-edge smartphones, advanced digital technology – none of which Hasan Parvez has.



confident Hasan said.
"I've been blessed with everyone's love so far, and if that continues, I'll surely be able to improve the paper in the future."
But despite his optimism, the bi-monthly publication keeps running into financial trouble, which makes its publishing cycle rather irregular.
At 38, Parvez is the eldest among Hasina Begum and Mostafa Kamal Hossain's four children. The family lives at West Sonatala village of Kalapara, some 61km south of Patuakhali district town. He passed his SSC in 2015 and HSC two years later.
On the toughest days, Hasan has to make a living by working as a day labourer. But he's still publishing the paper as regularly as possible, as he feels there's a need for the locals to read about the injustices, problems and possibilities of society.
Walking around the village, he collect stories and puts them up on his four-page

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paper by hand. It is then photocopied and sold at a price of Tk 10 in the village market. Earnings from this and his temporary jobs help the family have two whole meals a day.
Contacted, Nilganj UP chairperson Nasir Uddin Ahmed said, "Hasan Parvez is the pride of locals. We're at awe of his talent. I will aid him in his work as much as possible."

paper dedicated to the working people, it was first self-published on May 1, 2019, marking May Day. Hasan himself is the editor and publisher.
"It took a lot for me to study up to HSC. But after passing it, I had to stop my studies altogether due to financial troubles," he told The Daily Star. "My father had fallen ill, and I had to shoulder the family's burdens."
"I had a pipe dream of publishing a newspaper one day, but this was impossible for someone like me."
"But then I decided to go for it even though I didn't have any capital for such a venture. I mean, I still had hands and I could write, right? This realisation lead me to bring my dreams into reality," a

What he does have though is his hands, and with them he has been publishing the "Andharamanik" for the last two and half years. Reader Abu Saleh said, "We don't have any newspapers here. Andharamanik is our hope. Through its pages, we get to know the stories of joy and sorrow of our area."
The newspaper was named after the river that flows through Kalapara town. As a



An example of religious harmony

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi
For the first time in 47 years, a British-era temple has been reopened for prayers in Rajshahi city's Khojapur area on Tuesday night.
The first few days after its opening has been marked by the gathering of large groups of devotees, who on Tuesday night observed the Hindu religious festival of Maha Shivratri at the temple.
The temple, called Khojapur Sarbojanin Shib and Kali Matar Mondir, had been shutdown over land issues, said Monoranjan Sarker, convener of the temple's governing body. "No religious festival was held at the temple since 1975, when the



PHOTO: STAR

temple's land was sold to a Muslim man named Korban Ali," he said.
Syamol Kumar Ghose, a local Hindu leader, said the temple remained unused for all these years due to lack of Hindu devotees in the area.
"Recently, when some local devotees inquired about the temple, they found that the Muslim owner has no issues with its use," he said.
Owner Korban Ali, an entrepreneur, said, "The temple was set up during the British rule by Zamindar Hare Krishna Roy. Roy built the temple beside his own house." In the 70s, Korban Ali bought a piece of land from Roy's grandson Sudhir Roy. The land included the temple as well.
"At the time, Sudhir requested me not to demolish the temple and allow people to come for prayers. The temple remained unused as none came to observe a festival," Korban said.
Finally, when some devotees contacted him ahead of Maha Shivratri, he opened his door for the Hindus. He also felled two large mango trees from the temple premises for convenience of those who would attend the festival.

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"Koirgri Panna Arong Library" is now a full-fledged library of 500 books.

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Spreading the light of knowledge

CU student builds library in Khagrachhari with support of locals

A CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati
With educational institutions being closed owing to the pandemic, children living in the hill tracts had been severely affected, as remote learning remained a distant dream for them.
However, a Marma youth did not just sit idle. Under the banner "Esho boi pori, alokito manush gori" (Let's read books and build enlightened humans), he built a library at Koirgri Para of Khagrachhari's Guimara upazila to spread the light of education.
"It's been a dream of mine to build a place where village students could gather for exchanging knowledge, and get inspired to pursue higher education," said Chittagong University (CU) student Tanimong Marma, initiator of the project.
"I called my friends and some juniors to build the library, after discussing with local

leaders, who appreciated our initiative."
Locals also chipped in to help with the project.
"Some villagers helped us by providing wood. Others provided bamboo and tin, and through their contributions, our library came to life on September 28, last year," said Tanimong.
The library was named in Marma language "Koirgri Panna Arong Library" which in Bangla means "Gyaner Alo Pathagar".
They created a students' committee which looks after the library rotationally.

"For many decades this has been our ancestral home, yet the socio-economic conditions and state of education is dire. Now there's 500 books in this library, collected from different cultural institutes and other organisations for learners' access," Tanimong said.
"Every day, students from Boro Thali Para Govt Primary School, Guimara Model High School and College and indigenous communities avail the library's resources. A range of events like poetry recitation and debating are also hosted here."
Besides that, the members also conduct fundraising programmes for students going through a financial or family crisis.
Just a few months ago, the practice of education under Marma tongue started there. Parents also push their children to finish homework at the library, aware of the support they can get there, he said.

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e-Tender Notice

This is to notify all concerned that the following tenders have published through e-GP Portal.

Sl. No.	Tender ID, Package No. & date of publishing	Name of work	Last selling and closing date & time
01	Tender ID: 668099 Package No.: e-GP/Rev/74/NRD/ 2021-22 & APP ID 176541; Publishing: 11-Jan-2022	Supplying Semi-skilled and unskilled labour for Bituminous work & clearing and grubbing work under the wage programme of departmental labour at 1st (p), 2nd (p), 3rd (p), 4th (p) & 5th (p) km's of Netrokona-Modon-Khalajuri Road (Z-3701) under Netrokona Road Division during the year 2021-2022.	15-Mar-2022 17:00 16-Mar-2022 11:45
02	Tender ID: 668100 Package No.: e-GP/Rev/75/NRD/ 2021-22 & APP ID 176541; Publishing: 11-Jan-2022	Supplying Semi-skilled and unskilled labour for Bituminous work & clearing and grubbing work under the wage programme of departmental labour at 8th (p), 9th (p), 10th (p) & 11th (p) km's of Netrokona-Birishiri Road (Z-3709) under Netrokona Road Division during the year 2021-2022.	15-Mar-2022 17:00 16-Mar-2022 11:45

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