

Bidhan Dhali, a former bus driver lost both his legs 10 years ago. Bidhan is a young man of about 35 years old lives in a rented house in Kanial under Birisiri union in Durgapur Upazila, Netrokona. He has his wife and two daughters who are 13 and 7 years old.



Bidhan was a reputed highway bus driver. In 2006, an accident took away both his legs from the thighs. He survived but still carries the stigma of that accident. Life became a nightmare for Bidhan after that incident. He lost all his savings for his treatment, had no income and he had to depend on others' mercy for a long time. Still now he is supported by some generous people around.

Brother Frank, one of the devoted Christian priests from the Taije Brothers community, came forward to support Bidhan and made a small wooden shop in the Durgapur Bazar. Bidhan sold his gold chain and some other ornaments of his daughter to manage the capital to start the shop. He now sells betel nuts, biscuits, snacks and some other stationary goods in his shop and earns his living. His wife helps him run the shop. She walks with Bidhan every morning, helps him to open the shop and also comes in the evening for closing. Sometimes she also sits in the shop to help Bidhan. The earning he manages from the store is not enough to lead a smooth life but he and they are still happy with the small things they have in their lives.

The home he lives in is not his own. He has rented this home from a local primary school teacher who has been so generous to him. Considering his condition, the land lord offered him the home with a minimum rent which has been a blessing for Bidhan and his family. However, Bidhan's shop is far from his residence, considering his condition and he needs assistance while moving to his shop.



Before coming here, Bidhan's sister sheltered him. His elder daughter studies and lives in Mymensing Baptist Mission Girls Hostel and visits them during her breaks. It is challenging for Bidhan to pay house rent, his daughters' education, for family health and other expenses. During the month of Ramadan and some other time of the year the sell is down it becomes harder to meet all the daily needs besides the house rent.

*"The income I make every month is not enough for me to rent a house. But I do not have options. It will be a blessing to have a home of our own which will help us to lead a better life",* said Bidhan.

A generous man from his area has granted a piece of land with a minimum cost and Bidhan has prepared the place to build a home of his own. This place is very close to his store and it will

be more comfortable to go to the bazar. He sometimes become sick as he still face complicity of his injured body. He has to bear the medical expenses.

Bidhan and his family is dreaming house of their own which will save money, provide comfort and give assurance of a better life. Bidhan is courageous to face the challenges of life but need a little support to stand up and fight. Habitat builds strength, stability and self-reliance through shelter.

