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Samagra Shiksha
সমগ্র শিক্ষা

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CLASS - IX

ENGLISH

MOMENTS

CHAPTER - 3

WEATHERING THE STORM IN ERSAMA

Part – 2

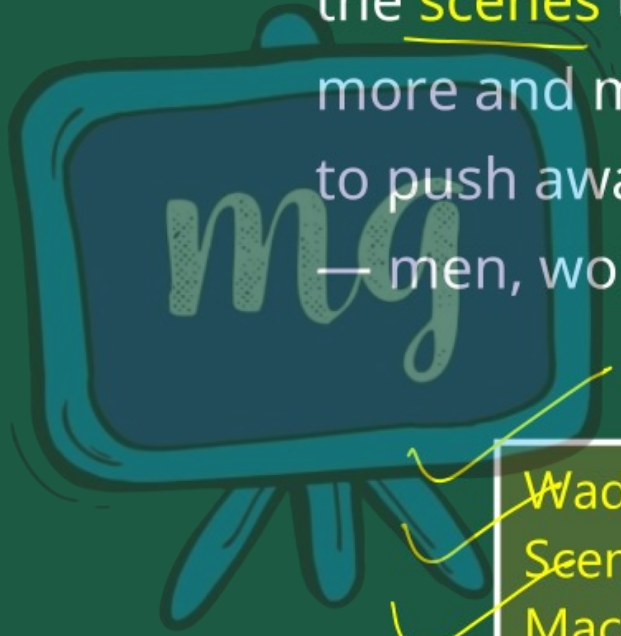
Prashant's Resolve:
Rebuilding Kalikuda

Nipa Das

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As they waded through the waters, the scenes they witnessed grew more and more macabre. They had to push away many human bodies — men, women,



Waded	:	পাৰ হোৱা
Scenes	:	দৃশ্য
Macabre	:	ভয়াবহ

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children — and carcasses of dogs, goats and cattle that the current swept against them as they moved ahead. In every village that they passed, they could barely see a house standing.

Current Swept	:	পানীৰ সোঁতে বোৱাই লৈ যোৱা
Passed	:	তাৰ মাজেৰে পাৰ হৈ যোৱা
Barely	:	কোনোমতে
Standing	:	ঠিয় অৱস্থাত

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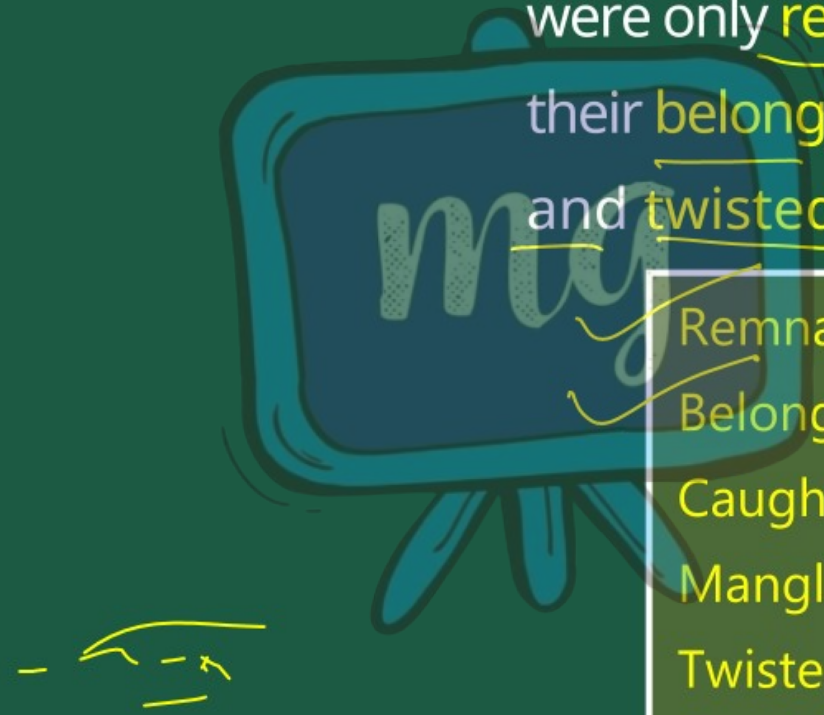
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Prashant now wept out loud and long. He was sure that his family could not have survived this catastrophe.

Eventually, Prashant reached his village, Kalikuda. His heart went cold.

Wept	:	কন্দা
Catastrophe	:	বিনাশ
Eventually	:	শেষত

Where their home once stood, there were only remnants of its roof. Some of their belongings were caught, mangled and twisted in the branches of trees



Remnants	:	অৱশিষ্ট
Belongings	:	বস্তু
Caught	:	ধৰি ৰখা
Mangled	:	ক্ষতিগ্ৰস্থ
Twisted	:	মেৰিয়াই থোৱা
Branches	:	শাখাবোৰ

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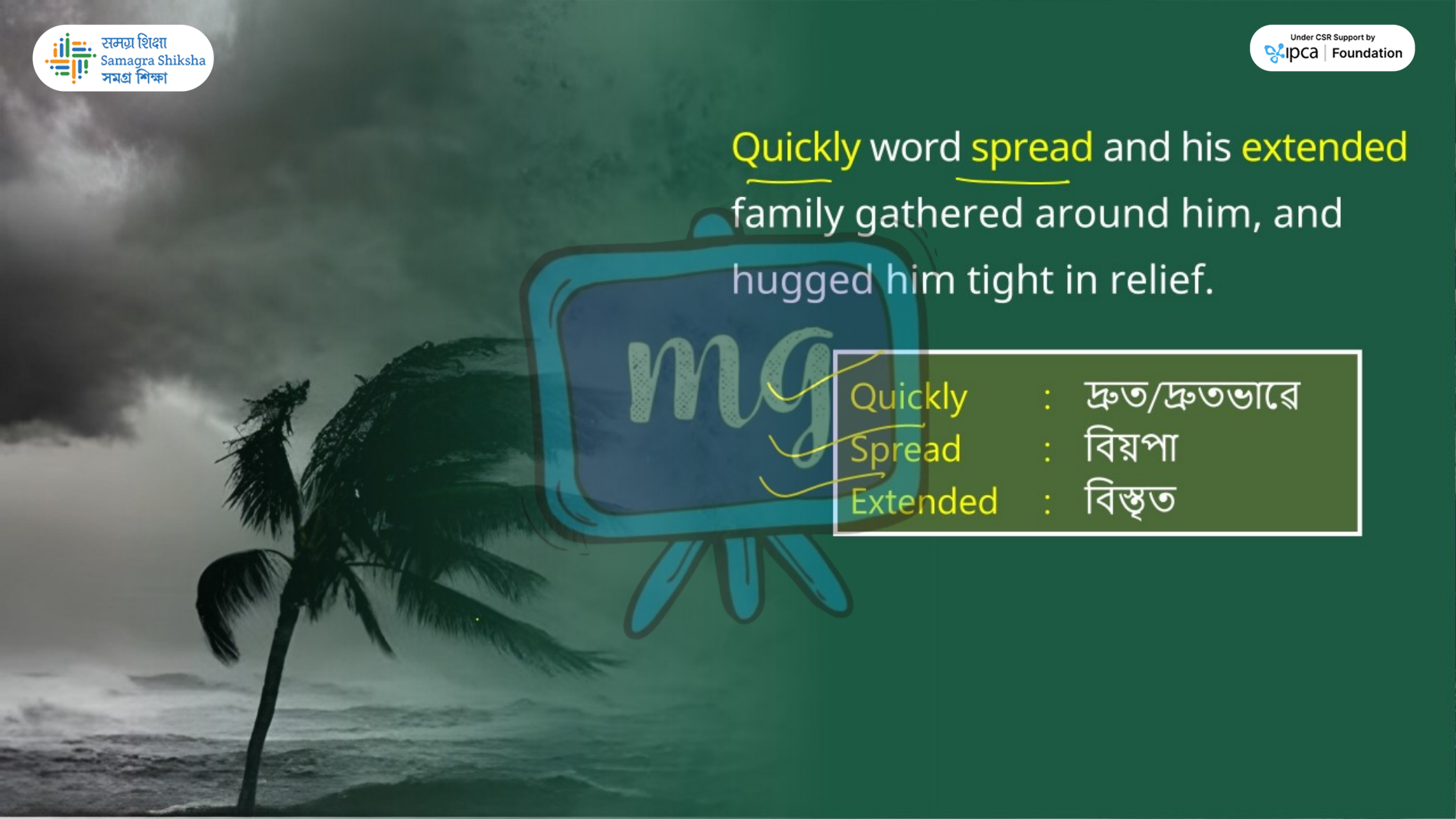
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just visible above the dark waters.
Young Prashant decided to go to the
Red Cross shelter to look for his family.
Among the first people he saw in the
crowd was his maternal grandmother.

Visible	:	দেখা পোৱা
Crowd	:	ভিৰ
Maternal Grandmother	:	মাকৰ ফালৰ আইতা

Weak with hunger, she rushed to him, her hands outstretched, her eyes brimming. It was a miracle. They had long given him up for dead.

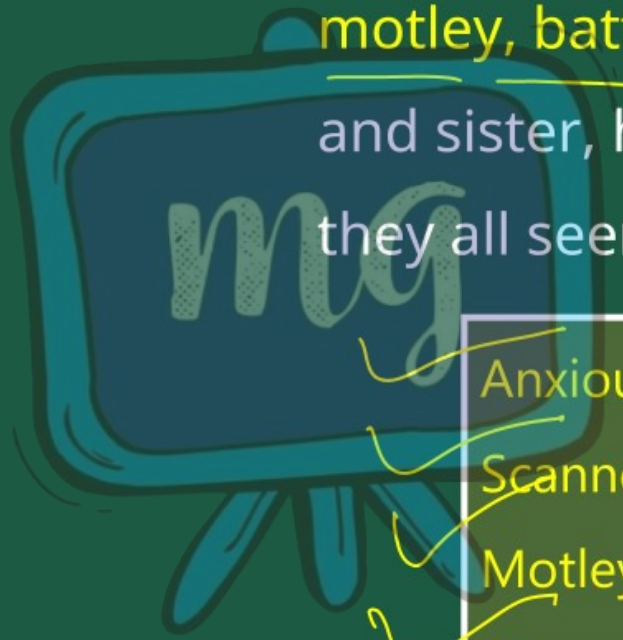
Outstretched	:	প্রসাৰিত
eyes brimming	:	চকু পানীৰে উপচি পৰা
Miracle	:	অলৌকিক ঘটনা


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Quickly word spread and his extended family gathered around him, and hugged him tight in relief.
Quickly : দ্রুত/দ্রুতভাবে
Spread : বিয়পা
Extended : বিস্তৃত

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Prashant anxiously scanned the motley, battered group. His borther and sister, his uncles and aunts, they all seemed to be there.



Anxiously	:	উদ্বিগ্নভাৱে
Scanned	:	পৰীক্ষা কৰক
Motley	:	বিচিত্ৰ
Battered	:	ক্ষতিগ্ৰস্থ

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By the next morning, as he took in the desperate situation in the shelter, he decided to get a grip over himself. He sensed a deathly grief settling upon the 2500 strong crowd in the shelter.

Desperate	:	নিৰাশ
Sensed	:	অনুভৱ কৰা
Deathly	:	মৃত্যুৰ দৰে
Grief	:	দুখ

Eighty-six lives were lost in the village. All the ninety-six houses had been washed away. It was their fourth day at the shelter. So far they had survived on green coconuts, but there were too few to go around such a tumult of people. Prashant, all of nineteen years,

Tumult : হুলস্থূল

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decided to step in as leader of his village, if no one else did.

He organised a group of youths and elders to jointly pressurise the merchant once again to part with his rice.

Leader	:	নেতা
Organised	:	সংগঠিত
Youths	:	যুৱ
Jointly	:	যৌথভাৱে
Pressurise	:	জোৰ দিয়া
Merchant	:	ব্যৱসায়ী

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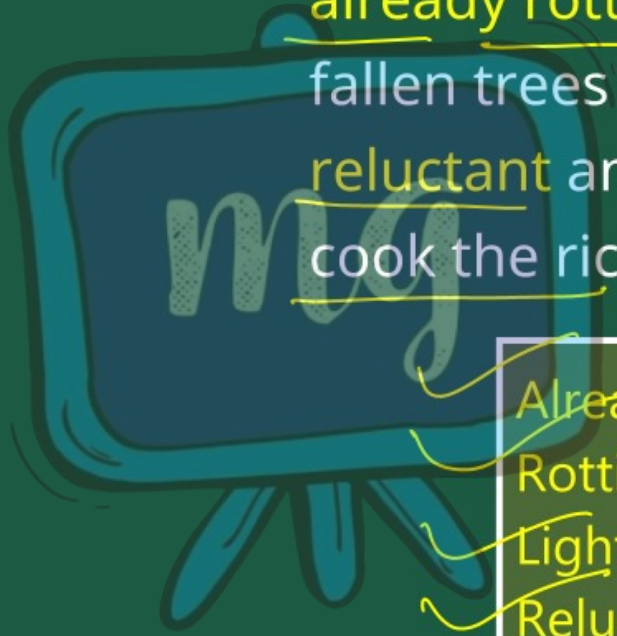
This time the delegation succeeded and returned triumphantly, wading through the receding waters with food for the entire shelter.

Delegation	:	প্রতিনিধি মণ্ডলী
Triumphantly	:	বিজয়ী হোৱা
Wading	:	পাৰ হৈ যোৱা
Receding	:	কমি যোৱা

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No one cared that the rice was already rotting. Branches from fallen trees were gathered to light a reluctant and slow fire, on which to cook the rice.



Already	:	ইতিমধ্যে
Rotting	:	পচি যোৱা
Light	:	জ্বলা
Reluctant	:	অনিচ্ছুক

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For the first time in four days, the survivors at the cyclone shelter were able to fill their bellies. His next task was to organise a team of youth volunteers to clean the shelter of filth, urine, vomit and floating carcasses,

Bellies	:	পেট
Task	:	কাম
Organise	:	সংগঠিত কৰা
Volunteers	:	স্বেচ্ছাসেৱক
Filth	:	লেতেৰা

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and to tend to the wounds and fractures of the many who had been injured. On the fifth day, a military helicopter flew over the shelter and dropped some food parcels. It then did not return.

Wounds	:	ঘাঁ
Fractures	:	হাড়ৰ ভঙা
Military	:	সৈনিক

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The youth task force gathered empty utensils from the shelter. Then they deputed the children to lie in the sand left by the waters around the shelter with these utensils on their stomachs,

Empty	:	খালী
Utensils	:	বাচন বৰ্তন
Deputed	:	নিযুক্তি কৰা

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to communicate to the passing helicopters that they were hungry. The message got through, and after that the helicopter made regular rounds of the shelter, airdropping food and other basic needs.

Communicate	:	যোগাযোগ কৰিবলৈ
Message	:	বার্তা
Regular	:	নিয়মিত

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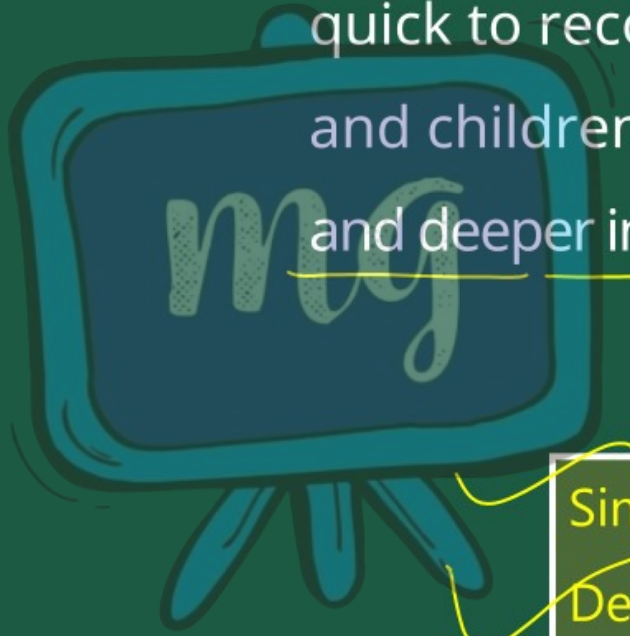
Prashant found that a large number of children had been orphaned. He brought them together and put up a polythene sheet shelter for them. Women were mobilised to look after them, while the men secured food and materials for the shelter.

Orphaned	:	অনাথ
Mobilised	:	সংগঠিত কৰা
Secured	:	প্ৰাপ্ত কৰা
Materials	:	বস্তু

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As the weeks passed, Prashant was quick to recognise that the women and children were sinking deeper and deeper in their grief.



Sinking : ডুবা

Deeper : গভীৰ



He persuaded the women to start working in the food-for work programme started by an NGO, and for the children he organised sports events. He himself loved to play cricket, and so he organised cricket matches for children.

Persuaded	:	মান্তি কৰা
Programme	:	কার্যসূচী
Events	:	প্রতিযোগিতা

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Prashant engaged, with other volunteers in helping the widows and children to pick up the broken pieces of their lives. The initial government plan was to set up institutions for orphans and widows.

Engaged	:	জড়িত
Initial	:	প্ৰাৰম্ভিক
Government	:	চৰকাৰ
Institutions	:	প্ৰতিষ্ঠান

However, this step was successfully resisted, as it was felt that in such institutions, children would grow up without love, and widows would suffer from stigma and loneliness.

Successfully	:	সফলতাৰে
Resisted	:	প্ৰতিৰোধ কৰা
Stigma	:	কলংক
Loneliness	:	নিসংগতা

Prashant's group believed orphans should be resettled in their own community itself, possibly in new foster families made up of childless widows and children without adult care.

Resettled	:	পুনৰ সংস্থাপন কৰক
Community	:	সমুদায়
Possibly	:	সম্ভৱতঃ
Foster	:	সন্তান তুলি লোৱা
Childless	:	সন্তানহীন

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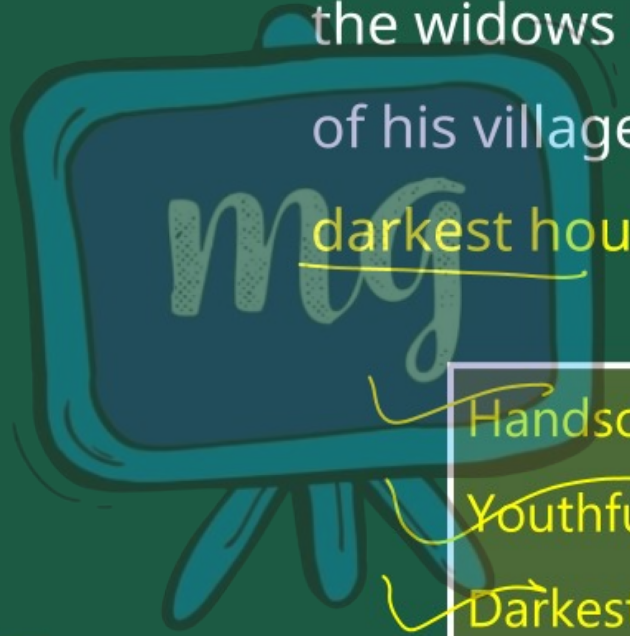
It is six months after the devastation of the super cyclone. This time Prashant's wounded spirit has healed simply because he had no time to bother about his own pain.

Wounded	:	আহত
Spirit	:	আত্মা
Healed	:	ঠিক হোৱা
Bother	:	বিৰক্ত হৈ যাওক
Pain	:	দুখ

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His handsome, youthful face is what the widows and orphaned children of his village seek out most in their darkest hour of grief.



Handsome	:	দেখনিয়াৰ
Youthful	:	যুৱ
Darkest hour	:	অন্ধকাৰ সময়

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ASSESSMENT

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1 The government's initial plan was to resettle orphans and widows in institutions.

A True

B False

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ASSESSMENT

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2 Prashant's leadership helped the villagers receive food and other supplies from helicopters.

A True

B False

ASSESSMENT



3 Prashant's compassion and leadership became a source of strength for the widows and orphaned children in his village.

A True

B False