

English translation:

Interviewer: So, this is a private limited company?

Man: Yes, a private limited company.

Interviewer: That means it is owned by family members?

Man: Yes, family members.

Interviewer: So who are the first owners? Who opened this tea garden?

Man: The garden was bought from Finlay under several names: Mr. Khan Bahadur Mujibur Rahman, Mr. Obaidur Rahman, Mr. Ahmad-ur-Rahman, Mr. Saidur Rahman.

Interviewer: Are they four brothers?

Man: Yes.

Interviewer: And two sisters perhaps?

Man: There were three sisters at the time

Interviewer: Khaleya Khatun?

Man: Khaleya Khatun, Majeda Khatun and Zaheda Khatun.

Interviewer: Okay.

Man: This [tea garden] was bought under their names.

Interviewer: How many shareholders are there?

Man: I have around twenty-nine shareholders ... twenty-nine people.

Interviewer: How many directors do you have among them?

Man: The number of directors that the company can have is set in the Memorandum Article... First there were six directors here; now there are nine directors.

Interviewer: And one managing director?

Man: What?

Interviewer: One managing director.

Man: Among those nine people, one can be the managing director.

Interviewer: How is this decided?

Man: By election at the Annual General Meeting.

Interviewer: So who gets to elect? The shareholders or those nine directors?

Man: These nine directors get notified before about the coming election. If they wish, they can run in the election. If none of them run, all nine are re-elected.

Interviewer: What are the requirements for eligibility for the director position?

Man: If you have 101 shares, you are eligible.

Interviewer: How many shares do you have in the market right now? Not shareholders, but separate individual shares?

Man: There are only 10,000 shares.

Interviewer: Can you increase the shares?

Man: Yes, they can be increased. I increased them just last year, for example.

Interviewer: How?

Man: You have to pay the return for them. For example, last year we held an EGM, Extraordinary General Meeting. We increased the amount to Tk100, 000,000.¹

Interviewer: How long have you owned this garden?

Man: We purchased it from Finlay in 1955. In the Incorporation Certificate, we can see that we (purchased) the garden in May. On 05/07/1955, we (purchased it) And the director was... here. This is the manager... this is the auditor... and there are the twenty-five shareholders right there... also the number of shares per person is given.

About CultureTalk: CultureTalk is produced by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and housed on the LangMedia Website. The project provides students of language and culture with samples of people talking about their lives in the languages they use everyday. The participants in CultureTalk interviews and discussions are of many different ages and walks of life. They are free to express themselves as they wish. The ideas and opinions presented here are those of the participants. Inclusion in CultureTalk does not represent endorsement of these ideas or opinions by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages, Five Colleges, Incorporated, or any of its member institutions: Amherst College, Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke College, Smith College and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

¹ The taka is the currency unit of Bangladesh.

