

**English translation:**

My name is U Pirau Marma Piu. I have come from Bandarban. I have come to study at CODA. The full name of our school is College of Development Alternative. I am a new student here. Before this, I used to study at a coll ... school in Mirpur. I [am] from the Bandarban region. I am among [from] one of the fourteen indigenous tribes ... I am a member of the Marma tribe. Our chief religion is Buddhism. Our religious practice involves the celebration of several different festivals. *Kartikeya Purnima*, *Prabarana Purnima*, *Sangrai* [and] *Maghi Purnima* are some of them. We generally have a lot of fun during *Sangrai*: we splash one another with water.<sup>1</sup> And in the morning, we go to [the temple] to make *syong* offerings,<sup>2</sup> and in the evening, we go to the *Bihar* [Buddhist temple] carrying candles and incense, to ... pay our respects to the Buddha. The Bandarban region is hilly. Here one comes upon Bangladesh's highest mountain peak, Mt. Tahzing Dong, as well as our second highest mountain peak, Mt. Keokara Dong. The main river of Bandarban is the Sangu. Bandarban lies on the banks of this Sangu River. I have come to CODA for my higher education. I want to become a doctor when I grow up, and serve the people of Bangladesh as a member of the medical profession. This is my wish.

**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.

© 2003-2009 Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and Five Colleges, Incorporated

---

<sup>1</sup> As part of Sangrai festivities, there are water games.

<sup>2</sup> The speaker is making reference to a ritual in which people make offerings of fruits, rice, etc to images of the Buddha at their local temples.

