

Interviewer (I): What is your name?

Girl (G): Ariba.

Interviewer: Say it a bit louder.

Girl: Ariba!

Interviewer: Do you go to school?

Girl: Yes.

Interviewer: What school do you attend?

Girl: Sunbeams.

Interviewer: Which grade are you in?

Girl: Playgroup.¹

Interviewer: What's your *Ammu*'s² name?

Girl: I don't know how to say everything.

Interviewer: You don't? But you know *Ammu*'s name.

[Mother prompting]: say Shahana Bari.

Girl: Shahana Bari.

Interviewer: And what is *Baba*'s³ name?

Girl: I said I forgot!

Interviewer: Say Ibrar.

Girl: I said I forgot!

¹ In Bangladesh, there is usually no system of kindergarten, elementary, middle, high school, etc. Children usually start school at the age of 4 or 5, and start from "Playgroup," which is the equivalent of pre-school in the USA.

² *Ammu* would literally translate to Mommy. It is a colloquial term used to address mother.

³ Father.

Interviewer: Okay, fine. Where do you live?

Girl: On the third floor.

Interviewer: You stay on the third floor? Who stays with you on the third floor?

Girl: *Ammu*.

Interviewer: And? And?

Girl: And no one else.

[Mother prompting]: Say *Dada*⁴ and *Dadi*.⁵

Interviewer: Do *Dada* and *Dadi* stay with you?

Girl: Yes.

Interviewer: Does everyone love you a lot?

Girl: Yes.

Interviewer: Will you sing a nursery rhyme for me?

Girl: Yes.

Interviewer: Which one will you sing?

Girl: *Hattimatimtim*⁶.

Interviewer: Okay, say it. Loudly.

Girl: *Hattimatimtim*

They lay eggs on the field

They have two pointed horns

They are the *hattimatimtims!*

Interviewer: Very good! Do you want to clap? Let's clap! Do you want to say another one?

⁴ Paternal grandfather.

⁵ Paternal grandmother.

⁶ An extremely popular Bengali nursery rhyme about two fairytale characters.

Girl: I don't know anymore.

[Mother prompting]: Say *taati bari*.⁷

Girl: There is a frog's house
In the weaver's home
And there is a little tadpole there.
All it does is eat and sing
La la la la la!

Interviewer: And which song do you know? The Ramadan song?

[Mother prompting]: Ariba, "at the end of Ramzan"

Girl: [singing] Oh at the end of my fasting in Ramzan
The glorious Eid arrives.
Spread goodness and
Listen to the reminder from the heavens above!

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.

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⁷ Another nursery rhyme. *Taati bari* means weaver's home.