

CultureTalk Bangladesh Video Transcripts: <http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu>
Hanging Out and Joking Around

Girl 1: Yes, brother, say something about politics... in Dhaka... in Bangladesh....

Man 1: The politics in Bangladesh are... Hi! Faisal brother! (Shakes hand.) How are you?

Man 2: Assalamu alaikum!

Girl 1: Walaikum assalam!

Man 3: Are you doing okay?

Man 2: Yes.

Man 1: Is this *shupari*,¹ brother?

Man 2: Yes brother, yes brother!

Man 1: There is a saying in Bangladesh... *paan*² *shupari* from the same tree as the *chun*³... do you know the meaning?

Man 2: No, no....

Man 1: The *paan* tree... [awkward cut].

Girl 1: *Shupari*?

Man 1: There is a saying in Bangladeshi culture... in the Sylheti culture... that *paan shupari* from the same tree as the *chun*....

Girl 1: What does that mean?

Man 2: Yes, yes!

Girl 1: I have also heard this saying....

¹ Betel nut.

² A *paan* is betel leaf. Betel leaves are chewed together with betel nut as a masticatory. In its simplest form, sliced betel nut is wrapped in a betel leaf, smeared with lime and chewed. Often, though, a clove and other spices such as cinnamon and cardamom are added. When chewed after meals, it sweetens the breath and acts as a gentle stimulant.

³ Shell-lime paste.

Man 1: This saying means that... there was *paan* in a *paan* tree, you understand? A crow had defecated on it, you understand? It is white... So people thought it was *chun*... that is where the saying comes from....

Girl 1: Ohhh! I did not hear this part of the saying... this meaning, this version... I forgot the version that I heard.

Man 1: Okay, okay... I just remembered a song.

Girl 1: Sing the tune of the song for us... Bangla music....

Man 3: You do make music... why don't you sing for us?

Girl 1: Yes.

Man 1: Hmm... [sings, everyone joins in] ... Eii... So music, you understand? I wanted to tell you something that day....

Man 2: What, brother?

Man 1: Sheikh Hasina... what are they doing? Putting her in jail?

Man 2: What about them? They stole money and are now sitting [in jail]...

Man 1: ... But they have now become the heroes....

Man 2: Really? These issues....

Man 3: Why have they become heroes...?

Girl 1: How would they become heroes while they are in jail?

Man 1: They are suffering in jail and are now heroes.

Man 2: Yes... By suffering in jail, they....

Man 1: If you do not suffer in jail, you cannot be a good politician... there is a saying.

Girl 1: Really? I think this saying is only in this country....

Man 1: Yes... But I think that Sheikh Hasina is going to come to power....

Man 2: Hmm.

Man 1: ... She is going to take control and there are many people supporting her, you understand?

Man 2: Tareq Zia is....

Man 1: Tareq Zia is a dynasty.

Girl 1: Ohh! “Die” and “nasty” together gives dynasty... He bought Dubai World.

Man 1: What would he do? He is the prince of Bangladesh.

Girl 1: Very true... prince? You mean king!

Man 1: Good... So what else is new, Faisal brother?

Man 2: I am good, brother....

Man 1: What are you doing these days?

Man 2: Nothing, just sitting around.

Girl 1: What do you do sitting around?

Man 2: Nothing. I lay eggs!

[All three laugh.]

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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