

CultureTalk Bangladesh Video Transcripts: <http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu>
Birds, Greenery and a Disappearing Car

Man 1: Oh brother, do you know? In our village, next to the riverside, there are many *bideshi pakhi*, i.e. foreign birds.

Man 2: Like what? What type of birds?

Girl 1: What birds?

Man 1: The birds are this big [making a motion with his hands].

Girl 1: What color are they?

Man 1: They are brown in color. [*Khoiri* color.]

Girl 1: Oh, brown. Are they pretty?

Man 1: Yes, very pretty color, and they come in flocks, in large flocks.

Man 2: What are the birds called?

Man 1: I don't really know the name of the birds, but I know that they are foreign birds. The birds are very pretty and when they are flying in large flocks it looks really pretty. It is a truly magnificent sight.

[All three laugh.]

Man 1: Shorgo, when did you arrive from Canada?

Man 2: Oh, it has been around three weeks.

Man 1: Do you like Canada more or Bangladesh more?

Man 2: I like both Canada and Bangladesh.

Man 1: What do you like in Bangladesh?

[All three laugh.]

Girl 1: What I like in Bangladesh...why aren't you asking me?

Man 1: Okay, fine -- tell me.

Girl 1: Don't be formal with me, speak in casual language.

Man 1: Okay, fine -- tell me.

Girl 1: I didn't ask you to say in that way. What I like most in Bangladesh...I like my house. Then...I don't really like Dhaka city. I like the other districts in Bangladesh more.

Man 1: Oh, the village, the greenery.

Girl 1: Yes, the greenery, the farms.

Man 1: Clear and green....

Man 2: No pollution...

Girl 1: Yes, the clean air.

Man 1: You know, there is a word, something and fauna....

Girl 1: Flora and fauna.

Man 1: Yes, flora and fauna. Flowers, etc. Do you like jackfruit?

Girl 1: Jackfruit has a strong odor. I like eating mango.

Man 1: But when they cook jackfruit seeds with chicken, it tastes very, very good.

Girl 1: No, not just that.

Man 1: With some spices.

Girl 1: They also cook vegetables with it.

Man 1: Yes, they also cook it with vegetables.

Girl 1: The cuisine here is very good.

Man 2: Yes, jackfruit is our national fruit.

Girl 1: Yes, our national fruit. Can you tell me the name of our national animal?

Man 1: *Doyel* [magpie]?

Girl 1: National animal.

Man 1: Oh! Royal Bengal Tiger.

Girl 1: Yes, *doyel* is a bird. Oh...all this is....

Girl 1: So what did you do today?

Man 1: So the entire day since morning has been very exciting -- do you understand? So I woke up in the morning and the chauffeur comes to my room and tells me that my car has vanished.

Girl 1: Aaahhh, Allah.

Man 2: Vanished?

Man 1: I mean the car just disappeared from the parking lot.

Man 2: What are you saying?

Man 1: Just vanished.

Man 2: What are you saying...?

Man 1: So I ran out. I live in Japan Garden City. A lot of security.

Girl 1: Where is that?

Man 1: Very safe.

Man 2: That area is actually not safe at all.

Man 1: There are many terrorists....

Girl 1: What is that area called?

Man 1: Shyamoli.

Girl 1: Oh, okay.

Man 1: It is next to Mohammedpur. Then I went to the police station, then to RAB, Rapid Action Battalion. They are like SWAT, do you understand. Very high....

Girl 1: What does RAB do?

Man 1: RAB is rapid action, if anything happens, they can work very quickly.

Girl 1: You mean [they are] very efficient?

Man 1: Yes, very efficient.

Man 2: They are a very extreme....

Girl 1: Force.

Man 1: Yes, force.

Man 2: No, they are good for the country.

Man 1: Yes.... Then I went all over the place, but with the state of the country at the moment with the election so near... I think mostly cars are being stolen nowadays....

Girl 1: Yes, I also went to wedding that day. My driver said that a car got stolen from the parking lot there. I remembered you then.

Man 1: But that happened many days ago...

[All three laugh.]

Man 1: From here, you can understand that people from Bangladesh can make up a lot of stories.

Girl 1: That's true... this is a very good example.

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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