

CultureTalk Bangladesh Video Transcripts: <http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu>
Back in Bangladesh after Years Abroad

- What is your name?
- My name is Mohammad Zakaria Mannan.
- Where is your hometown?¹
- My hometown used to be Comilla district; now it is Chandpur, Matlab police district.
- And [where did you go to school]?
- I went to school first in the town of Chittagong, and then Dhaka University, and, subsequently, in America.
- In America? Where in America?
- In New York State, America...New York State.
- What did you study?
- I studied Industrial Pharmacy, and did an MBA along with it.
- And what do you do in Bangladesh now?
- In Bangladesh, we are now involved in the real estate development business. And a year and a half ago, we started a light engineering company... manufacturing company, in which we manufacture parts and tools for the pharmaceutical industry. And we have been engaged in the construction business, in the real estate sector, for the past ten years. Now we are not as involved in that business.
- And... what is your family life like?
- My family life is very happy. [It consists of] my wife, Tahmina Zakaria, and my two children, Tahmid and Raya. Tahmid studied engineering in America and is now working in New Jersey. And Raya has finished high school in India, and is now going to McGill University to study in their Pre-med program.
- And where do you live in Bangladesh?
- In Bangladesh I live in the Dhanmondi residential area of Dhaka city. This is the capital of Bangladesh.

¹ Hometown, or “home in the country,” means one’s original home, the place to which one’s family belongs. One may not have lived there for long stretches of time.

- How does it feel? Good?

- It feels good. It feels good I was in America for many years ... about fifteen years. I feel that I have come home to my country. In one word, life is not so demanding here. Laid back. And even if we often work all seven days of the week ... but we work at what we like, at our own speed, since we work for our own firm. That is why, specifically, it feels good.

- Do you dislike anything?

- Yes, I do dislike [some] things. That is, if the political situation in Bangladesh had been a little more stable, then our lives would have been a lot better. And I dislike another thing, with respect to moving about: traffic jams. But, perhaps I have gotten a good deal used to it in these many years, and I hope it will get better in the future...that there will not be as many traffic jams, that movement will be easier.

- Why would people come from abroad to Bangladesh? What is there to see in Bangladesh?

- Two things. If someone comes to visit, especially *probashi* Bengalis² -- people who were born here, have lived a part of their lives here, and have gone abroad -- for them, the [memories] of this land, and relatives and for me, personally, an attractive thing is the food in this country. [It is] very tasty, and there are many foods that one likes. And, the sort of gatherings there are with relatives at the social level, those are great fun...and very pleasurable.

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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² Bengalis who live away from Bengal.