

**English translation:**

-What is your opinion about the political situation in Bangladesh today?

- I personally believe that if the current situation... if it becomes a democratic situation again, then I will be happiest. What I mean to say by this is that at present we are going through a transition. People here want reform and the advent of political parties; [they want that] the heads of the parties, or those who will seek election come forward through a democratic process, and that they contest elections. The sooner we go in that direction, the better, because our... Bangladesh's democracy was hard won. [It was won] by means of a War of Independence. [We should see to it that] it is never belittled, or lost. We would wish that .... Bangladesh is going through a difficult phase. Elections are supposed to be held at the end of 2008. But this is also true: for instance, those who did not do good work in the past, those who did not do any developmental work or set a good example as representatives of the people, and those who are guilty in the eyes of the law... if these people are screened out, and good candidates, educated candidates, are brought forward, then [the latter] will understand the [situation] and will carry out this important responsibility. If those people are nominated... elected in the process of reform, then it will be best for us. And let [this process] not be postponed beyond the set date of 2008. A democratic form of government must emerge in Bangladesh as soon as possible. This is what I think.

- And, do you wish to say anything more? For people who will watch this abroad... about Bangladesh?

- Okay. I have a very positive idea about Bangladesh, which is that this country has tremendous potential. First of all, I will say that in terms of population, Bangladesh is number six in the world. Within that population ... I don't know the exact statistical figures... about 23-25% of people are under 25 years of age. This is a tremendous workforce at different levels. And since the population of a small country is so high, people [in the country] live their lives around work, and do work. And people in this country are intelligent. If these people can be guided well, and if we can produce our natural resources, energy... if these things can be manipulated well, then our country... is [in a place] from which it can attain a big, good stature. I am very optimistic. I am all the more optimistic because all the young people, the children and those who are coming to a stage in their lives which can be called the prime of their lives, are all busy with something or the other. This proves that... the kind of provision people make for themselves in this disorganized state, the way they keep busy... if things are organized along scientific lines, then this country will be very good. [Or so] I hope.

- I think... will you say something more?

- No, I think that in reply to this question, I have nothing new to say. I would like to stop here.

- Thank you very much.

- No problem.

**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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