

CultureTalk Bangladesh Video Transcripts: <http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu>
The Life of a Fishmonger

Interviewer (I) : Let's see what kinds of fish you have. Talk.

Man (M) : I have *hilsa*¹ fish.

I: What else do you have? Lift the covers so I can see.

M: I don't have any other type of fish.

I: How much did you buy each fish for?

M: Six hundred and fifty [taka].

I: Then how much will you sell it for?

M: Five hundred taka. Fixed price.

I: No less? [repeats.] How much will you sell it for?

M: I bought it for six hundred and fifty, and I will sell them for a fixed price of five hundred taka.

I: Each or per kilogram?

M: Each.

I: Okay, one piece. Don't you sell any other fish?

M: I do. Shrimps, carp and some other types of fish.

I: Where do you buy these fish from?

M: From New Market.

I: New Market? Do you buy your fish from there everyday?

M-Yes.

I: When do you go to buy the fish?

M: At five in the morning.

¹ *Hilsa (ilish)*: any of the members of the genus *Tenualosa* of the family Clupeidae, order Clupeiformes. Locally known as *Ilish*, the fish has been designated as the national fish of Bangladesh.

I: Did you always sell fish or did you do anything else before?

M: No, I always did this.

I: Where is your *desh* *bari*?²

M: Gopalganj.

I: Gopalganj? Which village?

M: The *thana*³ is Kotalipara.

I: Kotalipara? How many siblings do you have?

M: There are five of us.

I: Do you have a father?

M: Yes.

I: What does he do?

M: Nothing. He just lives with us. Takes care of the family.

I: How many brothers do you have?

M: Three.

I: Do all three of them do business?

M: No. One lives in the village, and the other is in Dhaka.

I: Do you have any children?

M: I do.

I: Where do they stay?

M: In the village.

I: So your family lives in the village too?

² Literally translated as “village home,” it basically means “hometown.” Since most of Bangladesh is rural areas, most people hail from villages originally.

³ The term is used in Bangladesh and is synonymous with police station or precinct.

M: Yes.

I: How long are you in this business?

M: Twenty years.

I: You've been selling fish for twenty years?

M: Yes.

I: Which areas do you go to?

M: Bhooter Goli, Central Road, Katthal Bagan.

I: So if you go to these areas, can you sell enough? How much profit do you make per day?

M: Around three hundred to five hundred [taka].

I: So depending on your sales your profits go up or declines. You sometimes make four/ five hundred profit, and sometimes you have a loss, too?

M: Yes.

I: When do you go to buy the fish?

M: At five in the morning.

I: Five? Where do you go?

M: New Market.

I: Do you buy the fish from New Market or somewhere else?

M: No, I buy them from New Market.

I: So you get them from New Market and then sell them in different areas, right?

M: Yes.

I: And you don't sell any other fish, right? Only *hilsa*?

M: No I sell carp, shrimp, lobsters.

I: Do you sell *hilsas* with roe?

M: Some have roe; some don't.

I: Can you show which fish has roe and which doesn't?

M: This one has roe and this does not.

I: Are the ones with roe more expensive? Show it again.

M: This one does not have any roe. And this has roe.

I: Which is more expensive? The roe-less one?

I: The one without the roe is more expensive.

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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