

CultureTalk Bangladesh Video Transcripts: <http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu>  
**Selling Various Types of Fish**

Interviewer (I): What's the difference between a fish which has roe and one that doesn't?

Man (M): The one which does not have roe is tastier; it has more fat. And the one with roe is less tasty, less oily.

I: Oh, so the one with roe doesn't have too much fat, so it's not as tasty, right?

M: Yes.

I: So that is why this is more expensive [the one without the roe].

M: Yes.

I: So can you support your family with this profession?

M: Somewhat.

I: Where do you live?

M: I live in Bangla Motor.

I: Bangla Motor? Do you stay in a mess there or a house?

M: Mess.<sup>1</sup>

I: And does your family live in the village?

M: Yes.

I: Who stays with you in Bangla Motor?

M: There are people...other people from my village.

I: Don't you get enough profit if you sell other types of fish?

M: I do but this is the *hilsa* season now so....

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<sup>1</sup> A mess is the place where military personnel socialize, eat, and (in some cases) live. In some societies this military usage has extended to other disciplined services eateries such as civilian firefighting and police forces. In Bangladesh, a mess denotes a place in the cities that offers very cheap housing for people from the lower income bracket.

I: So you're selling only *hilsas* now because this is the *hilsa* season right?

M: Yes. Selling hilsa at this time is the most profitable. On other seasons, I sell shrimps, carps, *koral*<sup>2</sup> fish.

I: So you sell according to what you find each season?

M: Yes, seasonal fish.

I: What do you get in each season?

M: During the winter, shrimps, carps and *koral* fish are good.

I: Say it loudly. During winter...?

M: During the winter, shrimp, carp, and *koral* fish are good.

I: So it is more profitable to sell those in winter.

M: Yes.

I: And it is more profitable to sell *hilsa* during this time, right?

M: Yes.

I: Thank you.

[Fishmonger gets up with his urn of fish and puts it on his head. He walks out and shouts out his ware]

M: *Hilsa* fish! *Hilsa* fish! *Hilsa* fish from *Padma*!<sup>3</sup> Fish! Buy fish, buy fish!

**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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<sup>2</sup> A fish native to Bangladesh and belongs to the grouper family.

<sup>3</sup> The Padma is a major river in Bangladesh that is a distributary of the Ganges. Hilsa from the Padma is famous for its taste.