

English translation:

I am Jui. I am an inhabitant of the Chittagong Hill Tracts in Bangladesh. The hilly regions of Bangladesh... of the three hilly regions in Bangladesh – Khagrachari, Rangamati, Bandarban – I am an inhabitant of Khagrachari. There I ... I was born in Khagrachari... in Khagrachari, and I studied there till the tenth grade. And here I ... I have gotten admission [to this college] in Dhaka with the hope of getting a higher education. I study at CODA – the full name of my college is the College of Development Alternative. [Of] the fourteen tribes of Bangladesh – Chakma, Marma, Tanchangya, Tripura [etc.] – I belong to the Chakma [tribe]. Several people from Khagrachari have come here to study. And here in Dhaka, the Chakmas ... there are now more than several thousand [Chakma] tribals. And here they study in various colleges, schools and universities. So, our chief religious festival ... our religion is ... we Chakmas follow Buddhism. The founder of Buddhism was Gautama Buddha. He was born... in the sixth century, BCE, in the Lumbini garden in India. His father was King Shuddhodana, and his mother was Queen Mahamaya. After six long years of austere spiritual practice, he... he... after six long years of austere spiritual practice, he... founded Buddhism. He... followed the Middle Path for six long years in order to attain nirvana, and now we

Gautama Buddha's religion has survived in the world for five thousand years from the time of its founding in the sixth century. Among us... us... tribals – among the Chakmas – we have our own language, our own culture, our own attire; and we [speak] our own language, and wear our own attire during our main cultural festivals. Bijhuta is foremost among our main cultural festivals. We... the way Bengalis (i.e., the non-indigenous Muslim population of Bangladesh) celebrate *Eid* in a spontaneous manner... Bijhuta is exactly... we, too, celebrate Bijhuta in a spontaneous manner. Our most... this is our main... most... among [the most important of] our cultural festivals.

So...I will now tell you about my birthplace, Khagrachari. Khagrachari extends to about twenty-seven thousand square kilometers. This is basically a hilly area. Almost all the different indigenous peoples live here: Chakmas, Marmas, Tripuras live here... in Khagrachari. So Khagrachari... in Khagrachari... the main river of Khagrachari is the Chengi, and there are several temples...Buddhist temples there. And... what else do I say? The... the [method of cultivating] rice in those hilly areas... is called *Joom* (slash and burn) cultivation. Here there are various... I mean... hills and rivers. But... there... what else can one say? There are various hills and rivers. ...I was going to say that our homes are usually made of fencing materials... of corrugated metal (tin)...corrugated metal roofing. We use earthen stoves to do our cooking, and we eat rice at all three meals. We eat rice in the morning, in the afternoon, and at night. We eat rice at all three meals. So there... among vegetables, we eat *shutki* (dried fish, not much of a vegetable!)...and then... the cooking is a little different: we do without oil in our cooking.

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