

CultureTalk Bangladesh Video Transcripts: <http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu>
A Personal Assistant

Interviewer: You live close to the sea. You probably were affected by SIDR cyclone¹....

Man: Due to SIDR, we have had much loss. Many of the cement houses have been damaged, and almost Tk² 500,000-700,000 worth of trees have been completely destroyed.

Interviewer: What is happening to those trees?

Man: I have sold some of those trees for wood; some are still remaining. We have had much loss... we have mostly had losses.

Interviewer: You came from Barisal to Dhaka, and now you work in an office... what do most people do for work in Barisal?

Man: Most people from Barisal have agricultural occupations.

Interviewer: What kind of agricultural occupation... what do they grow?

Man: Like wheat, jute, [unclear word omitted] – mainly these three.

Interviewer: Have you ever done this work?

Man: I have certainly done some of this work when I lived in the village.

Interviewer: What do you do in your job now?

Man: I work as a personal assistant in Monipur Tea Company.

Interviewer: What work do you have to do?

Man: As a personal assistant, I have to do a lot of work, like, for example, often I have to go to the bank, withdraw cash and deposit checks and money ... serve tea to directors when they come and also to the elderly staff – all these things. Then I have to file the papers in the office... I have to distribute letters.

Interviewer: How far away is your home from the office?

Man: My house is around 2km away from the office.

Interviewer: How do you travel there?

¹ “Cyclone” is what a tropical storm is called in the Bay of Bengal.

² Taka – the unit of currency in Bangladesh.

Man: Mostly, I travel by *ricksha*¹ or by car.

Interviewer: In which school does your son study? How far away is this school?

Man: That is also around two to two and a half km away from our house... his school.

Interviewer: Who takes him to school?

Man: There is a school van... he goes to school by the school van.

Interviewer: The school van takes him to school and back?

Man: Yes.

Interviewer: What is your future plan regarding your family?

Man: There is only one hope for the future... that I can bring up my children as proper human beings in the society.

Interviewer: What is your plan for your own future? Do you want to continue working here or are you looking for work elsewhere?

Man: No, I am not looking for work, and I do not have any plans at the moment to work elsewhere. But I want to work here and bring up my children so they are able to support themselves in society.

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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¹ Ricksha/rickshaw: a two-wheeled cart seating one or two persons, drawn by a single individual. Rickshaws in Bangladesh are cycle-powered.