

**English translation:**

- Go ahead.
- Right.
- These are clothes.
- The flower-pots are here. Oh, sorry!
- No, that's fine.
- Come.
- These are clothes belonging to Chhonda Aunt's family. Those are soup leaves.<sup>1</sup>
- That one? The tall one?
- Yes. Will you take a shot of this, sister? [Unclear.] It's pretty, isn't it?
- Hmm.
- What is this tree, ahead?
- This we call the *rendi*-tree. In the village they call it that.
- *Rendi*-tree?<sup>2</sup>
- Yes. It bears flowers of a certain kind. After the flowers come longish seed-pods. Planting that seed causes this plant to grow.
- Can one eat it?
- The seeds cannot be eaten. Can they be eaten, or not? I can't really say. And that is... that is also a kind of tree. That tree is very beautiful. *Krishnachura*.
- Which one?
- The name of the flower is *krishnachura*. [It grows] red [flowers]. When the flowers come on, it looks very beautiful. And this ... I can't really tell. But this tree is very beautiful. See how the leaves are. And, what do you call it? Flowers. When the flowers

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<sup>1</sup> The speaker means lemongrass.

<sup>2</sup> *Rendi* is an improper rendering of "rain-tree," *Albizia saman*. In Bangla these are called *shirish* or *koroi*.

come on, it... I mean, in places where the flowers open, it feels like the earth has turned red. I mean, I like it.

- What is happening there?

- They are building a house there.

- They are building a house?

- Yes, they will make it bigger bit by bit. They will make it bigger and turn it into a six-storied, eight-storied building.

- How long will it take to build?

- Three or four months. Some take a year, even. I mean, as long as one wishes. If the owner pays money properly, the builders work quickly. But if there are problems with money, then it takes time.

- That is very big, right?

- Hm.

- Will it be a house, or shops?

- No, it will be a house. Here they are all houses.

- What is that over there?

- That one? That is a very big house.

- Is that a house?

- Yes.

- That house over there is pretty, is it not?

- Which one?

- There, the red building.

- What is it?

- It seems to be a house. It looks like the Taj Mahal, doesn't it, from the top?

- Does it belong to rich people, or what?

- It seems to be the house of kings from earlier on.
- Is that right?
- It seems so. Right?
- Hmmm, it is pretty.
- It is pretty, right?
- Is this Dhaka? The whole thing?
- Yes?
- Is the whole thing Dhaka?
- How will it be today, can you tell me?
- What does that mean, sister?
- Will it be hot, or rainy....
- Oh, today... how do you say it? It has rained in the past few days. Today there is very beautiful sunlight.
- But it is hot today.
- It is hot. But at least the sun has come out. It doesn't feel good when it rains.
- It doesn't feel good?
- Sometimes when it rains lightly, it feels good. If you had shot in the evening, sister, it would have been prettier. The sunlight comes straight along here; it looks very beautiful. One day you should bring it [the camera] in the evening.
- Yes, yes. If I can wake up.
- Yes?
- If I can wake up [from my siesta].
- But you don't sleep in the evening.
- Oh no. Evening [starts] around four, right? ... Yes, I will wake up [then].

- Around four or five. And the morning... in the morning, you sleep. Let us come one day in the evening... Look at the plants they have here.

- Where?

- Here, by the gate. The leaves are weird. I had planted one in our house; it [didn't survive]. Do you want to shoot more? That is a *mehendi*<sup>1</sup> plant.

- *Mehendi*?

- Yes, *mehendi* -- what one wears on the hands.

- Oh, this is what one makes *mehendi* from.

- You tear [the leaves] and grind them to paste. When you apply the paste to your hands, your hands turn red.<sup>2</sup>

- Hmm.

- That is a lime tree: those two. Have you seen them? There, it has small limes, too.

- It does?

- Hmm. There are so many plants in Chhonda Aunty's house that you cannot name them. Right?

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<sup>1</sup> Bangla for henna.

<sup>2</sup> Henna applied thickly turns the skin reddish-brown.