

English translation:

I am Turiya. I study at the College of Development Alternative. I am from Rangamati. Rangamati is a principal region of the Chittagong Hill Tracts in Ba... Bangladesh. Rangamati is surrounded by hills. There are many rivers in Rangamati, and, along with those, there are many small villages in Rangamati populated by indigenous... peoples. There are many Buddhist temples (*bihars*) in Rangamati. And of these *bihars*, the most important is Rajbana Bihar. And our chief religion is Buddhism. [A person] who propagates the Buddhist... Buddhist religion is called *bhantey*... *bhantey*... *bhantey*, or *bhikkhu*. And, the only *bhikkhu* in our... Bangla... Bangladesh [to have attained *arhat*-hood¹] is Srimat Sadhananada Mahasthabir² – also called Bana Bhantey. We refer to him as Bana Bhantey. He has passed through difficult *sadhana*.³ He has now attained *arhat*-hood after passing through difficult *sadhana*. Many of his disciples are still engaged in preaching Buddhism ... are still engaged in preaching-work in Rangamati. And the main... main... main precept of our... the Buddhist religion is *Ahimsa paramo dharma*.⁴ And the primary aim of our *sadhana* is... we... attainment of nirvana. Attainment of nirvana

In Rangamati... Rangamati is one of... Bangladesh's tourist attractions. There are many... many... many things of tourist interest here... there. For instance, many... there are many things to see... over there. The raja of the Chakma Circle⁵ lives [in Rangamati]. The *raja* of the Chakma Circle lives there... and *Rajpunyah* (coronation day) gets celebrated every year. *Rajpunyah* gets celebrated... And then we... have a special celebration on [our] New Year's Day, called *Bijhu*. We... we have a lot of fun during *Bijhu*. We go to perform *syong*.⁶ We go to perform *syong*. A fundamental... a characteristic of members of the Chakma... Chakma... Chakma tribe is their uncomplicated manner... their uncomplicated manner; and their clothing, too, is unfussy. We usually wear *pinan-khadi*, and we [weave] our own *pinan-khadis*. The Karnaphuli River flows past the hills in Rangamati. The Karnaphuli paper mills stand on the banks of the Karnaphuli River... on the banks of the Karnaphuli River. There is the Kaptai Lake in Rangamati... Rangamati and... there is the Kaptai lake in Rangamati, where... which is a site of electrical power production... [it] is the site of one of Bangladesh's electrical power production units. One of Bangladesh's electrical power production units... one of Bangladesh's electrical power production units The natural beauty of the place... the place, the life of the people there... their way of life is very [nice], very, you know... very non-artificial. And Rangamati is very beautiful in all ways. I have come to Dhaka

¹ An *arhat* is a Buddhist monk deemed worthy of attaining liberation.

² *Srimat*: a special prefix placed before the name of a revered person, and “*Mahasthabir*” means great elder.

³ *Sadhana* means spiritual practice.

⁴ Non-violence is the highest duty/religion.

⁵ “Circle” being an administrative division; the Chakmas are an indigenous tribe

⁶ The speaker is making reference to a ritual in which people make offerings of fruits, rice, etc. to images of the Buddha at their local temples.

for higher education. I want to be a doctor when I grow up, and serve the people [in that capacity].

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