

English translation:

Irena (I): So, you all say in your own apartment now and you're also thinking of moving to a new one sometime soon, right?

Gulshan (G): Yes.

I: How long have you stayed here? Why are you thinking of moving?

Sarah(S): Well, we want to move into a new house because this apartment is a bit small. We want a place which is a bit bigger.

G: When this house was being built, we didn't understand many of the things that were happening. We liked the place but the way we wanted it to be exactly, it wasn't done like that, basic things like windows and doors. In our new house, we will be more specific about our wants. That is the reason we are looking for a new house.

I: So you are looking for apartments now? But you don't want an independent house, right?

G: No, we want to buy an apartment.

I: Do you want to buy the apartment in the same place or somewhere else?

G: In the new place, we don't want the same place.

I: In the same area?

G: So this is Dhanmondi Residential Area, we are thinking of getting the apartment in some other area, not in Dhanmondi.

I: What areas do you have in mind?

G: Right now we're thinking of the Gulshan area or a bit farther off, in Mohakhali... somewhere like that.

I: Okay, so how many rooms do you have in this house?

G: In this apartment, we have three bedrooms, one drawing room (formal sitting room), one dining room, one family/living room, one room for the domestic help, four bathrooms and three verandahs.

I: And is it a good area?

G: Yes, we live in a very good neighborhood. There is a huge field right in front of our apartment complex, so we get a lot of light. And since we have a lot of greenery around here, we can hear the calls of *kokil*¹. You must have seen a *kokil*, and heard its call? It is a very popular bird of Bangladesh, especially in the rural areas. It's a very pretty bird, glossy black in color and its call is also very sweet. So we can hear the call of this bird and I like this house mostly because of the field in front of it.

I: Are you on good terms with your neighbors? Do you talk with them?

G: Yes, we do talk but we are not very friendly. Here people mostly keep to themselves. But if someone is in some sort of difficulty, we definitely help out. You know, people lead such busy lifestyles these days. You get up in the morning and rush to office or school and you are busy practically the whole day.

I: So you do entertain amongst yourselves or is it mostly family?

G: Yes.

I: So, people aren't very close with their neighbors here. Over there (United States), people are closer with their neighbors, because most of the times, their families live far away. Neighbors become part of our family.

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 a kind of cuckoo