

CultureTalk Bangladesh Video Transcripts: <http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu>
Special Tutors

English translation:

Irena: So, in Bangladesh, in both English medium and Bangla medium schools, people have separate tutors.

Samin: Yes.

I: Why do they do this? Don't they give homework from school or can't you get help from your school teachers? Why do you need extra tutors? And what does the tutor teach you at home?

S: You have to do this... everyone does. It helps you get better grades.

I: Okay, so does the school assign these tutors for you, or do you have to find them yourselves?

S: If we want to, we can get a teacher from school, and, if we want to, we can find a tutor ourselves. That is not an issue.

I: So you have a tutor now right?

S: Yes.

I: Does he give you work based on what you've learned at school or

S: He gives his own work and also work based on things we've learned at school.

I: So you go to school everyday. How long are your weekends?

S: Two days: Fridays and Saturdays.

I: Fridays and Saturdays, okay. And how many days does your home tutor come?

S: Five days. I only get a break on Fridays and Saturdays.

I: At what time do you wake up for school?

S: I wake up from sleep at 7:30 AM.

I: When does school start?

S: From 8:00 a.m. This is the winter session timing. In summer, it's from 7:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. And in winter, it is from 8:00 a.m. 'til 1:30 p.m.

I: So, how do you go to school? Does a school-bus pick you up or...?

S: No, my mom drops me off and she also picks me up.

I: Do they have a bus system in other schools here?

S: Yes, they do.

I: Your previous school had it, right?

S: Yes.

I: So you are eleven years old, and you are in fourth grade. Say another eleven year old who studies in fourth grade comes here from another country, but he has never been in Bangladesh before. He asks you what places are worth visiting, then what would you tell him?

S: I'll tell him to visit Fantasy Kingdom, Foy's Lake, and the zoo.

I: Now tell me what is Fantasy Kingdom -- where it is and all that.

S: Fantasy Kingdom is a park (theme/amusement park). Everyone goes there to roam around. They have rides. They sometimes organize concerts.

I: And where is it located?

S: It is in Dhaka.

I: How far is Dhaka from here? By bus or car?

S: I cannot say that.

I: Okay, what else did you say? Foy's Lake? Where is Foy's Lake?

S: This is in Khulshi, Chittagong.

I: Okay, who do you go with there? When do you go? Do you go with school friends? Does your school take you on picnics there? Do you go with family members? Or do you go with both friends and family?

S: I go with my family members.

I: You stay with your mother and father. Do other family members live close by?

S: They stay nearby.

I: Is your family big or small?

S: Small.

I: It's winter in Bangladesh now. And what's the date today? January... 15th?

S: No. It's the 9th.

I: Okay, January 9th. Can you tell me what the weather is like now?

S: It's very cold now.

I: This is the lowest the temperature can get, right? It gets warmer after January, right?

S: Yes. It stays until about February.

I: During the winter season, do you guys wear sweaters and hats when you go out, or is it not that cold?

S: We wear sweaters when we go out.

I: Does it get really hot in summer?

S: Yes. It's extremely hot during the summer months.

I: So does it rain a lot here? Or does it snow?

S: It rains a lot.

I: But not in January right?

S: No.

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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