

CultureTalk Bangladesh Video Transcripts: <http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu>  
**Secretary of a Tea Company**

**English translation:**

Interviewer: What is your name?

Man: My name is Shikhdar Gaziur Rahman.

Interviewer: Where do you work?

Man: I work at Monipur Tea Company Limited.

Interviewer: What is your designation?

Man: Company secretary.

Interviewer: How long have you been working here?

Man: 43 years running.

Interviewer: Did you work anywhere else in the past?

Man: No, never. This is my first job.

Interviewer: You know how you have been working here for 43 years....

Man: 43 years running....

Interviewer: Well yes, but did you take up this position after completing your university graduation?

Man: Yes, I joined this office after receiving an undergraduate degree in Commerce.

Interviewer: What college did you attend?

Man: I first joined Dhaka College.<sup>1</sup> However, I was not happy there, so I transferred to the college in my village and received my degree from there.

Interviewer: And from there....

Man: Yes, the year I graduated, the percentage of students who graduated was 7%.

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<sup>1</sup> Dhaka College started as an English school at Dhaka in 1835. Dr. James Taylor (Civil Surgeon at Dhaka and a well-known historian) sponsored the school and organized a local Committee of Public Instruction with the help of district magistrate Mr. Grant.

Interviewer: So, did you have any other dreams except for joining the tea company?

Man: Well trees are... I am the son of a farmer. My father was a farmer. After I came with my college degree, people were saying that I will not be willing to get my hands dirty in the tea gardens, but I just took off my shoes and was ready to plough. People can do whatever they put their minds to. There is no task that is impossible to do. Any task, whether big or small, I know how to do it. And also, I am quite ambitious. When I was in college, I was part of student unions and therefore I am stubborn. When I used to come home from college and heard someone mentioning that they are not able to complete a task, I was confident that I will be able to do it and began the process immediately. I even cut palm trees – yes, palm trees. How? Well, on the first day, there were injuries to my veins.

Interviewer: So, where are you from?

Man: I am from Barisal, Gounari *thana* [police-station].

Interviewer: So now you live in Dhaka. Who are the other family members living with you?

Man: My wife and son live with me.

Interviewer: What does your son do?

Man: I mentioned earlier. He is studying at North South University.<sup>1</sup> After he graduated from Notre Dame College,<sup>2</sup> he was admitted to North South University.

Interviewer: What is his major?

Man: Electronics and TeleCommunication.

Man: I love to work and my primary goal is to climb high and earn a respectable position in a particular company. That is still my goal. I am not motivated by profits and money. I love this company. My contribution to this company and the fact that all these employees can collect their salaries and I am making this possible is the reward I get from working. That is all that I am interested in. This is what I am grateful for.

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<sup>1</sup> First private university in Bangladesh. The mission of NSU is to excel in providing higher education in Bangladesh, keeping in view the challenges of the twenty-first century. Its vision is to become a top university in the South Asian region.

<sup>2</sup> Notre Dame College, Dhaka, is a Degree college affiliated with the National University. At the invitation of His Grace Lawrence L. Graner, CSC, the then Archbishop of Dhaka, Notre Dame College was founded by the Congregation of Holy Cross Priest Society of the Roman Catholic Church in November 1949 as St Gregory College at the St. Gregory School campus, Luxmibazar, with a view to spreading the light of education in the eastern part of the newly born country, Pakistan, Since its inception the college has been administered by the priests of the Congregation of Holy Cross.

**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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