

**English translation:**

Shopkeeper: In a nice packet, okay... using foreign art cards, okay... these... these are being given... nicely packed... then we have *chatai*<sup>1</sup>... made from bamboo ...aay ...aay... *chatai* made of bamboo, hmm... after decorating them like this... decorating them with *holud*<sup>2</sup>... then used for occasions of *holud*.

Shopkeeper: What?

Shopkeeper: Two *kacha golla*?<sup>3</sup> Two *kacha golla*...?

Man 1: That's 40 taka.<sup>4</sup> What else? Take that out [unclear].

Shopkeeper: 20 taka....

Man 1: That's 22 ... [unclear].

Shopkeeper: That's 22?

Man 1: And that is....

Shopkeeper: Hmmm, yes. That's 62 taka... hmm, yes, 60.

Man 1: They will get 60 taka.

Shopkeeper: Hmmm.

Shopkeeper: We are sh... seven ... eight... working in the shop. In the factory, some further seven or eight are working...something like this.

Interviewer: During which time of the year is the demand highest?

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<sup>1</sup> Coarse mat made from palm leaf.

<sup>2</sup> *Holud*: in this case is a special occasion that takes place before the wedding day and gets its name from turmeric, which is used for cooking but is also good for the skin. During *Holud*, everyone present takes a turn in putting a layer of *holud* on the bride or groom's face (a ritual performed to make the bride and groom get a glow and to bestow happiness on them).

<sup>3</sup> *Kacha golla* is a special kind of round sweet (in Bangladesh), whose texture and taste varies according to the region in which it is made.

<sup>4</sup> Tk. = taka, the Bangladeshi currency.

Shopkeeper: Demand highest? That would...um winter... more in winter... the occasions...the social occasions are more frequent in winter. The business is better in winter. Then, for example... tomorrow is *Shab-e-baraat*.<sup>1</sup> For *Shab-e-baraat*, here... there will be a feast here... as we usually do in Dhaka city. Tomorrow we will make *haalua*<sup>2</sup> here, and sweets will be popular too. There will be *jelapi*<sup>3</sup> ... all these for *Shab-e-baraat*. Then *Pahela Baishakh*<sup>4</sup> is a huge thing...meaning important...lots of sweets are most important.

Interviewer: What is *Pahela Baishakh*?

Shopkeeper: *Pahela Baishakh* is our *nababorsha*<sup>5</sup> ... meaning *bangla naaborsha*...okay? Now it is the first day of the year... for long, long time... from way before, in Bangladesh, sweets...sweets are important part of *Pahela Baishakh*. We sell the most on *Pahela Baishakh*. *Pahela Baishakh*... then there is *Eid*<sup>6</sup> ... *Eid*, okay? *Shab-e-baraat* ... these and weddings.

Interviewer: What about when Matric<sup>7</sup> results are out?

Shopkeeper: Yes, yes. When the Matric results are out, we sell lots of sweets... and also when the Intermediate<sup>8</sup> results are out.

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<sup>1</sup> It is a special day for Muslims, because on this night it is said that Allah opens his book of judgment and writes down an individual's fate for next year. There is a controversy regarding how this day should be celebrated.

<sup>2</sup> It's another special kind of sweet made on rare special occasions (usually). However, instead of flour, it is made with pulse, vegetables or fruits, like carrots.

<sup>3</sup> A crunchy sweet, spiral in shape.

<sup>4</sup> The first day of the Bengali year

<sup>5</sup> New year.

<sup>6</sup> It is a big religious day for Muslims. Everyone is happy; all bad feelings are forgotten, and there are lots to eat. Family and friends get together and exchange gifts and spend a completely relaxed day.

<sup>7</sup> A Preliminary Examination, conducted by the Staff Selection Commission of Bangladesh Education Board and equivalent to O level exams held by Edexcel.

<sup>8</sup> After giving the Matric exams, the students go on to the next level of studying, which is the Intermediates, before entering University. Intermediate is equivalent to A level exams held by Edexcel.