

CultureTalk Bangladesh Video Transcripts: <http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu>
Young Women Chatting

English translation:

Irena: In the U.S.A., time is told in a different way. Like, sixty minutes by the clock is one hour. So how is it different in Bangladesh? What's the Bengali for "half an hour"?

Sarah: Half an hour is *adha ghonta*.

Ishrat [I2]: *Ek ghonta* is one hour.

S: We say *adha ghonta*, *ek ghonta*.

I: When people say *share aat-ta*, *pouney noy-ta*, what do they mean?

S: *Pouney noy-ta* means 8:45. *Share aat-ta* is 8:30. Then there's *arai-ta* which means 2:30. And *der-ta* means 1:30.

I: Okay, so you all live in Dhaka, and I've come to Dhaka after a long time. Where would you take someone like me?

I2: For someone who's visiting Dhaka for the first time, we will take them to the mall or to parks.

S: Then we have Fantasy Kingdom in Ashulia, then Nandan Water Park. We have a few parks where one can visit.

Gulshan: The Botanical Gardens.

S: Or they could go to clubs at night, although the whole clubbing scene is still quite uncommon in Bangladesh.

I: What are the clubs here like? Are they like country clubs or...?

S: No we have a lot of small clubs, too. But most people don't go there. We still have not assimilated this into our culture.

I: Okay, tell me a bit about your university. You study at American Uni... which university was it?

S: I study at the Independent University of Bangladesh.

I: What subjects do you have to study there?

S: I am studying Finance. I'm majoring in Finance, with a minor in Environmental Studies. We need to fulfill 128 credits in order to graduate. I've already finished 100 credits.

I: What do you need to take within those 128 credits? Are they all related to Finance and Environment?

S: Yes.

I: You don't take anything else?

S: Oh no, we do take a lot of courses. I had to do English courses; there were French courses, math... accounting.

I: So do you... did you...your major....

S: My major course is 15 credits... no, sorry, 18 credits and the minor course is 15 credits.

I: So after you're done with those, do you get to choose what courses you want to take, or does the university choose it for you?

S: The University chooses it for us, and we have to take those courses.

I: You've been abroad, right? A lot of people say that when they go abroad they really like it, and many settle abroad, and they say that after living abroad it becomes really difficult to come back here and stay. So you have gone on trips abroad, but you stay in Bangladesh. People say that the system is better abroad and everything else is good. So what do you prefer? Staying here or staying abroad?

S: No, I like it here in Bangladesh. It's nice to go holidaying abroad but I like staying in Bangladesh.

I: What do you like about Bangladesh?

S: Our people ... I have all my relatives here. It's easier for me to communicate with people here.

I: What don't you like about Bangladesh?

S: The politicians. They are very corrupt. Other than the politics, everything else is good. Our environment is nice; we have a delicious cuisine; our people are nice.

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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