

**English translation:**

**Woman 1:** Despite all the hard work they do abroad, they cannot make time for their family. The mother cannot give time to her children; the husband cannot give time to his wife, the parents to their children. That is why they live far away from each other; there are limitations to their thoughts, compassion and affections, which they cannot overcome. We Bengalis are in a very good position. We are very happy in Bangladesh. Let the whole world know.

**Woman 2:** In my opinion, the people in Bangladesh are not machines. In foreign countries, people live like machines.

**Woman 1:** We can laugh open-heartedly. Let the whole world know how open-hearted we are, how happy we are. I feel proud that I was born in Bangladesh. Bangladesh is our country; we are Bangladeshi ... it feels so good, yet when one is abroad everyone tends to ask, "Where is Bangladesh? I don't know where Bangladesh is. Is it in India?" Such a beautiful country, such a peaceful country, so green, so colorful, yet people do not know about Bangladesh. People ask, "Where is it? India?" And then you have to explain, "No, not in India. It is next to India. It is a very small country. It is very beautiful and very lively, our Bangladesh. The people here...."

**Woman 1:** There is another issue... Many people visit other countries, but I feel that it is not right to visit other countries before exploring one's own country. This is indeed very sad. This country has much greenery and beauty compared to others. For instance, last February we went to Jaflong, Sylhet<sup>1</sup> for a college picnic. The scenery on the way there, the hills against the fog, was truly a beautiful sight. The scenery along the borders lining India was so beautiful that I wanted to jump out of the bus right there and then. There is no need to visit other countries when there are so many magnificent places in your own country waiting to be explored. First, let me observe my country, and then I will go abroad.

**Woman 3:** You know that television series, *Dekha Hoi Nai Chokkhu Meliya*.<sup>2</sup>

**Woman 2:** Yes....

**Woman 3:** They showed it a long time ago. Is it still running?

**Woman 2:** No, they do not show it.

---

<sup>1</sup> Jaflong is one of the most attractive tourist spots in Sylhet division. It's about 60 km from Sylhet town, and it takes two hours by car to reach there. Jaflong is also a scenic spot nearby amidst tea gardens and the rare beauty of rolling stones from hills. It is situated beside the river Mari in the lap of Hill Khashia.

<sup>2</sup> *Dekha Hoi Nai Chokkhu Meliya*, meaning "One Does not See with Open Eyes," is one of the most popular and long-running documentaries on Bangladesh Television. It ran for a eight years straight. It introduces viewers to places of beauty and interest right at their doorstep.

**Woman 3:** Why? It was a very good program. All the nooks and corners of Bangladesh....

**Woman 2:** They do have a similar program. The way it is presented.... They have a presentation titled *Amar Desh* (My Country). It runs for 15 minutes every day after the evening news. It highlights all the different tourist places in Bangladesh.

**Woman 3:** Oh, really!

**Woman 2:** Yes, every night after the 8:00 p.m. news. It starts at 8:30 and runs until 8:45 p.m. I enjoy it. I really enjoy watching these types of shows. I take notes on all the different places highlighted in the program -- for example, how to get to these places. Every Wednesday *Prothom Alo*<sup>3</sup> includes *Noksha*.<sup>4</sup> *Noksha* presents features on tourist spots in Bangladesh -- how to get there, the cost of the trip, and such. I have collected all the issues of *Noksha* published so far.

**Woman 3:** Oh, really!

**Woman 2:** When I am able to afford it, I will definitely try and visit all these places in Bangladesh. How to get to the places, the cost of bus or train tickets, food and lodging facilities that are available -- all the descriptions are clearly laid out. So I collect *Noksha*.

**Woman 3:** Do they show it on television?

**Woman 2:** No, not on television. The daily newspaper includes this weekly magazine titled *Noksha* every Tuesday. Spend the holidays with your family, here and there ....

**Woman 2:** There has been significant advancement in the newspapers in Bangladesh. I did not even know they had these [travel programs] here. America has them.

**Woman 1:** Also the television programs ....

**Woman 2:** They have different television programs.

**Woman 1:** They have travel programs: go and visit Kuakata,<sup>5</sup> go and visit Natore.<sup>6</sup> They advertise the different establishments of the Moghal Empire Period<sup>7</sup> in the TV programs. They include all the basic information captured by video.

---

<sup>3</sup> *Prothom Alo*, or "First Light," is a major daily newspaper in Bangladesh, published in Dhaka in the Bengali language.

<sup>4</sup> *Noksha*, or "Sketch," is the Tuesday supplement on lifestyle that comes with *Prothom Alo*.

<sup>5</sup> Kuakata, locally known as Sagar Kannya, or "Daughter of the Sea," is a rare scenic beauty spot on the southernmost tip of Bangladesh. Kuakata in Latachapli union under Kalapara Police Station of Patuakhali district is about 30 km in length and 6 km in breadth.

<sup>6</sup> About 40 km from Rajshahi by road is Natore, an old seat of Maharajas with a beautiful palace now serving as the Uttara Ganabhaban (President's Official residence of the northern region). It was a residence of the Dighapatiya Raj. It is situated amid well-kept grounds, surrounded by a fine moat.

<sup>7</sup> The Mughal Empire was a Muslim imperial power of the Indian subcontinent that began in 1526, ruled most of the Indian Subcontinent by the late 17th and early 18th centuries, and ended in the mid-19th century. A major Mughal

**Woman 3:** Wow.

**Woman 1:** Every channel shows one program or another regarding travel in Bangladesh.

**Woman 3:** I had no idea about all of this. Actually, one month is not enough to see the country.

**Woman 1:** No, not at all. Every time you have a vacation, you and those of us who live here can go away for a week and visit different places. There is a lot to see.

**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.

© 2003-2009 Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and Five Colleges, Incorporated

---

contribution to the Indian Subcontinent was their unique architecture. Many great monuments were built by the Muslim emperors during the Mughal era, including the Taj Mahal. The Muslim Mughal Dynasty built splendid palaces, tombs, minars and forts that stand today in Delhi, Dhaka , Agra, Jaipur, Lahore, Sheikhpura, and many other cities of India, Pakistan and Bangladesh.