

English translation:

Interviewer (I): Come here.

Vendor (V): Red leafy greens, *kolmi* leafy greens, *kochu* leafy greens, wild leafy greens, *shapla* leafy greens....¹

I: Hey, how much is....

V: *Shapla*?

I: How much is *Shapla*?

V: *Shapla* is Tk² five per kg.

I: And the *pui* leafy green?

V: *Pui* is Tk ten per kg.

I: ...And the red leafy green?

V: Tk five.

I: And, the *kochu* leafy green?

V: Tk six.

I: And how much is the *pui* leafy green?

V: *Pui* is Tk ten per kg.

I: What else do you have?

V: *Data*.

I: How much is *data*?

V: *Data* is Tk five per kg.

I: Can you give me a discount?

¹ Any edible herb or creeper; spinach.

² Taka – the unit of currency in Bangladesh.

V: No.

I: It is Tk five.

V: Yes.

I: What else do you have?

V: *Kolmi* leafy green.

I: *Kolmi* leafy green, *Pui* leafy green, *Kochi* leafy green, red leafy green, *shapla*, data.
Where did you buy the goods for resale?

V: From Rayarbazar.

I: Oh, from Rayarbazar. Do you bring them from Rayarbazar every day?

V: Yes, every day.

I: Okay. So what is your income from the sales of these vegetables?

V: Um, between Tk 100 and Tk 150.

I: How many children do you have?

V: One.

I: Does your child live in the village?

V: Yes, in the village.

I: What about your parents?

V: They live in the village.

I: So, can you support your family from the income received from your sales?

V: No, I cannot.

I: Where do you sell your goods?

V: In this area.

I: Oh, in this area. What is the name of this area?

V: The name of this area is ... uh ... Kalabagan, Elephant Road, Crescent Road.

I: So do you make profits selling in these areas?

V: Yes.

I: So can you support a family with your earnings?

V: It is difficult to support a family.

I: Do you support your parents?

V: Yes.

I: What is your name?

V: My name is Pannu.

I: Pannu. How many children do you have?

V: One boy.

I: So how long have you been in the business of selling vegetables?

V: For about 15 years.

I: Oh, since 15 years? So, were you in any other business before this?

V: No.

I: You only sell these vegetables?

V: Yes.

I: What is your father's name?

V: My father's name is Habibullah.

I: What is your grandfather's name?

V: My grandfather's name is Norirullah.

I: How many siblings do you have?

V: We are four brothers.

I: Are all four of you in this same business, or is someone employed in another business?

V: No, three of us do business.

I: What work do you do?

V: We sell vegetables, and one brother lives in the village.

I: In the village? What does he do in the village?

V: He is....

I: Is he a farmer?

V: Yes.

I: He is a farmer? Are all four of you married?

V: Yes, we are all married.

I: Is your father still alive?

V: No, he is no longer with us.

I: He passed away? What work did he do?

V: He was a farmer.

I: Oh, okay. So you have come here from the village for the business.

V: Yes.

I: So where in the city do you live?

V: I live in Moghbazar, Kalaninagar.

I: What are the names of your children?

V: Priyanka.

I: Priyanka? You have only one daughter?

V: Yes.

I: Does she live here?

V: No, she lives in the village.

I: So what is your daily income?

V: Tk 150.

I: What is your daily expenditure?

V: It is Tk 50.

I: So do you live in a *mess*?¹

V: Yes.

I: How many of you?

V: Eight.

I: How old are you?

V: Consider it to be 28.

I: So, out of your 28 years, you have been working for 12 years?

V: Yes.

I: So it seems you run quite a good business. Thank you very much.

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¹ A mess is the place where military personnel socialize, eat, and (in some cases) live. In some societies this military usage has extended to other disciplined services eateries such as civilian fire fighting and police forces. In Bangladesh, a mess denotes a place in the cities which offer very cheap housing for people from the lower income bracket.