

## IRONEATERS – dialogue list

off

TC 10:00:41:00

*Where the sea ends and the mountains rise up, there you can find a divine tranquillity. This is the place where you should live“, that’s what we say in Bangladesh. „Have no fear of the sea, it will bring you fruits; it will keep you alive.“ And this is how the people lived their modest lives in Shitolpur, a place near my village on the coast of Chittagong in southern Bangladesh. Shitolpur – the kingdom of eternal peace.*

*One day the sea brought an unexpected gift. After a violent storm in 1960, a huge ship run aground and stuck deep in the sand. At first, the local people didn’t know what to do with the ship, but finally, they decided to dismantle it and sell the iron. This was the dawn of a new age for the people of this region: the slaughtering of sea-giants brought an end to the divine tranquillity of Shitolpur.*

1: 10:03:27:19 10:03:31:19 04:00

We're going to make it this time!

- Yes!

2: 10:03:32:02 10:03:35:11 03:09

If you don't get that wall laid down,  
I'm going to lay your wives.

3: 10:03:35:17 10:03:37:05 01:13

<You wimps!>

<- Heyo!>

4: 10:03:37:11 10:03:38:24 01:13

<Pull that cable!>

<- Heyo!>

5: 10:03:39:05 10:03:41:09 02:04

<As hard as you can!>

<- Heyo!>

6: 10:03:50:07 10:03:51:13 01:06

<My young brothers!>

<- Heyo!>

7: 10:03:52:01 10:03:53:08 01:07

<Aren't you up to it?>

<- Heyo!>

8: 10:03:53:14 10:03:54:21 01:07

<Then get lost!>

<- Heyo!>

9: 10:03:55:02 10:03:56:09 01:07

<It's fun!>

<- Heyo!>

10: 10:03:56:15 10:03:58:15 02:00

<You wimps!>

<- Heyo!>

11: 10:03:58:21 10:04:00:01 01:05  
<Pull even harder!>  
<- Heyo!>

12: 10:04:05:13 10:04:07:20 02:07  
Watch out! It's coming down!

off

TC 10:04:36:00

*While by the grace of god the people on the southern edge of the country were blessed with the garbage of civilisation, god gave the people in the north the deadly Monga. That's what the people here call the period of famine that begins after the annual flood season when the vast rivers dry up. Because of the Monga, many farmers try to get work breaking ships in Chittagong. I wanted to know who these people are, who come to us in the south and work for months on starvation wages.*

13: 10:04:20:16 10:04:25:21 05:05  
Kurigram  
North Bangladesh

14: 10:05:34:22 10:05:37:05 02:08  
Ready?  
- Yes, almost.

15: 10:05:38:19 10:05:40:12 01:18  
Mum, I have to go.

16: 10:05:42:17 10:05:45:03 02:11  
Take care of yourself.

17: 10:05:46:12 10:05:50:06 03:19  
Kholil, tell my son to send some money.  
- Will do.

18: 10:05:50:12 10:05:55:15 05:03  
I'm leaving now, sister-in-law.  
Phone me if you need anything.

19: 10:05:58:20 10:06:00:08 01:13  
Hey, Kholil.

20: 10:06:01:11 10:06:04:13 03:02  
Kholil, your mother is following you.

21: 10:06:05:14 10:06:07:01 01:12  
Don't be sad!

22: 10:06:08:16 10:06:12:06 03:15  
Look after the children.  
Spend the money on yourself.

23: 10:06:12:12 10:06:15:21 03:09  
I'll send more. You can spend all of it.

24: 10:06:16:02 10:06:18:20 02:18

Please go back home now.

25: 10:06:20:12 10:06:23:03 02:16  
I still have to fetch some boys.

off

TC 10:06:47:00

*Kholil and Gadu started work as cable pullers more than 15 years ago at the PHP shipbreaking yard. Over the years they have risen to become foreman and a vital part of their job is to hire young man for the yard. Most of these recruits are members of Kholil and Gadu's own families. Gadu's nephew Riazur for example. His father abandoned him and his mother when he was still a little boy. Now Riazur has to support the whole family. Djabar has just got married. He's struggling to save up money to start his own business. Nurnobi is also worried about the future. Without his earnings his brothers and sisters would not be able to go to school. Like many others, Erschadul has lost his farmland to erosion. Since he lost his farmland His work at the dockyard has been his only source of income.*

26: 10:08:19:07 10:08:23:01 03:19  
Hey, Nobir, why are you still in bed?

27: 10:08:24:01 10:08:25:01 01:00  
It's late!

28: 10:08:29:02 10:08:30:14 01:12  
Hurry up!

29: 10:10:08:12 10:10:11:22 03:10  
Why are you so late?  
I came specially to wake you!

30: 10:10:12:03 10:10:15:13 03:10  
The boys are tired from the journey.  
- Lame excuse!

31: 10:10:15:19 10:10:19:11 03:17  
We're just two minutes late!  
- Show me your men!

32: 10:10:19:17 10:10:21:15 01:23  
Here they are.  
- Who's new?

33: 10:10:21:22 10:10:25:17 03:20  
Some of them are really old hands.  
- Come here a second.

34: 10:10:27:07 10:10:28:14 01:07  
Come here!

35: 10:10:28:20 10:10:31:10 02:15  
Can you cope with this sort of work?

36: 10:10:31:22 10:10:34:04 02:07  
Of course! I can do any work.

37: 10:10:34:10 10:10:36:24 02:14

Do you know how it's done?

38: 10:10:37:11 10:10:39:00 01:14  
Yes, I do.

39: 10:10:39:06 10:10:42:20 03:14  
He'll manage.  
The older guys will show him.

40: 10:10:43:20 10:10:45:01 01:06  
What about you?

41: 10:10:45:08 10:10:47:08 02:00  
What's your name?  
- Nurnobi.

42: 10:10:47:24 10:10:49:14 01:15  
Done this work before?  
- Yes.

43: 10:10:49:20 10:10:53:00 03:05  
Sure you eat enough?  
He's too weak, Kholil!

44: 10:10:53:06 10:10:56:02 02:21  
He'll manage.  
- He's not strong enough.

45: 10:10:56:08 10:10:59:06 02:23  
Together with the older guys,  
he'll manage.

46: 10:10:59:12 10:11:02:22 03:10  
Make sure he eats enough.  
- Right.

47: 10:11:03:03 10:11:07:07 04:04  
We don't want him to collapse.  
- He'll eat after a hard day's work.

48: 10:11:09:04 10:11:12:21 03:17  
Shadul, how much do you earn per day?  
- 88 Takas (1.30 dollars).

49: 10:11:13:02 10:11:16:13 03:11  
That's not enough. He has to get more.

50: 10:11:16:19 10:11:21:19 05:00  
Then the others will want more too.  
- No. He's really hard-working.

51: 10:11:22:04 10:11:24:10 02:06  
Some of them are a bit weak this time.

52: 10:11:24:16 10:11:28:04 03:13  
Well,

they're not specially bred chickens!

53: 10:11:28:22 10:11:31:17 02:20  
They can't all be the same.

54: 10:11:32:10 10:11:36:05 03:20  
Old and new combined,  
I'm sure it'll work out fine.

55: 10:11:37:22 10:11:40:04 02:07  
Why are you never punctual?

56: 10:11:40:10 10:11:42:12 02:02  
They've all got families.

57: 10:11:42:18 10:11:46:08 03:15  
Their parents and wives don't want  
to let them go.

*off*

*TC 10:13:02:00*

*The men from the north don't only work as cable pullers. They'll do any hard physical work at the yard. All the jobs the local people aren't interested in. The locals always get the better jobs – as supervisors for example.*

*The Gas Cutters who slice through the innards of the ships are also local man and they are relatively well paid. They earn 200 Taka per day – that's about 3 US dollars.*

58: 10:14:16:10 10:14:18:17 02:07  
Watch out! It's coming down!

59: 10:14:37:23 10:14:39:10 01:12  
Hey, Rafiq!

60: 10:14:40:13 10:14:43:21 03:08  
Fill the holes in the floor  
and wipe up the oil and water.

61: 10:14:44:02 10:14:47:05 03:03  
How am I meant to fill  
such a big hole with mud?

62: 10:14:47:11 10:14:50:22 03:11  
No idea. I have to weld there.

63: 10:14:51:08 10:14:54:04 02:21  
We can't work in this mud!

64: 10:14:55:06 10:14:59:10 04:04  
Did you hear me?  
- The floor has to be dry.

65: 10:14:59:20 10:15:05:16 05:21  
I don't give a damn if you put your head  
or your arse in it. Get on with it!

66: 10:15:06:18 10:15:11:17 04:24  
I speak many different dialects  
with the people from the north.

67: 10:15:11:24 10:15:15:11 03:12  
Some speak this, the others that,

68: 10:15:15:18 10:15:18:12 02:19  
it varies from person to person.

69: 10:15:18:18 10:15:23:19 05:01  
I have to speak their mother tongue,  
or else they don't understand me.

70: 10:15:24:00 10:15:26:22 02:22  
I keep switching  
from one dialect to the next.

71: 10:15:27:03 10:15:30:14 03:11  
Where are you from?  
- I was born here in Chittagong.

72: 10:15:30:20 10:15:35:04 04:09  
But if I speak the local dialect,  
they don't understand a word.

73: 10:15:35:10 10:15:40:01 04:16  
No matter what I say, I have to  
translate it for everyone individually.

74: 10:15:55:24 10:15:57:20 01:21  
That part has to go!

75: 10:15:58:01 10:15:59:17 01:16  
The one on the far side?

76: 10:16:00:01 10:16:01:23 01:22  
No! The one in front!

77: 10:16:50:16 10:16:52:11 01:20  
Hey, wait!

78: 10:16:52:17 10:16:55:09 02:17  
Don't go so close to the edge!

79: 10:17:09:19 10:17:14:15 04:21  
You'll have to cut that middle part  
and pull the parts out.

80: 10:17:16:04 10:17:20:18 04:14  
First the middle section has to  
be pulled out. It will work somehow.

81: 10:17:23:22 10:17:27:15 03:18  
The problem is the upper part.  
Either we cut it once more

82: 10:17:27:21 10:17:31:09 03:13  
or they try and pull it out  
with a strong cable.

83: 10:17:31:16 10:17:35:15 03:24  
That's the cable pullers' problem.

84: 10:17:37:13 10:17:41:24 04:11  
At least we're rid of it.  
- Exactly!

85: 10:17:42:15 10:17:45:10 02:20  
Hey, you at the front! What's up?

86: 10:17:48:01 10:17:49:21 01:20  
Don't fall asleep!

87: 10:17:51:04 10:17:54:15 03:11  
Keep pulling!  
You have to keep the cable still!

88: 10:17:56:01 10:18:00:22 04:21  
Three men more and we'd have  
the whole cable on our shoulders!

89: 10:18:01:15 10:18:03:11 01:21  
Not everyone's here yet.

90: 10:18:03:17 10:18:08:13 04:21  
These bastards! Straight after morning  
roll call, they go and eat, shit...

91: 10:18:08:19 10:18:11:08 02:14  
As if they were on holiday here.

92: 10:18:15:14 10:18:20:14 05:00  
I wanted to pull at the end of the cable,  
but he said, "You're not strong enough!"

93: 10:18:23:22 10:18:26:04 02:07  
Why don't you move forwards?

94: 10:18:28:18 10:18:30:18 02:00  
We work like animals.

95: 10:18:48:01 10:18:50:21 02:20  
You back there, keep the cable still!

96: 10:19:00:00 10:19:01:21 01:21  
Come on, don't stop!

97: 10:19:03:12 10:19:05:07 01:20  
The cable is heavy.

98: 10:19:08:22 10:19:10:02 01:05

Damn heavy!

99: 10:19:10:08 10:19:13:05 02:22  
Watch out!

There are sharp splinters here.

100: 10:19:14:13 10:19:16:02 01:14  
Pull harder!

101: 10:19:17:12 10:19:18:05 00:18  
Harder!

102: 10:21:01:02 10:21:02:10 01:08  
Stop! Stop!

103: 10:21:08:13 10:21:12:08 03:20  
Hey, you sons of bitches!  
Why don't you get down?

104: 10:21:13:12 10:21:16:12 03:00  
Kholil, have you got Shahalom's number?  
- Yes.

105: 10:21:16:19 10:21:19:00 02:06  
Then tell me, please.  
- Okay!

106: 10:21:19:10 10:21:23:01 03:16  
Can't you remember the number?  
- No, I've forgotten.

107: 10:21:23:07 10:21:24:22 01:15  
I'll give it to you, dial...

108: 10:21:25:03 10:21:26:00 00:22  
0173...

109: 10:21:26:11 10:21:27:08 00:22  
Wait.

110: 10:21:27:14 10:21:29:20 02:06  
Hello? Go ahead...

111: 10:21:31:22 10:21:34:22 03:00  
Hey, stay here with my phone!

112: 10:21:48:00 10:21:49:12 01:12  
Say something!

113: 10:21:50:08 10:21:52:19 02:11  
Damn idiot! Say something!

114: 10:21:54:19 10:21:56:14 01:20  
Come on, let me have it!

115: 10:21:57:15 10:21:58:17 01:02



Hung up.

116: 10:22:00:15 10:22:01:17 01:02  
Hung up!

117: 10:22:03:02 10:22:07:00 03:23  
What are you grinning at?  
Without saying a word...

118: 10:22:07:06 10:22:11:01 03:20  
They were all talking at the same time.

119: 10:22:11:10 10:22:16:07 04:22  
Is that why you just grinned stupidly  
and didn't say anything? Moron!

120: 10:22:16:19 10:22:21:02 04:08  
Any idiots like that in Bangladesh?  
- Sure, there are lots, in the north.

121: 10:22:21:08 10:22:23:01 01:18  
Damn, four women!

122: 10:22:23:07 10:22:27:21 04:14  
The idiot's paying out of his own pocket  
but doesn't say a word.

123: 10:22:28:02 10:22:32:12 04:10  
There were four mothers  
who all wanted to speak to their sons...

124: 10:22:32:18 10:22:35:23 03:05  
They all spoke at the same time.

125: 10:22:36:11 10:22:40:19 04:08  
So that's why  
you're so speechless here in Chittagong!

126: 10:22:42:17 10:22:47:19 05:02  
Complete idiot!  
- They come from the middle of nowhere.

127: 10:22:50:14 10:22:55:08 04:19  
I kept telling them  
we need five-link chains.

128: 10:22:55:14 10:22:59:10 03:21  
But we always take four-link ones  
and every time they're too short.

129: 10:22:59:16 10:23:02:22 03:06  
And when we pull the cable,  
the chain gets stuck.

130: 10:23:03:07 10:23:08:21 05:14  
You don't weave the cables properly!

Two have ripped today.

131: 10:23:09:08 10:23:12:00 02:17  
That's why we're working till ten!  
- What?

132: 10:23:12:06 10:23:16:19 04:13  
Thanks to the two that ripped  
we can work two hours longer today.

133: 10:23:18:20 10:23:21:19 02:24  
So it's good if the cable rips?  
- For us, yes.

134: 10:23:22:00 10:23:24:16 02:16  
Two hours more work!  
- Exactly.

135: 10:23:26:11 10:23:29:06 02:20  
Give me money  
and I'll let the cable rip.

136: 10:23:29:12 10:23:34:19 05:07  
For 20 Takas a day, I'll let each cable  
rip three times. Okay?

137: 10:23:35:00 10:23:38:17 03:17  
With the big pieces,  
if you let it rip four times

138: 10:23:38:23 10:23:42:03 03:05  
we have eight hours more work.  
- How much will you pay?

139: 10:23:42:09 10:23:43:13 01:04  
20 Takas.

140: 10:23:44:00 10:23:47:16 03:16  
20 Takas,  
that's only 2.50 Takas per hour!

*off*

*TC 10:24:01:00*

*Men can be seriously injured or even killed, if a cable snaps. Nevertheless, thousands of seasonal workers come from the north every year, and the shipbreaking industry feeds three million people. The fruits of our sea are now old ships from the west, for which the Bangladeshis pay several hundred million US Dollars each year.*

141: 10:24:48:22 10:24:51:16 02:19  
Is that my yard over there?

142: 10:24:51:22 10:24:56:12 04:15  
No, it's more to the right.  
- So we're going in the wrong direction!

143: 10:24:56:18 10:25:00:03 03:10

To compensate for the wind and current.

144: 10:25:00:09 10:25:05:04 04:20  
I'm sure it's hard to work out.  
Now I know how you lost all your hair.

145: 10:25:12:05 10:25:15:12 03:07  
The beaching is  
of the essence for the breaking.

146: 10:25:15:18 10:25:20:16 04:23  
If the ship's too far from the beach,  
the breaking is very expensive.

147: 10:25:22:02 10:25:24:18 02:16  
The cutters separate the big parts.

148: 10:25:24:24 10:25:28:00 03:01  
The cable pullers tie the cable  
to the ship's parts.

149: 10:25:28:06 10:25:30:18 02:12  
Then they're pulled by machine.

150: 10:25:30:24 10:25:32:08 01:09  
That's expensive!

151: 10:25:32:14 10:25:36:20 04:06  
It's also very tiring  
for the cable pullers.

152: 10:25:37:01 10:25:39:14 02:13  
I can really feel their agony.

153: 10:25:39:20 10:25:42:06 02:11  
But I'm afraid  
that's the only way to do it.

154: 10:25:42:17 10:25:46:13 03:21  
This beach is great!  
The only place where you can go aground.

155: 10:25:46:19 10:25:50:02 03:08  
The water's depth  
and the length of the beach are ideal.

156: 10:25:50:08 10:25:54:06 03:23  
There's very deep water  
and suddenly it becomes very shallow,

157: 10:25:54:12 10:25:56:02 01:15  
600 to 1200 metres wide.

158: 10:25:56:08 10:26:00:14 04:06  
If it were any wider, the ships  
would be too far from the yard.

159: 10:26:00:20 10:26:04:11 03:16  
The ground is  
naturally suitable for that.

160: 10:26:04:17 10:26:06:17 02:00  
It's heaven-sent!

161: 10:26:07:12 10:26:12:18 05:06  
We leased  
part of the beach from the state.

162: 10:26:12:24 10:26:18:08 05:09  
Over there, where our offices  
and the workers' barracks are,

163: 10:26:18:14 10:26:22:08 03:19  
there used to be  
paddy fields and a few houses.

164: 10:26:22:14 10:26:24:08 01:19  
We bought the property.

165: 10:26:24:14 10:26:27:13 02:24  
We made a deal with the villagers.

166: 10:26:27:19 10:26:30:15 02:21  
Everywhere people look for advantages.

167: 10:26:30:21 10:26:33:14 02:18  
That's typical in Bangladesh.

168: 10:26:33:20 10:26:36:18 02:23  
You have to  
give the locals "special treatment".

169: 10:26:36:24 10:26:42:15 05:16  
After we bought the property,  
we had to offer them something.

170: 10:26:42:21 10:26:48:02 05:06  
We give them jobs supervising  
the whole chain of work.

171: 10:26:48:08 10:26:53:10 05:02  
This means that  
they look after the workers.

172: 10:26:53:21 10:26:57:13 03:17  
We call them <contractors>.

173: 10:26:58:22 10:27:04:05 05:08  
About 90 families live in the village.

174: 10:27:04:15 10:27:07:04 02:14  
Of course

they all want to be contractors.

175: 10:27:07:10 10:27:11:02 03:17  
But if I employ  
more contractors than labourers,

176: 10:27:11:08 10:27:12:20 01:12  
it makes no sense.

177: 10:27:13:01 10:27:16:19 03:18  
That's why they chose  
seven or eight representatives

178: 10:27:17:00 10:27:19:16 02:16  
who work as contractors.

179: 10:27:19:22 10:27:24:05 04:08  
The rest have founded  
an association and get money from me.

180: 10:27:24:12 10:27:30:03 05:16  
They get a certain percentage  
of each ton of iron delivered.

181: 10:27:30:19 10:27:34:16 03:22  
Currently it's 3% of the sale price.

182: 10:27:38:01 10:27:39:24 01:23  
Look over there!

183: 10:27:41:18 10:27:45:20 04:02  
We asked the fishermen to stop  
fishing here on the beaching route.

184: 10:27:46:02 10:27:51:02 05:00  
Not a single trawler to be seen,  
except where the ship is coming in.

185: 10:27:51:23 10:27:56:01 04:03  
Now they're waving at us to stop us  
from sailing through their nets.

186: 10:27:56:19 10:28:00:07 03:13  
That's become a business  
for the fishermen.

187: 10:28:00:13 10:28:02:16 02:03  
If a ship is being grounded,

188: 10:28:02:22 10:28:06:07 03:10  
they deliberately cast their nets  
in the fairway.

189: 10:28:06:13 10:28:11:20 05:07  
But I cannot put my ship in danger  
just for a few lousy nets.

190: 10:28:16:02 10:28:18:23 02:21  
So I have to sail through the nets.

191: 10:28:19:04 10:28:23:24 04:20  
Later they'll tell me  
it was a brand-new net,

192: 10:28:24:11 10:28:28:22 04:11  
and that the whole net was torn  
and I should pay them 10,000 Takas.

193: 10:28:47:12 10:28:51:05 03:18  
Once we've passed the white flag,  
we have made it.

194: 10:29:26:10 10:29:31:04 04:19  
The beaching was wonderful.  
It's vital that the ship remains upright.

195: 10:29:31:10 10:29:36:01 04:16  
Later we'll use a winch  
to pull it closer to the yard.

196: 10:29:36:13 10:29:42:16 06:03  
Considering the speed  
and the draught, it was wonderful.

197: 10:29:42:22 10:29:44:09 01:12  
Congratulations, captain!

198: 10:29:50:22 10:29:52:24 02:02  
I'm going to Dhaka tomorrow.

199: 10:29:53:06 10:29:56:21 03:15  
Can I pay you the money  
when I get back?

200: 10:29:57:14 10:29:59:14 02:00  
Pick up these screws!

201: 10:30:00:01 10:30:04:04 04:03  
Will you be away long?  
- Yes, it might take a while.

202: 10:30:04:12 10:30:10:01 05:14  
Perhaps you can let the office know.  
- Okay. I'll have a word with Faruq.

203: 10:30:23:22 10:30:27:20 03:23  
I'd prefer to sit somewhere else.  
- No, sit next to me.

204: 10:30:30:04 10:30:32:12 02:08  
He's one of our nine contractors.

205: 10:30:32:20 10:30:35:08 02:13  
They are in charge of all the workers.

206: 10:30:37:19 10:30:40:11 02:17  
Now he wants money from me!

207: 10:30:41:17 10:30:45:22 04:05  
Was that necessary with the camera on?  
- But that's the way it is!

208: 10:30:47:01 10:30:52:24 05:23  
I cut his payment by half.  
He doesn't see why. He wants more money.

209: 10:30:53:08 10:30:57:01 03:18  
Business isn't going that well.  
I've no idea how I should pay him!

210: 10:30:57:07 10:30:59:21 02:14  
We have to pay our workers too.

211: 10:31:00:02 10:31:04:18 04:16  
Everyone always tells me, "Don't worry,  
God will give you the money."

*off*

*TC 10:31:18:00*

*Local people also dominate business outside the yards. Several have set themselves up selling groceries. And many of them are also related to Contractors. Because the workers are always paid at the end of the month, they are forced buy at these shops on credit.*

212: 10:32:38:14 10:32:42:10 03:21  
I'm still hungry.  
Give me some more rice.

213: 10:32:43:06 10:32:45:20 02:14  
That's enough.  
- Let him have more.

214: 10:32:46:16 10:32:48:06 01:15  
I eat as much as I want.

215: 10:32:48:12 10:32:50:12 02:00  
But you eat a lot!  
- Of course.

216: 10:32:50:18 10:32:53:06 02:13  
Back home he drives a rickshaw.  
- Exactly.

217: 10:32:53:12 10:32:55:10 01:23  
Yes, rickshaw drivers...

218: 10:32:57:12 10:33:01:18 04:06  
No matter how much they work,  
rickshaw drivers have to eat lots.

219: 10:33:01:24 10:33:05:03 03:04  
Remember that  
if you want to become a rickshaw driver.

220: 10:33:06:07 10:33:08:07 02:00  
The food was good today.

221: 10:33:08:13 10:33:13:00 04:12  
Hey Djabor, who poured  
the dishwater under your bed?

222: 10:33:13:06 10:33:15:00 01:19  
It wasn't me!

223: 10:33:15:14 10:33:18:07 02:18  
Djabor, you and your skinny little body!

224: 10:33:18:24 10:33:20:11 01:12  
Just skin and bones!

225: 10:33:21:12 10:33:25:05 03:18  
He's a godsend nonetheless.  
Listen, you slowcoach!

226: 10:33:26:09 10:33:28:09 02:00  
Elephants may be big,

227: 10:33:28:18 10:33:32:01 03:08  
but they fall  
on their face more often than ants.

228: 10:33:33:11 10:33:37:19 04:08  
Just because a man is big and strong  
doesn't mean he can keep up.

229: 10:33:38:00 10:33:41:15 03:15  
Not even Mazid contractor?  
- Certainly not him.

230: 10:33:41:23 10:33:44:24 03:01  
He could never pull as much as me!

231: 10:33:46:00 10:33:50:12 04:12  
He's a contractor,  
eats loads and never works.

232: 10:33:50:18 10:33:53:07 02:14  
All he does is  
sit in the car and eat.

233: 10:33:53:13 10:33:57:24 04:11  
They're all fat as hell! We work hard.  
- They eat chicken drumsticks!

234: 10:33:58:05 10:34:03:03 04:23



We work a lot and sleep too little.  
Of course that's unhealthy!

235: 10:34:04:11 10:34:09:18 05:07  
People like him who fall asleep  
before dinner are still children!

236: 10:34:10:09 10:34:13:16 03:07  
He can't be older than 18.  
- Rubbish!

237: 10:34:15:06 10:34:18:03 02:22  
16 perhaps?  
- No, even younger!

238: 10:34:18:09 10:34:21:19 03:10  
He's only 15 and has to work so hard.

239: 10:34:22:00 10:34:25:00 03:00  
How's he ever meant to get  
a good education?

240: 10:34:25:14 10:34:26:22 01:08  
He won't.

241: 10:34:27:03 10:34:29:14 02:11  
Why's he here?  
He has to earn some money!

242: 10:34:29:20 10:34:31:10 01:15  
Because of the poverty!

243: 10:34:31:16 10:34:36:13 04:22  
If we weren't so poor,  
we'd be riding around on motorbikes

244: 10:34:36:19 10:34:38:20 02:01  
in fancy clothes too.

245: 10:34:39:08 10:34:42:03 02:20  
Do you want to go into business with me?

246: 10:34:42:24 10:34:45:05 02:06  
You'd better do that on your own!

247: 10:34:46:03 10:34:48:21 02:18  
I want to breed 200 geese.

248: 10:34:49:02 10:34:51:07 02:05  
I'll give you a boat.

249: 10:34:51:13 10:34:55:12 03:24  
You just sail around on your boat  
and look after the geese.

250: 10:34:55:18 10:34:57:12 01:19

Assuming

251: 10:34:57:18 10:35:01:15 03:22  
that 50 of the 200 geese are male.

252: 10:35:01:21 10:35:05:12 03:16  
The rest are female  
and regularly lay 150 eggs.

253: 10:35:07:03 10:35:08:03 01:00  
Get it?

254: 10:35:08:09 10:35:13:23 05:14  
If we sold the eggs, we'd earn far more  
than we do here in Chittagong.

255: 10:35:14:04 10:35:17:08 03:04  
I think I'd earn more here.  
- Never.

256: 10:35:17:14 10:35:22:23 05:09  
A cable puller could never earn as much  
as you with your 200 geese.

257: 10:35:23:04 10:35:26:15 03:11  
You can't earn the capital you'd need  
as a cable puller.

258: 10:35:26:21 10:35:29:14 02:18  
Of course I can!  
- How?

259: 10:35:29:20 10:35:32:05 02:10  
Goslings don't cost much.

260: 10:35:32:11 10:35:37:09 04:23  
You and your big plans.  
In the end you won't do anything anyway!

261: 10:35:51:01 10:35:52:19 01:18  
Where's the yard manager?

262: 10:35:55:06 10:35:57:02 01:21  
Get him to come here.

263: 10:35:58:03 10:36:02:18 04:15  
I'm at the front  
where the two big ship parts are.

264: 10:36:09:01 10:36:12:14 03:13  
Are you going to the scrap market today?

265: 10:36:13:01 10:36:14:18 01:17  
How many trucks?

266: 10:36:18:21 10:36:20:16 01:20

Close that umbrella!

267: 10:36:20:22 10:36:23:15 02:18  
Manzhu, how far have you got  
with the next ship?

268: 10:36:23:21 10:36:26:10 02:14  
It's still going to take some time.

269: 10:36:26:16 10:36:31:13 04:22  
Can we pull it closer to the yard soon?  
- We're doing our best.

270: 10:36:31:20 10:36:36:00 04:05  
But there are still  
lots of big parts in the engine room.

271: 10:36:37:03 10:36:40:09 03:06  
We also have to be careful  
that it stays upright.

272: 10:36:40:15 10:36:42:07 01:17  
Or else the ship will fall over.

273: 10:36:42:24 10:36:47:12 04:13  
Isn't the ship much lighter than before?  
- Yes, it is.

274: 10:36:47:18 10:36:51:04 03:11  
But we still have to take out  
the heavy cylinders

275: 10:36:51:11 10:36:53:02 01:16  
and pump out the water.

276: 10:36:53:08 10:36:57:00 03:17  
I don't care what you still have to do.  
Just make sure

277: 10:36:57:06 10:37:00:03 02:22  
we can pull the ship  
closer to the yard soon.

278: 10:37:00:23 10:37:03:21 02:23  
This ship here is our next job.

279: 10:37:07:01 10:37:12:16 05:15  
When the next full-moon tide comes,  
we're going to pull it closer.

280: 10:37:41:16 10:37:44:16 03:00  
Once we've pulled this ship closer,

281: 10:37:44:22 10:37:48:16 03:19  
we'll only have  
eight hours of work a day.

282: 10:37:48:22 10:37:53:02 04:05  
If we cable pullers  
don't have enough to do,

283: 10:37:53:08 10:37:55:17 02:09  
the work here hardly seems worth it.

284: 10:37:57:00 10:38:01:14 04:14  
With Mizan, the old owner, it was better.

285: 10:38:01:20 10:38:04:18 02:23  
But now his son's running the yard.

286: 10:38:04:24 10:38:06:14 01:15  
He's called Mohsin.

287: 10:38:07:08 10:38:10:14 03:06  
Mohsin isn't as good as his father.

288: 10:38:10:24 10:38:15:23 04:24  
His father was fond of us workers.

289: 10:38:16:06 10:38:19:17 03:11  
His son is just interested  
in making a profit.

290: 10:38:22:22 10:38:25:05 02:08  
He wants to get rich quick.

291: 10:38:25:11 10:38:29:00 03:14  
His father used to come  
to the yard far more often.

292: 10:38:29:15 10:38:34:23 05:08  
He'd talk to us.  
He'd want to know how we were.

293: 10:38:36:01 10:38:38:24 02:23  
He motivated us.

294: 10:38:39:24 10:38:44:07 04:08  
Since his son took over the yard,  
he drops in very rarely.

295: 10:38:44:13 10:38:46:17 02:04  
Mohsin is just a businessman.

296: 10:38:46:23 10:38:51:22 04:24  
Instead of ships, he buys steel plates  
and stores them here at the yard.

297: 10:38:52:03 10:38:54:22 02:19  
He later sells the plates for a profit.

298: 10:38:55:03 10:38:58:06 03:03

He buys new ships only

299: 10:38:58:12 10:39:02:05 03:18  
when he's sold all the plates.

300: 10:39:03:15 10:39:08:02 04:12  
That's why the contractors will soon  
employ us for only eight hours.

301: 10:39:08:08 10:39:11:19 03:11  
I don't know what we'll do then.

302: 10:39:17:03 10:39:20:07 03:04  
We've attached this cable to the ship.

303: 10:39:26:01 10:39:30:03 04:02  
We're going to pull it  
with two engines at the same time.

304: 10:40:01:16 10:40:04:14 02:23  
Tell the engine driver to get a move on!

305: 10:40:10:18 10:40:12:19 02:01  
What's the matter?

306: 10:40:16:21 10:40:19:04 02:08  
Hey, get away from the cable!

307: 10:40:21:16 10:40:23:16 02:00  
Keep pulling!

308: 10:40:49:05 10:40:51:20 02:15  
Switch the engine off!  
- At once!

309: 10:40:54:04 10:40:58:13 04:09  
Why didn't it work?  
- The tide isn't high enough yet.

310: 10:40:58:19 10:41:00:19 02:00  
The ship has to be lighter.

311: 10:41:01:00 10:41:04:02 03:02  
The cutters will have to remove  
more parts.

312: 10:41:04:08 10:41:06:13 02:05  
We'll try again tomorrow.

313: 10:41:07:16 10:41:10:15 02:24  
The next high tide  
will be around lunchtime.

314: 10:41:10:21 10:41:12:07 01:11  
At about 2 p.m.

315: 10:41:13:18 10:41:15:06 01:13  
At about 1.30 p.m.

316: 10:41:16:15 10:41:18:05 01:15  
Hamidul.

317: 10:41:18:21 10:41:20:05 01:09  
Hossain.

318: 10:41:21:19 10:41:22:24 01:05  
Kashem.

319: 10:41:24:02 10:41:25:06 01:04  
Sobhan.

320: 10:41:27:21 10:41:28:24 01:03  
Nurl Alam.

321: 10:41:30:04 10:41:31:07 01:03  
Azizur.

322: 10:41:32:08 10:41:33:11 01:03  
Saiful.

323: 10:41:34:22 10:41:36:11 01:14  
Mainur.

324: 10:41:36:19 10:41:37:20 01:01  
Azizur.

325: 10:41:38:01 10:41:41:13 03:12  
Pulling ships is hard work.  
I want more money.

326: 10:41:42:06 10:41:44:18 02:12  
I already had to beg for your money!

327: 10:41:44:24 10:41:49:15 04:16  
But it's really hard work!  
- I had to beg for it anyway!

328: 10:41:49:21 10:41:53:04 03:08  
The contractors don't care  
how hard we work.

329: 10:41:53:10 10:41:58:13 05:03  
Please work well, even though  
we'll be getting fewer hours soon.

330: 10:41:58:19 10:41:59:20 01:01  
Okay.

331: 10:42:05:08 10:42:09:00 03:17  
Are those banknotes real?  
They might be counterfeit!

332: 10:42:10:23 10:42:14:12 03:14  
Go and do the shopping!  
- Why don't you go yourself?

333: 10:42:14:18 10:42:17:02 02:09  
Come on, stop making such a fuss!

334: 10:42:18:03 10:42:20:19 02:16  
But don't spend it all at once again.

335: 10:42:24:13 10:42:27:13 03:00  
Why do they always pay so late?

336: 10:42:28:17 10:42:31:23 03:06  
They originally wanted  
to pay us on the 10th.

337: 10:42:33:05 10:42:35:11 02:06  
Now it's so late again.

338: 10:44:10:10 10:44:12:10 02:00  
A bit more!

339: 10:44:14:05 10:44:15:06 01:01  
That's enough!

340: 10:44:19:22 10:44:22:15 02:18  
That's close enough.  
- More than enough.

341: 10:44:22:22 10:44:25:02 02:05  
Attach the cable!

342: 10:44:31:10 10:44:33:10 02:00  
Fasten it securely!

343: 10:44:37:03 10:44:40:20 03:17  
The yard owner gave me  
these 5,000 Takas.

344: 10:44:41:06 10:44:44:14 03:08  
As a bonus for pulling.  
- How much? - 5,000!

345: 10:44:44:20 10:44:46:18 01:23  
Just for you?

346: 10:44:47:03 10:44:52:02 04:24  
No, the engine operators  
and foremen also get their share.

347: 10:44:52:08 10:44:56:16 04:08  
But that won't be enough for everyone!  
- Well, a bonus is a bonus.

348: 10:44:56:24 10:45:00:18 03:19

Be glad that you got one at all.

349: 10:45:01:22 10:45:05:16 03:19  
A bonus for you!  
Don't take it for granted.

350: 10:45:10:24 10:45:13:06 02:07  
Finished?  
- Yes. At six.

351: 10:45:14:17 10:45:18:24 04:07  
The cutters and Kholil's cable pullers  
will be finished at six today.

352: 10:45:19:15 10:45:21:04 01:14  
The rest are staying till seven.

353: 10:45:21:10 10:45:26:09 04:24  
Are you going to reduce their hours now?  
- Yes. Orders from the contractors.

354: 10:45:29:07 10:45:34:01 04:19  
It's annoying when you have to  
knock off two hours earlier.

355: 10:45:34:07 10:45:38:03 03:21  
Of course you get angry.

356: 10:45:38:12 10:45:40:17 02:05  
You earn 12 Takas an hour,

357: 10:45:40:23 10:45:44:18 03:20  
wear yourself out  
and just before knocking off time,

358: 10:45:44:24 10:45:49:02 04:03  
you lose your arm when the cable rips...

359: 10:45:51:16 10:45:53:20 02:04  
Then you've had it for good.

360: 10:45:56:02 10:46:01:14 05:12  
If they don't have any work for us,  
we just sit around unpaid.

361: 10:46:01:24 10:46:05:03 03:04  
If there is work,  
we have hardly any breaks.

362: 10:46:05:13 10:46:10:08 04:20  
Shipbreaking is only for people  
who have nothing to lose.

363: 10:46:10:14 10:46:15:07 04:18  
Only the poorest of the poor end up here.  
They have no other choice...



364: 10:46:17:21 10:46:21:22 04:01  
Do you want  
to keep philosophising or work?

365: 10:46:22:03 10:46:24:11 02:08  
The break's over.  
- I'm coming.

366: 10:46:24:17 10:46:29:09 04:17  
I have loads of debts to pay off.  
What else can I do?

367: 10:46:29:15 10:46:33:18 04:03  
Either throw yourself in front of a train  
or keep going here!

368: 10:46:35:15 10:46:38:24 03:09  
You have to work hard here  
if you want to earn any money.

369: 10:46:39:05 10:46:41:08 02:03  
Right, back to work!

*off*

*TC 10:47:01:00*

*Now the Gulf Tiger is closer to the yard, the cable-pullers have less work, but the production of steel plates is in full speed. We wouldn't be able to build any concrete buildings in Bangladesh without the iron from these ships. The scrap iron that Chittagong recovers, services almost the complete requirements of the whole country.*

370: 10:47:28:17 10:47:31:11 02:19  
<Corners hot. - Heyo.>  
<- Edge hot. - Heyo.>

371: 10:47:31:17 10:47:34:08 02:16  
<Lift it up, everyone!>  
<- Heyo.>

372: 10:47:35:00 10:47:39:03 04:03  
The plate has just been cut.  
The edges are very hot!

373: 10:47:39:23 10:47:42:01 02:03  
You can't carry it that hot!

374: 10:47:42:07 10:47:45:05 02:23  
Sorry, boys, we have to do it.

375: 10:47:48:12 10:47:51:10 02:23  
Take a cloth for your shoulders!

376: 10:47:55:23 10:47:58:23 03:00  
<Oh, my brothers! - Heyo.>  
<- Keep going! - Heyo.>

377: 10:47:59:04 10:48:03:06 04:02  
<Can you still feel anything? - Heyo.>  
<- Take the cloth. - Heyo.>

378: 10:48:03:13 10:48:07:08 03:20  
<Put it underneath! - Heyo.>  
<- Still burning? - Heyo.>

379: 10:48:18:23 10:48:22:11 03:13  
If you can't keep in step,  
get lost.

380: 10:48:27:09 10:48:30:08 02:24  
<Hanging in there? - Heyo.>  
<- Look ahead! - Heyo.>

381: 10:48:30:14 10:48:32:13 01:24  
<Can't hear you! - Heyo!>  
<- Plate up high! - Heyo!>

382: 10:48:32:19 10:48:36:00 03:06  
<Is it heavy? - Heyo.>  
<That's a lie! - Heyo.>

383: 10:48:37:04 10:48:40:04 03:00  
<Do you want to... - Heyo.>  
<...let go? - Heyo.>

384: 10:48:40:13 10:48:43:16 03:03  
<You're going to make it! - Heyo.>  
<Young brothers! - Heyo.>

385: 10:48:43:23 10:48:45:15 01:17  
<Sing, brothers! - Heyo.>

386: 10:48:45:21 10:48:50:09 04:13  
<The longer you sing... - Heyo.>  
<...the longer you live. - Heyo.>

387: 10:48:50:24 10:48:53:11 02:12  
<Higher with that plate! - Heyo.>  
<- Onto the truck! - Heyo.>

388: 10:48:55:16 10:48:57:01 01:10  
Done it.

389: 10:49:05:06 10:49:08:07 03:01  
I had an argument  
with the foreman today.

390: 10:49:11:11 10:49:13:11 02:00  
The contractors suggested

391: 10:49:13:17 10:49:17:11 03:19  
that my cable pullers  
should also carry plates.

392: 10:49:18:00 10:49:20:13 02:13

Just like you.

- Carry plates?

393: 10:49:22:18 10:49:25:22 03:04

You'll never manage.

- Of course we will!

394: 10:49:26:03 10:49:28:19 02:16

Let your gang try!

395: 10:49:29:00 10:49:32:02 03:02

You'll never manage

more than three trucks.

396: 10:49:32:14 10:49:37:09 04:20

If you're motivated, you'll manage

three at most, then you'll all collapse.

397: 10:49:37:19 10:49:41:16 03:22

Go on, try!

Each gang has to do 10 trucks a day.

398: 10:49:45:05 10:49:47:24 02:19

You have three and a half men per gang.

399: 10:49:48:09 10:49:50:20 02:11

We don't want to carry plates.

400: 10:49:51:03 10:49:55:24 04:21

If there's no cable-pulling work,

they should pay us off.

401: 10:49:56:07 10:49:59:04 02:22

We want to go home for the rice harvest.

402: 10:50:00:10 10:50:03:18 03:08

We have to pay back

what we owe the grocers.

403: 10:50:03:24 10:50:05:02 01:03

Our debts?

404: 10:50:05:08 10:50:08:12 03:04

Everything we've bought on credit so far.

405: 10:50:10:03 10:50:15:22 05:19

Well, then let them come and get it!

It's their yard, their contractors.

406: 10:50:17:16 10:50:20:18 03:02

Why don't they get it

from the contractors?

407: 10:50:21:13 10:50:24:24 03:11

They and their contractor brothers  
make a lot of money out of us.

408: 10:50:25:05 10:50:28:21 03:16  
They should collect the money from them.

409: 10:50:29:10 10:50:31:12 02:02  
I told them, too,

410: 10:50:31:18 10:50:35:04 03:11  
"You're all in this together!"

411: 10:50:37:09 10:50:39:11 02:02  
Let's go to the contractors!

412: 10:50:39:17 10:50:43:02 03:10  
Who do you want us  
to get beaten up by first?

413: 10:50:43:08 10:50:45:04 01:21  
By everyone!

414: 10:50:45:22 10:50:48:07 02:10  
The contractors beat us up  
if the workers leave.

415: 10:50:48:13 10:50:52:23 04:10  
The workers and the shop-owners  
if they don't get their money.

416: 10:50:53:06 10:50:55:11 02:05  
Let's talk to the contractors first.

417: 10:50:55:17 10:50:58:13 02:21  
Why should we let them beat us up?

418: 10:51:00:00 10:51:03:00 03:00  
They should pay us our money!  
- At least an advance.

419: 10:51:03:06 10:51:06:04 02:23  
Or else all the workers  
will be gone soon.

420: 10:51:06:10 10:51:09:07 02:22  
They have to feed their families!

421: 10:51:09:16 10:51:12:22 03:06  
In the north,  
the rice harvest is starting soon.

422: 10:51:14:24 10:51:16:07 01:08  
Come on!

423: 10:51:16:13 10:51:18:04 01:16  
Now?

- Of course! Immediately.

424: 10:51:18:10 10:51:22:14 04:04  
But I wanted to go for a tea.  
- No. Don't be a coward!

425: 10:51:27:11 10:51:30:22 03:11  
Why don't you keep walking?  
Are you scared?

426: 10:51:35:00 10:51:39:14 04:14  
Let me at least finish my cigarette.  
Go ahead without me.

427: 10:51:39:20 10:51:43:10 03:15  
Just staying here means we're cowards!

428: 10:51:48:10 10:51:50:11 02:01  
We need to talk to you.

429: 10:51:51:03 10:51:53:14 02:11  
I don't have any time right now.

430: 10:52:02:22 10:52:07:14 04:17  
They were just showing off  
for the camera. They had no appointment.

431: 10:52:08:15 10:52:13:08 04:18  
The grocers have threatened  
the workers because of their debts.

432: 10:52:13:14 10:52:16:04 02:15  
Nonsense. Why should they?

433: 10:52:16:10 10:52:19:10 03:00  
The workers always have  
debts with the grocers.

434: 10:52:19:16 10:52:23:05 03:14  
The workers are exaggerating.  
Plain exaggeration!

435: 10:52:33:18 10:52:36:20 03:02  
This yard has a good reputation.

436: 10:52:37:04 10:52:40:04 03:00  
Even if someone worked here  
three years ago,

437: 10:52:40:10 10:52:42:03 01:18  
he still gets his money.

438: 10:52:42:09 10:52:46:19 04:10  
It's hard-earned money.  
Why should we keep it?

439: 10:52:47:00 10:52:51:19 04:19  
We're a contractors' collective.  
We don't embezzle.

440: 10:52:53:22 10:52:58:09 04:12  
We always pay them. There's nothing  
that the workers can hold against us.

441: 10:52:59:08 10:53:04:02 04:19  
Don't listen to the workers.  
Don't believe what they say!

442: 10:53:04:08 10:53:07:03 02:20  
The advance payment is high enough.

443: 10:53:07:09 10:53:11:06 03:22  
But they don't tell you that.  
- We always pay that in advance.

444: 10:53:11:12 10:53:16:20 05:08  
The wages are paid two weeks later.  
They've got debts.

445: 10:53:17:01 10:53:20:08 03:07  
That's why we stopped their payments.

446: 10:53:20:14 10:53:22:11 01:22  
The grocers told us,

447: 10:53:22:17 10:53:26:06 03:14  
"The workers owe us lots of money.  
Please help us!"

*off*

*TC 10:53:34:00*

*Gadu and Kholil will either have to find more work for their cable pullers – or they'll have to send them home, but for this to be possible, the contractors would first have to pay their outstanding wages.*

448: 10:54:03:01 10:54:06:14 03:13  
Hey, you dirty bastard,  
why aren't you up there?

449: 10:54:09:09 10:54:14:07 04:23  
My little brother's getting hot-headed. He  
needs money for his workers.

450: 10:54:14:19 10:54:18:16 03:22  
He owes his boys 19,000 Takas,  
but he's only got 10,000.

451: 10:54:18:22 10:54:21:01 02:04  
Come on, keep pulling!

452: 10:54:23:04 10:54:26:05 03:01  
What do you mean "stop"?

No stopping here!

453: 10:54:30:18 10:54:32:01 01:08  
Faster!

454: 10:54:47:14 10:54:49:19 02:05  
Hey, there's someone in here!

455: 10:54:55:09 10:54:56:10 01:01  
Where? Who?

456: 10:54:56:16 10:54:59:13 02:22  
Damn idiot!  
- He's alright!

457: 10:54:59:19 10:55:02:16 02:22  
The bonehead knew it was coming down!

458: 10:55:02:22 10:55:06:24 04:02  
Smack him in the face!  
- He got in from the other side.

459: 10:55:07:08 10:55:11:19 04:11  
I told him not to go in there!

460: 10:55:12:00 10:55:14:14 02:14  
He wanted to help pull the cable up.

461: 10:55:15:18 10:55:20:00 04:07  
Sultan, smack this idiot  
with your umbrella!

462: 10:55:20:06 10:55:22:05 01:24  
They'll never learn.

463: 10:55:26:01 10:55:29:05 03:04  
The cable was already up.

464: 10:55:30:22 10:55:33:12 02:15  
This is how these bloody morons die!

465: 10:55:34:08 10:55:36:24 02:16  
Now calm down up there!

466: 10:55:39:04 10:55:40:16 01:12  
Where is he?

467: 10:55:41:11 10:55:43:05 01:19  
Where's he gone to now?

468: 10:55:43:21 10:55:47:06 03:10  
Run away. He's probably scared shitless.

469: 10:55:47:12 10:55:49:08 01:21  
Lucky bastard!

470: 10:56:25:07 10:56:28:01 02:19  
Let's go to the watering place.

471: 10:56:40:03 10:56:42:11 02:08  
Hey, not with that dirty water!

472: 10:56:42:17 10:56:47:00 04:08  
It's okay, it's sea water.  
It contains salt, it's not that bad.

473: 10:56:50:00 10:56:51:05 01:05  
How is it?

474: 10:56:51:11 10:56:54:12 03:01  
The wound is so deep.  
All the skin's off.

475: 10:56:54:18 10:56:57:12 02:19  
It could've been far worse.

476: 10:56:59:05 10:57:01:20 02:15  
We'd better take water from the well.

477: 10:57:02:03 10:57:04:17 02:14  
Remove the cloth.  
- No, not here!

478: 10:57:08:05 10:57:10:15 02:10  
Stop making such a fuss!  
- I can't help it.

479: 10:57:10:21 10:57:13:17 02:21  
It's nothing. Don't worry!

480: 10:57:15:21 10:57:18:11 02:15  
Leave the cloth on! Try walking.

481: 10:57:20:14 10:57:22:05 01:16  
Be careful.

482: 10:57:23:17 10:57:27:16 03:24  
When you've had a shower  
you can go to the doctor's.

483: 10:57:29:06 10:57:31:15 02:09  
Things like that can happen!

484: 10:57:33:08 10:57:36:10 03:02  
But he's lost lots of blood.

485: 10:57:47:22 10:57:49:14 01:17  
Wait for me.

486: 10:58:00:16 10:58:04:21 04:05  
Try putting your weight on your foot...



487: 10:58:11:20 10:58:14:21 03:01  
You'd better carry him.

488: 10:58:57:01 10:58:58:15 01:14  
Hello!

489: 10:59:00:02 10:59:02:03 02:01  
How are you?  
- Fine.

490: 10:59:15:07 10:59:17:06 01:24  
Pardon?

491: 10:59:22:20 10:59:26:02 03:07  
Sorry, I forgot.

492: 10:59:27:20 10:59:30:08 02:13  
Okay, will do.

493: 10:59:31:00 10:59:34:19 03:19  
Yes, the shipbreaking business  
isn't going that well.

494: 10:59:35:17 10:59:39:08 03:16  
The ships are simply too expensive  
at the moment.

495: 10:59:40:00 10:59:44:17 04:17  
Well, you have to pay  
400 dollars per ton and more.

496: 10:59:44:23 10:59:47:19 02:21  
Most of them are even more expensive.

497: 10:59:50:15 10:59:55:10 04:20  
And often they're  
in a really bad condition, too.

498: 10:59:56:07 10:59:59:08 03:01  
But business has to  
keep going regardless.

499: 10:59:59:14 11:00:02:19 03:05  
After all, I want to get back  
to my wife in the evening.

500: 11:00:09:08 11:00:11:20 02:12  
Pick up that screw down there.

501: 11:00:22:13 11:00:27:24 05:11  
How often do you come to the yard?  
- Nowadays I very seldom come.

502: 11:00:28:22 11:00:31:05 02:08  
I used to come here every day.

503: 11:00:31:11 11:00:33:21 02:10  
Now my son is in charge.

504: 11:00:34:02 11:00:39:07 05:05  
The contractors are in charge of  
making sure the breaking runs smoothly.

505: 11:00:40:03 11:00:42:22 02:19  
And my son is now their boss.

506: 11:00:44:24 11:00:49:20 04:21  
Our yard is called PHP.  
You know what PHP stands for?

507: 11:00:50:01 11:00:53:08 03:07  
Peace, Happiness and Prosperity.

508: 11:00:53:14 11:00:56:17 03:03  
It's more than a slogan.  
It's reality, our existence.

509: 11:00:56:23 11:00:59:03 02:05  
It's a dream, an inspiration.

510: 11:00:59:09 11:01:02:10 03:01  
That's the feeling everyone has here.

511: 11:01:03:10 11:01:09:08 05:23  
These men are our contractors.  
We work together as partners.

512: 11:01:11:06 11:01:13:18 02:12  
There's no written contract.

513: 11:01:14:09 11:01:17:11 03:02  
We started this yard together in 1982.

514: 11:01:18:06 11:01:23:20 05:14  
We've been working together  
for more than 22 years.

515: 11:01:24:07 11:01:27:11 03:04  
There are no written agreements.

516: 11:01:27:18 11:01:30:14 02:21  
Are there, Mozid?  
- No. That's right.

517: 11:01:30:20 11:01:32:22 02:02  
But there've never been any problems!

518: 11:01:33:03 11:01:36:21 03:18  
Our agreement is like  
the British constitution.

519: 11:01:37:12 11:01:40:12 03:00

It doesn't exist in written form.

520: 11:01:40:18 11:01:42:24 02:06  
On the American dollar it says:

521: 11:01:46:16 11:01:48:09 01:18  
"In God we have faith."

522: 11:01:48:15 11:01:50:00 01:10  
No!

523: 11:01:50:08 11:01:52:00 01:17  
"In God we trust."

524: 11:01:52:15 11:01:53:17 01:02  
That is our philosophy.

525: 11:01:56:07 11:01:58:12 02:05  
That is why I am so happy:

526: 11:01:58:18 11:02:03:08 04:15  
In my whole life I've never faced  
any labour problems.

527: 11:02:04:12 11:02:09:22 05:10  
Any violence, intolerance,  
or impatience amongst the workers.

528: 11:02:10:03 11:02:14:14 04:11  
Because I love my workers.  
And they love me very much.

529: 11:02:16:22 11:02:22:02 05:05  
You know, the biggest disease  
in the world today is not leprosy.

530: 11:02:23:11 11:02:29:04 05:18  
It's not diabetes, it's not tuberculosis,  
it's not cholera, it's not cancer.

531: 11:02:30:09 11:02:34:02 03:18  
The biggest disease today in the world is

532: 11:02:34:08 11:02:37:09 03:01  
the feeling of being unwanted.

533: 11:03:00:07 11:03:03:07 03:00  
Osman, there's a horrible smell here.

534: 11:03:06:02 11:03:09:24 03:22  
The workers shit everywhere

535: 11:03:10:07 11:03:13:02 02:20  
because there are no longer any toilets.

536: 11:03:13:09 11:03:16:12 03:03

And the shipowners also leave  
their shit on board

537: 11:03:16:18 11:03:18:20 02:02  
when they sell their vessels.

538: 11:03:19:05 11:03:24:02 04:22  
When we cut the ship up,  
the pipes are still full.

539: 11:03:24:15 11:03:27:09 02:19  
Nobody does any cleaning.

540: 11:03:27:18 11:03:29:19 02:01  
Of course there's a terrible stench!

541: 11:03:30:00 11:03:33:08 03:08  
Today's not too bad.  
On some days it's much worse.

542: 11:04:43:18 11:04:47:09 03:16  
Shit! Get out!  
- Get him out of there!

543: 11:04:52:01 11:04:54:12 02:11  
Get some water!

544: 11:04:59:02 11:05:02:15 03:13  
Did you get Osman out?  
- Yes, he's safe.

545: 11:05:09:07 11:05:11:19 02:12  
Thank God you were up there.

*off*

*TC 11:05:22:00*

*We were all lucky. „You always have to be lucky here” Osman tells me. There were times when so many people died in explosions, that they couldn't count the bodies. Since then, the workers have learned better how to escape death – which lurks everywhere - constantly.*

546: 11:05:44:03 11:05:47:23 03:20  
Actually, all the oil  
should be bound with sand

547: 11:05:48:04 11:05:50:20 02:16  
or covered with mud.

548: 11:05:51:03 11:05:55:03 04:00  
That's when the cutting should begin.  
But there's not enough time for that.

549: 11:05:55:09 11:05:58:03 02:19  
So we have lots of fires here.  
- Is all that oil?

550: 11:05:59:01 11:06:02:17 03:16

Yes. Recently four cutters died  
in a neighbouring yard.

551: 11:06:02:23 11:06:05:02 02:04  
The air in the ship was poisonous.

552: 11:06:05:08 11:06:08:19 03:11  
The first cutter who went down  
lost consciousness immediately.

553: 11:06:09:00 11:06:12:14 03:14  
The second one who wanted  
to get him out also lost consciousness.

554: 11:06:12:20 11:06:16:11 03:16  
Another two went down  
and used cloths as masks.

555: 11:06:16:17 11:06:19:13 02:21  
In the end they died down there, too.

556: 11:06:20:02 11:06:23:04 03:02  
We couldn't get the bodies out that day.

557: 11:06:23:10 11:06:28:09 04:24  
Later we cut big holes in the ship  
and got the corpses out three days later.

558: 11:06:28:15 11:06:31:18 03:03  
They were all bloated.

559: 11:06:31:24 11:06:37:12 05:13  
If we'd gone down right away,  
we'd be dead too.

560: 11:06:39:11 11:06:43:10 03:24  
<Oh, my dear boatsman,>  
<had I known before,>

561: 11:06:43:16 11:06:48:09 04:18  
<I'd never have entered>  
<your sinking boat.>

562: 11:06:51:06 11:06:55:09 04:03  
<Listen to me, dear boatsman!>

563: 11:06:57:00 11:07:00:06 03:06  
<If only I had known>

564: 11:07:00:12 11:07:03:24 03:12  
<I would never have sat>  
<on your boat today.>

565: 11:07:05:08 11:07:09:07 03:24  
<The river seems to have no banks.>

566: 11:07:10:23 11:07:13:13 02:15  
<I can no longer see the shore.>

567: 11:07:13:19 11:07:17:07 03:13  
<If the whole boat should sink now...>

568: 11:07:18:22 11:07:23:04 04:07  
<what will become of us, boatsman?>

569: 11:07:25:07 11:07:28:06 02:24  
<If only I had known,>

570: 11:07:28:12 11:07:32:17 04:05  
<I would never have sat>  
<on your boat today...>

*off*

*TC 11:07:43:00*

*In the north, the crop has ripened and must be harvested – before the monsoon rain destroys everything. It is high time for the men to return home.*

571: 11:07:55:08 11:07:57:01 01:18  
His 14 men got 1,000 Takas.

572: 11:07:57:07 11:08:00:13 03:06  
Now they're even postponing  
the weekly payment.

573: 11:08:01:09 11:08:03:05 01:21  
What does the yard manager say?

574: 11:08:03:11 11:08:06:12 03:01  
He said, "I don't want to get involved."

575: 11:08:07:01 11:08:10:22 03:21  
Why? He's screwing you and doesn't pay.

576: 11:08:12:17 11:08:16:17 04:00  
Of course! Screwing us is always fun.  
- Paying is not.

577: 11:08:21:01 11:08:24:03 03:02  
They're always putting  
pressure on us at work.

578: 11:08:24:09 11:08:26:19 02:10  
Every Friday we have to go begging.

579: 11:08:27:12 11:08:30:17 03:05  
Last Friday it was exactly  
the same drama.

580: 11:08:32:03 11:08:34:20 02:17  
We always have to beg for our money.

581: 11:08:37:05 11:08:40:00 02:20

What can I say?  
I don't have any influence.

582: 11:08:40:06 11:08:43:06 03:00  
But the work's always got to  
be done quickly!

583: 11:08:43:12 11:08:45:18 02:06  
You don't give a damn about us!

584: 11:08:46:04 11:08:50:09 04:05  
If I were your foreman,  
I'd have gone to see the contractors.

585: 11:08:51:00 11:08:53:24 02:24  
Talk to your foreman or the contractors.

586: 11:08:54:05 11:08:58:08 04:03  
The contractors should pay everyone off.  
My men want to go home.

587: 11:08:58:20 11:09:01:14 02:19  
If we were talking about alms,  
I could understand

588: 11:09:01:24 11:09:04:03 02:04  
that I have to chase after the money.

589: 11:09:04:09 11:09:08:17 04:08  
But this is our hard-earned money!  
Why should we beg for it?

590: 11:09:14:23 11:09:16:19 01:21  
I'm worried.

591: 11:09:17:21 11:09:22:22 05:01  
I don't know  
how my family is meant to survive.

592: 11:09:24:06 11:09:25:24 01:18  
I'm frustrated.

593: 11:09:26:05 11:09:29:00 02:20  
I left my wife and children  
alone at home.

594: 11:09:34:17 11:09:38:10 03:18  
Khadir is going home today.

595: 11:09:40:06 11:09:44:06 04:00  
I wanted to give him some money.  
But I don't have any.

596: 11:09:44:15 11:09:48:00 03:10  
I don't know what I'm supposed to do  
when he's gone.

597: 11:09:48:11 11:09:50:02 01:16  
My family needs the money.

598: 11:09:57:07 11:09:59:21 02:14  
Khadir, why are you leaving?

599: 11:10:06:01 11:10:08:18 02:17  
Where are you going?  
- Home.

600: 11:10:11:09 11:10:16:01 04:17  
Working here is no longer worth it.

601: 11:10:18:11 11:10:20:12 02:01  
It doesn't make sense anymore.

602: 11:10:20:18 11:10:23:00 02:07  
You don't get your money on time.

603: 11:10:23:06 11:10:27:07 04:01  
How is my family meant to survive  
if things stay like this?

604: 11:10:27:13 11:10:30:05 02:17  
I've waited long enough.

605: 11:10:30:12 11:10:34:23 04:11  
If I stay any longer  
my family will have to borrow money.

606: 11:10:35:04 11:10:39:11 04:07  
I can survive on the work here,  
but my family can't.

607: 11:10:39:17 11:10:43:18 04:01  
In the end we'll be  
heavily in debt to our neighbours.

608: 11:10:44:10 11:10:48:15 04:05  
If I work as a rickshaw driver at home  
or harvest rice,

609: 11:10:48:21 11:10:52:02 03:06  
we can at least get by from day to day.

610: 11:10:52:08 11:10:56:15 04:07  
That's why I've decided to go home.

611: 11:10:58:18 11:11:00:11 01:18  
I'm leaving shortly.

612: 11:11:00:17 11:11:03:21 03:04  
You can't all go crazy  
just because one person's leaving!



613: 11:11:04:19 11:11:09:10 04:16  
If you pay off one man, you have to  
pay everyone! Simple as that!

614: 11:11:10:09 11:11:14:12 04:03  
You've paid some of us.  
What about me? I work too!

615: 11:11:14:18 11:11:18:01 03:08  
You'll get some soon.  
- No, today!

616: 11:11:18:07 11:11:23:05 04:23  
I'd really like to give you some.  
- Then do it. My family is waiting.

617: 11:11:24:02 11:11:28:15 04:13  
Pay us once and for all!  
- We've waited long enough.

618: 11:11:31:23 11:11:34:14 02:16  
The first payment was only 1,000.

619: 11:11:34:20 11:11:37:15 02:20  
You wanted to give us the rest later.

620: 11:11:38:01 11:11:41:13 03:12  
He's just our uncle for show!  
- You've forgotten us!

621: 11:11:41:19 11:11:44:14 02:20  
I've forgotten you?  
- What else?

622: 11:11:44:20 11:11:46:21 02:01  
I work just as hard as you.

623: 11:11:47:08 11:11:51:17 04:09  
Do you even know what it's like for us?  
- I most certainly do!

624: 11:11:52:10 11:11:54:13 02:03  
Have you been to the office?

625: 11:11:59:09 11:12:01:20 02:11  
Why don't you go to the contractors?

626: 11:12:02:01 11:12:05:19 03:18  
The cash desk is closed.  
- Who cares about the cash desk?

627: 11:12:06:00 11:12:07:07 01:07  
What should I do?

628: 11:12:07:13 11:12:10:19 03:06  
You should've gone

to see Yashim contractor!

629: 11:12:11:12 11:12:14:00 02:13  
Or Mazid contractor.

630: 11:12:15:18 11:12:20:06 04:13  
Being too patient isn't good either.  
There are limits.

631: 11:12:21:12 11:12:24:00 02:13  
Sometimes patience isn't useful.

632: 11:12:26:12 11:12:30:11 03:24  
I already told you this morning  
to go to the office.

633: 11:12:37:06 11:12:39:24 02:18  
I'll take care of it.  
- Go to Yashim contractor!

634: 11:12:40:05 11:12:43:15 03:10  
No, I'm not going to see him.  
- But you must.

635: 11:12:50:02 11:12:51:24 01:22  
What a wimp.

636: 11:12:52:05 11:12:54:19 02:14  
He's too much of a coward.

637: 11:12:55:23 11:13:00:06 04:08  
If there were  
a few nutters in the group,

638: 11:13:00:21 11:13:03:14 02:18  
he'd have been  
knifed in the gut long ago.

639: 11:13:03:20 11:13:05:17 01:22  
He's just plain lucky

640: 11:13:05:23 11:13:10:11 04:13  
that his group  
consists of such nice guys.

641: 11:13:16:12 11:13:20:06 03:19  
How many times have you deducted  
advances from our wages?

642: 11:13:20:12 11:13:25:15 05:03  
That's for us to decide!  
- Why are you deducting all of it now?

643: 11:13:25:21 11:13:26:24 01:03  
Nonsense!

644: 11:13:27:08 11:13:31:09 04:01  
His group can't pay their debts.  
Currently about 20,000.

645: 11:13:31:15 11:13:35:01 03:11  
Kholil, do you want to pay him 20,000  
from your wages?

646: 11:13:35:07 11:13:38:09 03:02  
Yes, my boys spent it on groceries.

647: 11:13:39:01 11:13:43:00 03:24  
Your workers earned  
22,788 Takas last month.

648: 11:13:43:19 11:13:45:22 02:03  
Less 20,000.

649: 11:13:46:24 11:13:49:17 02:18  
And that's final.  
- That's not enough.

650: 11:13:49:23 11:13:53:01 03:03  
I'm only going to give you  
what you earned.

651: 11:13:53:16 11:13:56:18 03:02  
They eat more than they earn!

652: 11:14:03:10 11:14:07:20 04:10  
Give me the money.  
I'll pay our debts with the grocer.

653: 11:14:08:03 11:14:12:18 04:15  
I can't give you any cash.  
Get the grocer, I'll talk to him.

654: 11:14:12:24 11:14:17:20 04:21  
Stop showing off.  
I'm not making any exceptions!

655: 11:14:18:01 11:14:23:03 05:02  
Okay, then pay when you can.  
- Agreed.

656: 11:14:23:09 11:14:26:18 03:09  
We want that in writing...  
- No, not today.

657: 11:14:26:24 11:14:29:13 02:14  
...and then you can pay us later.

658: 11:14:29:19 11:14:33:17 03:23  
When you pick up the money,  
I'll give you something in writing.

659: 11:14:33:23 11:14:37:24 04:01

Get your grocer!

- Okay, I'll be right back.

660: 11:14:43:15 11:14:46:18 03:03

Do you know why I have to act this way?

661: 11:14:47:09 11:14:51:08 03:24

If I give them cash,  
they'll go straight home.

662: 11:14:51:14 11:14:53:15 02:01

Then I can close up.

663: 11:14:54:08 11:14:55:21 01:13

Do you understand my problem?

- Yes.

664: 11:14:56:02 11:14:59:16 03:14

That's why we pay them like this.

665: 11:15:00:12 11:15:05:06 04:19

They can still get groceries  
and their debts will be set off.

666: 11:15:05:12 11:15:09:08 03:21

Get him to sign  
and give the grocer his money.

667: 11:15:10:05 11:15:11:20 01:15

Get on with it.

668: 11:15:12:17 11:15:16:03 03:11

Not a single bastard dared  
to say anything up there.

669: 11:15:16:19 11:15:22:08 05:14

They've deducted all our debts  
and advances from our wages.

670: 11:15:22:14 11:15:24:22 02:08

They don't care about the workers!

671: 11:15:27:17 11:15:30:16 02:24

Did they deduct everything  
from your payment too?

672: 11:15:31:00 11:15:32:18 01:18

Did you get any money?

673: 11:15:40:08 11:15:44:23 04:15

Do we have to beat up the contractor  
to get our money?

674: 11:15:45:04 11:15:48:05 03:01

We always have to dance to their tune.

675: 11:15:49:22 11:15:52:23 03:01  
They always have  
the last word anyway.

676: 11:15:56:18 11:16:01:08 04:15  
But they can't do that to us!  
We work ourselves to death.

677: 11:16:01:19 11:16:07:09 05:15  
Who's meant to look after our families?  
How should they get by?

*off*

*TC 11:16:28:00*

*It has taken much longer to break the ship than the contractors had planned. Only half of the workers could return to the north. Those who had no money for the return journey will have to stay until the ship is completely dismantled.*

678: 11:18:21:05 11:18:23:08 02:03  
That's one of my two sons.

679: 11:18:28:02 11:18:30:19 02:17  
I haven't seen them  
for almost four months.

680: 11:18:31:00 11:18:34:06 03:06  
In the end,  
we were all just arguing at the yard

681: 11:18:34:12 11:18:37:16 03:04  
and so far I haven't seen a single Taka.

682: 11:18:37:22 11:18:42:11 04:14  
These bloody bastards promise  
us workers lots of money

683: 11:18:42:17 11:18:44:08 01:16  
and then they don't pay.

684: 11:18:44:14 11:18:49:12 04:23  
They pocket it all themselves!  
There's nothing left for us.

685: 11:18:52:02 11:18:56:08 04:06  
I'm never going back to Chittagong!

686: 11:19:27:20 11:19:32:07 04:12  
If I keep working in Chittagong,  
I won't live much longer.

687: 11:19:32:13 11:19:35:17 03:04  
This wound will have healed  
in six months at the earliest.

688: 11:19:35:23 11:19:38:14 02:16

Look, my shoulder has had it.

689: 11:19:39:10 11:19:43:20 04:10  
Such hard work, and you don't even  
get any money to go home.

690: 11:19:44:07 11:19:48:00 03:18  
I had to leave behind  
everything I earned down there.

691: 11:19:48:06 11:19:52:00 03:19  
I'm never ever going back to the yard.

692: 11:19:52:06 11:19:54:12 02:06  
That was a big mistake.

693: 11:19:55:08 11:19:59:04 03:21  
During the monsoon season  
I will cast a fishing net here.

694: 11:19:59:15 11:20:01:14 01:24  
If God lets me live that long,

695: 11:20:01:20 11:20:05:19 03:24  
I will earn 100 Takas a day  
from the fish I catch.

696: 11:20:07:07 11:20:09:17 02:10  
That way I can earn money from home.

697: 11:20:10:12 11:20:12:05 01:18  
Fish as big as this...

698: 11:20:12:22 11:20:16:21 03:24  
Some people earn 500 Takas a day  
during the monsoon season.

699: 11:20:17:02 11:20:21:02 04:00  
We waste our opportunities  
and let them exploit us down there.

700: 11:20:21:24 11:20:27:02 05:03  
I'll try anything to avoid having  
to leave my home again.

701: 11:20:27:19 11:20:31:08 03:14  
Or at least go far from my home.

702: 11:21:00:22 11:21:04:03 03:06  
We've organised new workers,  
not reduced the work.

703: 11:21:04:14 11:21:06:15 02:01  
We don't wait for anyone.

704: 11:21:08:06 11:21:10:24 02:18

You can see  
how many trucks are leaving the yard.

705: 11:21:11:05 11:21:13:04 01:24  
So business goes on.

706: 11:21:13:10 11:21:18:11 05:01  
They all go home at harvest time  
and then come back.

707: 11:21:20:09 11:21:23:24 03:15  
They're very clever, believe me.  
Cleverer than us.

708: 11:21:25:19 11:21:29:02 03:08  
Some of them told me  
they're never coming back.

709: 11:21:29:08 11:21:31:10 02:02  
Of course they'll be back.

710: 11:21:31:16 11:21:34:19 03:03  
By the end of the month  
our yard will be full again!

711: 11:21:35:00 11:21:38:02 03:02  
I don't even have to pay any advances.

712: 11:21:39:14 11:21:41:24 02:10  
They'll always come back to work.

*tablet*

*TC 11:22:05:00*

*This film was made possible by the generous support of the Bangladesh Shipbreakers Association (BSBA) and PHP-Group of Industries. After months of delay, they gave me unrestricted permission to film at the PHP Docks. Of the 32 shipbreaking docks, PHP are supposed to have the best working conditions. Representatives of the ILO (International Labour Organization) who are active in Chittagong refused to comment on this. One year after we had finished filming, many people were starving in North Bangladesh as a result of renewed flooding. The starvation forced the men from the North to travel to Chittagong again. Team Leaders Kholil and Gadu are yet again putting their ship-breaking teams together. Djabar is still dreaming of having his own business, but he's still pulling cables. Osman is still working as a Gas Cutter in Chittagong, and he's relying on his luck – every day.*