

The emergence of global Bangla



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Often feel a visceral pain just thinking about raising our children without having them read the treasure of Rabindranath Tagore and Kazi Nazrul Islam, and without feeling the immense joy of listening to "Thakurmar Jhuli," a collection of fairy tales by Dakshinranjan Mitra Majumdar, as well as works by Palli Kabi Jasimuddin, Hasan Raja or Lalon. *Ami ki bhulite pari*, the sacrifice and bloodbath of my brothers and sisters? How can I forget that, as a nation, we were born out of a long historical struggle to establish the due respect of our mother language, cultural distinction, and self-determination? The gradual loss of language, culture, and identity as a Bengali-American feels like a loss of self and surpasses the material benefit of immigration to the US, as millions of Bangla-speaking people here experience. I teach my child, born and raised in the US, "You are the one who will keep our legacy forward. Remember, our language and culture will live with you." I have no idea how this message will be translated into her life journey.

More than 2.5 million Bangla-speaking people consist only a tiny fraction of the huge mosaic of the US population, which is around 331.45 million, according to the 2020 census. The ever-growing population of Bengali immigrants in the US and around the world has emerged and evolved as a new cultural community, without living in a nation-state and still sharing a linguistic and cultural identity drifting from their country of origin—namely Bangladesh and India. Bangla is the seventh most spoken language in the world in terms of population, with nearly 265 million speakers in total, among whom around 228 million speak Bangla as their first language. The global cosmopolitans such as New York, London, Washington DC, Los Angeles, Toronto, Paris, Sydney, Berlin, and many other cities have been embracing Bangla as a second language as the Bangla-speaking diaspora communities have been growing and evolving for more than half a century now. This community, living in a new form of Bengali culture as a minority adapting to the new mainstream cultures hybridising their language and identity, faces the challenge to pass their legacy and language down to the new generation. Teaching children Bangla as a second language has become a great challenge for the families living beyond the border of Bangladesh and West Bengal of India. The Bengalis beyond the borders bring new elements into the global plural cosmo-culture, though; they are also evolving and transmuting themselves as the minority Bengalis without having the boundary of any nation-state.

In the US, the number of Bangladeshi immigrants began to grow in the 1970s, reaching from 57,000 to 1,88,000 during 2000-2015, whose first language is Bangla, and according to the 2006 census, the number of Indian Bengalis is 47,600. Both of the Bangla-speaking communities have been struggling to keep the language alive in their family and community lives as Bengali-Americans. These families have begun to establish Bangla language schools to keep the

language alive and are trying to keep their children grounded in their roots, while raising them as global Bengalis. This trend is now on the rise in all the cosmo-cities around the world, thriving especially since 2020 on the online platforms during Covid-19. Some of the Bangla schools have been running for three or four decades now, and new schools continue to emerge.

These Bangla schools have begun to consolidate their activities through collaboration, using the concept of *Milan Mela*, for example, supported by the Friends of Bangla School in the South Asia Center of the University of Pennsylvania. Last year, *Milan Mela* was organised as a coming together of 16 Bangla schools from around the US, with both West Bengal and Bangladeshi traditions to celebrate the Bangla language and Bengali identity, and to build a greater alliance for advancing the Bangla language, literature, and culture within the pluralistic society of America. This assembly is seeking to form a North American Bangla Association to negotiate identity and attain a recognition of Bangla as a second language in the institutional

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ILLUSTRATION:
KAZI AKIB BIN ASAD



form and American state policy. Keeping the education of Bangla at the heart of claiming the Bengali identity and building a community, this collective aspires to knit together the Bengali diaspora to secure a future for Bangla beyond Bangladesh and India.

Besides the interest of Bengali-Americans, Bangla has also been taught and researched in some major US universities as a foreign language, usually in the Asian and South Asian centres in the University of Wisconsin, University of Chicago, Yale University, University of Texas, Austin, Pennsylvania State University, University of California, Berkeley and University of Washington, for example, where curriculums for Bangla have been developed and offered each year. The community Bangla schools have begun to receive recognition as certified language schools that enable the students to get the freshman year credit, exempting the requirement for taking a foreign language course. As teaching elementary Bangla is not similar to teaching Bangla as a native tongue in Bangladesh or West

Bengal, these schools are often struggling with finding the contextual pedagogical approach, which must be methodologically different from the setting of the country of origin. Engaging with the curriculums already developed and available in the US universities and using those in the contextual situations might be effective to achieve the language skill in a pleasurable manner.

Currently, there are two major pedagogical approaches used in these community schools—namely, linguistic approach and cultural immersion/community learning approach—which have been further benefited with the opening of the floodgate of online teaching and learning platforms during the pandemic. The practical benefits in professional training and career advancement in some areas can be explored with Bangla language skills—as a medical and legal translator, research and diplomatic interpreter, and in the job posting in the missions and consulates in Bangladesh and India—not to mention the issue of bonding with the extended family

members back home.

Celebrating the pluralistic values as new immigrants in the US, I believe that language and communication play a vital role in the heart of the human experience that must be nurtured and developed with the vehicle of indigenous, immigrant, and world languages, as Bangla is in America. To educate our children to be bilingual or multilingual and encourage them to be linguistically and culturally prepared to be able to navigate an increasingly globalised world with confidence, courage and mutual admiration is our solemn duty. I believe we are bringing Bangla to the global stage and making it a global language through instilling the beauty of the language and the literature into children's hearts, and empowering ourselves by being the Bilingual Bengalis without a border. More centres of Bangla language and culture may emerge in the future—who knows? Thus we are possibly paving the way for many more Jhumpa Lahiris, Arundhati Roys, Zia Haider Rahmans, Monica Alis and Tahmima Anams to emerge out of this trajectory.

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e-Tender Notice
Tender Notice No. 35/EED/LAX/Project Code: (1250301-1250301109972-4111201 & 1250301-120001601-3258108)/
e-Tender/2021-22, Dt: 01/03/2022

Name of Project: 1. Construction/Extension of Academic Buildings to Selected Govt. & Non Govt. Educational Institutions. (S.L No-01)
2. Repair/Renovation of Govt. Educational Institutions. (SL No-02)
e-Tender is invited through the National e-GP Portal for the following procurement of works.

S.L No.	Name of the tender	Tender ID	Type method	Last date & time of selling documents	Last date & time of submission documents
1	7016/SHED/2021-22-24 Vertical Extension 1st, 2nd & 3rd Floor of Existing Academic Building in/c Sanitary Water Supply & Electrification works at Dalal Bazar Fatema Girls High School under Sadar upazila in Lakshmipur District.	669203	NCT, OTM	15-Mar-2022 16:00	16-Mar-2022 12:00
2	Govt./Rep/SHED/18 Construction of Boundary wall with M.S Gate and Barbed wire at Residence of Headmaster at Lakshmipur Adarsha Samad Govt. School, Sadar, Lakshmipur.	669202	NCT, OTM	15-Mar-2022 16:00	16-Mar-2022 12:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender document following packages from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches; Further information and guideline are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Md. Murad Hossain
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GD-406

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E-mail: uhc@id.dghs.gov.bd

INVITATION FOR TENDER
Sealed Tender is hereby invited from the manufacturer/wholesaler/supplier for supply of Medicine (Non-EDCL) for Union Sub Center. As per PPR-2008, terms and conditions are as follows:

KEY INFORMATION				
1 Ministry/Division	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW), Health Services Division.			
2 Agency	Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), MOHFW.			
3 Procuring Entity	Line Director, Upazila Health Care (UHC), DGHS.			
4 Procuring Entity Code	224330400			
5 Procuring Entity District	Dhaka			
6 Invitation for	Supply of Medicine (Non-EDCL) for Union Sub Center.			
7 Invitation for offer Ref. No	UHC/Proc./RPA-GOB/Medicine (U.S.C)-13/2021-22/1000			
8 Date	01.03.2022			
KEY INFORMATION				
9 Procurement Method	Open Tender Method (OTM)			
FUNDING INFORMATION				
10 Budget and Source of Funds	RPA-GOB			
11 Developments Partners	None			
PARTICULAR INFORMATION				
12 Project/Program Code	224330400			
13 Project/Program Name	UHC			
14 Tender Package No	UHC/R-GD-1/2021-22			
15 Offer Package Name	Medicine (Non-EDCL) for Union Sub Center.			
16 Tender Publication Date	02.03.2022			
17 Tender Last Selling Date	22.03.2022 at 5.00 pm			
18 Tender Closing Date and Time	23.03.2022 at 12 pm			
19 Tender Opening Date and Time	23.03.2022 at 2 pm			
20 Name and address of the Office				
a) Selling of Tender Documents	a) Office of the Line Director, UHC, DGHS, BMRC Bhaban (1 st floor), Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212. b) Central Medical Store Depot (CMSD), Tejgaon, Dhaka.			
b) Receiving of Tender Documents	a) Office of the Line Director, UHC, DGHS, BMRC Bhaban (1 st floor), Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212. b) Central Medical Store Depot (CMSD), Tejgaon, Dhaka.			
c) Opening of Tender Documents	Office of the Line Director, UHC, DGHS, BMRC Bhaban, (1 st floor), Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212.			
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER				
21 Eligibility of Tenderer	As stated in TDS			
22 Brief Description of Goods	Supply of Medicine-13 items (Non-EDCL) for Union Sub Center.			
23 Price of Tender Documents Taka	TK. 5,000 (Five Thousand) only by Treasury Challan (with CTR) Code No. 1-2711-0000-2366 to be deposited Sonali Bank Ltd. or Bangladesh Bank. (Non-refundable).			
24 No	Identification & Name	Location	Tender Security Amounts in BDT	Completion time (in weeks)
Single lot	UHC/ R-GD-1/2021-22	UHC office, BMRC Bhaban, Mohakhali, Dhaka.	TK. 8,00,000 (Eight lacs) only by Pay Order/Bank Draft or Bank Guarantee in Prescribed format in favour of Line Director, UHC, DGHS.	10 (Ten) weeks from date of signing the contract.
PROCURING ENTITY DETAIL				
25 Name of Official Inviting Offer	Dr. Md. Rizwanur Rahman			
26 Designation of Official Inviting Offer	Line Director, UHC, DGHS.			
27 Address of Official Inviting Offer	BMRC Bhaban (1 st floor), Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212.			
28 Contact details of Official Inviting Offer	BMRC Bhaban, Mohakhali, Dhaka. Phone:02-222280785, Fax-02-222282900			

The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all offers.

(Dr. Md. Rizwanur Rahman)
Line Director
Upazila Health Care (UHC), DGHS
BMRC Bhaban (1st floor), Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212.

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