

VANISHING VOICES

Only 4 people speak 'Kui' in Bangladesh

MINTU DESHWARA, Moulvibazar

A language is quietly but surely becoming extinct in some villages at the tea estates along the Bangladesh-India border.

There resides the Kandha community. Their mother tongue "Kui", also known as Kandh, Khond, Khondo, and Kuinga, is on the verge of extinction.

Kui is a south-central Dravidian language. Scripted in Odia, the language is predominantly spoken in Odisha, and parts of the neighbouring Jharkhand in India.

But in Bangladesh, the language whispers its last stories on the lips of just four elderly individuals of the community. Others, mostly speak Jangli - a combination of Bangla and Odia languages.

Besides, there are no written scripts in Kui, meaning the language may die with the remaining four people who can speak it.

The Kandha people arrived in these lands during the British era as tea garden workers. They settled, built lives, and their voices intertwined with the local Bangla and Odia, giving birth to the unique "Jangli" language. This became



People of Kandha community at an event. Due to lack of written scripts and preservation efforts, their mother tongue Kui is on the verge of extinction. Inset, Shyamoli Kandha is one of the four remaining speakers of the language.

PHOTO: STAR



the dominant tongue, while Kui retreated further into the shadows.

A 2016 survey identified 539 Kandha households in 30 tea estates across Sylhet division.

Shyamoli Kandha, a 65-year-old resident of Kalighat Tea Garden in Sreemangal, is one of the last four speakers of Kui.

"I speak in this language only when I meet my elder brother. Sometimes, I wish to return to Jharkhand and speak my language freely," said Shyamoli.

Pankaj Kandha, 48, Shyamoli's nephew and also vice-president of Bangladesh

Tea Workers' Union, said, "The Kandha people are suffering from an identity crisis. Only three, including my uncle and aunt, speak Kui. Even I cannot speak my mother tongue barring a few words which I have picked from my grandfather before he died."

"My grandmother used to narrate Kandha myths, riddles, rhymes, monologues, harvest stories, festivals, hunts and traditions in Kui. However, the main problem is, we don't live together like a community. You will only find a couple of Kandha families in each tea estate. So they speak the dominant

language to blend in with their colleagues and neighbours," he added.

Summer Institute of Linguistics, an international organisation working with indigenous languages, recently conducted a survey on the Kandha community and Kui as a part of their study on 20 endangered languages in the world.

According to SIL, 76 percent of Kandha community members in Moulvibazar mentioned Odia as their mother tongue with 11 percent saying it to be Kui. However, only 42 percent use Odia while less than one percent use Kui to communicate.

An accepted approach for assessing the status of languages around the world is the "Fishman Criteria", or Graded Intergenerational Disruption Scale. The scale has eight levels, with the language considered endangered if it goes above level four. Kui's current status is specified above level six, said Cornelius Tudu, country director of SIL International Bangladesh.

Porimol Baraik, a researcher, said, "According to Article 30 of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child, of which Bangladesh is a signatory, individuals should not be deprived of the right to use language with other members of their community."

Bangladesh's International Mother Language Institute Act-2010 also stresses on preservation of languages and introduction of written forms of all the languages of the indigenous groups, he added.

"I speak in this language only when I meet my elder brother. Sometimes, I wish to return to Jharkhand and speak my language freely," said Shyamoli Kandha.

10 hurt in Awami League infighting

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

At least 10 people were injured in an infighting between two factions of the Awami League in Munshiganj yesterday.

Witnesses said incident took place in Bakultala area in Sadar upazila around noon.

Police said there has been a dispute between Adhara union Awami League general secretary Suruj Mia and ward-2 AL president Ali Hossain Sarkar over establishing supremacy in the area.

Yesterday, the followers of Suruj Mia opened fire on Ali Hossain's people near Bakultala High School, injuring three people - Shakeel, 22, Jewel, 25, and Aynal, 35.

The injured were taken to Munshiganj General Hospital, said Dr Shaibal Basak of its emergency department.

Of the injured, Shakeel and Jewel were sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for better treatment, he said.

Following the incident, the supporters of Ali Hossain exploded crude bombs and vandalised five shops of their rivals at the village, said locals.

Contacted, Suruj Mia said, "Our supporters were attacked by Ali Hossain's people. They vandalised about seven shops and threw around 20 crude bombs, injuring four to five of our men. But I don't

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BGB destroys drugs worth Tk 7.6cr

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Border Guard Bangladesh destroyed narcotics worth Tk 7.60 crore at the ground of 29 BGB Battalion headquarters in Phulbari upazila, Dinajpur yesterday.

The drugs were seized at different times since December 2022 to January this year, said Lt Col ABM Zahidul Karim, commanding officer of BGB 29 Battalion in Phulbari.

Brig Gen Khandakar Shafiquzzaman PSC, regional commander of Rangpur Region BGB, was present at the programme as chief guest while Col Rashed Asgar, commander of Dinajpur sector, was present as a special guest.

59 proxy Dakhil examinees held in Naogaon

UNB, Naogaon

Fifty nine individuals posing as students were detained for attempting to take the Arabic-I test as impersonators during the ongoing Dakhil examination yesterday.

The incident took place at Sarafullah Fazil Madrasa examination centre in Naogaon's Sapahar. This exam centre, hosting 777 candidates from 10 different institutions for the Dakhil exam, became the focal point of an operation carried out between 11:30am and 12:00pm.

Masud Hossain, UNO of Sapahar, led the raid alongside secondary education officer and the centre's secretary.

'COST ESTIMATE LEAKED' Ruet scraps Tk 5.20cr e-tender

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Rajshahi University of Engineering and Technology scrapped an e-tender of Tk 5.20 crore for renovation projects yesterday over allegations of leaking confidential official cost estimates to at least five bidders.

The decision was taken following recommendations of a probe committee after it detected a "possible leak", said Md Shahadat Hossain, chief engineer of Ruet.

"We will be re-issuing the tender soon," he said. A three-member estimate committee consisting of Prof Md Jahangir Alam, RUET vice chancellor, Dr Mhia Md Zaglul Shahadat, director of planning and development, and Md Shahadat Hossain, chief engineer, are responsible for keeping the cost estimates confidential till the date of opening tender, said two senior officials of Ruet.

The leak compromises fairness of a bidding process by helping certain bidders to win the works, they said, asking not to be named.

The compromise occurs as the open tendering method (OTM) follows a procedure to reject tender quotes offering more than ten percent above or below the official cost estimates, they said.

Meanwhile, Ruet on January 28 invited tenders in eight different groups for maintenance and renovation works of eight buildings.

Some 15 to 17 construction bidders submitted tenders for each group and the tenders were opened on February 13.

Five of the eight bidders, who won the works by offering lowest evaluated prices, happened to have offered prices just below ten percent of estimated costs as contradictory to the OTM rule.

When the matter drew criticism, the authority formed a three-member committee on February 17.

The committee headed by Prof Md Kamruzzaman of Civil Engineering department submitted its report on February 19 finding "scope of suspicion" and suggesting re-issuing the tender, Ruet officials said.

"The leak is impossible as it involves responsible officials. Still, we're re-issuing the tender for fairness," said Dr Mhia Md Zaglul Shahadat, director of Ruet's planning & development.



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BANGLADESH OPEN UNIVERSITY
সামাজিক বিজ্ঞান, মানবিক ও ভাষা স্কুল

ইংরেজি ভাষা শেখার একটি আকর্ষণীয় প্রোগ্রাম
CERTIFICATE IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY (CELP)
English Language প্রোগ্রামের আনুষ্ঠানিক-জন, ২০২৪ (২৪১ টার্ম)

ভর্তি বিজ্ঞপ্তি

উন্মুক্ত ও দূরশিক্ষণ
আবেদনের তারিখ : ১৫ ফেব্রুয়ারি থেকে ২৮ মার্চ, ২০২৪
<https://www.facebook.com/Bdopenuniversity/>

বিস্তারিত জানতে
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প্রধান কার্যালয়, ঢাকা।
ওয়েব সাইট : www.rupalibank.com.bd

Request for Expression of Interest (REOI)
for selection of Chief Information Technology Officer (CITO) in the rank of General Manager

Corrigendum Notice

Rupali Bank PLC. has made an amendment of maximum age limit for the REOI for selection of Chief Information Technology Officer (CITO) notice of which was published on 08-02-2024 in Daily News Papers (The Financial Express, The Daily Star, The Prothom Alo) & Bank's website. So, all concerned are requested to visit: www.rupalibank.com.bd for more information.

General Manager
Rupali Bank PLC.
Administration & Human Resources Division
Head Office, Dhaka.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Project Director
SASEC-Integrated Trade Facilitation Sector Development Project: BLPA Part
Bangladesh Land Port Authority
Ministry of Shipping
F-19/A, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207

Memo No. - 18.15.0000.023.14.009.24-142 Date: 19/02/2024

Corrigendum-1

Date : February 15, 2024
Loan/Grant No. and Title : ADB Loan No. 4178- BAN, South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation Integrated Trade Facilitation Sector Development Program
Contract No. and Title : BLPA/CW-01, Improvement of land ports at Akhaura and Tamabil Border Crossing Points (BCPs)

This is for general information of all concerned that the above-mentioned bid invited vide the office memo-18.15.0000.023.14.009.24-118, dated-07/02/2024 has been amended as follows:

Sl. No. of IFB	Existing Provision in the IFB	Amended Provision in the IFT
6	A complete set of Bidding Documents in English may be purchased by interested eligible bidders upon payment of non-refundable fees of Tk. 10,000 and upon submission of a written application to the address above during normal office hours on all working days up to day before the submission deadline.	A complete set of Bidding Documents in English may be purchased by interested eligible bidders upon cash or electronic payment of non-refundable fees of BDT 10,000 up to the day before the submission deadline. • For purchasing with cash payment, the bidder has to make a written application to the address above during normal office hours on all working days. • For purchasing with electronic payment, the bidder has to e-mail to the undersigned expressing interest to purchase the bidding document and then credentials will be shared with the bidder to transfer the amount of fees. Upon receiving the fees, PDF version of bidding documents will be shared with the bidder.

All other terms and conditions shall remain unchanged.

M. J. Kobir
Mohammad Jahangeer Kobir
Project Director (Joint Secretary)
SASEC Integrated Trade Facilitation Sector Development Project: BLPA Part
Bangladesh Land Port Authority
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Invitation for Tenders BU/POR/ & UNN/ DORPOTRO/2023/104- 273 Date: 20/02/2024

Sl. NO	Name of Works	Last Selling Dates of Schedule Tender	Tender Box Closing Date & Time	Tender Opening Date & Time	Contract details for more information
01	Tender of Goods for Barisal University	05/03/2024	Date: 06/03/2024 Time: 12:01PM	Date: 06/03/2024 Time: 1:30PM	www.bu.ac.bd Office of the Director Planning and Development, Admin Building-2 (1 st floor), Barisal University, Barisal-8254

All General Conditions of Contract (GCC) and Particular Conditions of Contract (PCC) as per PPR-2008

GD-293

Janata Bank PLC.
Estate Department (5th floor)
110, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000.
Phone : 02223385335, 02-55110019
web: www.jb.com.bd

Ref No: JBPLCED/SHAIKH/KISHOREGANJ/24/13 Date: 19/02/2024

e-Tender Notice (OTM)

e-Tender is invited in the national e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the Procurement of the following items:

Serial No.	Tender ID	Description of Works	Online (e-GP System) Tender Publication date & Time	Tender/Proposal Document Last Selling Date and Time	Tender/Proposal Closing and Opening date and time
1	951346	Construction of a 3 (Three) storied building with 5 (Five) storied foundation (ie. RCC frame Structure, Civil, Electrical and related works) at Khampatti, Kishoreganj under Janata Bank PLC.	19/02/2024 18:00 H	12/03/2024 13:30 H	12/03/2024 16:30 H

This is an Online Tender, Where only e-Tender will be accepted in national e-GP portal and no official hard copy will be accepted. To submit e-tender, Registration in the national e-GP system Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. The fee for downloading the e-tender document from national e-GP system portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches. Further information and guidelines are available in the national e-GP system portal and from e-GP Help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

GD-288

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RUPALI BANK PLC.
প্রশাসন ও মানবসম্পদ বিভাগ
প্রধান কার্যালয়, ঢাকা।
ওয়েব সাইট : www.rupalibank.com.bd

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