

# **London's Languages Syracuse Symposium**



## **BENGALI**

### **Language Passport**

# BENGALI



*Place of Origin:*  
**Bangladesh**



*London boroughs  
most spoken in:*  
**Camden, Newham,  
and Tower Hamlets**

## *Some facts about Bengali:*

- the Indian national anthem was first written in Bengali
- there are no gender-specific pronouns, like there are in many Romance languages
- Bengali is the 7th most spoken language in the world
- many street signs on Brick Lane are written in Bengali

# Idioms Exercise

Review the phrases below. Speaking with your group (but without Googling!), guess the meaning of each idiom.

Phrase: ভালবাসার নৌকা পাহাড় বইয়ে যায়।  
( Bhalobashar nouka pahar boie jae)

Literal Translation: the boat of affection can ascend mountains

What we think it means: \_\_\_\_\_

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Phrase: ঘোড়ার ডিম ( Ghōrāra ḍima)

Literal Translation: horse egg

What we think it means: \_\_\_\_\_

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Phrase: এক হাতে তালি দিতে পারে না ( Ēka hātē tāli ditē pārē nā)

Literal Translation: can't clap with one hand

What we think it means: \_\_\_\_\_

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