

Read the text below. For questions 22—26 choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D). Write your answers on the separate answer sheet.

FACE TO FACE WITH A TIGER

By Candida Beveridge BBC World Service

Five hundred Bengal tigers live in the largest mangrove forest on earth, situated on the border of India and Bangladesh. But so do more than a million humans. Nothing strikes more fear into their hearts and minds of the people in the Sundarbans than the word “tiger”. Even the mention of this word can send villagers into a blind panic. Eager to catch a glimpse of a tiger, I asked a passing fisherman if he had seen one on his travels that morning, but immediately he packed up his crabs and left without a word. “If you talk about the tiger, it will come,” said my boatman. “That is why”.

Most people in the Sundarbans rely on the forest and the river for food and earn money by collecting wild honey and fishing. Although it’s illegal, many go into protected areas — the Sundarbans is a Unesco World Heritage site — to cut firewood and hunt, and it brings them into direct conflict with the tiger.



Jamal Mohumad is a local legend in the Sundarbans. He’s the only person who’s survived three separate tiger attacks. In 2007 he went to the forest looking for firewood, when, in the tall grass by the side of the river, he spotted a tiger lying in the sun. “The tiger was on the north side of the river and I was on the south side. I couldn’t run. I knew if the tiger saw me he would attack so I said a prayer”.

The tiger stalked Jamal. Frozen, Jamal stood his ground. He knew that if he turned to run he would be done for. “Because I had been attacked twice before, I was more conscious about what to do. So I stood in front of the tiger and made mad faces at it and lots of noise. The tiger also fears humans, you know. Both can attack each other and it is dangerous for both parties”.

The tiger came to within a meter of where Jamal was standing and let out a huge roar. Jamal roared back. “I roared and roared at the tiger and made the scariest faces I could. It went on for about half an hour until my throat got sore”. Jamal’s wife heard

the noise and fetched a crowd from the village. "They made so much noise, they scared the tiger off. When I saw my friends from the village, I collapsed".

Unlike many villagers who've been attacked, Jamal still goes to the forest — but he is more cautious now. "I always see the tiger in my dreams and when I go into the forest there is a deep fear within me that the tiger is watching me and might attack me again. But I have to go to the forest to ensure foods for my children. It's only for them that I have to face the tiger again and again".

22. The Sundarbans people don't talk about tigers because _____.
- A they believe calling tigers' name can bring a tiger about
 - B they fear tigers can hear their voice and come
 - C they know pronouncing the word "tiger" is a taboo
 - D they think mentioning tigers' name attracts evil
23. What brings Sundarbans people in conflict with Bengal tigers?
- A They hunt Bengal tigers for food and money.
 - B Bengal tigers have killed a lot of local people.
 - C They earn their living on Bengal tigers' territory.
 - D Bengal tigers come to people's villages.
24. What did Jamal Mohumad first do when he noticed the tiger?
- A He hid in the grass.
 - B He gave a loud cry.
 - C He asked God for help.
 - D He attacked the tiger.
25. What frightened the tiger off?
- A Jamal's hostile grimaces
 - B Jamal's powerful roars
 - C the villagers' gun shots
 - D the villagers' harsh sounds
26. What is NOT stated in the text about Jamal?
- A He knows his ways with tigers.
 - B He is famous for conquering three tigers.
 - C He risks new tigers' attacks to keep his family.
 - D He tries to be more careful after tigers' attacks.