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BANGLADESH'S CHOICE

# Mothers attend school with their children

*Students perform better after the initiative*

RABIUL HASAN, Chapainawabganj

Aiming to improve children's performance, a school in Chapainawabganj has been encouraging mothers to attend classes with their children.

Teachers of Shankarbari Polladanga Government Primary School said that the method is working.

The mothers sit with their children in the classrooms once a week for about an hour to help kids with difficult tasks.

There are eight teachers in the school against 333 students.

After several third graders performed poorly in the quarterly exams last year, the teachers held a meeting to find ways to improve the children's grades.

They came up with the idea of having mothers in the classroom as an experiment, said Head Teacher Monowara Khatun.

They also hold class tests on Thursdays, and give the results to the mothers on Saturdays. With the help of a teacher, the mothers then help the children solve the tasks that appeared on Thursday's exam.

Those students performed better in the final exams last year, added the head teacher.

The focus is mainly on maths, Bangla and English, Monowara said.

There are 74 students in grade III. Of them, 26 are weak in different subjects. Thanks to the mother-teacher coordination, they will eventually do better in the final

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Mothers of third graders attend a class with their children at Shankarbari Polladanga Government Primary School in Chapainawabganj town. The school authorities made this arrangement to help the mothers support their children in improving performance. The photo was taken early this month.

PHOTO: RABIUL HASAN

# Woman hurt as husband throws acid

*Accused sent to jail*

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A Moulvibazar court yesterday sent a man to jail on charges of throwing acid on his wife in Kulaura upazila.

Police arrested day labourer Cherag Mia, 37, on Thursday night, hours after the incident.

With burn injuries to the left hand and waist, victim Salma Begum, 30, was undergoing treatment at Kulaura Upazila Health Complex, said doctor Nurul Haque.

Cherag threw acid on Salma in front of their house in Dawlatpur village and fled, said Eardous Hasan, officer-in-charge of Kulaura Police Station, quoting locals.

A case was filed with the police station that night.

The couple got married six years ago and has a five-year-old son.

An aunt of the victim said Cherag used to torture Salma and ask her to bring

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# Turkey intensifies Syria campaign

*US, EU threaten Ankara with sanctions, arms embargo*

REUTERS, Istanbul

Turkey stepped up its air and artillery strikes on Kurdish militia in northeast Syria yesterday, escalating an offensive that has drawn warnings of humanitarian catastrophe and threats of sanctions and condemnation from US and allies.

The incursion, launched after Trump withdrew US troops who had been fighting alongside Kurdish forces against Islamic State militants, has opened a new front in the eight-year-old Syrian civil war and drawn fierce international criticism.

In Washington, Trump - fending off accusations that he abandoned the Kurds, loyal allies of the United States - suggested that Washington could mediate in the conflict, while also raising the possibility of imposing sanctions on Turkey.

Later, US Defense Secretary Mark Esper told his Turkish counterpart Hulusi Akar they need to find a way to deescalate the situation before it becomes "irreparable" and said Turkey's incursion risks serious consequences for Ankara, the Pentagon said on Friday.

EU governments threatened sanctions against Turkey over its offensive in Syria, angrily rejecting President Tayyip Erdogan's warning that he would "open the gates" and send 3.6 million refugees to Europe if they

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# South Africa ex-leader Zuma to face graft trial

AFP, Pietermaritzburg

South Africa's scandal-plagued former president Jacob Zuma will face a corruption trial, a court ruled yesterday, in one of multiple alleged graft cases over his long political career.

The country's High Court unanimously dismissed Zuma's bid for a permanent stay of prosecution over 16 counts of fraud, racketeering and money laundering relating to a multi-billion-dollar arms deal dating back to before he took office in 2009.

Zuma, who has been accused of taking bribes from French defence

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## FIRST EVER LUNAR MISSION

# UK to send robot spider to the moon



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

The UK's first ever moon rover will head to the lunar surface in 2021.

The tiny robotic lunar lander - the smallest ever made - has legs instead of wheels and resembles a spider.

It will walk over the moon's surface with the aim of informing future human missions.

If successful, the UK will become only the fourth ever country to put a rover on the moon, after the

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# 'INFORMAL' SUMMIT Modi, Xi look to patch up India-China ties

AFP, Mahabalipuram

Chinese President Xi Jinping yesterday arrived in India for an "informal" seaside summit with Prime Minister Narendra Modi aimed at mending relations between the historically prickly Asian giants after sharp words over Kashmir.

China was irked by India's August move to split Jammu and Kashmir in two because it will make the state's Ladakh region -- part of which is claimed by Beijing -- a separate Indian administrative territory.

India meanwhile has been enraged by China's diplomatic backing for Pakistan, which controls a much larger part of Kashmir.

Part of Beijing's Belt and Road infrastructure mega-programme is planned in Pakistan-administered Kashmir, and Xi held talks with Prime Minister Imran Khan in Beijing just two days before meeting Modi.

When Xi said he supports Pakistan's "legitimate rights", India's foreign ministry thundered it was "not for other countries to comment on the internal affairs of India".

The Indian Express newspaper quoted unnamed sources as saying Modi would urge Xi to be more "sensitive" to India's concerns, and to "explain to the Chinese president the reasons behind Delhi's decision on Kashmir".

Delhi feels Beijing has broken an understanding to be aware of each nation's "sensitivities and concerns", the paper said, noting India

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## PRAYER TIMING OCTOBER 12

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 4:45 12:45 4:15 5:45 7:15  
JAMAAT 5:20 1:15 4:30 5:50 7:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Part of Beltia village in Tangail's Kalihati upazila is being devoured by the Jamuna on Thursday, a day after erosion hit the area, about two kilometres off the eastern end of Bangabandhu Bridge.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## JAMUNA EROSION IN TANGAIL

# 120 homes lost in a week

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

The Jamuna eroded at least 28 homesteads in Kalihati upazila of Tangail in the last three days.

Around 100 more homesteads and vast croplands were devoured last week at Bhuapur upazila.

The water level of the Jamuna was stable in the upazilas yesterday, said Mohammad Sirajul Islam, executive engineer of Water Development Board (WDB) in Tangail, adding that most of the areas were affected

on Wednesday and Thursday.


Victims of the erosion, most of whom did not get enough time to shift their homes to other places, took shelter either at their relatives' houses or under the open sky. They blamed indiscriminate sand lifting for the erosion alleging that some local influential people did not stop lifting sand even after receiving repeated warnings from the authorities.

"We had been demanding for a permanent embankment in the area for

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## Commonwealth Scholarship - 2020

### Viva -Voce Schedules

The Viva-voce of the Commonwealth Scholarship – 2020, both for the Open and Staff Category, is going to be held from the 14th October 2019. The applicants are requested to visit the UGC website ([www.ugc.gov.bd](http://www.ugc.gov.bd)) to get the Short List of candidates and Viva-voce Schedule. All relevant information will be uploaded at the UGC website timely. No personal contacts will be made on this issue.

With the approval of the authority  
**Jesmin Pervin**  
Additional Director (ICC), UGC