

### 3 kidnapped in Bandarban

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Bandarban

Armed criminals abducted three night guards for ransom from a rubber garden in Nykkhongchhari upazila of the district early Sunday. The victims, Azizul Haque, 30, Abdus Shukur, 42, and Nurul Alam, 35, are residents of Betduri.

Police said a gang picked up the trio from PHP Rubber Garden at gunpoint around 3:20am.

Azizul's elder brother Abdul Hamid said after an hour of the abduction, the gang phoned his mother and demanded Tk 3 lakh ransom for her son's release.

### Patient falls from hospital balcony, dies

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Dinajpur

A patient at Dinajpur Medical College Hospital died after falling from a balcony of the hospital early yesterday.

The deceased, Mahbubul Alam, 32, son Mohammad Ali of Nintala area in Dinajpur municipality, was admitted to the hospital with a stomach infection on October 15.

Amir Ali, acting director of the hospital, said Mahbubul slipped from the edge of a balcony on the third-floor of the hospital building while he was walking its terrace, which do not have any safety fence.



Shahjahan Ali, Awami League nominated chairman candidate in Kulaghat union under Lalmonirhat Sadar, on a door to door campaign at former enclave Bhitarkuti, and right, a member candidate in a seat reserved for women woos voters at Thakurpara village in Kajoldighi Kaliaganj union in Boda upazila of Panchagarh on Sunday.

PHOTO: STAR



# Former enclave people taste voting right

## Hectic campaign on ahead of October 31 UP polls in Panchagarh, Lalmonirhat

STAR COUNTRY DESK

During a visit on Saturday, our Thakurgaon correspondent Quamrul Islam Rubaiyat saw people engaged in lively discussions over the UP elections.

"I feel happy as I am going to cast my vote for the first time in life," said Jayotish Chandra Roy, 60, of Garati village (a former enclave) in Haribhisa union of Panchagarh Sadar.

Former enclave people Bijoy Barman and Sona Mia, who have become voters for the first time, are contesting for the post of UP member from Ward No 1 in Hafizabad union of Sadar upazila.

Of the 8,935 voters of 36 former enclaves in eight unions under Panchagarh, 1,025 people are in seven erstwhile enclaves in Hafizabad and Haribhisa unions in Sadar, 1,690 people in 23 enclaves in Moidandighi, Kajoldighi Kaliaganj, Barashashi and

Marea unions under Boda and 6,220 voters in six former enclaves in Chilahati and Tepriganj unions under Debiganj upazila, official sources said.

As many as 463 candidates including 39 for chairman posts, 326 for member posts and 98 for the posts of members reserved for women are contesting in the eight UPs.

District Election Officer Dewan Mohammad Sarwar Jahan said they are taking necessary measures to ensure a free, fair and credible UP election in the district.

In Lalmonirhat, electioneering in eight unions, including 59 former enclaves, gets momentum ahead of the October 31 polls in the areas of three upazilas under the district.

Our Lalmonirhat correspondent S Dilip Roy saw candidates of these unions are moving door to door to woo voters.

Thirty-one chairmen candidates, 288 member candidates and 118 candidates for the reserved seats for women are contesting at Kulaghat union in Lalmonirhat Sadar, Gotamari of Hatibandha and Jongra, Patgram, Sreerampur, Burimari, Kuchlibari and Jagotbar of Patgram upazila.

There are 59 former enclaves -- two in Kulaghat union under Lalmonirhat Sadar, two in Gotamari union under Hatibandha, and 55 in Jongra, Kuchlibari, Burimari, Sreerampur, Patgram, Jagatbar and Bawra unions under Patgram upazila, district election office sources said.

Of the total 10,019 people living in these former enclaves, 3,850 people have been listed as voters, they said.

Ataur Rahman, 42, a voter of former enclave Bhitarkuti at Kulaghat union in

Lalmonirhat Sadar, said, "Candidates are us for votes and giving promises for development in future. We are feeling happy as we will exercise our voting right for the first time on October 31."

"All the candidates have promises to me of giving widow or old age allowance card if they get elected," said Hafiza Bawa, 68, at former enclave Bhitarkuti of Kulaghat union.

Both Shahjahan Ali and Idris Ali, Awami League and BNP nominated chairman candidate for Kulaghat union in Lalmonirhat Sadar, expressed optimism about winning with the support of former enclave people.

District Election Officer Fazlul Karim said tight security measures will be taken in the eight unions during before, during and after the polls.

# In-laws' brutality for dowry

## Housewife and her kid starve in confinement for five days

EAM ASADUZZAMAN, Nilphamari

A housewife and her infant daughter were confined to a locked room for five days without food by her husband and his mother at Khutamara village under Jaldhaka upazila of the district.

During the five days, the woman was allegedly made to starve while her kid lived on breast milk, which also dried up at one stage.

Dimla upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) rescued them yesterday after hearing of the matter from some local people.

The victim is Parvin Aktar, 20, daughter of Mahfuzar Rahman of the village.

Victim's mother Kobita Begum said her daughter was married to Rokonuzzaman, 28, son of Abdul Hye of the village in 2014, and they have a one-year-old daughter.

As per demand of bridegroom's family, Parvin's family gave Tk 2 lakh as dowry, along with a refrigerator, bed, a steel almirah and a milking cow.

Parvin said, "A few days after the marriage, my husband started putting pressure on me to bring Tk 1 lakh from my father for doing business."

As she refused, Rokonuzzaman and his family members started torturing her, she added.

After the birth of their daughter, their torture increased further, which she bore silently for the sake of her daughter, Parvin said.

"At one time, my husband entered into a love affair with a girl of a neighbouring village to inflict mental



Parvin Aktar with her kid, under treatment at Jaldhaka Upazila Health Complex in Nilphamari, shows signs of trauma as her dowry greedy in-laws had kept them confined to a room without food for five days.

Dimla Upazila Health Complex," the UNO said, adding that the culprits must be brought to book.

Officer-in-Charge (investigation) of Jaldhaka Police Station Mofizuddin said the victim's family is preparing to file a complaint with the police station.

"I rescued the housewife and her minor daughter, who were very weak, and sent them to the hospital for treatment," the UNO said, adding that the culprits must be brought to book.

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