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Your Right to Know

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VENEZUELA CRISIS

EU nations give
8 days to hold polls
as pressure mounts
on Maduro

PAGE 8



Big relief by June

*New bridges to take care of
3 major choking points on
Dhaka-Chattogram highway*

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The three bottlenecks that have been causing so much pain to travellers on Dhaka-Chattogram highway are expected to be removed by June.

The otherwise dual carriageway between the port city and the capital shrinks to a single one at the Meghna and Gumti bridges. The Kanchpur bridge is technically a dual carriageway but its width is not adequate.

Traffic often crawls to a halt at the approaches to the bridges and if there is a breakdown, it takes several hours to clear up the nightmarish mess.

It is not uncommon for travellers and truckers to spend 10 to 12 hours on the 192km highway, the busiest in the country, instead of what should be five hours at best.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

The new Kanchpur bridge on the Shitalakhya river is waiting to be inaugurated and opened to traffic in about two weeks. The two other bridges known as Meghna and Gumti are likely to be ready in April and June. Experts hope that the bridges would significantly reduce three major bottlenecks on the Dhaka-Chattogram highway. The pictures were taken last week.



SAVAR TANNERY ESTATE

High hazard yet little safety

*No medical facility, inadequate safety gear
for workers handling chemicals*

MOUDDUD AHMED SUJAN

A barrel of sulphuric acid accidentally tipped over at a factory in the Savar Tannery Industrial Estate on October 3. The acid burnt four workers.

They had to be taken to the burn unit at Dhaka Medical College Hospital nearly 20 kilometres away.

Amid the awful city traffic, it took four hours

to get them there and it was too late for one of them. Hashem Ali, 35, of Dinajpur, died.

"We didn't know what to do immediately after the four suffered the acid burns. There was no medicine or doctor nearby," recalled Milon Hossain, one of the workers at the factory -- Mitali Tannery.

"We poured water on the wounds but that did not seem enough," he said.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



A man walks by a road submerged in smelly waste water from the poorly managed drainage system at the new tannery estate in Savar. Inset, tanners process raw-hides inside a factory. The pictures were taken recently.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

GREETINGS OVER TEA PM invites, Oikyafront may decline

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Jatiya Oikyafront may decline Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's invitation to exchange greetings over tea on February 2.

However, a formal decision in this regard will be taken later, said a top Oikyafront leader.

Dispatch of the invitation letters began yesterday. Awami League sources said Hasina would invite to

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

HOLEY ARTISAN CASE

Khaled 'sent Tk 39 lakh to fund attack'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shariful Islam alias Khaled, the last charge-sheeted accused arrested in the Holey Artisan Bakery case, sent Tk 39 lakh to JMB leader Sarwar Jahan to fund the café attack, Rab officials said.

Khaled along with Mamunur Rashid alias Ripon had gone into hiding two months before the attack on July 1, 2016. He sent the money from hiding.

The Rapid Action Battalion came up with the information yesterday, after arresting Khaled from Nachole upazila in Chapainawabganj on Friday afternoon.

"The money came from the Middle East," Mufti Mahmud Khan, director (legal and media) of Rab, said at a press briefing at the Rab Media Centre in Dhaka.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

DHAKA NORTH

AL picks Atiqul for mayor polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Atiqul Islam, former president of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association, has got the ruling Awami League's ticket to contest the mayoral race in Dhaka North City Corporation.

In another development, Dr Syeda Zakia Nur, daughter of Syed Nazrul Islam, the first acting president of the country, got the AL nomination for Kishoreganj-1 by-polls.

Both elections are scheduled for February 28.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



Atiqul Islam

Schoolgirl, housewife 'raped'

STAR REPORT

A central jail guard allegedly raped a school girl in Narayanganj while a housewife was reportedly raped in Sherpur on Friday.

The Narayanganj incident took place in Chhatian area under Rugganj upazila.

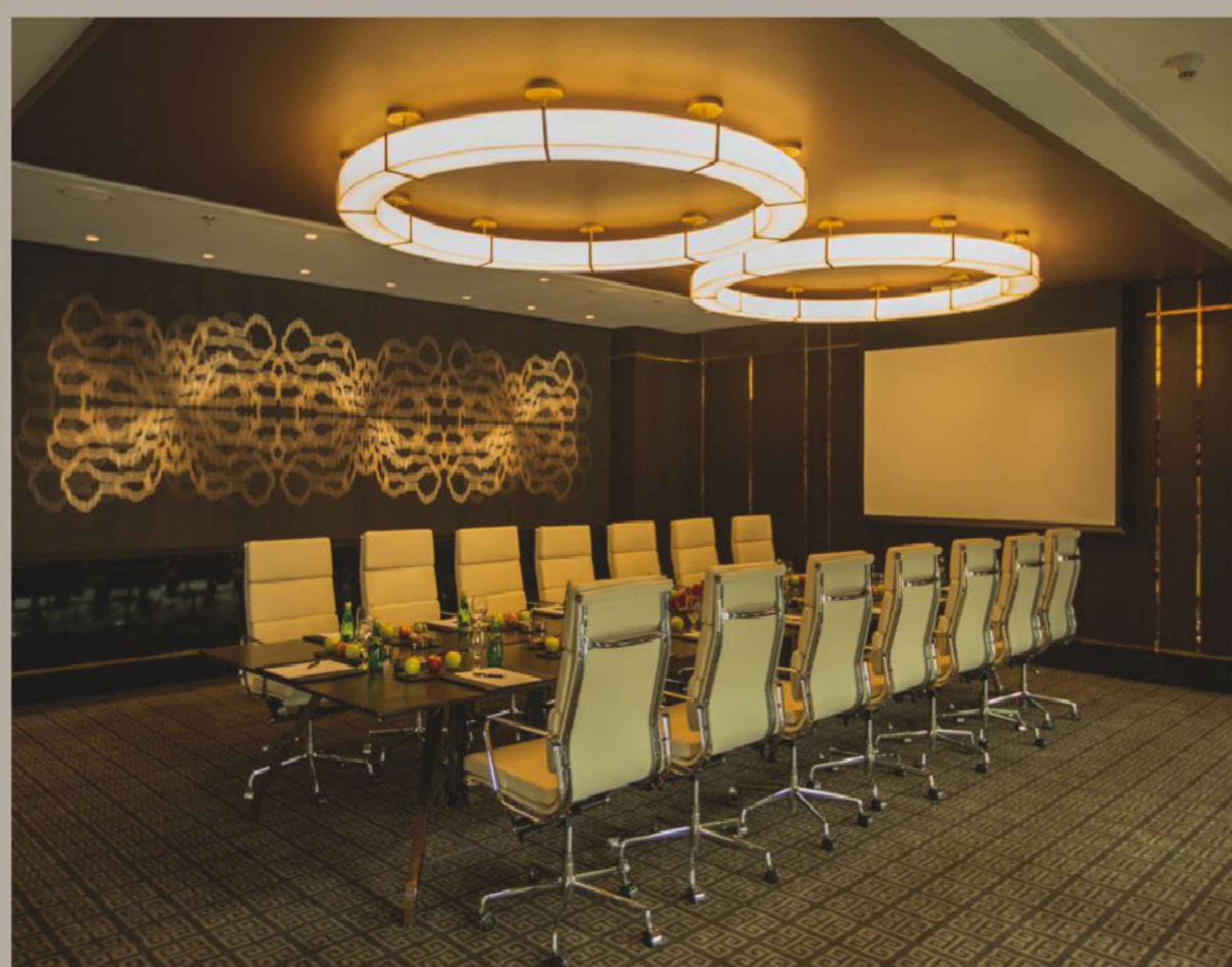
The victim -- a 16-year old girl -- was visiting her grandparents who live in the area.

According to the case statement filed by the victim's mother, while the girl was leaving a nearby shop around 8:00pm, she was forcibly picked up by three local youths around. They then took her to a nearby bamboo grove where they raped her.

Hearing her screams, locals began to gather at the spot, prompting the criminals to flee. Later, the people rescued her and took her to a local hospital.

The accused are Mridul

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



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All Directors, Officers, and Employees of Simtex Industries Limited congratulate Mr. Md Siddiqur Rahman, Managing Director for his dynamic leadership advancing the company to such height.

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Fizz sinks Vikings

SPORTS REPORTER

Chittagong Vikings fought till the bitter end but were unable to chase down the 199-run target set by Rajshahi Kings, succumbing to a seven-run defeat in a Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) encounter at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chattogram yesterday.

Needing 13 runs off the last over to win, it was

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4