



**Pompeo slams 'predator' China on Sri Lanka trip**  
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**"Tweeting at the TV doesn't fix things."**  
BARACK OBAMA RIDICULES DONALD TRUMP ON HIS CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE DURING A RALLY IN FLORIDA



**"The amendments have put Jammu and Kashmir up for sale."**  
FORMER JAMMU AND KASHMIR CHIEF MINISTER OMAR ABDULLAH ON NEW DELHI'S DECISION TO ALLOW CITIZENS TO BUY LAND IN THE DISPUTED TERRITORY



**"For the first time in history the citizens of this country get to hear directly from their president, every single day through social media."**

MELANIA TRUMP DEFENDS HER HUSBAND AT A RALLY IN PENNSYLVANIA



MILITARY-GRADE FIREARMS

## Shady import worries cops

Licensed dealers selling semi-automatic guns imported with wrong declaration amid slack monitoring, finds probe

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

In the absence of monitoring, a section of licensed arms dealers are importing military-grade semi-automatic weapons in the name of rifles.

The dealers then sell the .22 bore weapons to licensed arms holders declaring them rifles on papers. The "Uzi pistol" looks more like a submachine gun than a rifle or a pistol.

The magazine of the Uzi can hold 20 bullets, while service pistols, used by law enforcers, can hold 15.

The Detective Branch (DB) of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police came up with the information in a report on irregularities in arms import in the country. The report was submitted to the DMP and the police headquarters yesterday.

In the report, the DB warned that the law and order of the country could be under risk if the sophisticated arms was available to the people.

The Arms Rules 2016 states that the import of semi-automatic or automatic weapons are prohibited in Bangladesh.

**HOW IT SURFACED**

DB officials said they arrested a drug dealer -- Minal Sharif -- in the capital's Mohammadpur area on August 20. While searching his car, they found bottles of foreign liquor and a licence for a .22 calibre rifle.

During investigation, police found that Minal actually bought an Uzi for Tk 4.5 lakh from a licenced arms dealer.

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Ignoring the repulsive smell and health risks, 30-year-old Alauddin scavenges mostly for discarded plastic goods wading chest-deep into the filthy water of the drain at Gobindpur Bazar in the capital's Jatrabari. By the end of the day he finds 25-30 kgs of the goods and sells them to scrap dealers for around Tk 500. The photo was taken recently. PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

END OF SHAKIB'S BAN

## Lessons amid relief



MAZHAR UDDIN

When Shakib Al Hasan left the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium exactly a year ago in a white BMW sedan, he would have done so with Bangladesh cricket fans praying that his ban from cricket would be over in the blink of an eye.

That ban has ended today, and it has gone by quicker than anticipated as Bangladesh have not played a single international match for seven months because of the coronavirus pandemic.

A year ago was the last time Shakib was seen at the home of Bangladesh cricket after the International Cricket Council banned him for two years, with the

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## FOREIGN WORKERS KSA to scrap controversial sponsorship system

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Saudi Arabia might abolish its decades-old system of sponsorship in the first half of the next year, giving one million expatriate workers the freedom to secure exit and re-entry visas and get recruited without a sponsor's approval.

Saudi Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development will make the official announcement in this regard next week, Saudi Gazette reported on Tuesday.

The historic initiative is aimed at improving the contractual relationship between expatriate workers and their employers, it said.

The sponsorship system, SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

## VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN Systemic flaws to blame: HRW

1 in 4 women reported having suffered violence during early pandemic days

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

A Human Rights Watch report, scheduled to be published today, blamed lack of accountability in enforcing laws and systemic flaws for Bangladesh's failure to protect women who have suffered violence.

Based on interviews of survivors and drawing upon surveys, the report of the international rights watchdog said although Bangladesh is in the final phase of its commitment to end violence against women and girls by 2025, the scourge rages on unabated.

Despite strict laws to safeguard women, their poor enforcement and lack of accountability leave victims without any recourse, said the report, a copy of which The Daily Star obtained.

According to the report, domestic violence increased during the shutdown following the Covid-19 outbreak with as many as a fourth of the respondents reporting violence for the first time.

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## Locals still afraid to talk about Erfan

Court places him on remand; ACC to look into graft allegations

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and MUNTAKIM SAAD

With suspended ward councillor Erfan Salim behind bars, locals in Debidas Ghat Lane of the capital's Chawkbazar are still afraid to talk out about his illegal activities.

Law enforcers on Monday arrested Erfan, son of Dhaka-7 lawmaker Haji Mohammad Salim, from his home in Old Dhaka. They found a personal surveillance network that included close-circuit television (CCTV) cameras and illegal walkie-talkies that Erfan used to monitor his businesses.

A trader from Devidas Ghat Lane area said, "The Rab recovered 38 walkie-talkies. But we saw Haji Salim's men using those for years. They were involved in land grabbing, extortion and other criminal activities. Where are they now?"

"The law enforcement agencies took the action after the assault on a navy

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## Sell it cheap or face torture

That's how Haji Salim would allegedly grab land, business in Old Dhaka

HELEMUL ALAM and SHARIFUL ISLAM

When a portion of his shop in Old Dhaka's Chawkbazar was demolished by the men of lawmaker Haji Salim in April 2019, Aftab Ahmed did whatever he could to save the rest of his shop in a century-old building.

But just two months later on the night of Eid (June 5, 2019), when many were on holiday, Awami League leader Haji Salim's men reappeared and razed the building, known locally as Jahaj Bari as it looked like a ship, locals claimed.

The building, made in the 19th century and considered to be one of the oldest commercial buildings in Dhaka, was famed for its aesthetic value. It was among the 2,200 archaeologically significant buildings the High Court directed in 2018 not to demolish or modify.

On top of that, the land belongs to Waqf estate, which makes Waqf administration's permit mandatory for any demolition or development work there. Handing over of Waqf land is illegal too without the permit of Waqf administration.

No one has taken any permission for the demolition, a Waqf administration official had said after the building was torn down.

Rules and regulations could not stop Haji Salim, the lawmaker of Dhaka-7. In fact, Salim was present during the demolition and had told police that he had bought the three-storey building, sources said.

A number of traders, who had possession of shops in Jahaj Bari, claimed that Haji Salim forced eight such traders to relinquish their claim in exchange of measly amount of money.

"Those who did not agree to sell their possessions were taken to the torture cell of Salim's son Erfan Mohammad Salim, and were tortured," said a local yesterday, wishing anonymity.

The arrest of Erfan following the assault of navy official Lt Wasif Ahmed Khan unveiled some of the misdeeds of the father-son duo.

Jahaj Bari is just one example of grabbing properties.

The family took over high-value land, including some belonging to Waqf estate, and even vested properties and shops in different parts of Old Dhaka, The Daily Star learnt after talking to at least two dozen locals.

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## EXTRAJUDICIAL KILLINGS 10 US senators for sanctions on Rab high-ups

Write to Trump admin; Rab denies allegations

STAR REPORT

Ten US senators from the Republican and the Democratic parties have called on the Trump administration to impose targeted sanctions on "senior commanders" of Bangladesh's Rab, which they said have reportedly killed more than 400 people extrajudicially since 2015.

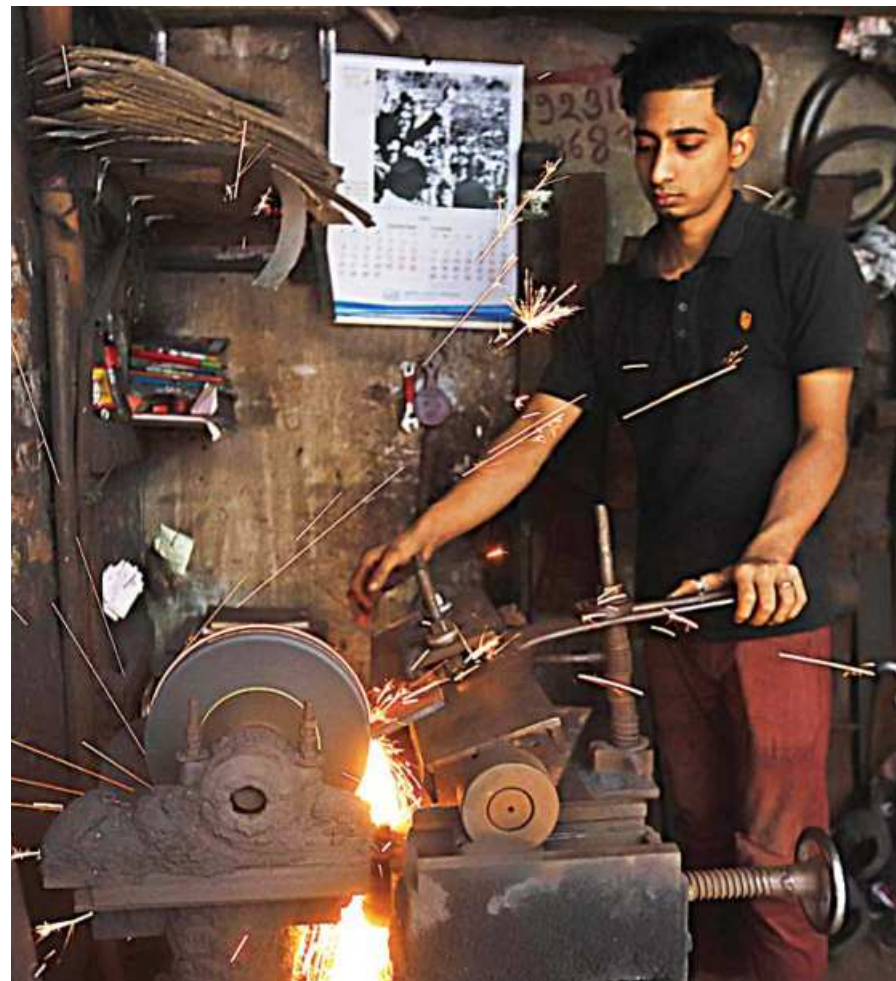
Senator Bob Menendez, ranking member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and Senator Todd Young led eight other senators to make the call in a bipartisan letter to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Secretary of the Treasury Steven Mnuchin.

The senators urged the administration to impose targeted sanctions on senior Rab commanders under applicable authorities, including the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act and Section 7031 (c) of the FY 2020 Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, according to a statement the US Senate Committee on Foreign Relations issued on Tuesday.

Contacted, Rab Director (legal and media) Lt Col Ashik Billah said Rab was not involved in extrajudicial killings under any circumstances. All Rab operations adhere to specific rules and regulations.

"Basically, occasional incidents of exchange of shooting take place with

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A man works at a lathe shop in Islambagh area of Lalbagh in the capital with no safety gear whatsoever. The least that he could do was wear safety glasses to avert injuries to the eyes in case something went wrong. There is no record on how many people of such professions get injured, but incidents are not uncommon, the workers said. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

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