

# It was illegal

SC asks govt to refund Tk 615cr collected from businesses during army-backed caretaker rule

SHAKHAWAT LITON and ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The government has to return Tk 615 crore to 17 companies and several businesspeople that were forced to deposit the amount with Bangladesh Bank as tax on their alleged hidden money during the last caretaker government's tenure.

The companies and businesspeople yesterday won a legal battle at the Supreme Court, which rejected the BB's appeals against 11 High Court verdicts ordering the government to return the money.

NAME OF COMPANY	AMOUNT (IN TAKA)
Bashundhara Group	256 cr
The Consolidated Tea & Land (Bangladesh) Ltd	237 cr
S Alam Group	60 cr
Eastern Housing Ltd	35 cr
Unique Group	27 cr

A four-member SC bench headed by Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha delivered the verdict after dismissing the 11 appeals.

Reasoning of the SC verdict will be known after the release of its full text.

The companies include S Alam Steel Ltd, Meghna Cement Mills Ltd, Bashundhara Paper Mills Ltd, Unique Hotel and Resort Ltd, Eastern Housing Ltd and the Consolidated Tea and Land (Bangladesh) Ltd.

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Police wait outside as a Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team conducts a raid on a militant hideout in Sitakunda's Premtala area yesterday morning. Four suspected militants got killed and 10 bombs were defused during the raid. The bomb disposal unit found three suicide vests in the den.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

## Tigers revert to type

SAKEB SUBHAN from Colombo

Three wickets for six runs in seven balls. That was enough to undo all the hard work that Bangladesh had done for most of the first two days to get into the driving seat in their 100th Test match, the second of a two-Test series against Sri Lanka that Bangladesh trail 0-1. Sri Lanka had scored 338, which was powered by Dinesh Chandimal's 138 and to an extent the conservative tactics that allowed the home team to recover from an overnight score of 238 for seven. But Bangladesh, having gotten to 192 for two with 3.2 overs left in the day, displayed their inability to sustain a performance through a Test day as they collapsed to 214 for five to surrender all the hard-won initiative to Sri Lanka at the P Sara Oval in Colombo yesterday.



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## 4 militants killed in Ctg raid

Woman wearing suicide vest among dead; body of a child also found at the busted den; two SWAT members hurt during the 19-hr operation

STAR REPORT

When the SWAT members were on the roof of the "militant den" in Chittagong's Sitakunda early yesterday morning, three militants charged towards them up the staircase with grenades in their hands. A fourth militant, a woman, was right behind the three wearing a "suicide vest".

The SWAT members went behind their shields and opened fire. Shouting "Allahu Akbar", the three suspects tried to hurl the grenades at the SWAT personnel but they exploded near them and tore their bodies apart.

The explosions also injured two SWAT personnel and blew off the corrugated iron sheet roof of the staircase.

The woman died after being shot. She fell to the ground before she could blow herself up.

This is how the 28-minute SWAT operation,

"I passed a sleepless night praying for the safety of my family.... I felt like we got a new life when police and fire service men brought us out after cutting the window grills in the morning."

SABINA YASMIN

WHO WAS TRAPPED INSIDE CHHAYANEER FOR OVER 16 HOURS

Additional SP of Chittagong district police headquarters Habibur Rahman said the cops also recovered the body of a child, aged around three to four months, just beside the body of the female "militant".

None of the suspects was identified.

The injured SWAT members were admitted to Combined Military Hospital in Chittagong with splinter injuries.

Sanwar Hossain, additional deputy commissioner of bomb disposal unit of Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit, said they diffused 10 bombs, including seven powerful ones, and explosives of three suicide vests found in two backpacks near the bodies.

The unit completed defusing all explosives around 6:00pm.

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RELATED STORY, PHOTOS ON PAGE 3

## Bangabandhu's birthday today

UNB, Dhaka

The 97th birth anniversary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman is being observed today.

The day is celebrated as the National Children's Day. It is also a public holiday.

On this day in 1920, the architect of

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## 'Huji militant' killed in B'baria police raid

STAR REPORT

An alleged member of banned militant outfit Harkat-ul-Jihad-al-Islami (Huji) was killed in police firing during a raid in Brahmanbaria's Kasba upazila early yesterday.

Moreover, a suspected Huji member was arrested in Mymensingh hours later.

Deceased Tajul Islam Mahmud alias Mama Hujur, 45, is a resident of Sadullapur village in Habiganj's Nabiganj upazila.

Police said five of its members were treated at Kasba Upazila Health Complex for minor injuries. They are sub-inspectors Belal Hossain and Nurul Haq, assistant sub-inspectors Mohiuddin and Nazimuddin and constable Ibrahim.

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PHOTO: AFP

With four overs to go Bangladesh slumped from a strong 192-2 to 214-5, losing three wickets, including that of Sabbir Rahman, on the second day of the second Test against Sri Lanka at the P Sara Oval in Colombo yesterday.

## Even divorce could not keep her safe

'Ex-husband' kills banker in her flat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Arifun Nesa Arifa married her childhood-friend-turned lover without her parents' consent and then quickly became disillusioned as she was subjected to abuse and torture. She finally divorced her husband to escape from the soured marriage.

Nearly six months later, the 25-year-old banker was seen bleeding from a stab injury to her neck yesterday in her Central Road residence in the capital.

As she was taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, she died

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Arifun Nesa

## NEWS ANALYSIS

## Separation that never ends

SHAKHAWAT LITON

An unhappy Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha on Tuesday said that the judiciary was being held hostage by the government's non-issuance of a gazette notification regarding disciplines and conducts of lower court judges.

He made the remarks as the government's repeatedly asked for more time to issue the gazette notification.

Making the rules in line with the apex court's directives is one of the required measures for effective separation of the

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