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**ORIENTAL BANK SCAM**  
**Ex-MD Koyes**  
**Sami sent**  
**to jail**  
**Salman denied bail**  
COURT CORRESPONDENT

Former managing director (MD) of Oriental Bank Limited Chowdhury Koyes Sami was sent to the Dhaka Central Jail as his petitions for bail were rejected after he surrendered before a Dhaka court yesterday in connection with embezzlement of Tk504 crore.

Judge Momin Ullah of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court passed the order when Sami along with his lawyers appeared before the court and sought bail.

On January 18 and 25, the Oriental Bank filed two criminal cases with Tejgaon and Kotwali police stations against Orion Group chief Obaidul Karim, Sami

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**AUGUST 21 GRENADE ATTACK**

## Home takes up case for probe, quick disposal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has recognised the August 21 assassination attempt on Awami League (AL) chief Sheikh Hasina as a sensational case and registered it with the home ministry's monitoring cell for proper investigation and quick disposal.

Overlooked during the BNP-Jamaat-led alliance rule, the case of August 21, 2004 grenade attack on an AL rally was given due priority when it was listed at the monitoring cell last month.

The grisly attack, which killed 22 people including AL's women affairs secretary Ivy Rahman and

injured over 200, topped the list of 12 sensational cases the home ministry discussed at a meeting yesterday to review the progress of their investigation.

"We are working hard on these cases," Home Secretary Abdul Karim told reporters after the meeting.

During the four-party alliance's rule the investigators arrested some people on suspicion in connection with the August 21 grenade attack. One of the arrestees, petty criminal George Mia, gave confessional statement before a court that underworld gang Seven-Star Group led by most wanted criminal Subrata Bain Shuvro carried out

the attack.

However, inconsistency and contradictions in George Mia's statement dated June 26, 2005 "disclosing the plans and action of the August 21 grenade attacks" caused widespread scepticism.

The poorly woven story of George lacks rationality and has raised doubt about its accuracy. The statement does not mention who ordered the carnage and why, who brought the grenades and from where. George even told the magistrate that he does not know the difference between grenades and bombs.

The validity of George's statement was seriously questioned

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**INDEPENDENCE DAY**

## Security beefed up fearing militant attack

SHAHEEN MOLLAH

The government has beefed up security all over the country in apprehension of bomb attacks by militants on the Independence Day.

A large number of police and members of various intelligence agencies were deployed yesterday at key installations across the country. The law enforcers are also conducting more strict body and vehicle searches at almost 300 temporary check posts set up around the capital.

"A threat was issued by JMB

[Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh] on the occasion of the Independence Day. As such, we have taken foolproof measures to avert any incident," Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Commissioner Naim Ahmed told the Daily Star last night.

He however said it was very common for countries all over the world to receive such threats ahead of their independence or national days.

Apart from 4,500 DMP members, members from intelligences agencies and Rapid Action

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## Independence day today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The nation celebrates today the 36th Independence Day and National Day to pay tributes to the martyrs, who sacrificed their lives for independence.

On March 26, 1971, independence of Bangladesh was formally declared, leading to the Liberation War against the Pakistani occupation forces and resulting in the emergence of a sovereign state on the global map.

After the Pakistani forces brutally cracked down on the unarmed people of the then East Pakistan on the night of March 25, 1971, the Bangladeshis fought for independence under the leadership of Bangabandhu and joined an all-out guerrilla war.

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman declared Bangladesh's independence at 00:30 hours on March 26 after the Pakistani crackdown, just an hour before he was taken prisoner from his Dhanmondi Road-32 residence.

People at large took up arms, Bangalee policemen and paramilitia men and army personnel defected and trained the people for war. They fought without proper food, shelter, training, or firearms. But it was the determination to free their motherland and the all-out support of the people that finally saw the birth of a nation nine months after March 26, 1971.

After many years of political and economic exploitation, the Bangladeshis' national sentiments

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## Bird flu found in Jamalpur farms

9,000 chickens already sold

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Avian Influenza virus has been detected in three poultry farms in Jamalpur, senior officials of the Department of Livestock Services disclosed yesterday quoting a laboratory report.

The director general of the livestock department yesterday afternoon submitted the report to the fisheries and livestock secretary seeking directives for initiating preventive measures in Jamalpur where the virus had been detected following similar detections in six

poultry farms in Savar and Gazipur a few days earlier.

"We received the report from Thailand on Saturday and have come to submit it to the ministry," Sunil Chandra Ghosh, director general of the Department of Livestock Services told reporters yesterday in a news briefing arranged by the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock in its conference room.

Dr Mohammad Abdul Motaleb, director of administration and animal health of the livestock

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## Poultry industry faces uncertainty

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of World Poultry Science Association Bangladesh Branch (WPSA-BB) yesterday said the latest outbreak of the bird flu virus will hit hard the export potentials of the country's poultry products.

They feared an imminent disruption of the industry if the menace cannot be handled carefully. "A few poultry growers had recently started exporting poultry products to some Middle Eastern countries, North Eastern region of India, and Nepal, and the present outbreak will hit hard this effort," said WPSA-BB Secretary General MASaleque.

Cashing on Bangladesh's reputation for remaining free from the bird flu virus, a few entrepreneurs started entering some new poultry markets, which even include Europe, he added.

Saleque, also a high official of Brac, said different microcredit providers injected about 20 percent credit to the industry while different government and private banks contributed another 20 percent. These organisations may face recovery crisis in the wake of the recent invasion of bird flu in the country.

WPSA-BB President Mashiur Rahman said the outbreak will

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## FAQs on bird flu

1. What is Bird Flu?

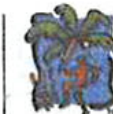
Bird flu or avian influenza is an infectious disease of birds ranging from mild to severe form of illness. All birds are thought to be susceptible to bird flu, though some species are more resistant to infection than others. Some forms of bird flu can cause illness to humans.

2. What causes bird flu?

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## Announcement

This year's Independence Day supplement of The Daily Star is dedicated to the young. The 28-page colour tabloid supplement titled "VOICES OF THE YOUNG: VISION FOR A NEW BANGLADESH," containing the well-articulated views of the young appears with today's issue.



ICC  
WORLD CUP 07

## Historic Tigers

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh beat the odds on a rainy day in Port of Spain to write a new chapter in their cricket history by reaching the Super Eight of the Cricket World Cup with a seven-wicket victory over Bermuda yesterday.

Millions of Bangladeshi fans' dream came true when the Tigers, having restricted Bermuda to 94-9 in a rain affected 21-overs a-side Group B match at the Queen's Park Oval, reached a revised target of 96-3 in 17.3 overs.

Tamim Iqbal (1), Shahriar Nafees (12) and Aftab Ahmed (7)

returned to the tent with 37 runs on board but Shakib Al Hasan (26 off 35 balls) -- who hit the winning boundary off Leverock -- and Mohammad Ashraful (29 off 32 balls) showed no nerves during an unbroken 59-run fourth wicket stand to guide Bangladesh home.

Bangladesh who began their campaign with stunning victory over India, qualified for the second stage for the first time to exorcise the ghost of 2003 when they had lost all matches after an unsuccessful attempt in 1999.

With four points from two wins, they finished group runners-up

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INDEPENDENCE AWARD TO ARMY, BRAC

## CA for hunger-free Bangladesh

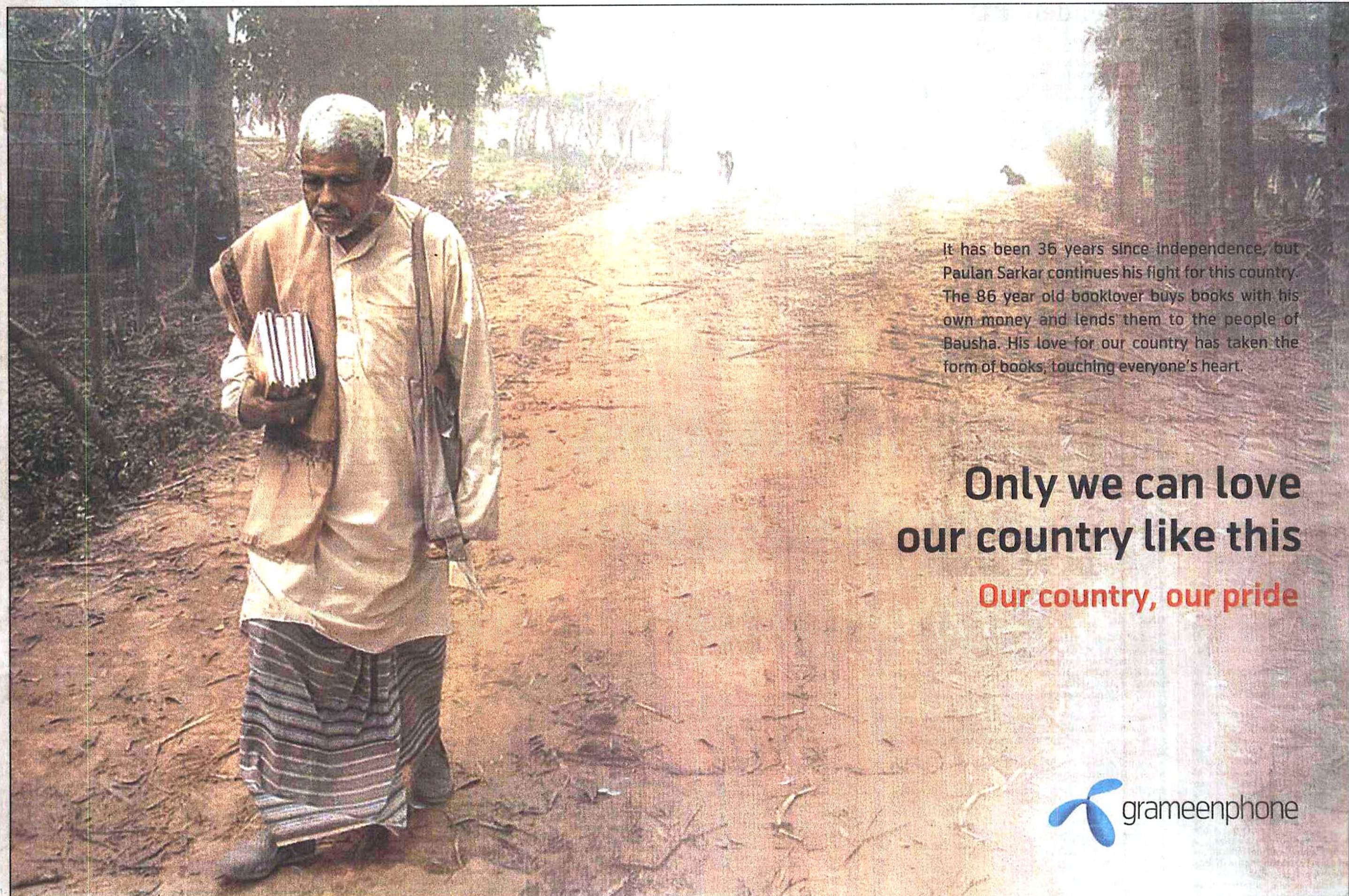
UNB, Dhaka

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed yesterday said that the nation would have to join anew a great struggle for building a forward-looking democratic Bangladesh free from hunger, poverty and exploitation.

This overdue national task has to be accomplished to attain the objectives of independence, by accepting temporary sufferings and sacrificing personal comfort in greater interest of the nation, he said.

Fakhruddin was addressing the function on the occasion of distribution of the Independence Award 2007, the highest national award,

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It has been 36 years since independence, but Paulan Sarkar continues his fight for this country. The 86 year old booklover buys books with his own money and lends them to the people of Bausha. His love for our country has taken the form of books, touching everyone's heart.

**Only we can love**  
**our country like this**  
**Our country, our pride**

