

এবারের সংগ্রাম মুক্তির সংগ্রাম  
এবারের সংগ্রাম স্বাধীনতার সংগ্রাম

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BANGLADESH  
ENTERS THE 25TH YEAR OF  
INDEPENDENCE

# TRIUMPHS AND TRIALS

*Life is lived forward but understood backward*  
— Kierkegaard

We celebrate today our entry into the 25TH YEAR OF INDEPENDENCE. By any measure, it is a milestone in any nation's life. So it is in ours. Those turbulent and history-making days in 1971 were filled with the dream of independence, the courage of claiming our own place among the states of the world, the determination to give our people a better deal, and the self-confidence that we can achieve what we have set out to. To the extent that we were able to establish a sovereign independent state, we had succeeded. But, how much of the dream of liberation we have been able to realise; how much of the promise of our struggle we have been able to keep; how much of the commitment we made to our people we have remained true to, are the questions that we ask today.

For answers, we requested eminent experts in different fields to give us their impressions of where Bangladesh has travelled over the last twenty-four years of its independent existence, covering such areas as governance, politics, economic reforms, education, women advancement, human resource development, health issues, foreign policy, the arts, etc. For each field, we requested the expert to give an overview of the past twenty-four years. Together, the articles contained in this supplement present the TRIUMPHS AND TRIALS of these years. We hope our humble effort will help our readers to have some idea of where we have come as a nation, and where we need to travel to catch up with the rest of the world, and more importantly, to KEEP THE PROMISE WE MADE TO OUR PEOPLE.

— Editor