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EDITOR'S NOTE

BANGLADESH becoming independent was the inevitable conclusion of decades of struggle against the blatant subjugation that deprived us of our basic cultural, economic and political rights. It was also the beginning of a momentous transition from a state of oppression to one of glorious resistance. The genocide that began on March 25, 1971 and the impassioned direction given by a fearless, charismatic Bangabandhu left no doubt in our minds that it was time to fight for our destiny of being a free, independent country.

As we celebrate our 46th Independence Day, we look forward to the immense possibilities this nation holds. We also look back in recognition to the great sacrifices of our martyrs, the men and women who worked tirelessly to give us the independence we now take for granted. We have come a long way in terms of development where the country is favourably poised with its sustained six percent plus GDP growth rate, fulfillment of MDGs ahead of schedule and confidently stepping into SDGs to be a dynamic co-traveller with the emerging economies.

With rudimentary training and inadequate arms but overpowering love for our motherland, we, the people of this nation, united as one indomitable force, for the sake of freedom. This supplement includes firsthand accounts of the Liberation War, interviews of ordinary citizens who lived through the horrors unleashed by an occupying foreign force on an unarmed populace, and writings of political developments that led to the March 26 declaration.

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