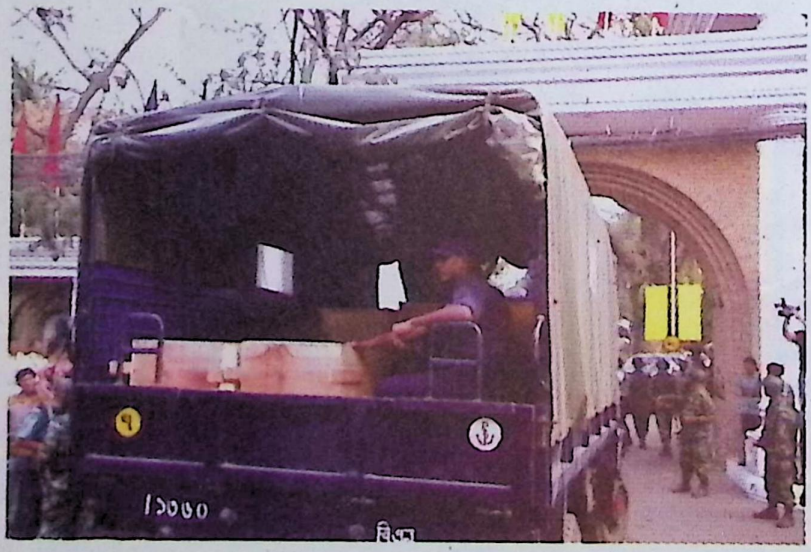
One Off



ALY ZAKER

Resistance against the Culture of Impunity

We are just about a couple of weeks away from our Independence Day. This is a very special day for us and calls for celebrating with pomp and magnificence. So we will, but at the same time our hearts would bleed for the people we have lost in the recent carnage at Peelkhana, people in uniform and without. This heinous act has put such a blemish on the entire nation that would be hard to erase. A lot of theories as to the objective of this act have been advanced by various people. I am sure, given the time, we might be able to know why and how this happened. Given the time, it also is true, that people would forget that such a thing ever happened right in the centre of the town that has seen so many glorious and gruesome events. Given the time we would get busy with our mundane chores. For, 'time is the greatest healer'. But little would we know what is marking time around the corner that would one day hit us and hit us hard again. We would then wake up from our slumber and start yapping away like some of our electronic medium did during this tragedy or put our heads together again to come up with imaginary theories that would be of little or no significance whatsoever. At the risk of being considered bitter or even a cynic I must confess that, in the ultimate analysis, we has been reduced to a navel gazing nation that does not care to think or act to really address these issues up front or ask as to how we have been reduced to a silent observer of what have been happening around us or how have we shirked our responsibilities over the years that has brought us to this state. A nation comprising people of diverse demographic, psychographic or ethnographic composition has to be more or less equally responsible for what has been happening to the country. But usually it is the class consisting of people that are upwardly mobile and are constantly in the look out for worldly possessions that encourages a culture of impunity in our society.



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Such is their greed that they do not care to think about what their malevolence may bring to their own successive generations, leave alone the nation. Therefore we see a newly emerging class of moneyed people who have no respect for law or an orderly society in a nation where a majority of the ordinary citizens groan in a state of abysmal poverty. This culture, practiced and spread by a handful people involved in various professions---from the