

An End to Impunity

DR. MIZANUR RAHMAN explores the issue of trying the war crimes of 1971 in the context of international law.

THE phrase *juddhaporadhider bichar* can sometimes give you a misleading impression. If you take the words in the sense of "trial of war criminals" then there is an apprehension of losing the complete sense it tries to convey about the ongoing trial of international crimes suspects. The words confine the meaning within only "war crimes", which should be its genus "international crimes", i.e. war crimes, genocide, crimes against humanity, and crimes against peace and international law.

From this perspective, it is suggested that the more accurate phrase should be *juddhokalin shonghotito oporadh*, i.e. crimes committed during the war of 1971. The use of words like *juddhaporadhider bichar* or *manobotar biruddhe oporadh* by the media and the public tends to bewilder the people at large and provides a space for the critics. However, the much-awaited trial of the alleged perpetrators of "international crimes" committed during the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War is in the queue. It is a matter of the highest interest and concern for both the national and the international observers as to how the constituted investigation agency and the tribunal function. How the government responds and helps the prosecution is also a matter to be seriously looked at.

An end to impunity

It is because of the culture of impunity, from the unprecedented Bengali-massacres in 1971