A Tale of Neglect

Despite strong public demand, the process of the trial of war criminals remains neglected on the government's agenda, says AMAN-UD-DOWLA.

DESPITE the strong commitment of the Awami League (AL) government with respect to the war crimes trial, little progress has been made. Lack of logistics and coordination have caused delays in the setting up of the tribunal, while the investigation and prosecution teams leave much to be desired. Two years into the government's tenure, the nation's aspirations of seeing the war criminals being brought to book are yet to be fulfilled with the only activity surrounding the matter is the grand speeches and irrelevant comments of political leaders on the issue.

According to the *International Crimes (Tribunals) Act 1973*, it is the government's job to set up a tribunal, which includes the appointment of investigation and prosecution teams and providing them with highly experienced experts, adequate staff and logistical support. This would ensure an independent tribunal and in turn, justice.

The case is not one of Government v. War Criminals but State v. War Criminals, and the government's only, though crucial role, is to set up the tribunal, meeting international standards. Unfortunately, however, the attitude of the government is little short of careless. The role of the concerned ministries has been frustrating, the appointed investigation and prosecution teams are wanting and the delays are

