

PHOTO: STAR FILE

Shooting the Messenger

MD SHAHNAWAZ KHAN CHANDAN

Bangladesh is a dangerous place for journalists. A dysfunctional democracy, criminalisation of politics and social unrest all contribute to raising the bar of risk-taking. According to New York based Committee to Protect Journalists, at least 14 Bangladeshi journalists have been killed since 1992. To make matters even more grievous, every year many journalists are being harassed for their incorrigible nosiness. Bangladeshi politicians and their henchmen are trying hard to muzzle these voices.

Ordinary Bangladeshis are hardly happy with the state of law and order, so much so that they go on protests demanding the assurance of a 'natural death' from the government. In this situation, it seems inevitable that those who sometimes expose the dark sides of our big fishes will not be shown mercy. The latest incident centring MP Golam Maula Rony has become a popular topic among talk show viewers. He ruthlessly flogged the journalist and cameraman of Independent TV as they went to his office to collect news for their crime based programme "Talash". His TV intellectual image suffered a major dent after this reckless attack on journalists. In fact, this is not an isolated incident. Keeping with tradition our politicians inherit this character of intimidating the media from their predecessors.