

# STAR WEEKEND

in other news...

NOVEMBER 8, 2019

Journalist, writer  
and blogger killings:

# Impunity under the radar

In the last 23 years, at least 32 journalists, publishers and writers have been killed, but only four of their murder cases ever saw the light of justice.

For some, the trials are going on year after year, while others have lost at court. Some of their names we know from recent memory, but the further back the case gets, the fainter our recollection becomes. Their names are not familiar—after all, how many know that in 1996 a local journalist of Nilphamari called Mohammad Quamruzzaman was shot dead by security officers while covering a crackdown on protestors of the opposition party. Fewer people know that this case is a startling example of impunity; no charge sheet was ever prepared, no trial ever took place.

Between 1996 and now, there are at least 13 cases of journalist killings with a similar fate of complete impunity, not least being the infamous Sagar-Runi murder which never went beyond the investigation stage, the probe report having been delayed 66 times. How the police can miss the deadline 66 times, one must ask. But while the names of Sarwar Sagar and Meherun Runi are common household talk, few know that Syed Farroque Ahmed of Sreemangal suffered a similar fate.

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