

Sagar-Runi murder : Report submission deferred for 115th time

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Online Desk : A court in Dhaka today (Jan 27) fixed March 2 as the new deadline for submitting the investigation report in the case involving the murders of journalist couple Sagar Sarowar and Meherun Runi, marking the 115th extension of the deadline. Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate GM Farhan Ishtiaq issued the order after granting the prosecution's request for more time. The journalist couple was brutally murdered at their rented flat in the city's West Rajabazar on February 11, 2012, in the presence of their (then) four-year-old son Mahir Sarwar Megh. Runi's brother Nawser Alam filed a murder case with Sher-e-Banglanagar Police Station.

At that time, the Detective Branch (DB) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) was entrusted with the charge of the investigation into the murder case which was later transferred to the RAB. The elite crime-busting agency has failed to submit the investigation report in court after taking time 111 times in the last 12 years. On September 30, 2024, the High Court ordered the formation of a high-power task force through the Ministry of Home Affairs to probe the case, removing RAB from the charge.

The government on October 23, 2024, formed a four-member task force to investigate the double murder. The task force was formed through a notification from the Ministry of Home Affairs. The notification asked the task force to submit its probe findings in six months. The PBI was named the taskforce convener though the notice did not reveal the names of the other members. The task force also includes one representative not below the rank of additional deputy inspector general, or DIG, of Police Headquarters, one representative of the Criminal Investigation Department, or CID, of the same rank and one representative of the rank of RAB director.

The High Court on October 16, 2024, released the full text of its September 30 order that had directed to shift the authority of probing the journalist couple Sagar Sarwar and Meherun Nahar Runi murder case from the Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) to a high-powered task force to be formed by the Home Ministry.