



The end of 2017 witnessed the return of a number of individuals who had disappeared in the second half of the year. Most of the 15 individuals, who had been missing since August last year, either returned to their respective families in the last three months or were shown as arrested based on various cases.

For instance, both Mubashar Hasan from North South University and journalist Utpal Das were found after close to two months. Party leaders Syed Sadat Ahmed from the BNP and MM Aminur Rahman from the Bangladesh Kalyan Party, both of whom were missing for four months, were shown as arrested by the police towards the end of December.

The returning spree—regardless of whether or not the individuals were shown as arrested—towards the end of

## ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES

# THE ONES WHO NEVER RETURNED

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the year did help many families and friends breathe easy, allowing them to end the year on a better note. But not everyone who “disappeared” last year has had a happy ending though.

According to human rights body Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK), at least 30 out of the 60 individuals who were victims of

enforced disappearance last year are yet to be traced. 23-year-old Abdullah Al Faruk from Rajshahi, son of freedom fighter Mohammad Jahiruddin, is one of them.

Faruk, who went missing on July 18 last year, had just given his HSC exams and used to work as a part-time electrician. On the evening of July 18, he received a call from a Torikul Islam, who had requested him to come home to fix

something. As Torikul's house was far away, Faruk took his father's bike and his neighbour along with him.

According to Jahiruddin, Faruk was picked up by people who identified themselves as members of the Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) from Torikul's residence. RAB, however, subsequently denied any involvement in the abduction.

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