



## From cover

Ahmed was the editor of a local publication of Sreemangal called Pubali Barta, and on August 3, 2002, his mutilated body was found on the rail tracks. He had gone missing two months before that. The case died along with the man—other than a 2002 post by Reporters Without Borders, there is no information available on who killed him and why.

Even those whose investigations were completed are having to wait for decades for justice. The trial of the murder of Saiful Alam Mukul, editor of the Jashore-based Daily Runner, has been going on for 21 years. He was killed by a handmade bomb thrown at him on the night of August 30, 1998. After over two decades, his family still hold press conferences demanding justice—the latest of which was held on his death anniversary this year. According to media reports, his brother Kabirul Alam Dipu addressed the reporters and said, “It would be better if I were not a brother of Mukul.”

And who can forget Humayun Azad. The eminent writer’s case is still unsolved 14 years on.

Most of them were district correspondents from outside of Dhaka, who were at the forefront of local drug wars and militant activities, but their cases remain unsolved. Almost all of them died in violent, pre-mediated murders. Between 2001 and 2004, four journalists in Khulna were murdered allegedly by terrorists of Purba Banglar Communist Party and its offshoots, but none of those cases saw the light of day. In fact, one of those cases—that of Sheikh Harunur Rashid who was shot point-blank at the chest—was dismissed in court, while another, that of Shukur Hossain, also shot, completed the trial without convicting anyone.

These trends bear bad news for the father of Ihsan Ibn Reza Fagun, a student journalist of Priyo.com, who was killed in May this year. His father, Kakon Reza, also a regular columnist in different newspapers, finds his faith faltering. “Fagun may have been killed for his reportage on a real estate company. We all know who the hit-man is but he is still out of reach,” says Reza. Meanwhile, he writes about his son in newspapers, making sure that Fagun will not be forgotten, the way many have been.



**Mohammad Quamruzzaman**  
Reporter for Neel Sagar

Killed on Feb 19, 1996 – shot.  
No chargesheet was ever prepared, no trial ever happened.

Case status: Complete impunity.

**Bazlur Rahman**  
Reporter of Chuadanga-based periodical Dinbodoler Kagoj

Killed on June 12, 1998 – missing.  
A case was filed but dismissed at court.

Case status: Complete impunity.

**Saiful Alam Mukul**  
Editor of Jashore-based Daily Runner

Killed on Aug 30, 1998 – bomb attack.  
Charge sheet submitted by Criminal Investigation Department, mentioned names of 24 accused, including former minister and BNP standing committee member Tariqul Islam. However, Tariqul’s name was later dropped from the case by the High Court.

Case status: Trial going on for 21 years.

**Mir Illias Hossain**  
Editor of Jhenaidah-based Dainik Bir Darpan

Killed on January 15, 2000 – shot.  
The police station said they do not know of this case.

Case status: Complete impunity

**Shamsur Rahman**  
Special Correspondent of Janakantha

Killed on July 16, 2000 – shot.  
Criminal Investigation Department submitted a charge sheet, accusing 16 people, five of whom were journalists, including Farazi Ajmal Hossain, special correspondent of Daily Ittefaq.

Case status: Trial yet to begin.



**Nahor Ali**  
Correspondent of Bengali daily Anirban

Killed on April 21, 2001 – stabbed.  
After completion of a 10-month investigation, police submitted a charge-sheet against 16 terrorists.

Case status: No trial, complete impunity

**Sheikh Harunur Rashid**  
Reporter of Khulna based Dainik Purbanchal

Killed on March 2, 2002 – shot.  
The case was dismissed by the court and nobody was charged.

Case status: Complete impunity.

**Shukur Hossain**  
Reporter of Khulna-based Anirban

Killed on July 5, 2002 – shot/drowned.  
Investigation officer Sub-inspector Kazi Abu Salek pressed charges against 35 alleged operatives of outlawed New Biplabi Communist Party (NBCP) on December 15, 2002.

Case status: 35 accused in charge-sheet acquitted. Complete impunity.

**Syed Farroque Ahmed**  
Editor of Srimangal-based Pubali Barta

Killed on Aug 3, 2002 – mutilated.  
His mutilated body was found by police on 3 August, more than two months after he disappeared. Police have no leads in the case.

Case status: Complete impunity

**Manik Chandra Saha**  
Ekushey Padak winner, Khulna-based journalist of New Age

Killed on Jan 15, 2004 – bomb attack.  
Chargesheet was given the same year framing several members of Purba Banglar Communist Party.

Case status: 9 sentenced for life on Nov 30, 2016. It took 13 years.



**Humayun Kabir Balu**  
Editor of Daily Janmabhum

Killed on June 27, 2004 – bomb attack.  
Judge made the observation that the charge sheet was very weak – “serious absence of necessary witnesses/proof.”

Case status: All the accused were set free due to lack of evidence in 2008.

**Humayun Azad**  
Writer and Ekushey Padak winner

Killed on Aug 12, 2004 – hacked to death.  
Hacked to death for his critique of Islamist fundamentalist politics. 5 charged of whom 3 are on the run

Case status: Trial ongoing for 14 years. In 2014 the High Court had directed the lower court to dispose of the case within six months.

**Kamal Hossain**  
Local correspondent for daily Ajker Kagoj

Killed on Aug 22, 2004 – abducted.  
Abducted and brutally murdered by unknown assailants in the early morning in Manikcchari upazila of Khagrachhari. He, was the general secretary of the Manikcchari Press Club

Case status: On March 21, 2005, The Chittagong Speedy tribunal sentenced one person to death and 11 other to life imprisonment. 14 others were acquitted.

**Dipankar Chakrabarty**  
Vice-president of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and Exec editor of Bogura-based Durjoy Bangla.

Killed on Oct 3, 2004 – decapitation.  
At least nine investigation officers dealt with the case and the police submitted final reports in the sensational case four times but the family declined all of them alleging that actual culprits are not being charged. The case is with the Bogura detective branch.

Case status: Charges yet to be framed.



**Sheikh Belaluddin**  
Correspondent of the Daily Sangram

Killed on Feb 11, 2005 – bomb attack.  
In July 2005, a former leader of Islami Chhatra Shibir confessed to taking part in the deadly bombing. He was released on bail 3 weeks later.

Case status: Complete impunity.

**Gautam Das**  
Reporter of Samakal

Killed on Nov 17, 2005 – strangled.  
Although colleagues were not aware of any specific threat against the reporter, they said that Das had written about sensitive topics such as the activities of Islamist militant groups, according to Media Watch

Case status: Five sentenced for life, four acquitted.

**Sagar Sarowar**  
News editor of Maasranga Television  
**Meherun Runi**  
ATN Bangla senior reporter

Killed on Feb 12, 2012 – hacked to death.  
The Sagar-Runi murder trial probe report submission has been deferred 66 times till June 26, 2019

Case status: Complete impunity.

**Jamal Uddin**  
Reporter for Jashore-based Gramer Kagoj

Killed on June 15, 2012 – hacked to death.  
Jamal had previously filed a GD fearing for his life, but the police failed to protect him.

Case status: unknown.



**Talhad Ahmed Kabid**  
Reporter with Dainik Narsingdi Bani

Killed on Oct 23, 2012 – shot.  
Case has been filed against unknown persons.

Case status: Unknown.

**Ahmed Rajib Haider**  
Blogger

Hacked to death on his way out of his house in Mirpur. He was killed for his writings on aethism and for his role in the Shahbagh protests.

Case status: 2 sentenced to death and 6 others imprisoned in 2017.

**Delwar Hossain**  
Correspondent of Narayanganj-based daily, Samachar

Killed on March 28, 2014 – slit throat.  
7 were accused in a chargesheet submitted that very year.

Case status: Trial ongoing

# THE ONES WE FORGOT

Story: Zyma Islam, Nilima Jahan | Graphics: Shaer Reaz

## KEY:

Investigation not finished

Trial yet to begin

Trial ongoing

Perpetrators convicted

Dismissed/acquitted by court

Unknown