



# STORIES FROM '71 REMINISCES MIZANUR RAHMAN KHAN BIR PROTIK

NILIMA JAHAN

PHOTO: KAZI TAHSIN AGAZ APURBO

July 10, 1971.

The Pakistani army killed 10 innocent people at Kulkandi village of Islampur upazila, Jamalpur.

Dr Reazul Islam Khan from the same village, a father of two freedom fighters, was worried for his family's safety. He immediately called his brother-in-law Abdul Gafur Khan and his son Harunur Rashid Hiru to discuss how they could save themselves from the Pak army. But unfortunately the day after the meeting, the Pakistani army took Harunur Rashid Hiru with them, and he never returned.

This scared Reazul Islam Khan all the more. He told his third son, 18-year-old Mianur Rahman Khan (Mithu) to protect himself. "I cannot ensure your safety anymore," he said.

Mianur, who had just completed his matriculation examination from Guthail High School & College, could not think of a single way to save himself. Finding no other alternative, he and his cousin decided to cross the border on July 19, 1971. Who then knew the Mianur would become a valiant hero of '71 and be awarded with the title 'Bir Protik' in 1973, for his courage, and outstanding performance during the liberation war.

While spending the night with a huge number of refugees at a nearby mosque in Mahendraganj, Meghalaya, Mianur thought -- what is the use of such a life where he cannot even move independently. "Just like my two elder brothers, why could not I join the war?" he thought to himself.

So, the following morning, he wrote two separate letters to his brothers -- Nazrul Islam Khan and his cousin

Manzurul Ahsan Khan, stating his wish to become a freedom fighter for his country.

Meanwhile, he heard an announcement saying that those who want to take part in the liberation war are asked to be present in front of the Mahendraganj Thana the following day. On 21 July, Mian stood in line with numerous people and finally, his good height rewarded him to be selected for the mission.

During the freedom fighters' training sessions at Tura, Meghalaya, Mian along with his fellows learnt the detailed techniques of operating weapons. One day, they heard that a team of freedom fighters got attacked by the Pak army near Kamalpur Camp (Kamalpur was the camp of the Pakistani army, situated at Bakshiganj Upazila, Jamalpur district). Though they were not fully trained, they collected whatever weapons they found in the 'Qot' (the place where the weapons are kept). They took position and fought against the heavy mortar shell.

After the training, Mian joined Helal Fighter Company, and fought several operations under the leadership of Syed Sadaruzzaman Helal Bir Protik. In one of the operations, one of his fellows Amanullah Kabir (later, he was rewarded as Bir Uttam) died in heavy mortar shelling by the Pakistani Army. After two and a half months, when Mian was performing his patrol duties, he came across the remains of Amanullah Kabir and rescued them.

"Can you imagine how stressful it was for me?

Deceiving the Pakistani Army, putting the remains of my fellow mate in a gamchha, carrying it on my shoulder, and burying them in his own village -- it is impossible to express those feelings in words," says Mianur Rahman Khan Bir Protik.

Mianur took a separate special training at sector 11's Mahendraganj Subsector. After that training, the sector 11 commander Major Abu Taher Bir Uttam (Later, he was ranked as colonel) formed a group of front fighters, where he selected Mianur Rahman Khan.

After independence, Mianur Rahman Khan Bir Protik completed his Higher Secondary School Certificate from Bhawal Badre Alam Government College, Gazipur and bachelors from Ked-E-Azam College of the old part of Dhaka (presently, Government Shahid Suhrawardy College).

In 1977, he started his career as a lower division clerk at the Bangladesh Ordnance Factory. Later, he worked for BRAC as a programme officer, and finally served as the first assistant general manager (FAGM) at Janata Bank. Currently, he is retired and is living a content life with his wife -- Alefa Begum Monzu.

He was awarded the title of Bir Protik in the year 1973.

In mid November, 1971, under the leadership of his Commander, Mianur Rahman Khan and other fighters took position against Kamalpur camp. But somehow they failed to win the operation and Commander Abu Taher was seriously wounded.

But what Mian always takes pride in, is the fact that he and his three fellows were able to rescue their beloved commander.

"During the war, there were 18 major attacks held at Kamalpur camp and I took part as a front fighter in each of these operations", says Mianur. Everyone used to admire him in the battle field for his indomitable spirit.

Its stories like these that inspire us even today, to stand up to oppressors and take our country forward. Not only does Mianur Rahman Bir Protik instil within the young -- a feeling of pride, but also encourages them to learn more, do more research and make a mark on the world map, representing Bangladesh. ■

## | STAR PEOPLE |

## | QUIRKY SCIENCE |

## | FIVE THINGS |

## GLIMPSE OF FEATHERED DINOSAUR TAIL

Researchers from China, Canada, and the University of Bristol have discovered a dinosaur tail complete with its feathers trapped in a piece of amber.

The finding reported today in Current Biology helps to fill in details of the dinosaurs' feather structure and evolution, which can't be surmised from fossil evidence.

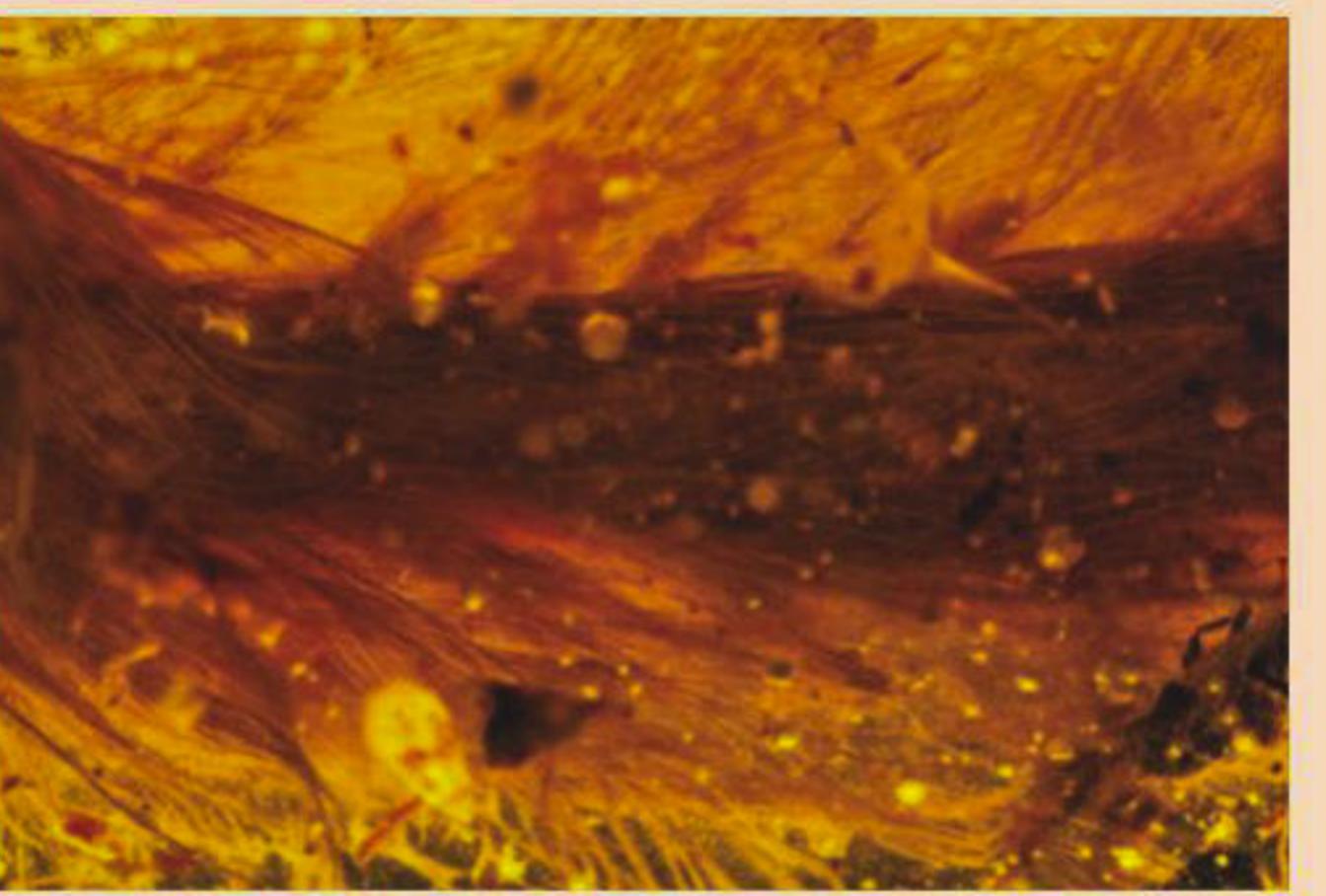
While the feathers aren't the first to be found in amber, earlier specimens have been difficult to definitively link to their source animal, the researchers say.

Ryan McKellar, from the Royal Saskatchewan Museum in Canada, said: "The new material preserves a tail

consisting of eight vertebrae from a juvenile; these are surrounded by feathers that are preserved in 3D and with microscopic detail.

"Many species are slipping away before we can even describe them," says IUCN Director General Inger Andersen. "This IUCN Red List update shows that the scale of the global extinction crisis may be even greater than we thought. Governments gathered at the UN biodiversity summit in Cancun have the immense responsibility to step up their efforts to protect our planet's biodiversity -- not just for its own sake but for human imperatives such as food security and sustainable development."

"We can be sure of the source because the vertebrae are not fused



Source: Sciedaily.com

of feathers running down each side. In other words, the feathers definitely are those of a dinosaur not a prehistoric bird."

The study's first author Lida Xing from the China University of Geosciences in Beijing discovered the remarkable specimen at an amber market in Myitkyina, Myanmar in 2015.

The amber piece was originally seen as some kind of plant inclusion and destined to become a curiosity or piece of jewellery, but Xing recognized its potential scientific importance and suggested the Dexu Institute of Palaeontology buy the specimen.

## DEVASTATING DECLINE FOR THE GIRAFFE

Over 700 newly recognized bird species have been assessed for the latest update of The IUCN Red List of Threatened SpeciesTM, and 11% of them are threatened with extinction. The update also reveals a devastating decline for the giraffe, driven by habitat loss, civil unrest and illegal hunting. The global giraffe population has plummeted by up to 40% over the last 30 years, and the species has been listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List.

Today's IUCN Red List update also includes the first assessments of wild oats, barley, mango and other crop wild relatives. These species are increasingly critical to food security, as their genetic diversity can help improve crop resistance to disease, drought and salinity.

The update was released at the 13th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP13) in Cancun, Mexico. The IUCN Red List now includes 85,604 species of which 24,307 are threatened with extinction.

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## | STRANGE PROFESSIONS |

## ETHICAL HACKERS

MD SHAHNAWAZ KHAN CHANDAN

Cyber security is one of the biggest concerns of all the big corporations and government agencies around the world. Hackers are always on the prowl to breach digital security system of the giant corporations and important government agencies. A few months ago, Chinese hackers shut down most of the websites of the Taiwanese government. Yahoo, one of the largest free email services confirmed that hackers gained access to the accounts information of a large portion of their subscribers. Although cyber security experts have been developing advanced hacking proof security system, there is no sign that hacking is slowing down. As a result, different government and multinational corporations started to raise an army of hackers of their own who breach the security of their employer's digital archive to detect their own security gaps. At present, ethical hacking that is hacking under permission to find out the security flaws is one of the most popular methods of preventing cyber crimes. And, these ethical hackers are highly prized by the employers all over the world. According to PayScale.com a certified ethical hacker usually earns 1,92000 US\$ per year. International Council of Electronic Commerce Consultants at USA provides Masters level course on ethical hacking and certify the ethical hackers with a tough, competitive exam. In 2016, the exam to be a certified ethical hacker has been updated to its 9th version to fight with the cunning techniques of the fast growing army of unethical hackers! ■

