



THUNDER VLOG

Mirza Abidur Rahman's motorcycle chronicles

#TRAVEL

Exploring Bangladesh's rich history

Eliza Binte Elahi's extraordinary story

Eliza Binte Elahi is a woman with many monikers and identities. She is a travel vlogger with over 28,000 followers on Facebook. She is a travelogue writer who contributes to major news outlets in Bangladesh and has also published two books. She is also an educator working as an assistant professor at the University of South East Asia. But more than anything else, she is a traveller who loves to explore Bangladesh and indeed the world to uncover all of its history, indulge in different cultures, and learn about its heritage.

Since her early years, Eliza often found herself gravitating towards anything and everything related to heritage and history. However, this fascination started to slowly manifest itself into a full-blown passion while she was pursuing her degree in English literature.

"I was doing a course on Greek and Roman Literature. Being someone who was naturally drawn towards history, this course had a huge impact on me and I found myself wanting to explore the world and learn all about it. It also motivated me to learn more about the history of my own land," Eliza answered, when asked about what kickstarted her journey.

Travelling, however, is not as easy as it sounds and Eliza's quest saw her having to overcome an array of obstacles. "Obviously, being a woman, getting permission from family for travelling is never easy. Society does not encourage women to travel, and even if you overcome that, there can be housing trouble, transport trouble, and social stigma towards travel attire which do not exactly align with many societies, particularly in Bangladesh districts," she lamented.

These obstacles have not been able to stop Eliza though. She travelled across international borders for the first time in 1999, with Nepal being her first country and since then, she has accumulated 53 countries under her belt. However, the journey is far from over.

"I want to visit all the countries in the world. I love travelling and continue writing books,

making travel documentaries, and creating digital content. I want to continue fuelling my love for it until the day I die," Elizabeth stated. When asked about her most favourite destinations so far, she mentioned the likes of Greece, Morocco, Egypt, Turkiye, Jordan, and Cambodia. She will be embarking on a new journey soon as she hopes to start travelling across Africa later this year.

As impressive as her international travel resume is, it is her adventures across Bangladesh and the change in the tourism landscape she is trying to bring about that really makes Eliza an iconic figure.

Eliza has come a very long way but she regretfully conceded that there is a lot that she still needs to achieve before realising the vision she has for Bangladesh's tourism sector. She provided us with insight into the numerous gaps that exist in our infrastructure, which include information inadequacy, lack of guides or a central travel agency, communication issues to name a few and the urgent need to mitigate these.

However, with that being said, she also shared with us her desire to bring about necessary changes through her work and platform.

"I want to use my platform to inspire and create young entrepreneurs who are invested in the tourism sector. I want to use my platform to empower more women through the tourism industry. Many countries use their tourism industry to bring economic prosperity and I want to help Bangladesh channel all of its untapped potential," she professed, when asked about her future plans.

By Irfan Aziz
Photo: Eliza Binte Elahi



To see the world and travel spontaneously is a pleasure few would resist. And if it is done on a motorcycle, what fun it will be! In recent years, motovlogging has become a very popular form of self-expression. Mirza Abidur Rahman, the creative force behind the YouTube channel THUNDER VLOG, has emerged as an aspiring motovlogger in Bangladesh, taking viewers on mesmerising journeys through his road trips and lens.

In an age where armchair exploration has become the norm, Mirza's travel vlogs stand out, providing immersive travel experiences that make you feel you are right there with him. Mirza Abidur Rahman, whose YouTube channel boasts more than 45,000 subscribers, shares his story with Star Lifestyle — detailing how he started as a motovlogger and where his next destination would be.

Mirza began motovlogging in 2016, capturing stunning visuals with insightful commentary. "I started travel vlogging about eight years ago, but I had a liking for bikes since I was very young.

I grew up watching motorcycle races, particularly MotoGP, and just like everyone else, I have always been fond of travelling. In 2016, I made a motorcycle trip to Cox's Bazar, and this was where the story of my motovlogging started," reminisces Mirza.

He informs us that his primary focus has been to make his vlogs as informative and relevant as possible. "Before making and uploading videos, I try to ensure that their quality is up to the mark. You have to be professional if you want to win the trust of your audience," asserts Mirza.

Mirza's passion for exploration shines through his content, and he has a special penchant for showcasing the beauty of Bangladesh.

His enthusiasm for adventure is reflected in the videos he creates. Whether it is exploring the wilderness of Thanchi in Bandarban, going on a thrilling journey to conquer the Dim Pahar in Ali Kadam, or embarking on a 28-day trip through Thailand, Vietnam, and Cambodia — Mirza has completed these ventures on a motorcycle, while capturing the essence of each destination.

"The Cliffhanger in Leh Ladakh is considered to be one of the most dangerous passes to cross in the world. But we successfully made a trip to this place and crossed the Cliffhanger in 2022," recalls Mirza with pride.

As Mirza continues to explore, one can only anticipate the wonderful adventures to come on THUNDER VLOG. His journey will be an inspiration for many in Bangladesh to pursue their own passion for exploration.

His success story underscores the possibilities that digital platforms offer to those with a genuine love for travelling. So, what advice would Mirza give to aspiring travellers?

"Please travel! We all have problems in life. Travelling may not eliminate them, but it will offer you a fresh perspective and many good memories to live with," Mirza said, smiling.

By Ayman Anika
Photo: Mirza Abidur Rahman

