

Something In The Powerlines

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Greetings to fellow travelers of the unknown and fellow Bengalis alike. So before we get to the article. I'm gonna put in a disclaimer that I'll be using terms like "Cryptid", "Creature", "Predator" and "Entity" interchangeably to refer to today's subject.

In Bangladesh, power lines and electric poles are part and parcel of the day to day landscape. In the cities especially, the gray, concrete poles can almost be seen as replacements for the green trees.

These power lines, a fixture in the skyline, are often tangled up with haphazardly placed ethernet cables and television lines.

It's not unheard of maintenance workers working on the powerlines, birds and even passersby to get electrocuted. Even resulting in the loss of life.

But not everyone is convinced of such incidents being freak accidents.

Some are convinced that there's something in the power lines that's preying on unsuspecting victims.

On today's subject matter, we'll be looking into the topic of whether there's a predator lurking in the electrical power lines of Bangladesh.

For some time now, reports and sightings of a supposed supernatural entity lurking in the powerlines have been making the rounds in supernatural circles of the Bengali part of the net.

Eyewitness reports state the entity or creature to be either amorphous or a tiger with blue pigmentation that manifests out of the powerlines to pounce on its victims.

While the majority of reports say the creature predominantly is seen moving through the powerlines, some eyewitnesses have even reported seeing the creature prowling the streets.

The entity has become a sort of cryptid, with people attributing several unspecified animal attacks and deaths as proof of its existence.

A notable death that's attributed to this electric predator is that of Mushfiq Hasan.

Officially the story goes that Mushfiq Hasan died of a concussion resulting from debris falling on his head after a transformer blew up on a nearby electric pole. He had been coming back from the bazaar with bags full of groceries.

But to some, not everything is as meets the eyes. According to the most accepted alternative retellings of the incident, Mushfiq Hasan had found himself in the gaze of the electric cryptic and subsequently tried to escape his stalker, only to walk right into its ferocious maws via the transformer on the electric pole.

On the Women of Dhaka subreddit, a user posted about seeing something like a tiger traversing the power lines while stuck in traffic in Mirpur.

Many in the realm of cryptozoologists and supernaturalists of the country have been thoroughly debating the nature of the supposed killer entity.

None have been more vocal about their opinion on the matter than the president of the Bangladesh Cryptozoological Research Foundation and the Chittagong Cryptozoological Survey Organization, Ali Abdullah Maudhan, a controversial public figure who has long been ostracized by the Bangladeshi intelligentsia for his outlandish claims. He has recently written several editorials on the issue and made a Facebook post that quickly went viral.

In his post, Ali Abdullah Maudhan went in depth about the basics of the creature, the first confirmed reports, and the most popular theories about the nature of the supposed cryptid.

And then he went on to posit his own theory, he claims that through a source of his, he got “his hands” on a Tatmadaw (Myanmar Armed Forces) investigation report. This “alleged” report goes

into detail about a recent investigation into a mysterious explosion that occurred when a group of kids in Myanmar's Chin State, stumbled into an abandoned bunker that had been secretly constructed by the Imperial Japanese Army(IJA) during World War Two.

According to “supposed” documents retrieved “allegedly” by the Bureau of Special Intelligence, the site was being used as both a lab and a storage facility for weapons that the IJA believed would aid them immensely in their conquest of Bengal.

Manifests listed a particular weapon of interest to the Ali Abdullah, A Raiju. Raiju is a legendary creature of thunder and lightning from Japanese Mythology.

Ali Abdullah speculates that the Raiju held at the bunker had been in a state of hibernation after being forgotten by its human captors, and was awakened by the intrusion upon its lair. And subsequently trotted its way across the border into our country.

This revelation sent the internet into a frenzy and also stirred up a bit of an outrage towards the Myanmar authorities for keeping mum about such a dangerous creature jumping the border.

Some readily accepted the theory while others debated the veracity of his claims, with some even arguing about the impossibility of such a creature making its way to Bangladesh to lurk in the power grid instead of returning to prowl the skies over the Pacific Ocean, which Ali Abdullah claims to be its natural stomping grounds.

So far, Ali Abdullah has refused to come forward with proof for his claims.

In the supernatural camp, theories range from electro-plasmatic remnants of electrocution victims to the ghost of an animal or a maintenance worker.

Amrita Saha, Dhaka based popular instagram astrologist and writer of the “Mirpurur Shakchunni” Tumblr blog, theorizes that the entity is a vengeful spirit familiar set loose by a practitioner of the dark arts intentionally or unintentionally.

Rafikur Rahman Emon, front man of Saigon Pandits rock band, who has recently been mired in allegations of inappropriate behavior with underage fans, argued on a podcast, that the entity was a metaphysical manifestation of people's subconscious fear of depending on electricity.

Commenting on the aberrant problem of loadshedding, he put forward that the inability of the capitalist government to meet the power needs of the masses had inflicted psychological trauma upon the working class, which resulted in the masses projecting their vulnerability onto a visible zeitgeist to cope with the trauma.

Rafikur also lambasted Ali Abdullah Maudhon's theory of the Raiju. He decried Ali Abdullah Maudhon a fascist and further emphasized Ali Abdullah's habit of incorporating the Japanese empire and World War 2, one way or another into his theories, no matter how implausible.

Equating him to Graham Hancock, a controversial personality who promotes pseudo historical theories.

He stated his belief that the attacks would cease once the government adopted communist ideals and gave stable power distribution to the masses.

Not everyone is convinced that there really exists such a supernatural predator that perches itself on the electric poles like gargoyles on old gothic churches.

There are many who believe it to be a hoax or a figment of people's overly active imaginations or a case of shared psychosis.

Turkish-Bengali psychologist, Alina Boz believes that the entity is not real but is merely anxiety induced boogeyman of sorts. She states shared psychosis fueled by social media to be the only rational explanation to the phenomenon.

Mithila Hoque, a journalist for the Daily Republican, even drew comparison between descriptions of the creature, Ali Abdullah's claims and the monster from a recently released Korean movie that became a box office success in Bangladesh.

In the movie, a small city is terrorized by a beast that only moves through electrical currents and devices. The beast in the movie is referred to as a Raiju and the design of the beast is based on that of a Sumatran tiger.

She then went on to talk about the impact of movies and other media on public perceptions of cryptids and supernatural entities. Citing examples such as the Chupacabra and the Flat Woods Monster, and how the first wave of witnesses described the creatures with references to movies or other media that they watched or read recently.

In lieu of this, web sleuths have started to search for the source of the first initial report.

If it turns out to be a hoax, it would not be the first of its kind but surely one of the most successful attempts at making the Bengali population believe in a cryptid. Creating a bengali cryptid of the modern era.

But what if it is true? What if there is something, a ferocious predator, traversing through Bangladesh's tangled and twisted rows of power lines, stalking and waiting to unleash itself on unwary prey.

It remains to be proven or disproven definitely. There's no sign of it disappearing from the popular conscience anytime soon. Maybe it is real if you believe in it and fake if you don't believe in it.

Maybe you just have to be staring at the transformer sitting atop the pole and the black appendages sticking out from all its sides, and maybe, just maybe the eyes of the beast will return your gaze. Hopefully sparing you.

