

Amir Hossain
Rangan no
more
STAR REPORT

Md Amir Hossain Rangan, a jute fashion designer, passed away on Saturday due to a brain stroke while undergoing treatment at the National Neuroscience Hospital.

He was 45, said a press release. Rangan was the managing director of Khiyoo Fashion House. He worked to promote inexpensive jute as a fabric with which he made designer clothes.

Rangan, who studied fine arts, displayed his works in national and international exhibitions he undertook. All are requested to pray for the salvation of the departed soul. The JERB-Jute Economic Revolution Bangladesh expressed deep shock at the death.



Traditional sweetmeat 'Pera' losing its trace

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

"Pera", a traditional sweetmeat in Mymensingh, has almost lost its trace from the market over the years.

Pera (a kind of sweetmeat made from solidified how-milk), is now one of those rare sweetmeats — which one can get from selective stores, said its makers.

At present, this sweetmeat can only be found during puja festivities.

However, there was once a time when Pera was exported to different European countries. Orders came pouring in from different zamindar palaces as well.

For their quality production, their grandfathers used to get orders from the then zamindars of Muktagacha and Ramgopalpur in Gouripur, said sweetmeat makers.

Besides, this sweetmeat was largely used as "prasad" in different puja celebrations, they said.

However, today's generation is

not familiar with this sweet item.

In the last four decades, this sweetmeat has almost gone into oblivion, said Pintu Sarker, proprietor of Adarsha Mistanno Bhandar in the city's Boro Kalibari area.

Like many other traditional items, this sweetmeat could not cope with the competitive market, resulting in the frustration of the people involved with the business, said Pintu.

Pintu said his grandfathers, the late Suresh Sarker and Brojendra Sarker, came to Mymensingh from Cumilla in their youth and learned how to make Pera.

Brojendra initiated this business, and it is now 97 years old. Later, Pintu's father, the late Haranidhi Sarker, took care of the business. After Haranidhi's death, Pintu took over.

Pintu added there is a serious crisis of Pera makers.

"But the ones that are here have to make it to honour their

ancestors. But it is a very hard job with little to no profit," said Pintu.

Pintu's cousin Porimol Sarker, proprietor of Jaal Khabar Mistanno Bhandar, said this item they prepare has a different colour and taste than other sweetmeats.

Due to the rise in the prices of milk and sugar in recent years, the price of Pera has also increased, resulting in low sales.

Now a kilo of Pera is sold at Tk 450 to Tk 550. For special orders, the price increases to Tk 600 per kilo, said Porimol.

"Pera was first made by my grandfathers in the Mymensingh region and this traditional sweetmeat became famous in other parts of the country. Now it is an almost rare item in this region," he added.

Pintu's other cousin Apu Sarker Apurbo claimed he served orders in many countries, including America, Australia, Britain, Sweden, Switzerland, Japan, India, Canada and Italy.

Now they have to wait for devotees who come to the area for religious purposes at Loknath Ashram and Boro Kalibari Temple at the area.

Devotees usually buy "Pera" in pieces. However, sales in this way are enough for this sweetmeat's survival and people related to its making, said Dr Ranjan Kumar Majumder, a retired Medicine specialist.

Mymensingh region was once famous for its variation of sweetmeats. However, the names of many of those sweetmeats, including Pera, are getting removed over the decades, said Dr Ranjan.

However, marking various occasions, including Pahela Boishakh and puja festivals, the sale of Pera still goes up and the people related to Pera making enjoy a temporary relief for their survival, said Md Rajon, a maker of the sweetmeat.

More women needed
in journalism
Speakers tell discussion
STAR REPORT

Women working in the country's media are still largely considered "women journalists" and to get out of such an identity stereotype, Dhaka University Prof Gitiara Nasreen emphasised the importance of establishing the identity of just "journalists" for women.

She also mentioned that journalism is still considered a "man's job", said a press release.

She made the remarks while addressing a discussion, titled "Celebrating Young Women in Journalism and Future Prospects", organised by DW Akademie in Bangladesh in a city hotel on Friday.

The position of female journalists in the country today has been paved by pioneers like Noor Jahan Begum and Razia Khan Amin. Today's female journalists have to pave a better path for female journalists of the future, she said.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Aasha Mehreen Amin, joint editor of The Daily Star, said the number of women in many news outlets is still very low, and their number in decision-making positions in newsrooms is close to zero.

"Until women reach key positions in the newsrooms, the media's decision-making process will continue to be driven by male-centric perspectives. For women to be able to get to that position, the first step is to increase the number of women in newsrooms," she said.

On the occasion, guests handed over certificates from "DW Akademie Women Journalists' Mentorship Program" to young female journalists and students of journalism.

Prothom Alo Special Correspondent Rozina Islam was the chief mentor of the programme.

DW Akademie Senior Consultant Lutfa Ahmed delivered the welcome speech, while trainer Mainul Islam Khan shared his experience of conducting the programme.

National unity crucial Surma dredging plan may turn futile

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Gonoforum's presidential council at his Motijheel office in the capital, says a press release.

Presiding over the meeting, Dr Kamal stressed on national unity to restore democracy, rule of law and giving back people their voting rights.

He blamed the government and a

government-backed syndicate for creating such a crisis.

He also said at present, the country is facing an economic crisis due to endless corruption, looting and money laundering.

The suffering of citizens has gone up due to illogical hikes in prices of fuel, electricity and daily essentials, he added.

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reaches Shahporan Bridge area in Sylhet Sadar — where the city area begins.

BWDB's dredging plan for the river starts from Kushighat point near the Shahporan bridge to Dashgram of Bishwanath upazila, down the river's stream.

Abdul Karim Kim,

Surma river waterkeeper and general secretary of Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (Bapa), said, "This is good news that authorities concerned finally stepped forward to dredge the river. But the benefit won't last longer than two years, since the river's upstream isn't being dredged."

"Surma is almost dead for the first 27 kilometres upstream at the border, for which Joint Rivers Commission needs to take initiative for dredging. Even if that part is left out, the next 79 kilometres is also in dire need of dredging. To get full benefits of the 15 kilometres dredging work,

the 79 kilometres need to be addressed too," he said.

Contacted, Asif Ahmed, executive engineer of BWDB in Sylhet, said, "Because Surma and Kushiya rivers need dredging, the ministry of water resources is already implementing a project to survey both the rivers."

AL likely to introduce

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The report prepared by the subcommittee after scrutinising the recommendations from the grassroots leaders will then be placed before the party's upcoming national council — scheduled for December 24 — for approval.

The 81-member AL executive committee comprises the president, general secretary, 17 presidium members, eight organising secretaries, four joint general secretaries, a treasurer, 21 departmental secretaries and 28 executive members.

Besides, the party has a 51-member advisory council, which is considered to be the think-tank of the party.

Meanwhile, the government is going to form two new divisions — Padma and Meghna — which will comprise districts in Faridpur and Cumilla regions. The issue will be placed before a meeting of the

National Implementation Committee for Administrative Reforms (Nicar), to be held today.

Currently, there are eight divisions in the country — Dhaka, Chattogram, Rajshahi, Khulna, Mymensingh, Barishal, Rangpur and Sylhet. Hence, AL currently has eight organising secretaries for each division.

The draft of the new charter will propose 10 positions of organising secretaries, as per the potential new number of the divisions.

In that case, one post of a joint general secretary will be added to the existing four posts, as every two divisions are under a joint secretary's jurisdiction.

Contacted, AL office secretary Biplab Barua said they are considering making some amendments to the constitution and also discussed creating two more posts of organising secretaries and one of a joint general secretary.

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for betel leaf cultivation, the main source of their income, speakers said.

Islamic University teacher Farha Tanzim Titty presented a seven-point recommendation to save the Khasia people, on the basis of their visit.

The recommendations include stopping the filing false cases against indigenous groups; finding out forest division officials who were involved in filing such cases; ensuring proper security for these groups; and investigating all the incidents in which these people came under attack.

They also called for sorting out the current situation and providing land ownership to the Khasia community,

declaring betel leaf cultivation as a heritage, and providing proper facilities to local farmers.

Some 15 different false cases were filed against Khasia people by different bodies to pressurise them and evict them from their lands, said lawyer Abul Hassan.

Father Joseph Gomes, a Moulvibazar-based central committee member of Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (Bapa), said evicting Khasia people from their land is nothing new. But the situation worsened recently, as fabricated cases were filed against them.

Nagorik Uddyog Executive Director Zakir Hossain and journalist Rajib Noor also spoke at

the programme, while Helena Talang, programme coordinator of Kapaeng Foundation, conducted the event.

On May 30, Moulvibazar district administration issued a notice to some 700 Khasia people to move from their ancestral lands at the two villages, collectively

ARSA leader among

FROM PAGE 5
Rab and DGFJ were jointly conducting an anti-narcotics drive there, said a press release of the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR).

Rohingya leaders Master Dil Mohammad and Maulvi Arif Ahmed, ARSA commander Ustab Khaled,

known as Nahar Punjee, before June 12.

Failing to evict the Khasia people within this deadline, the authorities filed a series of cases accusing them of illegally occupying 150 acres of government land and making betel leaf plantations there.

they added.

Sources in law enforcement agencies said Zia's footsteps have so far been traced in Dhaka, Chattogram, Cumilla, Noakhali, Sylhet, and Mymensingh.

While being a fugitive, Zia married for the third time in Noakhali. The marriage was arranged by a member of Ansar Al Islam, said sources.

His father-in-law sells juice. After the marriage, Zia even visited his in-law's house four to five times.

A police high official, requesting anonymity, said Zia visited the house three years ago for the last time. Since then, no trace of him has been found there.

"We have visited Noakhali and kept an eye on the family. However, no communication between

the family members and Zia could be traced," he said.

"Even his third wife and two daughters have not visited Noakhali to date," added the official.

Md Azaduzzaman, chief of CTTC, said they are suspecting that Zia is hiding somewhere inside the country. "We are trying to identify his whereabouts to arrest him."

Earlier on December 20, 2021, the government of the United States announced a reward of up to \$5 million for information on two absconding convicts of Ansar Al Islam, including Zia.

Zia's involvement with Ansar Al Islam first surfaced in August 2010, after the police's Detective Branch arrested nine members of the outfit, then known as Ansarullah Bangla Team.

Militant Zia: always a step ahead

FROM PAGE 3
the funds, did not realise that Zia himself collected the money in disguise.

Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit officials said due to Ansar Al Islam's strategy of not letting information seep into different organisation layers of the outfit, it is difficult to track their activities.

All the operatives of the outfit who have been arrested so far were interrogated about Zia. However, none of them was able to give any concrete information.

Ahamedul Islam, an additional deputy commissioner of CTTC, said they have found evidence that the outfit has been receiving funds from abroad through "hundi".

"We have managed to

arrest Saiful Islam alias Shakil on September 24 this year, who maintains the foreign funds," he said.

During interrogation, Saiful said he used to hand the money over to a top leader of the outfit after verifying code words. Although Shakil failed to disclose the top leader's identity, the physical description matches with Zia, said CTTC sources.

Shakil handed over the money to the top leader before Eid-ul Azha in 2021.

Earlier in 2019, Zia was spotted at Chattogram Railway Station, where he went to buy a ticket to Dhaka and made a fuss at the station for not getting a ticket, said investigators.

He has also reportedly changed his appearance multiple times and currently has a shaven face,

to their crimes during primary interrogation. Police were trying to arrest other members of the gang and recover the rest of the looted money, the DB official added.

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was going to deposit money at a nearby bank. The robbers, who had walkie-talkies in their hands, took away the money from Ali.

The next day, the victim

Cop among three killed in road

FROM PAGE 5
Md Khorshed Alam (38) and his helper Md Hassan (42), said Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Joraganj Highway Police Station Md Alamgir.

Quoting eyewitnesses and locals, the OC said a Chattogram-bound Ena

Paribahan bus hit a parked pickup van in Chinki Astana area on Dhaka-Chattogram highway around 5:00am, leaving four people injured.

Locals rescued and rushed them to Mirsharai Upazila Health Complex,

where doctors declared the two dead, the OC said.

The two injured were taken to Chattogram Medical College Hospital for better treatment.

Police detained the bus, but its driver managed to flee.

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Description, Pre-Bid Meeting, submission time & date:			
SL	Name of IFT	Reference No.	Pre-Bid Meeting Schedule
1	NFI Kit (EIE, Dignity & Hygiene)	IFT/SCI/CXB/FY 22/(Manual)/04	December 01, 2022, at 11:00 AM https://us04web.zoom.us/j/72702489767?pwd=C1MlYUlnNSkKbRSxIRIAM677ORdqzrc.I
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Senior Manager, Procurement & Supply Chain