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Tagore's 164th birth anniv today

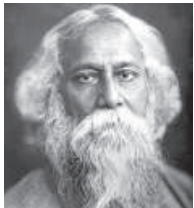
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today marks the 164th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore, the towering figure whose literary genius redefined Bangla literature, music, and the cultural identity of the Indian subcontinent through his embrace of contextual modernism.

Tagore was born on 25 Baishakh, 1268 in the Bengali calendar (May 7, 1861) at the Jorasanko mansion in Kolkata. A poet, philosopher, playwright, and painter, Tagore remains one of the most influential cultural figures of South Asia.

In 1913, he became the first Asian to be awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature for Gitanjali, a collection of deeply spiritual and lyrical poems that brought him international acclaim.

Tagore's literary corpus is vast, encompassing short stories like Kabuliwala and Postmaster, novels



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A team from the Department of Environment inspects a site where untreated industrial waste is being discharged into the Buriganga river. They later took a water sample from the site. The photo was taken yesterday at Doleshwar Ghat in Dhaka's Shyampur.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

CA hails UAE investment proposals

Gulf nation's minister calls on Yunus



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday expressed his gratitude to the United Arab Emirates for the significant progress made towards resuming visa issuance for Bangladeshi nationals. He also welcomed investment proposals from the country in various sectors.

Prof Yunus conveyed his gratitude to Sheikh Nahyan Bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, cabinet minister of tolerance and coexistence of the UAE, who led a high-level delegation

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CONSTITUENCY DEMARCATION EC to start redrawing soon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission will soon start drawing the boundaries of certain constituencies, EC secretary Akhtar Ahmed said yesterday.

Officials have received 405 applications from people in 61 constituencies, demanding demarcation of the constituencies.

The EC itself will do the task as per the current law and ignore the Electoral Reform Commission's recommendation to have a separate body redraw the boundaries.

The government on Tuesday approved an amendment to the law, clearing the way for the EC to redraw the constituencies, Akhtar told reporters at the EC office yesterday.

The EC will get to work as soon as the gazette ordinance on the amendment is published.

"We will review the applications for demarcation and make decisions," he said.

The Electoral Reform Commission has proposed having the demarcation done by a separate entity and it has also prepared a draft law regarding the formation of the entity. However, no final decision has been made on these recommendations.

The reform commission submitted its recommendations to the government on February 8, recommending the establishment of an independent authority for delimitation of electoral constituencies. It also prepared the draft of a law based on which the authority can be formed.

The EC stated at the time that it was against the proposal.

Asked whether there was consensus regarding the

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BRAC REPORT ON MIGRANT WORKERS

Abused, 67,199 women returned in 6 years

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

More than 4.7 lakh Bangladeshi migrant workers have returned home over the past six years after facing various forms of abuse, exploitation, and hardship, according to a BRAC report.

Of them, 67,199 are women who faced sexual and physical abuse, according to the report "Together We All: Protecting Rights and Empowering Women Migrants" presented at an event yesterday.

The report says 49,924 women were sent back in 2020 – the highest number ever recorded.

Since 1991, over 1.2 million Bangladeshi women have migrated abroad in pursuit of better economic opportunities, according to the report.

Saudi Arabia has been the top destination for female migrant workers, followed by Jordan, the UAE, Lebanon, Qatar, Mauritius, Kuwait, the UK and Malaysia.

Several push factors compel Bangladeshi women to seek employment overseas, including social and economic vulnerability, poverty, unemployment, lack of quality education and skills and

even environmental pressures.

However, life abroad often proves harsher than expected. The report paints a grim picture of exploitation, ranging from trafficking and forced labour to gender-based violence.

Many women arrive at their destinations only to discover that promised wages are withheld,

mobility and communication with their families, the report said.

The ordeal does not end upon return. Many women come back with serious physical injuries, illnesses and deep psychological trauma. At the airport, they often lack food, medical attention or even someone to receive them, the report added.

Once back in their communities, they face mental health challenges such as trauma, depression and social isolation.

Financially, they are often burdened with debt, have limited access to financial services and lack ownership of their earnings or savings.

"Many returnees are socially stigmatised and face immense difficulty finding employment – this makes reintegration into society a long and painful process," said Shariful Hasan, programme head of BRAC Migration, while presenting the findings of the report at an event yesterday.

Two female migrant workers – Rojina and Selina – who returned home after facing abuse shared their harrowing experiences at the event.

"I was forced to return from

working conditions are abusive, and language and cultural barriers make it difficult to seek help.

Most female migrants are unskilled or semi-skilled, leaving them even more susceptible to mistreatment. Isolation is further compounded by restrictions on

- 49,924 women (the highest number) sent back in 2020
- Since 1991, over 1.2 million women migrated abroad
- Saudi Arabia top destination for female migrant workers

SECRET CONCLAVE Cardinals enter Sistine Chapel to elect pope



REUTERS, Vatican City

Catholic cardinals who will choose the next pope filed into the Sistine Chapel yesterday, before locking themselves away from the world to elect the man they hope can unite a diverse but divided global Church.

In a ritual dating back to medieval times, 133 cardinal electors will take an oath of perpetual secrecy under the gaze of the stern Christ depicted in Michelangelo's Last Judgement fresco, which adorns the chapel.

They will then hold their first ballot looking for a successor to Pope Francis, who died last month.

No pope has been elected on the first day of a conclave for centuries and voting could continue for several days before one man receives the necessary two-thirds majority to become the 267th pontiff.

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ঘেনা ১৪৩২

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