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Dubai-bound expatriate worker Lal Mia rests his head on his bag under the open sky, after almost a day-long wait for his Covid-19 test at the Dhaka airport. Many like him have been suffering immensely at the airport due to inadequate testing facilities. The photo was taken recently. PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HUQ

**UAE-BOUND PASSENGERS**  
**Covid test within 48 hours before flight will work**  
**Sufferings expected to end**

RASHIDUL HASAN and JAMIL MAHMUD

The struggle of UAE-bound passengers at the Dhaka airport is likely to be over as the Gulf country issued a new travel advisory yesterday withdrawing the mandatory provision for Covid RT-PCR test at the airport within six hours before departure.

Passengers can now get tested at any laboratory approved by the government within 48 hours before take-off, said the advisory.

Group Captain AHM Touhid-ul Ahsan, executive director at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, yesterday said the UAE government might have issued the fresh travel advisory taking into consideration the declining novel coronavirus infection rate globally.

The new travel advisory came into force at 10:00am yesterday.

The previous stipulation that RT-PCR tests must be conducted at the airport six hours before departure had put passengers, mostly migrant workers, in great trouble as they had to wait for about six to seven hours at the Dhaka airport before undergoing Covid test.

The authorities started operating RT-PCR labs at the Dhaka airport in September last year to comply with the previous travel advisory.

Six RT-PCR labs were initially set up inside Terminal-1 of the airport. However, those were shifted to the first

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**POST-COUP MYANMAR**  
**China, Russia arming junta**  
**Says UN rights expert**

AFP, Geneva

UN Security Council members China and Russia, as well as Serbia have continued supplying Myanmar's junta with weapons used to attack civilians since last year's coup, a UN rights expert said yesterday.

United Nations Special Rapporteur on the rights situation in Myanmar, Tom Andrews, urged the Security Council to convene an emergency session "to debate and vote on a resolution to, at a minimum, ban those arms transfers that the Myanmar military are known to use to attack and kill Myanmar civilians."

"Despite the evidence of the military junta's atrocity crimes being committed with impunity since launching a coup last year, UN Security Council members Russia and China continue to provide the Myanmar military junta with numerous fighter jets, armoured vehicles, and in the case of Russia, the promise of further arms," Andrews said in a statement.

Myanmar has been in chaos, its economy paralysed, and more than 1,500 civilians have been killed in a military crackdown since the putsch in February 2021, according to the UN.

The report provides an overview of countries that have authorised the transfer of weapons to Myanmar since 2018, when the military's attacks on the Rohingya ethnic minority were widely documented and after a UN fact-finding mission had urged an arms embargo.

Israel, India, Pakistan, South Korea, Belarus and Ukraine also figure on that list, although only China, Russia and Serbia have continued their transfers since the coup.

**RECOGNITION OF BREAKAWAY UKRAINE REGIONS**  
**Putin tests West's unity**

Russia faces 'robust' sanctions but fissure emerges in Europe over next step; key Nord Stream 2 gas project halted

AGENCIES

Russia faced a furious global diplomatic and economic backlash yesterday after President Vladimir Putin ordered his "peacekeeping" forces into Ukraine to secure two breakaway regions, but division among European allies raised questions how far West can go against Moscow.

Germany announced that it was halting certification of the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline from Russia and said the European Union would adopt "robust and massive" economic sanctions.

The SIB pipeline owned by Russia's state-backed energy giant Gazprom has been built to carry gas from western Siberia to Germany, doubling the existing capacity of the Nord Stream 1 pipeline and keeping 26m German homes warm at an affordable price. Nord Stream 2 bypasses the traditional gas transit nation of Ukraine by running along the bed of the Baltic Sea.

Putin's move was quickly and widely condemned by Kyiv's allies in the West.

But in some capitals there was debate over whether sending troops into an area that was already controlled by Russian-backed rebels amounts to the kind of all-out invasion that would justify imposing the harshest sanctions.

Western officials were not yet describing Putin's moves as an invasion, but US officials say there is at least a 150,000-strong Russian force poised to launch an all-out assault.

In Moscow, the lower house of the Russian parliament, the Duma, voted to approve Putin's friendship deals with the so-called Donetsk People's Republic (DNR) and Lugansk People's Republic (LNR).

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said he would decide soon whether to cut diplomatic ties with Moscow.

Despite the decision in Berlin to suspend certification of Nord Stream 2, Germany, France and Italy have been accused by more hawkish EU member states of "fetters incremental" moves when it comes to a broader economic sanctions package.

According to one diplomat,

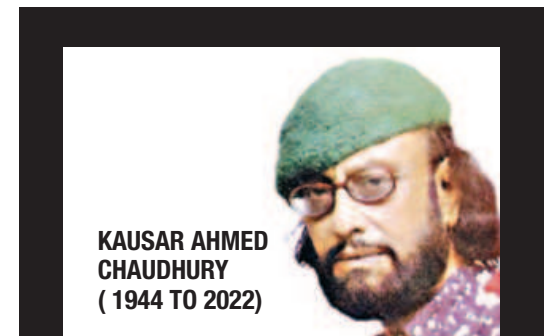
Austria, Germany and Italy stressed the importance of gradually escalating the sanctions imposed for fear of losing leverage. Any sanctions package requires unanimity, reported The Guardian.

Comments by political leaders from London and Brussels were also markedly different despite attempts over the previous months to coordinate an approach in the face of Russian aggression.

Josep Borrell, the EU's high representative for foreign affairs, claimed that the movement of Russian military force into separatist territories in southeast Ukraine did not yet count as a "fully-fledged invasion", while UK cabinet minister Sajid Javid said "invasion of Ukraine has begun".

Britain meanwhile slapped sanctions on five Russian banks and three men.

The United States took its first measures in the early hours of yesterday, banning US persons from any financial dealings with the breakaway territories, and said more sanctions would be announced later.



KAUSAR AHMED CHAUDHURY (1944 TO 2022)

**A man of words off to live with the stars**

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

To many, he was the beloved, quirky astrologer who wrote "Apar Rashi" for the popular daily Prothom Alo, which was often the feature they most looked forward to.

To music lovers, however, he was an absolute heavyweight, having penned classics like "Amay Dekona", "Kobita Porar Prohor", "Ei Rupali Guitar Phela", "Jekhane Shimanto Tomar" and "Moushumi", to name a few.

What fewer people know is that Kausar Ahmed Chaudhury was also a valiant freedom fighter and a spy for the Mujibnagar government in 1971.

Bangladesh incurred a heavy loss in its cultural arena yesterday with his passing at 9:40pm yesterday at a city hospital.

His son, Pratik Choudhury, confirmed the news to The Daily Star.

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**Bail petition rejected**

AIM TAHA

On February 20, 1952, I was busy all day with campaigning in different areas of the city to make the next day's programme successful.

At around 3:00pm I heard about the imposition of Section 144 and returned to Dhaka University to inquire about it. Students were very agitated. At that time, Haider was the DC of Dhaka. An ICS officer, he advised the government not to impose Section 144.

However, the government didn't listen to him and, therefore, he declined to follow the order. He was removed from the post. Narayanganj's SDO Qureshi was brought to Dhaka immediately and was given charge of the DC post. He imposed Section 144.

Later, in the evening, I participated in the meeting of All-Party State Language Action Committee. It was decided at that Section 144 would not be violated.

However, we decided the opposite.

Next day I arrived at the university early in the morning. The meeting started at around 11:30am. Gaziul Haque presided over the meeting. A heated debate broke out. Eventually, a decision was taken in favour of violating Section 144.

We came out on the street shouting slogans. Police arrested us immediately. SA Bari, Habibur Rahman Shelly, Shamsul Huq and Azim were in our group. First, we were taken to Lalbagh Police Station and then to Central Jail. A court was set up inside the jail. Ali Amzad and my elder brother ATM Mostafa moved our bail petition. However, it was rejected.

AIM Taha was a student leader during the Language Movement

Source: Bhasha Andolon Shatchallish theke Baanna (Ed. Mostofa Kamal, Bangladesh Co-operative Book Society Ltd, 1987).

Translated by Shamsuddoza Sajen



Bangladesh team's head coach Russell Domingo speaks to Mushfiqur Rahim as captain Tamim Iqbal and batting coach Jamie Siddons look on during yesterday's training session at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium. The Tigers will play the first ODI against Afghanistan at this venue today. PHOTO: FROZ AHMED

**BD-Afg first ODI today**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh host Afghanistan in the first of the three-match ODI series at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chattogram today, with an eye on the ICC 2023 World Cup Super League standings.

The Tigers, who will play their first match in the format since July 2021, are currently in second position with 80 points from 12 matches, 15 points behind leaders England. A series victory will see the hosts get to the top, with 10 points allocated for each victory.

The visitors, meanwhile, aren't too far off as they have 60 points from six games with an all-win record so far.

The series will also mark

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