



# The Daily Star

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**DEATH OF NERUDA**  
Int'l experts say the Chilean poet did not die of cancer  
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## Down with downpour

City life crippled; ferry communications snapped; incessant rain likely to peter out today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The incessant rain, induced by a depression, made people suffer for the third consecutive day yesterday in the capital and elsewhere.

Many thoroughfares, roads and alleys in Dhaka city went under knee-to-waist-deep water, throwing life out of gear.

Dhaka dwellers waded through knee-to-waist-deep water on streets as the scanty and clogged storm drainage system continued to be overwhelmed by the rain. To add to their misery, many public transport services stayed off road fearing breakdowns on flooded streets.

The capital had an astonishing 262mm of rain in 54 hours, between Thursday morning and Saturday noon, according to the Dhaka Met office records.

The silver lining is that the rain that had ruined many people's weekend could ease off today, as forecast by the Met office.

Roads in West Dhanmondi, Jhigatola and other parts of Dhanmondi residential area on both sides of Sat Masjid Road were severely water-logged.

Many had their ground-floor homes and garages flooded.

"The wheels of the cars parked inside the ground floor of our six-storey building at West Dhanmondi had partially gone under water," said a local, adding that the rain finally stopped when some of the residents were thinking about jacking the cars up and putting those on stacks of bricks.

Rickshaws were the dominant mode of transport yesterday; they were in

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Passengers hurriedly get out of a stalled car on the flooded Mirpur Road yesterday morning. Many vehicles broke down on this part of the road near Dhanmondi Road 27 in the capital during the incessant downpour in the last two days. Large underwater potholes added to the misery of drivers.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## Put more pressure on Myanmar

PM urges as UN chief phones her

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday reiterated her call to the international community, including the UN, to put more pressure on Myanmar to take back its nationals from Bangladesh and to rehabilitate them in their homeland peacefully.

She made the call when UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called her over the phone last night.

The PM's Press Secretary Ihsanul Karim told reporters that the UN secretary-general made the call around 9:30pm and talked to Hasina on the Rohingya crisis for about 20 minutes.

During the call, the prime minister also sought the UN secretary-general's support for the implementation of the five-point proposal she placed in the 72nd UN General Assembly Session last month.

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## Tough to recover, so go for waiver

Sonali Bank waives Tk 129cr interest of AL leader's loan defaulting businesses

AKM ZAMIR UDDIN

Sonali Bank has decided to waive interest of Tk 129 crore on more than Tk 360 crore loan of Alltex Group owned by former lawmaker and Awami League leader Afsar Uddin Ahmad.

The board of the state-run lender, which is struggling to reduce its nearly 30 percent bad loans, made the decision in favour of one of

the bank's top five defaulters on "special consideration", say Sonali Bank officials.

Seeking anonymity, one of the bank's directors told The Daily Star on Friday that the bank decided to waive the interest, as it would be tough to recover the defaulted loans through a legal battle. The bank may have to wait 15 to 20 years to get back the money, the director pointed out.

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**TOP QUOTE**  
"I'll put 100 percent of the blame on her because she is the leader."  
**MUHAMMAD YUNUS**  
ON ROHINGYA CRISIS AND SUU KYI AT AN ALJAZEERA PROGRAMME

## Rohingya crisis a great test for UN

UN resident coordinator tells The Daily Star

PORIMOL PALMA

The ever-growing Rohingya influx is a crisis not only for Bangladesh but also for the region as well as the entire world, UN Resident Coordinator in Bangladesh Robert D Watkins has said.

Referring to the scale of the crisis, he said even the UN was facing a great test in helping Bangladesh to tackle the emergency.

"So far we are meeting the challenges, but we have no complete control of the situation for many reasons -- the sheer number, the speed with which they continue to cross the border and the challenges of trying to assist them



Robert D Watkins

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## Interference doesn't work

Chinese official says about Myanmar crisis

REUTERS, Beijing

Experience shows that foreign interference in crises does not work and China supports the Myanmar government's efforts to protect stability, a senior Chinese official said yesterday, amid ongoing violence in Myanmar's Rakhine State.

Guo Yezhou, a deputy head of the Chinese Communist Party's international department, told reporters on the sidelines of a party congress that China condemned

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