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Farmers planting Aman seedlings in a field as floodwater continues to recede in Bargi area of Jhalakathi's Rajapur. The photo was taken on Monday.

PHOTO: M JAHRUL ISLAM JEWEL

Zika infects 10 Bangladeshis in Singapore

STAR REPORT

At least 10 Bangladeshis in Singapore have tested positive for Zika, alarming thousands of migrant workers in the Southeast Asian country in which 115 people have been infected so far.

The Bangladeshis have mild symptoms, said Mahbub-Uz-Zaman, the high commissioner of Bangladesh to Singapore, which is home to some two lakh Bangladeshis most of them working in the construction sector.

"There is nothing to worry... the 10 patients are recovering," he told The Daily Star yesterday, adding that Singapore's health ministry was informed of the situation and was being

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They violated oath of office

Observes SC in full verdict on 2 ministers' contempt of court; fresh debate on whether they should quit

SHAKHAWAT LITON and ASHUTOSH SARKAR

Food Minister Qamrul Islam and Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Huq have violated their oath of office, the Supreme Court has observed in a verdict that had convicted the two ministers of contempt of court around six months back.

The apex court's observation in its full judgement, released yesterday, has stirred a fresh debate among legal experts whether the two ministers should resign immediately for violation of oath.

The same debate raged on after the SC fined the two ministers Tk 50,000 each in March for committing the contempt by making derogatory comments about Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha.

"They have acted in violation of law and are in breach of their oath of office to preserve, protect and defend the

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Bangladeshi woman killed in New York

STAR REPORT

A Bangladeshi woman was stabbed to death about a block and a half away from her home in Queens, New York, Wednesday (local time).

Nazma Khanam, 60, a Bangladeshi expatriate, was walking at 160th Street and Normal Road in Jamaica Hills about 9:00pm (local time) when she was stabbed, during what sources claimed an attempted robbery, reports PIX11 News.

She was pronounced dead at a hospital.

Nazma's family believes her death could have been a hate crime because the

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DEBATE OVER RAMPAL POWER PLANT

Sundarbans, a magnificent and unique ecosystem of the world, faces an existential question today with a coal power plant to be set up at Rampal. It has been a content of discord between environmentalists and those who are pushing the plant. Both sides are giving out their own arguments in favour of and against the plant to be set up within 14km of the mangrove forest. The Daily Star wants to bring to the public the arguments and the counterarguments that the protagonists and antagonists of the plant have to make. Today we publish an interview of Environment and Forest Minister Anwar Hossain Manju on the issues of Rampal power plant. Pinaki Roy and Hasan Jahid Tusher took the interview.

No threat to Sundarbans

Environment minister rules out fear of harm to the mangrove forest

The Daily Star (TDS): The Sundarbans is already threatened by the global climate change. Wouldn't the construction of the Rampal power plant harm the mangrove forest even more?

Minister: There are a numbers of factories and silos near the Sundarbans. I have a question for people opposing the Rampal power project and the civil society: why are they not making any statements against those factories?

Salinity is the real threat to the Sundarbans, not the Rampal project. You are aware that the government has been dredging different rivers to increase the flow of fresh water around the mangrove forest.



Almost all the countries including Bangladesh are being harmed due to climate change. It's not only the Sundarbans; areas of North Bengal have also been affected. Vessels carrying coal will not go through the Sundarbans.

More and more studies will be done to understand whether the forest will be harmed or not. If it is considered harmful then there is no Bangladeshi who will say yes to this project.

TDS: The EIA report says that because of coal transportation by the Passur river the Sundarbans and its wildlife will be affected. It has recommended taking some preventive measures.

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