

## Power committee for revision of IPP deals

UNB, Dhaka

The government committee on independent power plants (IPP) has recommended immediate revision of and amendments to the agreements signed with private power generation agencies to safeguard national interest.

The committee identified certain inconsistencies in the agreements and found some provisions were against the interest of state-owned energy agencies, officials of the Energy Ministry said.

It suggested that power purchase rates should be re-fixed and project tenure enhanced to 25 and 20 years from the existing 22 and 15 years. The enhancement of tenure of the project would help save Tk 200 crore annually in the power

### Barge-mounted pacts against PDB interest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Independent Power Plant (IPP) contracts of the barge-mounted power plants and the Rural Power Company (RPC) are against the interest of the Power Development Board (PDB).

The major contracts— which were signed between the government and the AES for the 450 MW Meghnaghat plant and the 360 MW Haripur

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sector.

The committee noted that allowing duty free import of plant equipment for three barge-mounted plants, spare parts for 12 years, and

even free import of office furniture, vehicles and air-conditioners were all violative of existing rules.

The state-run power generation and distribution agency PDB does

not enjoy such exemption for import of machinery and spare parts.

Awami League, coming to power in 1996 allowed power generation in the private sector through Private Sector Power Generation Policy to meet the staggering power deficit. Under the policy, nine independent power generation companies signed agreements with PDB and Rural Electrification Board to generate 1331 MW.

These are: Khulna Power Company Ltd., New England Power Company, Westmont Power Company of Malaysia, AES Haripur 360 MW and AES Meghnaghat 450 MW, Rural Power Company and United Summit.

Meanwhile, a number of these projects started commercial genera

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PHOTO: STAR

A magnificent horse-driven carriage carries the FIFA World Cup trophy through a city road as people line along the streets to have a glimpse of it yesterday.

## Syed blames low turnout on opposition boycott

### Comment on law and order sours CEC-govt relations

STAR REPORT

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) MA Syed in his first reaction on the city corporation polls yesterday said voter turnout in the capital was low as a 'major political party' did not take part in the elections.

He however observed that turnout was comparatively better in Khulna and Rajshahi.

After a noticeable two-day absence since the election day, the CEC joined his office at 11:00am yesterday.

Syed appeared perturbed in the face of journalists' queries about the polls and his absence.

"It's not important whether I stay in office on the election day or not. The important thing is whether the Election Commission is functioning," Syed told journal-

ists.

He added, "It's not decent to hover over the election officials while they worked."

On Thursday, the CEC cast his vote at 11:00am and went back home. He did not attend his office or make any official visit to any of the city's polling centres as per schedule.

He refrained from coming to office on the next day, a weekly holiday, although the Election Commission (EC) was busy carrying out election responsibilities.

His two-day absence has given rise to many questions and speculations. His not attending phone calls further fuelled rumours.

Yesterday, the CEC in his brief interaction with the

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## Post polls violence kills 1 in Rajshahi

ANWAR ALI, from Rajshahi

A worker of Jubo League, Awami League's youth front, was stabbed to death and 15 people including a policeman and two women were injured in post-polls violence in Boalia and Motihar areas in the city yesterday.

Dudu, 35, was fatally stabbed during a clash between supporters of defeated AL ward commissioner candidate Mokhesur Rahman Khalil and newly elected commissioner Zakirul Islam of BNP in ward

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## 12 killed as nor'wester sweeps thru' country

UNB, Dhaka

At least 12 people were killed and over 200 injured as nor'westers swept different parts of the country Friday night, leaving a trail of devastation.

Kishoreganj was the worst hit with six people reported killed and over 100 wounded in the district, besides extensive destruction of houses and crops.

UNB district correspondents also reported two each killed in

Mymensingh and Brahmanbaria and one each in Jhenidah and Tangail.

The raging storms damaged standing crops on thousands of hectares of land, hundreds of thatched houses, a large number of trees, electric poles and many educational institutions.

Many people rendered homeless are now living in the open.

Electricity supply and telecommunications in many parts of the country remained disrupted for

hours following the storms. Many areas are still out of telecommunications and electricity.

District police control room sources said the storm killed six people and wounded over 100 in Kishoreganj.

The deceased were identified as Lutfa Begum, Rina Akhter, Lal Mamud, Zahur Ali and Sugera Khatun of Sadar upazila and Mubarak Hossain of Hossainpur upazila.

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## Polls stun Jamaat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP's major alliance partner Jamaat-e-Islami is in a state of shock after suffering a serious debacle in the April 25 city polls in three cities, as 20 out of its 23 candidates for ward commissioner has lost the elections.

Sources said Jamaat leaders and activists are deeply shocked at the poll disaster and are apparently blaming BNP for not doing enough to ensure victory of their candidates. However, Jamaat has not yet given any formal reaction.

After negotiations with BNP, Jamaat had managed to field candidates for 23 wards -- six in Dhaka, five in Khulna and 12 in Rajshahi -- out of a combined total of 151 wards under the three city corporations.

But, according to poll results, only one out of the six candidates in Dhaka and two out of the 12 in Rajshahi came out successful. In Khulna, Jamaat lost all five seats it fought for.

In the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) polls, independent candidates defeated Jamaat nominees in ward 13, 48, 59 and 87 while in ward 42, the Jamaat candidate was defeated by an AL candidate.

In the Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) polls, Jamaat nominees in wards 5, 13, 25 and 28 were defeated by BNP's 'rebel' candidates, in wards 1, 2 and 17 by AL candidates, in wards 3 and 10 by independent candidates and in ward 12 by a CPB nominee.

In the Khulna City Corporation (KCC) polls, Jamaat nominees were defeated by BNP's 'rebel' candidates in wards 12 and 25, by AL nominees in

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	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Apr 28		6-26 pm
Apr 29	5-26 am	

### Prayer Timings

Apr 28		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-30	5-00
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-33	6-38
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation