



## Plan to phase out fossil fuel-burning power plants

CPD urges govt, recommends withdrawal of 'indemnity' in power sector

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Centre for Policy Dialogue yesterday recommended abolishing the Quick Enhancement of Electricity and Energy Supply (Special Provision) Act 2010 and making proper plans to phase out fossil fuel based power plants.

CPD Research Director Khondaker Golam Moazzem said since last year, a persistent energy crisis has been hampering power generation and affecting other sectors.

"The uncertainty seems to persist this year as well due to the underlying importance given to the imported fuel in the integrated energy and power

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### RECOMMENDED IMMEDIATE ACTIONS

- ➔ Formation of separate renewable energy cell
- ➔ Independent budget for energy regulator
- ➔ Use non-agricultural Khas land for renewable energy projects



USHERING IN SPRING ... Adorned with flowers and colours, dancers perform at the Bashanta Utshab to welcome the first day of spring at the Dhaka University's Charukola yesterday morning. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

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## Fakhrul and Khasru set to walk out of jail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

B N P Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir and standing committee member Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury were yesterday granted bail in a case filed over the vandalism of the chief justice's residence, paving the way for their release.

Judge (in charge) Faisal Atiq Bin Kader of Dhaka's Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court passed the orders after their

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## Private university enrolment looking up

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

Private universities are seeing enrolments for their undergraduate and postgraduate courses picking up after a drop during the pandemic.

In 2022, which is the latest available data from the University Grants Commission, 38.2 percent of the 240,406 seats available in the 110 private universities were vacant, the lowest in five years. Enrolments too were the highest since 2018.

Between 2018 and 2021, 60.8 percent of the seats available in private universities were vacant on average.

YEAR	ADMITTED	VACANT
2018	1,24,026	1,60,242
2019	1,20,276	1,57,870
2020	99,771	1,77,584
2021	93,503	1,81,644
2022	1,48,456	91,950

teachers and facilities.

"Those have no problem attracting students," said Hossain, also the president of the Bangladesh Insurance Association.

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## JS RESERVED SEATS FOR WOMEN AL finalises its 48 nominees

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ruling Awami League yesterday unveiled the list of 48 nominees for seats reserved for women in the House. Thirty-three new faces have made the cut.

Among the 14 other nominees, seven were lawmakers in the reserved seats in the last parliament while the rest were MPs in previous parliaments.

AL General Secretary Obaidul Quader announced the names of the nominees at a press briefing at the Gono Bhaban after the party's Parliamentary Nomination Board held a meeting.

He said the AL will submit the list of nominees to the returning officer on February 18.

Kanon Ara Begum, presidium member of Gonotontri Party, a partner of the AL-led 14-party alliance, has been picked. Kanon, from Noakhali, is among the fresh

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