



EC bill to be placed in JS today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The much talked about "Appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners Bill-2022" will be placed in parliament today.

According to the Jatiya Sangsad website, Law Minister Anisul Haq will place the bill. He, in all likelihood, will propose the bill be sent for scrutiny by the parliamentary standing committee on law ministry.

The parliamentary watchdog on the law ministry would not spend much time on scrutiny. It would submit its report before the House as the proposed law is likely to be passed in this Sangsad session and the new election commissioners are to be appointed through the new law, said sources at the parliament secretariat.

Meanwhile, former chief election commissioner ATM Shamsul Huda yesterday said the draft law seems to have many shortcomings. At the moment, it seems that the law will be enacted just to form a search committee, he said.

He said this at a shadow parliament titled "Formation of an acceptable election commission depends on the goodwill of the political parties" in the capital's Film Development Corporation.

The former CEC said there was no real representation of the people in parliament. The major political parties need to be involved in the law-enacting process.

"We have to make sure that this law is acceptable to the people. If needs be, time can be taken for enacting a good law. A flawed law made in a hurry will not benefit anyone,"

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A group of students from Shahjalal University of Science and Technology wearing shrouds sit around a symbolic corpse yesterday as they demonstrate for the vice chancellor's resignation. They also marched around the Sust campus in the afternoon. At least 24 demonstrators began a hunger strike on Wednesday afternoon.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

SUST UNREST

Decision after talks with students

Dipu Moni says after meeting teachers

STAR REPORT

After meeting a five-member delegation of Sust teachers, Education Minister Dipu Moni last night said the issue at the university in Sylhet would be resolved through discussions with students.

"The door for talks with students is always open. Following the meeting, I felt that there might be some others, apart from the teachers, involved in the issue," she told a press briefing at her residence on the capital's Hare Road.

"I can't say clearly, but there might be some instigation from someone or there might be another dimension of this issue," she also said.

Earlier in the afternoon, some 200 Sust students marched silently through campus wearing white shrouds, marking 72 hours since a group of them began their fast unto death.

The students have been demonstrating for the resignation of VC Farid Uddin Ahmed for days.

"Our friends are continuing the hunger strike... If someone wants to hold on to his position at the cost of

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Their TINs were abused without knowledge. Now they can't clear their name.

MOHAMMAD SUMAN, Chattogram

Tania Jasmine, the proprietor of a modest beauty salon in Chattogram's Rangunia upazila, and her husband own just one car. But the National Board of Revenue's database shows she owns a mindboggling 103 vehicles -- an alarming record for anyone to have.

And this came to her knowledge when tax officials came knocking to enquire about her source of wealth, which they learnt after the NBR and the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority synchronised their servers in June last year as part of the

government's efforts to close the walls in on tax dodgers.

It was then that she discovered she has been a victim of identity fraud: her tax identification number (TIN) was used to register an array of vehicles with the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority.

"I was shocked -- this is just absurd," she told The Daily Star recently.

Like Jasmine's, Prabir Biswas's TIN found its way to the hands of a gang, who used it to register eight vehicles.

Since 2015, the government has made TIN mandatory for vehicle registration and fitness certificates.

But as tax dodgers are wont to, they have found a workaround: a cottage industry has mushroomed to provide legitimate vehicle registration with fake TINs such that their wealth remains hidden in the eyes of the government's revenue collectors.

Such middlemen can be found loitering outside the BRTA offices, offering to provide registration and fitness certificates without the need to stand in the long queue in return for a fee of about Tk 10,000.

"Basically, we insert the name of the

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COVID-19 THIRD WAVE

Deaths double week-on-week

MOUDUD AHMED SUJAN

Deaths caused by the coronavirus infection have doubled in a week as daily new cases and the positivity rate continue to soar.

Experts warned that the virus -- especially the Omicron variant -- will cause more deaths in the days to come as the virus is spreading amid slack measures to curb transmission.

At the end of last week, the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) reported 73, including yesterday's 17, Covid-related deaths, the highest since October 13 last year.

In the previous week, 37 patients died.

Mushtuq Hussain, consultant of the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR), said the recent deaths were the consequence of the transmission around three weeks ago when both Delta

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