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Amended public exam law penalises digital frauds

Staff Correspondent  08 July, 2026, 01:18



The Jatiya Sangsad on Tuesday passed the Public Examinations (Offences) (Amendment) Act, 2026, stipulating tougher penalties including a jail term of up to five years for examination-related crimes for digital manipulation of databases, organised exam fraud and unauthorised entry into exam halls with prohibited electronic devices.

Education minister ANM Ehsanul Hoque Milon moved the bill in the second session of the 13th JS chaired by speaker Hafiz Uddin Ahmad, which was passed by a voice vote.



The amended law updated the Public Examinations (Offences) Act, 1980, which was enacted nearly 45 years ago to prevent copying, question leaks, forged certificates and other irregularities in public examinations.

According to the bill's statement, the revision was necessary as technology-driven crimes, including hacking and unauthorised alteration, deletion or suppression of examination data, had increased in recent years.

Under the amended provisions, anyone involved in digital manipulation of examination databases, including unauthorised access, hacking or tampering with examination records, will face imprisonment of up to five years along with a fine.

The law also defines a new offence in case of an organised examination crime, targeting individuals who enter or offer to enter written or verbal agreements to assist candidates in using unfair means during public exams.

Those found involved in such arrangements will face up to five years' imprisonment and financial penalties, even where the offence is linked to organised attempts to facilitate cheating.

The legislation further makes it an offence to enter or attempt to enter an examination hall or centre while carrying electronic devices prohibited by examination authorities without lawful permission, or to deliberately violate official examination instructions.

Such offences will also carry a maximum sentence of five years' imprisonment and a fine.

The amended law provides for punishment against examiners involved in deliberate over-assessment or under-assessment of answer scripts, with penalties of up to two years' jail term, a fine, or both.

However, a conviction under this provision will require confirmation of the discrepancy by a third examiner.

The legislation also placed responsibility on institutions and service providers involved in examination activities.

Organisations found to have aided, colluded in, or wilfully contributed to examination offences may face fines, suspension of licences, debarment or blacklisting.

The amendment introduced safeguards for whistleblowers by protecting individuals who provide credible information about examination-related offences from disclosure of identity, legal liability and retaliation.

Anyone violating these protections may face up to six months' imprisonment, a fine, or both.

The law also includes special provisions for children who come into conflict with the Act, directing that they be dealt with under the Children Act, 2013,

rather than through adult criminal procedures.

To ensure faster disposal of cases, all offences under the amended law have been made cognisable.

Trials will be conducted only by Metropolitan Magistrates in metropolitan areas or Senior Judicial Magistrates outside metropolitan areas, and courts will follow summary trial procedures under the Code of Criminal Procedure.

The amended Act also authorised the government to frame rules through official gazette notifications to implement its provisions.

Education minister Ehsanul Haque also presented the Bogura University Act, 2026 bill in the Jatiya Sangsad to replace the Bogura Science and Technology University Act, 2001. The bill was later sent to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the law ministry for review and submission of a report.

The Bogura Science and Technology University Act was originally enacted in 2001 during the BNP government's tenure but was never implemented despite being published in the gazette on 15 July 2001, according to the statement of objectives and reasons.

The government said the draft of the new law was prepared considering the current situation and the process of launching administrative and academic activities of the proposed university.

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