

Music, pe teachers: Citizens, cultural groups slam hire plan cancellation

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Demand Aug 28 gazette reinstatement



A total of 80 eminent citizens and 18 cultural organisations have strongly condemned the interim government's decision to scrap the recruitment plan for music and physical education teachers in primary schools, terming the move "regressive".

In a joint statement issued under the banner of Jatiya Shikkha O Sangskriti Rakkha Andolon (National Movement for Protection of Education and Culture), the signatories alleged that the decision was taken following demands from a group seeking the appointment of religion teachers instead of music teachers, despite religion teachers already being deployed in schools.

The platform stressed that primary education is the foundation of a child's ethical, cultural, and human development, noting that music fosters patriotism and aesthetics, while physical education teaches discipline and teamwork.

It added, "In the digital age, when children are becoming physically and mentally constricted due to screen addiction, music and physical exercise can be the primary tools for developing their creativity and focus."

Highlighting international practices, the statement pointed out that countries such as Japan, Finland, and Norway, along with Muslim-majority nations including Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Turkey, Qatar, Malaysia, the Maldives, and Indonesia, have made music, fine arts, and physical education mandatory in primary schools.

The platform demanded the immediate withdrawal of the November 2 scrapping order and reinstatement of the August 28 gazette, along with the mandatory inclusion of music, fine arts, and physical education in both primary and secondary curricula and the appointment of subject-specific teachers.

The statement was coordinated by Mahmud Selim, convener of the platform. Prominent citizens endorsing it include Emeritus Professor Serajul Islam Choudhury, artist Anwar Hossain, theatre personality Mamunur Rashid, journalist Abed Khan, writer Selina Hossain, poet Nirmalendu Goon, Fauzia Moslem, lawyer ZI Khan Panna, AN Rasheda, Prof MM Akash, Niranjana Adhikari, journalist Sohrab Hassan, and rights activist Khushi Kabir.

Leaders of teacher associations such as Jahangir Hossain, Nure Alam Biplob, Md Abul Kashem, Mostafizur Rahman Shine, Muhammad Ilias Hossain, Tushar Chandan, and Shahinur Al-Amin were also among the 80 signatories.

Signatory organisations include Bangladesh Udichi Shilpigoshthi, Rabindra Sangeet Shilpi Sangstha, Sangeet Sangathan Samannay Parishad, Nazrul Sangeet Shilpi Parishad, Ganosangeet Samannay Parishad, Shilpakala Bidyalay Jote, Bangladesh Baul O Loko Shilpi Sangstha, Zahir Raihan Chalachitra Sangsad, Bulbul Lalitakala Academy, Central Khelaghar Asar, and Bangladesh Students' Union, among others.