

Education system accused of selling certificates

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Artistes render national anthem at a cultural event, protesting at the government's decision to cancel the music and physical training instructors in government primary schools, at the Central Shaheed Minar in Dhaka on Saturday. | Press release photo

Educationists and cultural activists on Saturday protested at the government decision to scrap the positions for music teacher and physical training instructor at government primary schools.

They made the remarks at a protest programme.

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They also said that the county's educational institutions were selling certificates instead of educating people.

The divided primary education system — Bangla medium, English medium and madrassah — creates discrimination among the children while co-curriculum activities are neglected by teachers and the government, they said.

The Jaitya Shikha O Sanskriti Rokkha Andolon, a platform of 23 children, students, youth and cultural organisations, held the event at the Central Shaheed Minar in the capital Dhaka.

Bangladesh Udichi Shipligoshthi, Rabindrasangeet Shilpi Sangstha, Ganasangeet Samannay Parishad, Central Khelaghar Asor and theatre troupe Prachyanat are among the 23 organisation.

Udichi Shipligoshthi general secretary Amit Ranjan Dey delivered welcome speech at the event.

Amit Ranjan said that the ousted Awami League government dropped many progressive writers' poems and stories from text books as per demands made by the Hefazat-e-Islam Bangladesh.

'A vested group has created dilemma between culture and religion, which has weakened cultural activities in the country,' he said, alleging that successive governments did not build Bangladesh according to its culture and values.

Bangladesh College University Teachers Association vice-president Azizur Rahman said that the unplanned and divided education system created discrimination among children.

Primary Assistant Teachers Association Unity Council representative Shahinur Al Amin said that the introduction of posts for music teacher and physical training instructor was a result of prolonged movement, but the interim government recently cancelled the posts, which would put negative impact on the primary education.

Chhatra Union president Mahir Shahriar Reza alleged that the interim government was running its administration according to mob's wishes.

A cultural performance comprised of music, dance and poem recitation followed the discussion.

Kendriya Khelaghar Asar general secretary Pronoy Saha and poet Akhtar Hossain, among others, spoke at the event chaired by the platform convener Mahmud Selim.

Earlier, on August 28, the interim government had issued a gazette, introducing two new assistant teacher positions, one for music and another for physical training instructor, under the Government Primary School Teacher Recruitment Rules 2025.

Following that announcement, several religious groups began to criticise the move.

The government, in a notification on November 2, scrapped the positions.