

## Scrap textbook changes to uphold secularism

*Urge cultural activists*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Noted cultural personalities at a protest rally yesterday demanded that the government scrap the recent changes in school textbooks and restore the previous items to uphold the country's secular spirit.

The changes, made in this year's new school textbooks, may instigate communalism and hamper development of freethought among students, they said at the rally organised by Sammilito Sangskritik Jote (SSJ) at the capital's Central Shaheed Minar.

They also marched from the spot to Suhrawardy Udyan later.

Theatre personality Ramendu Majumder said

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change could be made in textbooks, but there should have some logic so that the change does not create a negative impact.

"The textbook changes were made according to the expectations of the radical groups," he said.

Nasiruddin Yousuff, president of International Theatre Institute in Bangladesh, said, "The government needs to launch an unidirectional education system... to unify the young generation with the spirit of the Liberation War," he said.

Hasan Arif, general secretary of SSJ; and Mofidul Hoque, a trustee of the Liberation War Museum, also spoke.