

PAY SCALE DEMAND

University teachers sit today for review

They returned to classes from work stoppage on Jan 20 after PM assured them of addressing their grievances

DU CORRESPONDENT

The Federation of Bangladesh University Teachers Association (FBUTA) will hold a general meeting today at Dhaka University Teacher's Club to review the "government's progress" in fulfilling their demands over the 8th national pay scale.

After observing work stoppage for seven days over "discriminations" in the new pay scale, public university teachers returned to classes on January 20 as Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina assured them of a "quick solution".

"After reviewing the government's progress in meeting our demands, we will fix our next course of action at the meeting," Prof Farid Uddin Ahmed told The Daily Star.

Asked if there is any visible progress, he said, "Some secretaries are trying to foil the fulfilment of our demands though the government is sincere about it."

ASM Maksud Kamal, secretary

general of FBUTA, said they met several times with authorities concerned, including the ministries of finance, education ministry and University Grand Commission after January 19.

Hopefully, he said, there will be a solution within a month.

FBUTA earlier placed a package proposal to the education ministry, suggesting that 25 percent professors should be given grade-I status while 5 percent distinguished professors whose salaries and status would be equivalent to senior secretaries.

Public university teachers have been pressing for a four-point charter of demand, including removal of the "discrepancies" in the pay scale. Things turned worse after the government issued a gazette on the pay scale on December 15. Frustrated with the pay scale for not having time scale and selection grade, teachers of all 37 public universities began an indefinite strike on January 11.