

## PAY STRUCTURE DISPARITIES

## Univ teachers, govt officers plan non-stop agitations

Mustafizur Rahman

AT LEAST 4.30 lakh government officers and 15,000 public university teachers would soon begin non-stop agitations to press the demands for the removal of disparities in the new pay structure.

The aggrieved groups include 80,000 engineers, agriculturists and doctors in the government's pay roll and the members of 26 BCS cadre services.

From separate rallies, the aggrieved officers and the teachers have been pressing

the demands for the removal of various disparities from the new pay structure.

They described the new pay structure as totally biased towards only the administrative cadre of the Bangladesh Civil Service and discriminatory to the rest of the government servants including 26 BCS cadres.

The non-cadre aggrieved groups including the officers serving the central bank said that they felt discriminated as they were denied the starting point elevation by one grade to be enjoyed by the officers in the cadre services.

Since its announcement, the new pay structure drew protest from over 3,000 Bangladesh Bank officers who called it discriminatory.

The officers serving the central bank said that they felt discriminated as they had been denied the entry point elevation by one grade unlike their civil service colleagues.

On Sunday, the Federation of Bangladesh University Teachers Association announced that it would go for tougher action programmes including keeping the universities closed until the pay

package was restructured to address their grievances.

The new pay structure is no way discriminatory to any group, said finance minister AMA Muhith.

On December 23, he told reporters that the university teachers were agitating due to their 'ignorance'.

He described BB officers' demands as 'illogical'.

The finance minister ruled out any possibility of restructuring the new pay package.

All the protesting groups said that the new pay structure widened the dispari-

ties between the civil service cadres as well as the officers in the cadre services and those outside the cadres.

They said that removal of the selection grades and the timescales meant that they would be denied the opportunities, they enjoyed until recently, of moving up the ladders of the pay scales and the grades, even if they got no promotions.

The preparations to start the non-stop agitations are underway as the deadline to 'meet our demands' ended on December 30, said Md

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## Univ teachers, govt officers

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Piroz Khan, member of the steering committee of the three professional groups and the BCS Coordination Committee.

He told New Age that restoration of timescales and selection grades, removal of disparities between the cadre and the Class-I non-cadre officers and creation of avenues for promotions were the common demands of the four groups.

The four groups would meet today to chalk out their next course of action, said Firoz, who is also the secre-

tary general of the coordination committee of 26 BCS cadre groups.

Since October, engineers, agriculturists and doctors in government service and the officers in the 26 BCS cadre groups have been pressing to meet their common demands.

Only the officers in the BCS administrative and foreign service cadres stayed away from the agitations as the new pay structure provided them with various advantages.

Bangladesh Sammilito Sarkari Karmakarta Parishad

representing at least 3.50 lakh non-cadre Class I and Class II officers are also demanding restructuring the new pay structure.

Parishad president Md Shafiul Azam said that the new pay structure denied the Class I non-cadre officers the entry point elevation to Grade VIII from Grade IX, which would be enjoyed by BCS groups.

The Federation of Bangladesh University Teachers Association general secretary ASM Maksud Kamal said Sunday that the finance minister AMA Muhith

did not keep his commitment that the new pay structure would retain the selection grades and the timescales for the university teachers.

He demanded restructuring the new pay structure providing senior secretary's status to senior university professors.

The Bangladesh Bank Officers' Welfare Council president Siddiqur Rahman Molla told New Age that BB officers would hold a one-hour sit-in demonstration from 12 noon on January 3.