

Univ teachers term new pay scale discriminatory

Stage protests for separate pay scale

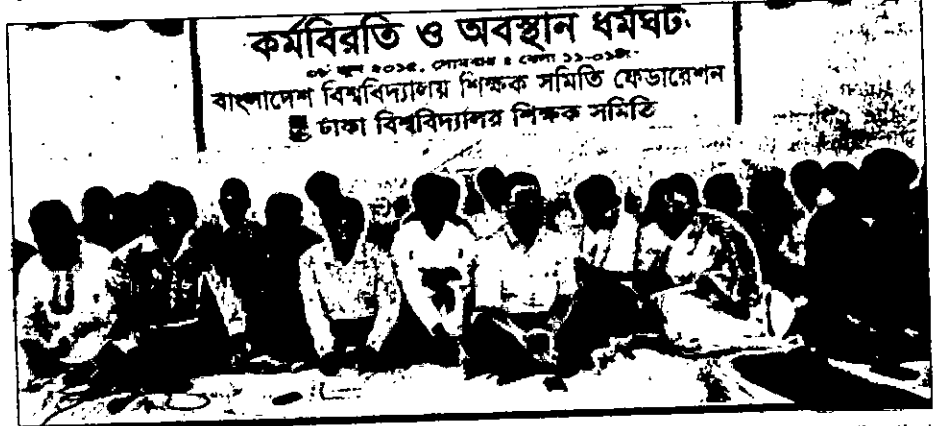
MH Maswood

TEACHERS of public universities across the country staged protests and observed a two-hour work abstention on Monday rejecting the proposed national pay structure and demanding a separate pay scale for teachers by June.

The university teachers under the banner of Federation of Bangladesh University Teachers' Associations observed the token work abstention and held sit-in at the 36 public universities from 11:00am and threatened to go for a strong movement if their demands were not met.

They said that they would submit separate memorandums to the finance and education ministers, parliamentary standing committee on education and University Grants Commission by next week and announce further programmes from a press conference on June 20.

Teachers at Dhaka University, Jahangirnagar University, Rajshahi University, Chittagong University, Bangladesh Agricultural University and other universities demanded equal pay for a



Dhaka University Teachers Association holds a sit-in on the campus on Monday, demanding that the government form a separate pay scale for them. — New Age photo

senior university professor, a professor, a senior secretary and secretary and fixing the scales for associate and assistant professors and lecturers in keeping with professors' pay.

The pay commission in its proposed salary structure has set the highest pay at Tk 90,000 and the lowest at Tk 8,250.

Public university lecturers and assistant- and associate professors are paid less than what the government spends on car facilities and maintenance cost of its officers of joint secretary rank and above.

Top government officials ranked joint secretary and above are at present entitled to get Tk 45,000 monthly as car facilities and maintenance while lecturer, assistant- and associate professors receive Tk 21,000, Tk 32,000 and Tk 43,000 as gross salary respectively.

Public university teachers in Bangladesh are paid less than what their fellows get paid in neighbouring India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

According to the UGC, a lecturer at a public university receives Tk 21,000, an assistant professor Tk 32,000, an associate professor Tk

43,000 and a professor receive about Tk 47,000 per month as gross salary.

The UGC said that the 36 public universities have about 11,300 teachers.

At the protest in Dhaka University, the federation president Farid Uddin Ahmed said, the proposed pay structure has downgraded university teachers, which is disgraceful for them.

Farid, also the president of Dhaka University Teachers Association, said, 'We want separate pay structure for teachers by June, or teachers of all public universities will announce a tough-

er programme'. Nazma Shaheen, convener of Awami League-backed blue panel teachers at Dhaka University, said the pay commission proposed 16 different grades, where four grades were created for secretary-level officials, upgrading them over university professors, but the university teachers were deprived of selection grade.

Our RU correspondent reported that teachers of Rajshahi University staged a sit-in and observed work abstention in front of the university senate building on the day.

RUTA president Ananda Kumar Saha alleged that the proposed pay structure had lowered the status and pay for university teachers.

Teachers at Jahangirnagar University held protest in front of the arts faculty building. Jahangirnagar University Teachers Association president Khabir Uddin presided the programme.

Teachers of Bangladesh Agricultural University in Mymensing, Islamic University in Kushtia and Chittagong University held similar protests on their respective campuses on the day.