

DEMAND FOR INDEPENDENT COMMISSION FOR PAY SCALE

University teachers observe work abstention

DU Correspondent

TEACHERS of all public universities across the country observed a three-hour work abstention for three hours starting from 10am on Sunday for the second time demanding formation of a commission to initiate an independent pay scale for the public university teachers.

They also demanded immediate revision of the 8th national pay scale, keeping senior professors and senior officials of the government at an equal level of payment and similar benefits enjoyed by the same grade government officials.

Federation of Bangladesh University Teachers Association (FBUTA) general Secretary Professor ASM Maksud Kamal placed the demand at a press conference at the conference room of social science faculty of Dhaka University on

Sunday.

Almost all neighbouring countries like India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka have independent pay scales for the university teachers. But the government in our country is not meeting our demand, he lamented. Professor Maksud Kamal alleged that the position of teachers is lowered by two steps in the proposed pay scale in comparison to the seventh pay scale, which is disgraceful for the teachers.

He said in the proposed pay-scale salaries and other benefits of all government service holders had almost been doubled, but the Pay Commission suggested a reduced scale for the university teachers.

The FBUTA secretary general said previously senior professors used to draw salaries equal to that of a senior secretary. But according to the latest scale, the

teachers would get less than that of the government bureaucrats.

FBUTA president Professor Dr Farid Uddin Ahmed threatened to launch a tougher movement after arranging a national convention of university teachers in the first week of September if their demands were not met soon.

At Dhaka University, teachers observed work abstention from 10am to 1pm to press home their demands.

New Age JU correspondent reported: Jahangirnagar University Teachers Association (JUTA) observed a three-hour work abstention in the campus for the second time on Sunday demanding a separate pay scale for the public university teachers.

Our RU correspondent reported that teachers of Rajshahi University and Rajshahi University of En-

gineering and Technology observed a three-hour work abstention rejecting the proposed national pay structure and demanding a separate pay scale for university teachers as soon as possible.

New Age Khulna Correspondent reported that teachers of Khulna University observed work stoppage and sit-in programme for the second time on the campus from 10am to 1pm.

A report from Barisal said that teachers of Barisal University on Sunday abstained from taking classes and observed sit-in strike protesting degradation in the proposed pay scale and demanding separate pay scale for teachers.

The university teachers staged work abstention for the first time on August 16. They have announced to observe work abstention on every Sunday this month to press for their demands.