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## NEW PAY SCALE Univ teachers continue work abstention for 2nd day

Staff Correspondent

ACADEMIC activities came to a halt at the Jahangirnagar University, Jagannath University, Bangladesh Agricultural University and Comilla University for the second day on Wednesday as teachers enforced work abstention demanding

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## Univ teachers continue work abstention

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review of the new pay scale and a separate pay scale.

No classes and exams took place on the campuses.

Bangladesh Agricultural University Teachers Association on Wednesday afternoon called work abstention for an indefinite period and Jagannath University Teachers Association and Islamic University Teachers Association also called similar programmes for today, making the same demand.

University teachers came down heavily on finance minister AMA Muhith for saying the teachers' movement had 'no justification'. Muhith said 'they (the teachers) are ignorant about the facilities given in the new pay scale. The educated class of society is carrying out a movement from lack of knowledge.'

Leaders of Federation of Bangladesh University Teachers Association in a statement on Wednesday termed Muhith's comments

'incoherent.' They also gave Muhiith 24 hour time to withdraw his comments and seek apology 'otherwise he [Muhiith] will be responsible for any untoward incident on campuses' read the statement, signed by federation president Farid Uddin Ahmed and general secretary ASM Maksud Kamal.

Dhaka University Teachers Association at press statement and Jagannath University Teachers Association leaders at a rally on campus demanded the resignation of AMA Muhith for his controversial comments.

Teachers, under the banner of the federation, have been on the street since May 14 and enforced work abstention at all 37 campuses to press home their four-point demand on Tuesday.

Their four-point demand includes keeping senior professors and senior secretaries on the same pay scale and at an equal level of payment and benefits as enjoyed by the same grade

of government officials, and proper place in the warrant of precedence for teachers.

Meanwhile leaders of the Bangladesh Agricultural University Teachers Association from a meeting on Wednesday at its Mymensingh campus decided to abstain from work for an indefinite period.

Bangladesh Agricultural University Teachers Association president Khandakar Shariful Islam at about 2:30pm confirmed to New Age the decision.

Rajshahi University Teachers Association formed a human chain and Chittagong University Teachers Association brought out a procession protesting Muhiith's comment and pressing their four-point demand.

University teachers said public university teachers were 'disappointed' at the cabinet's approval of the eighth pay scale on Monday, without considering their four-point demand.

The cabinet on Monday approved the new pay scale with effect from July 1, 2015.

The cabinet secretary, Muhammad Musharraf Hossain Bhuiyan, said university teachers would get salaries and benefit at the higher rate passed by the cabinet. He said the cabinet had asked the cabinet committee to address disparities in the government salary structure to look into the demands of the public university teachers.

University teachers said the status of teachers had been brought down two notches in the new pay scale, which they found 'disgraceful'.

Meanwhile, BCS General Education Association is set to observe a full-day work abstention today at all 307 government colleges, demanding reinstatement of selection grade and time scale for teachers in the new pay scale, said association acting president SHM Fazle Rabbi.