

Univ teachers stage demo nationwide for separate pay scale

Staff Correspondent

TEACHERS of public universities across the country took part in an hour long human chain demanding a separate pay scale for teachers and the removal of disparity in salaries between teachers and equivalent civil servants.

The university teachers, under the banner of Federation of Bangladesh University Teachers' Association, formed the human chains at 37 public universities from 11am, and threatened to take up a stronger movement if their four-point demands were not met.

Federation president Farid Uddin Ahmed announced that they would declare further programmes after a federation meeting on July 1. He warned that teachers would go for work abstention for an indefinite period to realise their demands, if necessary.

The university teachers

four-point demand include senior professors and professors be remunerated at par with senior secretaries and secretaries, the pay for associate and assistant professors and lecturers be rationalised according to the professors' grade, benefits enjoyed by a government official of the same grade be accorded to teachers, and proper place in the warrant of precedence for teachers.

Teachers 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.

Teachers at Dhaka University, Jahangirnagar University, Rajshahi University, Chittagong University, Jagannath University, Bangladesh Agricultural University, Islamic University took part

in the human chain at their respective universities, reported New Age university correspondents.

The pay commission in its proposed salary structure 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 lecturers, assistant - and associate professors receive Tk 21,000, Tk 32,000 and Tk 43,000 respectively as gross salary.

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