

# Univ teachers demand pay equal to govt officers

Staff Correspondent

TEACHERS of public universities in a memorandum to education minister Nurul Islam Nahid on Monday demanded equal pay for a senior university professor and a senior secretary.

They also reiterated their demand for a separate pay scale for university teachers as soon as possible.

A group of teachers under the leadership of Federation of Bangladesh University Teachers' Association president professor Farid Uddin Ahmed and general secretary professor ASM Maksud Kamal, handed over the memorandum to education minister with four-point demands of equal pay for a senior university professor, a professor, a senior secretary and secretary respectively and fixing the scales for associate and assistant professors and lecturers.

They also demanded that teachers should enjoy similar benefits enjoyed by the same grade government officials.

The pay commission in its proposed salary structure for government officers and employees 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 for its officers of joint secretary rank and above.

Top government officials of the rank of 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 receives about Tk 47,000 per month as gross salary.

The UGC said that the

37 public universities have about 14,000 teachers.

Teachers of public universities across the country on June 8 staged protests and observed a two-hour work abstention rejecting the proposed national pay structure and demanding a separate pay scale for teachers by June.

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

Farid, also the president of Dhaka University Teachers Association, said, 'We want separate pay structure for teachers, or else teachers of all public universities will announce a tougher programme'.

Education minister Nurul Islam Nahid said that government would uphold the honour of the teachers. 'We will not take any decision that will undermine the status of teachers,' he said.