

INTERNATIONAL

PAY STRUCTURE GRIEVANCES

Govt officers, univ teachers begin work abstention today

Staff Correspondent

WORK abstention by agrieved public university teachers and government officers begins today on the demands of restoration of the selection grades and the timescales and removal of disparities from the new pay structure.

No classes would be taken at any of the 37 public universities for an indefinite period with 15,000 teachers staying away from work.

A simultaneous work abstention by over 80,000 of-

ficers including engineers, doctors, agriculturists and cadre service members would affect the government's day to day activities and cripple development work across the country.

The university teachers' indefinite work abstention was prompted by the government's failure to meet their demands including removal of the disparities to which they have been subjected by the new pay structure by January 10, said a press release of the Federation of Bangladesh Univer-

sity Teachers' Associations.

No classes and exams will be taken at public universities during the work abstention, said the press release signed by the federation president Farid Uddin Ahmed and secretary general ASM Maksud Kamal.

The Dhaka University Teachers Association, however, kept final exams of semesters and courses out of the purview of its work abstention, said the federation's press release.

From the DUTA, it would be a departure from 'the

complete shutdown' it had announced earlier if the government failed to meet the demands by January 10.

The members of 26 cadre services as well as the engineers, agriculturists and doctors serving the government announced country-wide week-long two hours' abstention from work from 12 noon from today in protest against the 'discriminatory' pay structure.

They would hold the protests inside their offices wearing black badges, said a statement of the steering

committee formed by the four groups.

It was signed by engineer Md Abdus Sabur, agriculturist Md Mubarak Ali, physician M Iqbal Arsalan and Md Firoz Khan.

Except for the administrative and the foreign service, the members of all the remaining 26 Bangladesh Civil Service cadres feel agrieved over the new pay structure for choking their future prospects by abolishing the timescales and the selection grades.

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Govt officers, univ teachers

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Several affected officers said the new pay structure gave them an unfair deal.

Lowering of status, also prompted agitations by around 5000 officers of Bangladesh Bank.

The professional groups and the BCS Coordination Committee began their agitations under a common banner in October.

Their seven-point charter

of demands also includes removal of cadre and non-cadre disparities.

On January 4, prime minister Sheikh Hasina asked her principal secretary and the secretaries of the ministries of finance and public administration to look into the grievances of the protesting groups.

FBUTA general secretary Maksud Kamal told New Age that the teachers' peaceful protests with-

out hampering academic activities produced no positive response from the government in last nine months other than starting the indefinite work abstention.

The Bangladesh Bank officers on Sunday abstained from work for one hour from 10 AM demanding the government to start class work abstention if the government did not fulfil their demand by January 14.

tended to their cadre service colleagues.

The central bank officers work abstention would increase by half an hour from January 12 to January 14.

A leader of the Bangladesh Bank Officers Welfare Council told New Age Sunday that the central bank officers would be forced to start class work abstention if the government did not fulfil their demand by January 14.