

Public univ teachers set to go on indefinite strike from tomorrow

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Teachers of all public universities are scheduled to observe a full-day work abstention today demanding cancellation of the universal pension scheme notification for them, terming it as discriminatory.

No classes are scheduled to be held but examinations and emergency activities will be out of the purview of the strike.



The teachers have also threatened that they would go for complete work abstention from tomorrow (July 1) if the scheme is not withdrawn by today.

Earlier on March 13, the finance ministry in a notification said that all officers and employees who joined the services of all autonomous, self-governing, nationalised, statutory or similar organisations and their subordinate institutions on or after July 1, 2024, would be brought under the universal pension scheme.

Soon after the notification, the public university teachers started staging protests since the beginning of the month of June by observing half-day work abstentions.

The demands of the teachers are—withdrawal of the universal pension scheme, continuation of the previous pension scheme and introduction of a separate salary structure for the teachers with professional benefits.

After the Eid-ul-Azha holiday in mid-June, the teachers resumed their protest by observing half-day work abstentions from June 25.

The teachers from different universities including, Dhaka University, Chittagong University, Jahangirnagar University, Rajshahi University, Jagannath University, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, Rajshahi University of Engineering and Technology, and Khulna University of Engineering and Technology, observed the strike and also formed human chains and staged sit-ins.

They also alleged that the bureaucrats influenced the government to impose the discriminatory plan on teachers to make the teaching job unpopular.

The president of Bangladesh Shikshak Samiti Federation, an umbrella platform of the public university teachers, Professor Md Akhtarul Islam, told New Age that no one from the government contacted them for any discussion till Saturday afternoon.

The professor, also president of the SUST Teachers' Association, said that they would hold a press conference on the Dhaka University campus at noon today to announce their next course of action.

'We will continue the movement until our demands are met,' he added.