

Private universities asked to form anti-extremism monitoring cell

Staff Correspondent

THE University Grants Commission on Thursday asked all private universities to form a monitoring cell for carrying out awareness activities against religious extremism on campuses.

The commission asked the 94 private universities to send it a copy of the office order on the formation of the monitoring cell containing

the name of its members and report about the activities of the cell in every month, said a release of the commission.

The supervisory body came up with the directives after it formed a three-member committee to monitor extremist activities at universities on Sunday against the backdrop of allegations that many private university students were engaged in the recent extremist attacks.

According to media reports, 33 students of universities, 18 from four public universities and 15 from five private universities, were identified as extremists, commission chairman Abdul Mannan said at a press conference on Sunday.

Extremist attacks on a Gulshan cafe in Dhaka killed 22 people including 17 foreigners and two police officials on July 1 and on a police

checkpoint near the country's largest Eid congregation at Sholakia in Kishoreganj killed three people including two cops on July 7.

Two of the five attackers who were killed in a military operation at the Gulshan cafe were private university students. One of the Sholakia attackers was also a private university student.

According to Dhaka Metropolitan Police, three of

the nine suspected Islamist extremists killed in 'Operation Storm-26' at a Kalyanpur house in Dhaka on July 26 were private university students.

Police suspect at least two private university teachers for recent attacks.

Seven of the eight people convicted of the February 2013 murder of blogger Ahmed Rajib Haider were private university students.