

ANTI-EXTREMISM CAMPAIGN Govt sits with private universities today

Staff Correspondent

THE government is set to sit with the authorities, senior teachers, students and owners of the private universities today as part of its campaign against religious extremism.

The home ministry and the education ministry would hold the views exchange programme with stakeholders of private universities Krishibid Institution Auditorium in Dhaka.

Education minister Nurul Islam Nahid is expected to be present as chief guest at the meeting on public security and law and order situation to be presided over by home minister Asaduzzaman Khan, said a home ministry release on Saturday.

Government is expected to sit with vice-chancellors and pro-vice-chancellors of public universities on July 23.

Top police officials and officials of education and home

ministries will join both the meetings, said officials concerned.

Education ministry officials said that the government invited vice-chancellors, pro-vice-chancellors, senior teachers and representatives of students of the private universities to today's programme.

There are 95 private universities in the country, having about 10,000 teachers and 3.5 lakh students.

The government decided to sit with universities as prime minister Sheikh Hasina at the weekly cabinet meeting on July 11 asked her cabinet colleagues to keep vigil all the time and launch 'intensive campaigns' against religious extremism among people from every walk of life amidst fear that more extremist attacks might take place.

The government took the step to keep private university students away from religious extremism as involvement of

some former or current private university students in the recent extremist attacks on a Gulshan café in the capital and a police-checkpoint near the country's Eid congregation at Sholakia in Kishoreganj was reported.

Private universities in the country are taking different measures to increase vigilance on students and dissuade them from religious extremism.

The measures include strengthening monitoring of students, engaging them in more co-curricular activities, counselling and creating awareness among guardians on keeping their children away from religious extremism.

Private university vice-chancellors, teachers and students said that an uneasy situation was prevailing on the campuses after allegations of involvement of some teachers and students of different private universities in the recent extremist attacks.