

///CAMPAIGN AGAINST EXTREMISM

Govt to sit with univs

Staff Correspondent

THE government is going to sit with the authorities of all public and private universities in the later part of this month as part of its campaign against extremism.

Home minister Asaduz-zaman Khan and education minister Nurul Islam Nahid would hold separate meetings with vice-chancellor, pro-vice-chancellor of private universities on July 17 and with VC and pro-VC of public universities on July 23, ministry sources said.

The meeting with private universities is scheduled to take place at Krishibid Institution and that with public universities at International Mother Language Institute.

Top police officials and officials of education and home ministries will join both the meetings.

A top official of the education ministry said that the government was also planning to invite top management officials of Dhaka-based English medium schools to the meeting with private universities.

Government is taking various initiatives to keep students away from extremist activities. Government will sit with all educational

institutions as part of the campaign,' education minister Nurul Islam Nahid said.

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

Some students of private universities were found involved in recent terror attacks in Dhaka and Kishoreganj that rocked the country.

The attack at a Gulshan restaurant left 22 people including 17 foreigners and two police officers killed on July 1. Six suspected gunmen were killed in an army-led operation that brought the hostage incident to an end in the following morning.

Just within a week of the Gulshan attack, the militant attack near the country's biggest Eid congregation at Sholakia in Kishoreganj killed four people including two cops on July 7.

Two of the five attackers who were killed in Gulshan mayhem were students of private universities. One of

the attackers of the Sholakia incident was also a private university student.

Three of the Gulshan attackers are from wealthy families and had studied in top and expensive English medium schools.

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

At present, there are 95 private universities and 37 public universities in the country.

Education ministry asked all educational institutions to submit to the authorities lists of students who have been absent for 10 straight days.

North South University also decided to expel those who would remain absent for one semester on July 10.

Education minister Nurul Islam Nahid on Tuesday at a meeting with top officials of the University Grants Commission said that government was closely watching happenings at North South University.

He urged the parents to show a greater sense of responsibility and called for social awareness to prevent youths from joining militant groups.