

NSU suspends arrested teacher

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The authorities of North South University (NSU) yesterday suspended a professor who was arrested on charges of renting out a flat to Gulshan café attackers and withholding tenants' information from the police.

The NSU authorities took the action against Gias Uddin Ahsan, dean of the private university's School of Health and Life Sciences, NSU Vice-Chancellor Prof Atiqul Islam told The Daily Star.

On Sunday, the VC at a view-exchange meeting with government officials termed militants "cancer" and announced that his university would root it out from the campus through "operations".

Ahsan, the acting pro-vice chancellor of the university, his nephew and another man were arrested on Saturday for "sheltering militants".

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A team of the DMP counterterrorism unit made the arrests at the house on Road-6 in Block-E of Bashundhara Residential Area, according to a Dhaka Metropolitan Police press release.

The next day, they were shown arrested under Section 54 and produced before a Dhaka court by Humayun Kabir, an inspector of the specialised anti-terrorism unit, with 10-day remand prayer each.

The court, however, placed Ahsan and two others, on an eight-day remand each.

On July 1, armed militants attacked Holey Artisan Bakery in Gulshan's diplomatic zone and killed 20 hostages -- nine Italian, seven Japanese, two Bangladeshis, one Indian and one Bangladesh-born US citizen. Two police officers were also killed.

Islamic State reportedly claimed responsibility for the killings. One of the attackers, Nibras Alam, was a former student of North South University.

Two weeks after the attack, police came to know that the NSU professor rented out one of his flats to the café attackers.