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NSU warned earlier against extremism

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NORTH South University was earlier warned against patronising extremism, education ministry officials said.

A University Grants Commission inquiry committee in 2015 reportedly found books of banned Islamist organisation Hizb ut-Tahrir Bangladesh at the university library.

The university, however, denied the allegation.

Grant commission chairman Abdul Mannan told New Age on Monday that the two-member committee while investigating allegations of irregularities against

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the private university found those books indicating activities of the Islamist outfit.

'We placed the report to education ministry in October 2015 recommending actions against the university,' he said.

Ministry officials said they sent a letter to the university on December 7, 2015 asking it to follow the Private University Act 2010 and to burn the banned books in a month.

The issue surfaced after involvement of some former and current students of the university in the recent extremist attacks on Gulshan in Dhaka and Sholakia in Kishoreganj was detected.

North South University

vice-chancellor Atiqul Islam denied the allegations and said that the university had already sent its reply to the ministry.

The official reply signed by the vice-chancellor on June 14 stated that the university followed the act and did not keep at its library any banned books that might go against the interest of the nation.

Referring to the alleged involvement of some students of the university in the recent extremist attacks, a senior official concerned said that the university authority was earlier warned against militant link of some teachers.

'We thought the university authority would take action on its own to protect their im-

age,' the official said.

Education minister Nurul Islam Nahid said that the university's involvement in militancy was detected earlier.

Another UGC probe committee is now investigating the matter. 'We would take action after getting the report,' the minister said.

The attack on a Gulshan restaurant on July 1 left 22 people including 17 foreigners and 2 police officers killed. Six suspects were killed in an army-led operation that brought the hostage incident to an end in the following morning.

Extremism suspects attacked a police checkpoint near the country's biggest Eid congregation at Sholakia in

Kishoreganj on July 7 leaving four people including two cops killed.

A delegation of the grant commission on July 14 visited North South University to launch a fresh investigation into the allegations of 'involvement of some of its students and teachers in violent extremism.'

Most of the suspects having a common background of English medium education and missing from their families for months were undergraduate students of private universities.

North South University already terminated its librarian and decided to expel those who would remain absent for an entire semester.