

RELIGIOUS EXTREMISM

Education instts not helping law enforcers to face action: minister

Staff Correspondent

EDUCATION minister Nurul Islam Nahid on Wednesday warned that educational institutions that would not provide necessary information about religious extremism to the law enforcers would face action.

Provide necessary information to the law enforcing agencies, intelligences, and if any educational institutes were found not helping them [law enforcing and intelligence] by providing necessary steps would be taken against them, Nahid said in the capital.

While inaugurating de-

velopment works of two building at Government Tumir College, he also urged teachers and guardians to keep an eye on the activities, behaviors of students.

Nahid made the comments as involvement of some former or current private university students in the recent extremist attacks at a Gulshan café in the capital and a police-checkpoint near the country's largest Eid congregation at Shola-kia in Kishoreganj were reported.

A North South University professor and a Shahjalal University of Science and Technology student were arrested for suspected links with the attacks, in this week.

Lack of facilities for co-curricular activities, cultural programmes, debates, games, absence of programmes marking national days at educational institutes are some of the major reasons why students were inclining towards religious extremism, discussants at the views exchange meeting with the authorities of private university observed.

Currently three extremist groups — Hizb Ut-Tahrir, Ansar al-Islam and Jamaatul Mujahideen Bangladesh — are active in the country,

counter terrorism and trans-national crime unit chief Monirul Islam said.

Almost all members of Hizb Ut-Tahrir are students and teachers of colleges and universities, a maximum number of Ansar al-Islam member are students of colleges and universities or dropouts and almost half of the members of the neo-JMB are studying at colleges and universities, he added.

Against this backdrop, education ministry today will begin meeting the authorities and teachers of all public universities, colleges and madrassahs as part of its campaign against religious

extremism.

Meeting with the authorities of 2,200 colleges under National University will take place today and meeting with authorities of 37 public universities will take place on July 23.

Meeting with 9,000 dakhil and alim madrassah will take place on July 24 and meeting 1,200 fazil and kamil madrassahs will take place on July 27, said officials.

Government already held a meeting with vice-chancellors, senior teachers and representatives of students and owners of the private universities last Sunday.