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School inspection checklist to include absenteeism

Mohiuddin Alamgir

THE Directorate of Inspection and Audit under the education ministry has decided to include absenteeism of students in the checklist of inspection to check religious extremist activities.

The directorate is re-

sponsible for the inspection and audit of about 36,000 secondary and higher secondary schools, colleges, madrassahs and technical educational institutions of the country.

Irrational absence from classes for more than 10 days would be included in

the checklist for the inspection of the educational institutions by the directorate, said its director Bipul Chandra Sarker.

'We have made the decision to increase vigilance on students and dissuade them from religious extremism after media report on the

involvement of current and former students in the recent extremist attacks,' he added.

He said that the decision was made on the basis of an education ministry circular issued on July 10 asking educational institute authorities to report the field-level

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education officials about irrational absence of students from classes for more than 10 days.

The circular came in the wake of two extremist attacks on a Gulshan café in capital on July 1 and a police checkpoint near the country's largest Eid congregation at Sholakia in Kishoreganj

on July 7.

The circular said that it was observed that the students involved in the extremist attacks had gone missing and it was suspected that more students went missing.

The inspection checklists so far contained academic, administrative and financial issues of the educational institutions.

With the new decision, education inspectors would now inquire about students' absenteeism, take notes of roll number and class of the absent students and if the schools authorities had sent the reports.

Since the two extremist attacks, education ministry has been organising different programme as part of an

anti-extremism campaign. The ministry held meetings with top management and teachers and students of public and private universities and madrassahs.

Many schools, colleges and universities have been organising anti-extremist programmes including discussions, rallies and human chains.