

## Resist attacks on schools

*Nahid suggests filing  
cases against attackers*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday asked the education institutions, which were damaged by the opposition on the eve of the 10th national polls, to file cases with respective police stations.

The instruction came at a meeting with the officials of the ministries of education and primary and mass education.

Nahid, also the primary and mass education minister, urged all the teachers, students and guardians to build a united resistance against such attacks.

At the meeting, the headmaster of Shujabad Government

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Primary School in Shahanpur in Bogra was suspended on allegation that he had set fire to his own school for money. Departmental action was being taken against the teacher, meeting sources said.

According to the ministry's initial estimate, around 419 primary schools, 82 high schools, 21 madrasas and nine colleges came under attacks because those institutions were used as poll centres.

Eminent citizens have meanwhile urged all political parties to stop violent activities and compel their respective activists to refrain from damaging education institutions.

In a statement on Tuesday, they said they were aggrieved at the incidents of arson and destruction at more than 500 education institutions.

"Not only the furniture of the schools, textbooks of thousands of students and other education tools and materials were burned down and children watched those scenes on television with concerns and panic," reads the statement.

Violence could never be a language of protest as such act was a violation of human rights, they said, adding, "We are strongly protesting against such destructive acts and demanding a stop to all sorts of violence immediately."

They also called upon the ruling and the opposition parties to keep education institutions out of all sorts of political activities and take necessary initiatives so that schools are not used as polling centres in future.

Prof. Anisuzzaman, Prof. Jamilur Reza Choudhury, Prof. Nazrul Islam, Prof. MM Akash, Khushi Kabir, Rasheda K Choudhury, Shaheen Anam, Farah Kabir, Syeda Rizwana Hasan, Iftekharuzzaman and Habibul Bashar Suman, among others, were the signatories to the statement.

Amar Odhikar Campaign, a platform working for civil rights, also urged the political parties to be cautious so that the institutions, which build future citizens, do not become the target of political vengeance.

"It will push the nation's future to darkness," said a press release of the rights body.