

School torched in Gaibandha

Find and punish the perpetrators immediately

WE condemn in the strongest terms the burning down of Gono Unnayan Academy High School by some miscreants. Anyone who has seen the tears of the grieving students at this loss cannot help but wonder what the perpetrators are made of. What kind of human beings set a school on fire? Where will the 600 students of the school study now? Why haven't the police been able to arrest anyone for this horrible and cowardly crime despite the reported trace of flammable liquid like petrol at the spot which undeniably indicates foul play?

Established by an NGO, the lone educational institution in the remote char of Kundepara in Gaibandha stood as a ray of hope for some of the most deprived members of our society who are sometimes left behind by ambitious government projects and programmes. It was shocking to see the school, once brimming with children's activities, being reduced to ashes. But it was also encouraging to witness their love for education—a love strong enough to bring tears to their eyes at the destruction of the school. This, we believe, was the greatest achievement of Gono Unnayan Academy High School. That they continue to attend classes in a flood shelter on the premises of the school also proves that they are indomitable.

Bank Asia has spontaneously committed to repair and rebuild the school and we commend it for this gracious act. Other banks may take a cue from this. The ministry of education and NGOs in the area should also extend all cooperation in this regard. The police should catch the criminals immediately and ensure exemplary punishment.