

## No school for Hindu students for three days

Mohiuddin Alamgir from Nasirnagar, Brahmanbaria

THREE temple-based pre-primary schools continued to be deprived of education as learning centres remained closed for three straight days on Wednesday after attacks on houses and temples, including the three, of Hindus at Nasirnagar upazila in Brahmanbaria on Sunday.

Teachers of three learning centres at Gaura Mandir at Mahakal Para, Jagannath Mandir at Dashpara and Durga Mandir at Gaankulpara said that after the attacks on Sunday they had kept the pre-primary schools closed on the security ground of their students aged below five years.

Some of the guardians who left their houses during or before the attacks were

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yet to return to their houses while other guardians were not interested to send their children saying they could not take risk, they added.

About 200 houses and business establishments and 22 temples of Hindus were vandalised and robbed on Sunday by groups of local Muslims at the upazila town and Hariapur union on allegation of hurting religious sentiment by a Hindu youths by reportedly sharing a photo

setting an idle on the Kaaba on his Facebook wall.

'Guardians are frightened of sending their children to my school and I am not confident enough to open it either after the attacks,' said lone teacher of Gaura Mandir-based pre-primary school Jahar Lal Das.

Jagannath Mandir-based school teacher Konika Rani Das echoed Jahar adding that she was not certain when she would be able to resume the schooling.

Each learning centres provide pre-primary education to about 30 students, through a project under the religious affairs ministry.

Teachers said that their students came from poor families of adjacent areas of the temple.

Visiting the affected areas on Tuesday and Wednesday, New Age found at least 40 children who were studying at different classes of primary and secondary levels had stayed their houses being

compelled to skip classes on security concern after the attack. All of them will need to take either public exams or final test of the classes in November.

Guardians said they did not send their children to schools fearing any kind of harassment at schools as well as provability of attacks.

Last minute preparation of Primary Education Completion Examinations examinees were hampered badly, they added.