

Criminals set school afire in Feni

A CORRESPONDENT, Feni

Criminals burnt down Pashim Bijoy Singh High School in Panchgachhia union under Feni Sadar upazila early yesterday.

After the arson at around 1:00am, a few locals sensed the matter and they along with many others rushed to the spot and engaged in dousing fire, locals and school sources said.

Later a fire service team brought the fire under control but the school-house including its furniture, valuable documents and computer sets got burnt by the time, said Belal Hossain, headmaster of the school.

Set up in 1992, the school now enrolls four hundred students, he said.

Students have been sitting for the Secondary School Certificate examinations from the school since 2005.

The incident seems pre-planned, said Abdul Gofran Bachchu, president of school managing committee.

Visiting the school yesterday morning, Deputy Commissioner Md Humayun Kabir urged the authorities to continue school activities with the help of the primary school adjacent to the school. He also assured necessary allocation for the school.

Earlier on March 30, activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir, student wing of Jamaat-e-Islami, tried to have some students of the school fill up forms of the



PHOTO: STAR

Children look bleakly, standing at a charred classroom of Pashchim Bijoy Singha High School in Feni Sadar upazila yesterday.

organisation when several students protested the act, said students, teachers and locals.

Then the school managing committee at a meeting attended by teachers, students and guardians banned any political activities in the school and asked

all concerned to refrain from such activities.

Police detained a Class X student of the school and an HSC candidate in the area but released them a day later.

School activities remained suspended on April 3 as miscreants left

human excrement at the classrooms the previous night.

Later the school committee held a meeting with the public representatives and local elite and sought help for maintaining smooth academic atmosphere at the school.