

Teacher canes 42 students

*Locals, guardians knock out
headmaster's teeth*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Locals and guardians knocked out two front teeth of the headmaster after another teacher caned 42 students in a school at Bagha upazila yesterday.

The class VIII students of Chandipur High School were caned in their classroom around 10:00am after they refused to pay money for a picnic, said police and witnesses.

There were marks of canning on their backs.

Assaulted, Headmaster Nazrul Islam was admitted to Bagha Health Complex, said Upazila Nirbahi Officer Badal Chandra Halder.

Assistant Teacher Mohammad Ali, who "tortured" the students, was forced to submit his resignation to the school authorities, he added.

The picnic was supposed to be held tomorrow and the school had fixed Tk 100 as fee for every student. The spot was yet to be decided, added police and witnesses.

When the students were being beaten up, one of them,

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Ruma Yasmin, fell sick. Ali rebuked Hafijur Rahman, a guardian, when he went there to protest.

Around 12:00pm, over 300 guardians and locals surrounded the school and started shouting slogans, demanding removal of Ali.

At one point, the headmaster went out of the school and tried to talk to the demonstrators but got assaulted instead, said witnesses.

Later, the protestors also beat up Ali along with two other teachers and confined them in a small house in front of the school. However, their injuries were not that serious.

A police team, led by the UNO, rushed to the scene and rescued the teachers around 1:00pm.

Ali was under police custody and he would face action after filing of a case for torturing the students, said Aminur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Bagha Police Station.

The police official said they would also take action against those who beat up the teachers on receiving complaints.

At the hospital, the headmaster told reporters that he was against any sort of torturing or beating up students. "It was unwanted."

Meanwhile, Ali told The Daily Star, "I was angry. But I did not torture the students. I just hit them softly on their palms with a stick".

A guardian has alleged Ali beat up students twice over trivial issues before. Even though the guardians demanded his exemplary punishment, the school authorities did not take any action against him, he said.