

## Schoolgirl caned as family too poor to buy uniform

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Ranjina Khatun Rojoni, a Class VI student of Ramnagar Government Primary School in Chatmohar upazila of Pabna district, was punished during school assembly for not wearing a new school uniform on Saturday.

"Md Shahinur Rahman Shahin, a teacher of fine arts, caned me during assembly on Saturday morning because I did not wear the new school uniform," Rojoni said. "Although I requested him to stop, he continued caning me until I fainted," she added.

Later, her parents took her to Chatmohar Upazila Health Complex, where she

has been undergoing treatment for three days, doctors said.

"I don't want to go to school. Shahin sir will cane me again," Rojoni, 15, daughter of Suruj Miah of Dolong village in the upazila, told this correspondent yesterday.

Dr Sabujur Rahman Sabuj, resident medical officer of the health complex, said the victim is improving, but she is in trauma due to torture.

"Her condition has improved and she can be released tomorrow or day after tomorrow," Dr Sabuj said, adding that she is in mental stress although she has been cured physically. The mental stress will take time to ease, he added.

Suruj Miah said he felt that he was responsible for the torture of his daughter. "I could not afford to give her a new uniform this year due to poverty," Suruj, a day labourer, said, adding that he had submitted a complaint to the primary education department.

Md Abul Bashar, primary education officer of the upazila, said, "I have formed an inquiry committee headed by an assistant primary education officer. The team has already visited the hospital. They will also visit the school to know about the incident."

He added that the accused teacher would be punished if the inquiry committee found him guilty.