

Principal sent into forced leave for caning students

Our Correspondent
 Kushtia

THE Kushtia Police Lines School and College management on Saturday sent its principal into forced leave for one month in the face of continued protest by students and guardians demanding his withdrawal for beating a number of students last week.

The managing committee president of the institution, Mafiz Uddin Ahmed, also the Kushtia superintendent of police, has sent the principal, Abu Dadra Mohammad Arif Billah, into a leave for a month, the Kushtia police additional superintendent, Subhash Chandra Saha,

told New Age

He said a senior teacher, Liyakat Ali, would be the acting principal for the time being.

On Saturday morning, dozens of students of the institution and their guardians, forming a human chain on Kushtia-Pabna highway, demanded termination of the school principal who allegedly caned 14 students.

The students formed the human chain from 7:30am to 10:30am at the main entrance of the institution.

At about 9:00am, the Kushtia police chief told the students and their guardians that legal action would be taken against him

if he was found guilty.

The father of one of the injured students, Mahmud Hasan, told New Age, 'Sending the principal into leave is nothing but to calm the situation immediately.'

The principal, Abu Dadra, punished the students on Wednesday and Thursday morning as they did not attend coaching at the school as directed by him, reported news agency United News of Bangladesh.

Fourteen students of the school were injured in the incident, the students and their guardians alleged.

The authorities, meanwhile, said two bodies

— one led by the education ministry official and the other by the Kushtia police authorities — were formed to investigate the incident.

Subhash Chandra said they were investigating the incident.

'We found the teacher had beaten up some students but the incident was exaggerated by a quarter,' he told New Age.

On January 13, 2011, the High Court declared corporal punishment illegal in all educational institutions of the country.

In 2010, the government issued an order banning all kinds of corporal punishment at educational institutions.