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Jadavpur University is atankapur, says CM

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KOLKATA: Chief minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday said Jadavpur University has turned into "atankapur" (fear-land), referring to the death of a first-year student at the university hostel last week. She added that education alone cannot make students good human beings if they lack conscience and compassion.

"I go everywhere but don't visit Jadavpur University. They may be good in studies but only education cannot make good human beings if they lack conscience or humanity," said Banerjee while speaking at a meeting at Rabindranagar in Behala Parnasree on the eve of Independence Day.

Publicly speaking for the first time on the incident since the horrific death of a first-year student at JU Main Hostel, Banerjee lashed out at the students' body that doesn't allow police on the campus or hostel and oppose installation of CCTV cameras.

"They don't allow cops to enter or CCTVs to be installed. They rag students. A prestigious institution like JU has now become 'atankapur'. I am hurt, astonished and disappointed," she said.

Banerjee said she was moved while speaking with the victim's father.

"The parents from Bagula had dreams of their son making it big. But he was tortured to death. His father has told me that he had wept over phone and told them that he was being tortured. He had thought of visiting him right then but since Bagula is far away from Kolkata, he couldn't come that day. He said, he didn't realise that they would torture the boy and throw him out of the balcony. He wants justice. So do we," she said.

She then posed a question towards the audience and answered it herself as she said: "Who are they? They are all Marxists. They are still operating with BJP and Congress. TMC is still their prime enemy. They don't have any shame or compassion. The boy was wearing an amulet. They made him take it off. They said it was like Red Fort and tortured the boy," she added.

Banerjee didn't blame the students for everything and accused a group of branded "CPM workers" leading the torture. "I don't blame students. There are some branded CPM men who feel it's their right to torture new students from districts. It pains to see how they took off students' clothes. When the victim's body was found, he was only wearing a towel that too may have been given by somebody later. These are telltale signs of torture but still they don't have any shame," she said.