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# Cops probing conspiracy angle in Bengal ragging death

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KOLKATA: Investigators probing the death of a 17-year-old Jadavpur University (JU) first-year student at a hostel last week are now looking into the possibility of "a greater and well-thought out conspiracy" in which the nine arrested suspects tried to ensure the alleged ragging was not leaked.

The focus now, said sources in Kolkata police's detective department, is on how things played out that fateful August 9 evening. Key prongs include the victim being called into a senior's room and asked to sign a letter against his wishes, police sources said. The purported letter contained allegations that a senior in his Bengali department was instigating the victim against the hostel boarders. Other crucial angles centred on circulation of the

alleged fake letter on WhatsApp and "tutoring" hostellers on how to face police posers, the sources added.

"All these point to a criminal conspiracy to hush up facts. Repeated WhatsApp messages and calls and holding the general body meeting where it was conveyed that 'JU students should know how to face cops' also show that others not immediately present in the hostel might have been involved," said an investigator.

*(With inputs from Dipawali.Mitra)*