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KOLKATA: The extreme cruelty and insensitivity displayed by senior boarders of Jadavpur University Main Hostel after a student received fatal injuries after he fell from the second floor balcony have shocked the JU probe panel members. Sources said seniors conducted ragging to an excessive limit on the minor.

FINDINGS SO FAR

Biplab Bhattacharjee

- Boarders held at least 3 meetings after the boy fell off the balcony
- Meetings held to construct account to be told outside
- A hostel boarder and current student called up an ex-student
- The ex-student informed other seniors. He told the panel that he was in touch with boarders throughout the night over phone
- Some boarders visited his mess near the hostel
- Juniors were tutored to stick to the



Dean of students Rajat Ray at Lalbazar on Thursday

version spelt out by seniors

“It is simply ‘inhuman’ as to how they conducted meetings at the hostel to suppress facts, manufactured an account and threatened freshers to stick to the version that was spelt by the seniors, instead of rushing to hospital,” sources said quoting a probe panel member. The boy was taken to the hospital by a few hostel boarders in a taxi.

The panel members felt extremely uncomfortable hearing statements of those called in to depose on Wednesday. Students recounted how instead of rushing to the hospital and informing JU officials, some senior boarders held meetings to decide what would be said about the incidents leading to the boy’s fall and how freshers had to be briefed. First-year students were then threatened to stick to the version.

A student of the engineering faculty recounted how he had called up an ex-student of civil engineering. The ex-student, who was also called to make his deposition on Wednesday, said he was in contact with boarders over phone all night after the incident. Some even visited a nearby mess, where the ex-student was staying. The ex-student also told the panel that he had called other student leaders that night. But, he said he did not visit the

hostel for months and had been staying at his mess for the past 15 days.

The panel has got confirmation that at least three meetings were held at the hostel to construct versions of the incident to be told outside.

The engineering faculty student also said that the fresher was mentally disturbed and was roaming naked and that he gave him the towel. The fresher tried to get inside, but a few of them didn't allow him. Then he jumped off the balcony when the towel came off. The panel is not reportedly convinced with the statement. On Thursday, the panel recorded statements of more boarders from A2 block of Main Hostel, hostel staff and some first-years.