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Jadavpur University fake army uniform: NGO head arrested

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KOLKATA: Kolkata Police have arrested Quazi Sadeque Hossain, the self-proclaimed "secretary general" of the NGO Asian Human Rights Society, for his alleged involvement in a case initiated by cops against members of the NGO who reportedly entered Jadavpur University wearing fatigues on Wednesday. They had initially claimed to be from the Army, but then said they were connected to the "National Human Rights Commission". Hossain, a resident of Garden Reach, was detained from the port area late on Saturday and was taken to Jadavpur police station for questioning. He was arrested around 9.15pm. He was produced at a local court in Alipore and sent to police custody till September 3.

"During the search of his residence, some fake ID cards, letter heads and other incriminating documents were seized," said joint CP (crime) Shankha Shubra Chakrabarty. However, he did not elaborate on why Hossain had visited the spot in the first place, claiming his statements were being verified. Hossain initially claimed he had gone to submit a memorandum on violation of human rights.

Public prosecutor Sourin Ghosal said, "A fake army officer - who wrote Major before his name - was running a fake army camp involving young minds...We have recovered a fake army ID card from him. In his complaint, the JU dean of students said the accused persons, despite not being members of any army, were wearing camouflage uniform and red beret with the "Indian Army/Bharatiya Sena" monogram used exclusively by the Army. We need

to investigate the purpose of their visit...We also want to investigate how they laid hands on these uniforms and caps."

Hossain was not available at his residence in the first 48 hours after the case was registered and had switched off his phone. His wife had refused to receive the notice on his behalf under CrPc 41A. Hossain finally walked into Garden Reach police station on Friday to accept the notice. However, he avoided being questioned for another 24 hours before cops detained him. Besides IPC 140 (wearing the dress or carrying a token used by a soldier, sailor or airman), cops charged Hossain under IPC 468 (forgery) and 471 (using fake document as genuine).

Cops have asked JU registrar Snehamanju Basu and dean of students Rajat Ray to meet them. JU interim VC Buddhadeb Sau has been asked for documents pertaining to this incident. Sau said he has received the police notice.