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Jadavpur University death: Rustication, suspension likely in varsity panel final report

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KOLKATA: The Jadavpur University internal committee's final report on the death of a first-year Bengali student is likely to have recommended rustication as a punishment for students involved, a source hinted. The report, which was submitted on Monday, will be placed at the EC meeting soon.

Sources said the final report was limited to the ragging and not the cause of the death as it could not question the arrested accused.

The panel's preliminary probe report had earlier indicated the 17-year-old boy, who had died after a fall from a balcony of Main Hostel on August 9, was a victim of ragging and that there had been administrative lapses.

JU officiating vice-chancellor Buddhadeb Sau said he received the final report but pointed out he did not get time to go through it. "I will look into it," he said.

According to a source, the report suggested rustication of students, who were directly involved in the fresher's ragging, and suspension of those who were found guilty of tormenting other juniors and indirectly supporting the ragging culture at the hostel. They might be suspended for two to four semesters. The source added boardership of all students at A2 Block of Main Hostel, notorious for ragging, might be cancelled.

Sources said the final report might have recommended action against the Main Hostel's superintendent and

warnings to senior officials, including dean of students, registrar and some teachers.

Sources hinted the probe panel might have observed lapses in the functioning of the executive council, JU's highest decision-making body, in dealing with and taking strict action against ragging cases in the past. In 2013, two students were found guilty of ragging and they were suspended for one or two semesters but the punishment was not implemented.

The six-member panel, in its preliminary report, had highlighted the prevalence of ragging at Main Hostel.