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Fresher was victim of ragging, says Jadavpur University panel

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KOLKATA: The first-year Bengali honours student at Jadavpur University, who died after a fall from the second-floor balcony of the Main Hostel on the night of August 9, was a victim of ragging, stated the interim report submitted by the university's internal committee. It highlighted the prevalence of ragging culture at Main Hostel and also acknowledged administrative failure.

ADMINISTRATIVE LAPSE: REPORT

Findings

- The first-year Bengali department student was a **victim of ragging**
- **Lapse on part of administration:** **JU authority had no control** over Main Hostel. The **hostel staff**, including the **superintendent**, said they **did not have access to hostel floors** and faced **harassment from students** that were **not addressed by the university authorities, despite complaints**
- **Prevalence of ragging** is clear in **depositions of first-years and seniors**



Probe panel

- Internal probe panel is headed by dean of science Subenoy Chakraborty
- Panel recorded statements of boarders, ex-students, hostel staff, officials, freshers, seniors

The interim report was submitted to officiating vice-chancellor Buddhadeb Sau on Friday. Nearly 140 people—current and former students, teachers, officials and hostel staff—had deposed before it over nine days. While Sau said the final report would be submitted at the earliest, a source said it could be on Monday. “It takes time to write and compile a report,” Sau said.

The interim report found several boarders at Main Hostel and former students, who illegally occupied hostel rooms, were involved. Sources said the report indicted all boarders of A2 Block of Main Hostel, be it those directly involved in the ragging and the silent spectators.

The prevalence of ragging was clear in the depositions of first-years and seniors. The committee learnt the victim had asked his classmates how long he would have to endure the ragging.

Administrative failure was clear from the university authority’s lack of control over the Main Hostel, the report stated. Hostel staff, including the superintendent, had in their deposition said they did not have access to hostel

floors and faced harassment from students that were not addressed by the university authorities, despite complaints.

West Bengal Commission for Protection of Child Rights, NHRC and cops, have questioned the lack of monitoring and free access of outsiders to the Main Hostel.