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3 months on, Jadavpur University ragging panel yet to decide on punishment

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KOLKATA: The anti-ragging committee at Jadavpur University on Monday could not finalize the punishment recommended by the internal probe panel for the students who were involved in the ragging of a first-year Bengali department student who died almost three months ago after a fall from the second-floor balcony at Main Hostel. Instead, the committee again asked the anti-ragging squad to submit a "conclusive report" in 15 days. This, despite the squad endorsed the internal probe panel's recommendations and submitted their observations to interim VC Buddhadeb Sau on October 9. Students and teachers felt this was done to "delay the process of justice".

The squad had submitted a report earlier in October, with observations, such as the expulsion recommendation for of all boarders at A2 Block of Main Hostel be reviewed. But it had agreed with most recommendations by the internal panel, including suspension of students and hostel expulsion of at least 31 students.

Sau said, "Anti-ragging committee members felt the squad's report was 'not specific' and so they have been asked to submit a 'conclusive' report. We wanted a proper anti-ragging squad report but they have submitted some observations by their members, with the internal panel's report."

Following a meeting on Monday, anti-ragging committee members visited New Block Hostel to interact with

first-year engineering students and share their numbers. The anti-ragging squad, too, visited freshers at the hostel on the Salt Lake campus.

JUTA general secretary Partha Pratim Ray said, " The university is in a way promoting and encouraging ragging by not punishing the accused students." Ramprasad Kundu, the victim's father, said, "My son would have turned 18 on Tuesday. The VC told me the accused would be punished but nothing has happened."