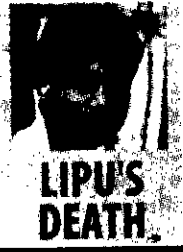


A gang of exam frauds stalked, threatened Lipu

Says family; police investigating claim; RU students, teachers demand justice

A CORRESPONDENT, RU



Rajshahi University student Motaieb Hossain Lipu, who was mysteriously found dead on Thursday, might have been stuck in a gang of exam frauds, said family members.

Lipu served a three-month jail sentence for taking a teachers' registration test for someone else last year, and since that incident, he had received death threats several times,

said his uncle Bashir Mollah yesterday.

Police see it as a murder, but are yet to suspect anyone.

Humayun Kabir, officer-in-charge of Motihar Police Station, said they were giving importance to the suspected "gang of exam frauds" in investigation.

Lipu, 22, a second-year student of mass communication and journalism, was found dead in a gutter beside the three-storey Nawab Abdul Latif Hall where he lived.

Dr Enamul Haque of Rajshahi Medical College, who conducted the autopsy, said he died of internal haemorrhage in the brain, and there were injuries in the right parts of his forehead and head, and ribs. He might have been hit in the head and pushed off a high place, he said.

Police had picked up four people on Thursday, but released two security guards of the hall and one of his friends the next day. Lipu's roommate Monirul Islam was still kept in police custody for further interrogation.

Talking to The Daily Star, Lipu's father Badar Uddin said he knew about the threats, but did not know who were behind it.

"Lipu had smashed his mobile phone out of anger on Tuesday, and he was very scared. He did not want to return to the university. He had only said he was in trouble," he said.

"But we made him go to register for his final exams," he said, adding that they had asked Lipu to stay at a relative's house in the city's Katakhal area for safety.

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A gang of exam frauds stalked

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Lipu returned to the campus on Tuesday afternoon from his village in Jhenidah's Harinakundu and signed for the second-year final exams, which were supposed to start on November 2.

His mother Hosne Ara Begum said Lipu had talked to her Wednesday, the day before

his death, using a friend's phone after he returned to his room at the hall. A murder case was filed with Motihar Police Station on Thursday, against unidentified people.

Meanwhile, demanding a fair investigation, around 300 students and teachers of the university rallied in front of the mass communication and journalism department yesterday.