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## Fact Finding Committee report

# Over 20 JU students raped, 300 sexually harassed

Star Report

More than 20 students of Jahangirnagar University were raped and over 300 others sexually harassed on the campus by the armed cadres of a particular political party.

This was revealed in the report of the Fact Finding Committee constituted by the JU authorities.

The committee, formed on August 20 against the backdrop of press reports on incidents of rape at the university and massive protests by students, submitted its report to the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Alauddin Ahmed, on September 21.

A copy of the report obtained by The Daily Star yesterday

contained details of the ordeal suffered by the victims. 'negligence' of the University authorities in handling the issue and the 'tyranny' let loose by the armed goons on the campus.

"Some were raped several times, some were gangraped and some were even forced to leave the campus after the incidents," the Committee report said.

"Many of them were even whisked away from in front of their residential halls at gun point and then raped in broad day light," it said. These incidents were hushed up either with threat and coercion or in the name of adverse social repercussion.

"Some of these incidents were even brought to the notice of officials of the university but they did not take any action, reminding the victims about social repercussion," the report noted.

"Ironically, the campus has become a fertile ground for criminal activities where a section of students under political shelter are found not only involved in rape, but also in extortion, bus dacoity, bringing prostitutes at the residential halls, drug abuse and blackmailing," the report noted.

"Jasimuddin Manik, a student of Drama and Dramatics Department was on the top of

the list of seven persons accused of rape on the university campus.

"On completion of his 100th rape, he even celebrated the occasion offering sweets and throwing a cocktail party," the report noted.

Manik is the former general secretary of the JU unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League. He was expelled from the organisation on September one.

The six others accused of rape of the department of Bangla. Hasibur Rahman Barkat of Geology, Mohammad Ali Dalas of History, Nabiul Haq Roni of Government and

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## 20 JU students

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Politics, Atiqur Rahman Naim of History and Anisur Rahman of the department of English.

The six are also influential leaders of the BCL at the university.

The report found that top leaders and armed cadres of a particular political party and some outsiders were involved in the incidence of rape. The outsiders were Sohail, Mukul and Raj.

The abettors in the incidents were identified as Titu, Ferdous, Rafiq, Ruhul, Sohag and Kajol. They were also students of the JU and leaders of BCL.

As many as 20 sites were identified on the university campus where the incidents took place. The sites included the Shaheed Minar, Library premises, M H Hall and its adjacent areas, university gymnasium and the Green Room of the Drama and Dramatics Department.

"When the victims approached the administrative of-

ficials including Provosts of halls and former Proctor Afsar Ahmed, they hardly got any remedy on grounds of adverse social repercussion," the report said.

The 213 page report is now being discussed by the JU Syndicate.

The Fact Finding Committee scrutinised more than 350 'secret' letters and interviewed 18 alleged offenders and about 30 witnesses including students and others. The committee also visited the alleged sites of the incidents, the report noted.

The seven-member Fact Finding Committee headed by Prof Anwarul Huq Sharif, comprises Dr A Mannan Chowdhury, Proctor of the university; Prof Abul Hussain, Provost of Al Beruni Hall; Kanchan Chowdhury, Provost of Pritilata Hall; Prof Nasim Akhter Hussain, Provost of Nawab Faizunnessa Hall; A N Rasheda, Syndicate member and Prof Sauda Akhter a teacher of Bangla Department of the university.