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Tragic end of KU student

Our Correspondent

KHULNA, Aug 7:—A student of Architecture discipline of Khulna University (KU) drowned in the river Rupsha during pleasure bathing on the occasion of the 'World Friends Day' on Sunday night. Rescuers were trying to recover his body by helicopter and speed boat till filing this report at 7 pm.

The ill-fated student was identified as Mahamudur Rahman Noor (22) son of Abdus Salam hailed from Dhaka who was a second year student of Architecture discipline of Khulna University. Noor was swimming at the west side's pillar of Rupsha bridge at about 8 pm on Sunday. The ebb tide began to role and Noor was swept by the wave in the river.

Local rescuers, Navy, Fire Service, Civil Defence and rescuers of the Coast-Guard tried to recover his body, but in vain.

It may be mentioned here that on March 13, 2004, 11 students of KU and 2 students of BUET were swept by the wave in the deep-sea of the Bay of Bengal while they were taking pleasure bath. Later their dead bodies were rescued in estuary of the Bay of Bengal. However, boatmen and eyewitnesses said, with a view to observe the 'World Friends Day' 16 students of KU went on private level without the permission from the authorities in order to pleasure bathing on Sunday at about 6 pm. They hired a trawler at the rate of Tk 200 per hour and went towards Rupsha Khanjahan Ali Bridge.

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Tragic

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about 8 pm the trawler came near the pillar of the west side of the bridge. As the bank was 50 yards away, Noor bet with his mates and decided to cross the river by swimming. He kept his shirt and mobile phone to his friends. After a while Noor sought help to his friends. At that time one of his friends Walid jump into the river with a view to rescue Noor, but the tide swept him away. Walid managed to escape and shouted to save Noor. Being informed police and different agencies rushed to the spot. 21 members of Fire Service, 4 of Navy and 3 rescuers of Coast-guard searched after getting into the river. The students who hired the trawler were Md. Shahanezwaz, Md. Nahian, Abu Tayob, Md. Shahartar, Mottasif Hasan Deep, Animesh Provakar, Debnath, Walid Hossain, Nadim Saker, Shahariar Rehman, Mehrab Hossain, Subrata Chowdhury and female students were Kakoly Biswas, Nandirul Rahman, Neepa Debnath, Resat Fahim and Nabir Hossain.

On the other hand, the members of Joint force of the camp adjacent to the Rupsha bridge took away the students and the boatman for interrogation and later they released them.

Meanwhile after receiving the missing news of Noor, his brother hailed from Navy Staff Quarter at Darussalam area of Dhaka reached Khulna today.

A heart-rending scenario was created at that time. At noon Noor's other relations reached Khulna.

Khulna University authority held an urgent meeting at 10:30 am today. VC Dr. Mahbubur Rahman chaired the meeting. A decision for forming a probe-committee was taken in the meeting. Some decisions were taken so that no untoward incident may occur in future. KU VC told Observer that the students who were victimized with the accident were not residents of varsity hostel and they did not inform the KU authority.