

RU teacher Raja shown arrested over provocation

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Police yesterday showed arrested the colleague of a Rajshahi University (RU) teacher who committed suicide on September 9, claiming to have unearthed some evidence showing he had allegedly provoked her into taking her life.



Assistant Professor Atiqur Rahman Raja of mass communication and journalism department was picked up on Thursday afternoon from the city. He has been kept under the detective branch of police since the courts stayed closed during the weekend.

Police recovered the body of Associate Prof Akter Jahan Joly of the same department on September 9 from her room at RU and found an alleged suicide note.

Sources involved in the investigation said a part of the evidence was text messages found on Joly's cellphone dating back to August. Those indicated that they had been seeing each other for around seven years and recently had been in a disagreement over Raja refusing to provide Joly an "outcome of their relation", they said.

Raja was "irresponsible" for not checking up on Joly after getting her last SMS in which she wrote to have dressed up with his gifts and was "going to sleep in peace", presumably after taking sleeping pills, said the sources. Police will be considering this "irresponsibility" to be provocation, they added, quoting Raja as saying that this was his "biggest error in life".

In previous conversations, Joly also threatened "to do something" and Raja had asked if she was "taking revenge" and asked to "find a new path", they said. Joly married an associate professor of the department before joining RU in 1997. She divorced him in 2012.