

KERATAN AKHBAR

NAMA AKHBAR: NEW STRAITS TIMES (NEWS/STORY OF THE DAY)

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Negri Sembilan police chief Datuk Mohamad Mat Yusop (centre) speaking at a press conference at the state police headquarters in Seremban yesterday. PIC BY HASRIYASYAH SABUDIN

POLICE: NORA DIED OF STARVATION

Post-mortem reveals ruptured intestines, cops rule out foul play

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FRENCH-IRISH teenager Nora Anne Quoirin's post-mortem results showed she died of starvation.

Negri Sembilan police chief Datuk Mohamad Mat Yusop said the cause of death was upper gastrointestinal bleeding due to duodenal ulcer complicated by perforation, meaning there was internal bleeding in the intestines due to an ulcer, which was brought on by starvation.

He said police had ruled out foul play in Nora's death, adding that there were no signs of kidnapping or rape.

Mat Yusop said Nora died two or three days before her body was found on Tuesday.

"The cause of death was due to ruptured intestines, which could be because she had no food for a long period and also long-term stress," he said at the state police headquarters here.

On whether Nora died of starvation, he said: "Yes."

"There were scratches and light wounds on her leg. However, that did not cause her death.

"Samples from the body have been sent to the Chemistry Department for a more detailed post-mortem result."

He said there were no signs of abduction and that the case was still being investigated as a miss-

ing person case.

On reports that French police were probing the case as a possible abduction, Mat Yusop said they had nothing to do with it.

However, he said, authorities from France, England and Ireland were working closely in the investigation.

Earlier, Reuters reported that French police had opened a criminal investigation into Nora's disappearance.

The Paris prosecutor opened a criminal investigation into the case for kidnapping on Aug 9, a spokesman told Reuters in a text message.

French prosecutors regularly launch investigations on cases involving French citizens abroad.

Nora's father, Sebastien Marie Philippe, is from France, while her mother, Meabh Jaseprine Quoirin, is from Belfast.

Mat Yusop said the Quoirin family would be allowed to claim Nora's remains at any time and there were no restrictions for them to leave the country.

He denied claims by a Twitter user that Nora was raped by Orang Asli since her body was found naked.

"We have made a police report and identified the owner of the Twitter account."

The Quoirin family of five arrived in Malaysia on Aug 3 for a two-week holiday and checked in at The Dusun resort near here.

Nora was found missing the next morning. A window on the ground floor of the guesthouse they were staying in was found left open.

The family had insisted that she was abducted, saying the special needs teen would never wander off on her own.

A massive search-and-rescue operation was launched and it in-

involved more than 300 policemen, including VAT 69 commandos, members of the Senoi Praaq General Operations Force battalion and other government authorities, as well as Orang Asli and civilian volunteers.

The search included tracker dogs from the police and Fire and Rescue Department's K9 units, as well as helicopters equipped with infrared cameras.

As investigations turned up no evidence of abduction, the case was classified as a missing person case, but police said they had not ruled out any possibility and continued to work on the abduction angle, though efforts were concentrated mostly on finding the teenager in the jungles surrounding the resort.

Police also searched houses in the vicinity and recorded statements from family members, resort staff and others who might have come into contact with the family.

On the 10th day, volunteers from a hiking club found Nora's body on a slope near a river not far from a waterfall. It was the same waterfall Nora had told her mother she was excited to visit.

It was 2.5km from the resort.

As the location was inaccessible, her body had to be winched out by a helicopter.

The body was flown to Tuanku Ja'afar Hospital where Sebastien and Meabh identified their daughter.

A post-mortem was carried out at 11.45am on Wednesday and ended at 9pm.

It was conducted by Kuala Lumpur Hospital pathologist Dr Siew Sheue Feng and Dr Hanif Mohammad of Tuanku Ja'afar Hospital, assisted by specialists from the Petaling Jaya Chemistry and Forensic Departments.