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SPORT

Nepali ski racer disappears in Alps

A Nepali ski racer has disappeared from his team's base in the French Alps after joining a group of Jehovah's Witnesses.

The 17-year-old fled during a rainstorm after becoming "distressed" by the breakup of his national squad.

"Uttam Rayamajhi, 17, vanished from the team ski base at Les Arcs on Monday with no money, minimal French and very little clothing," coach Richard Morley said.

"He has not been seen or heard from since and team members fear for his safety.

"He was approached by Jehovah's Witnesses and recruited into their church.

"The day after attending his first service with the sect he vanished from the team's mountain chalet home during a heavy rainstorm.

"Despite extensive efforts by the police at Bourg St Maurice, no trace of him has been found."

Funding row

Morley said that Rayamajhi had been extremely distressed lately following the disintegration of the Nepal ski team in the wake of a funding row with the Nepal Olympic Committee.

Morley, a British businessman and former skier, launched the Nepal Alpine skiing team in 1997 at the request of the Himalayan country's then-ruler King Birendra.

Jehovah's Witnesses, a Christian group formed in the United States in the 19th Century, has grown worldwide mainly through door-to-door preaching by its followers.

The organisation was not immediately available for comment about Rayamajhi on Thursday.

Source: Agencies



The Nepali teenager vanished in the mountains
[GALLO/GETTY]

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