He was found bleeding from the head in the courtyard of Bras Basah Complex on April 15. Mr Syed Ali Abdullah Alhamid, 25, a computer technician, died in hospital less than two hours later. At first, it was thought that he had fallen and that no foul play was involved. But yesterday, following the results of a post-mortem, the police said he was killed. A 20-year-old man has been arrested and will be charged with Mr Syed Ali’s murder today.

When contacted last night, Mr Syed Ali’s father said: “Tonight, I received the best news, that somebody will be charged.”

Mr Syed Abdullah Ahmad Alhamid, 65, a senior division director with property agency ERA, said he had doubted from the start that his son had fallen to his death. “He looked like he had been bashed on the front and back of his head. If he had fallen, how could he have injuries on both sides? It doesn’t make sense,” he said.

CCTV footage

The New Paper understands that there was a CCTV recording of Mr Syed Ali walking with another man in the shopping complex some time after 3am, shortly before he was found bleeding. The police were alerted at about 3.35am, and he was taken to the Singapore General Hospital, where he died of his injuries at about 5.11am.

Mr Syed Abdullah said he last saw his son, the youngest of his five children, on April 14 night. The young man had left their home at East Coast Road at around 10pm. As usual, he did not tell his father where he was going and who he was meeting. “I always trusted him. We had an informal system.”

Mr Syed Abdullah said, “If he didn’t come home by midnight, he would have to call and tell me he was late. Otherwise, I would call him.”

That night, Mr Syed Abdullah did not hear from his son. “I was quite irritated because when he wasn’t back by 12am and didn’t call, I called him a few times at around 1am and 2am, but no one answered,” he said.

“Then it went silent, like someone had switched off the phone.”

Mr Syed Abdullah got a call at 6am from a nurse at the Singapore General Hospital, where his son was taken. “She asked me if I could take bad news. I said I could, and she told me my son had passed away,” he said.

Mr Syed Abdullah told Berita Harian that his son, an ex-Singapore Polytechnic student, had planned to start a new course at the Singapore Institute of Management in July.