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# JU interim VC's appointment may find mention in SC

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Kolkata: The appointment of Jadavpur University interim vice-chancellor Buddhadeb Sau is likely to be mentioned in the Supreme Court on Monday.

According to sources, an SC division bench of justices Surya Kant and Dipankar Datta is likely to hear the Bengal government's challenge to the Calcutta High Court order validating the appointment of interim VCs by governor CV Ananda Bose.

"We will mention the fact that during the pendency of this case, the chancellor has made yet another interim VC appointment in Jadavpur University. Earlier, a retired Karnataka High Court judge and a former Kerala IPS officer were made interim VCs. Apart from the legality of appointing non-academic persons as VCs, these appointments were not made in consultation with the state higher education department," a source close to the developments said.

On June 28, a division bench of Chief Justice T S Sivagnanam and Justice Ajay Kumar Gupta held that the chancellor had made the selections as a stopgap arrangement to meet exigencies and the move should not be confused with the appointment of VCs. "The phraseology clearly shows the order is an interim arrangement. Until further orders, the professors have been authorised to exercise powers and perform the duties of VCs," the bench observed.

Bengal is also mulling legal options questioning the stalemate over appointing regular VCs. "Based on court orders, the search committees have been expanded. However, Raj Bhavan's disinclination to proceed with the formal appointments is questionable. This is also allowing a situation in which such irregular interim VC appointments are being made," the source said.

