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# In new Jadavpur University twist, VC says registrar wants to go after death threat

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KOLKATA: Yet another round of drama unfolded at Jadavpur University on Saturday, a few hours after two of the varsity's senior-most officials - registrar Snehamanju Basu and joint registrar Sanjay Gopal Sarkar - received death threats by similar letters. The officiating vice-chancellor, Buddhadeb Sau, who was nominated by governor C V Ananda Bose, set the ball rolling when he said in the afternoon that registrar Basu, one of the recipients of the death threat, had expressed her wish to discontinue with her service in a "confidential letter".

Basu, however, said, "I am very much in my office and discharging my duties. I am busy with a lot of work."

Sources said Basu had cited "ill health" as she was a patient of "acute high pressure for a long time" as her reason for being "unable to continue to act as the registrar of JU" and appealed for voluntary retirement at the earliest.

Sau said, "She has expressed her wish in a confidential letter. It may be due to the death threat she received. I will talk to her personally to address the issue. I will give a proposal on the type of security arrangement she would require to continue as registrar. After that the university can talk to the government and arrange for her protection. She can have security guards in close proximity."

Basu said she was scared and feeling extremely insecure after receiving the death threat letter. "It is natural to get scared. My family is terrified. My mother is 90 years old and my son and daughter are crying," she said. However,

she refused to comment on the "confidential letter" she had sent to the vice-chancellor. "In the university, we often write letters to other officials and exchange notes but I feel this should not be discussed publicly. People should not speculate about the internal matters of the university," she said.

JU registrar Snehamanju Basu said any decision regarding resignation or voluntary retirement were taken at the Executive Council (EC), the university's highest decision-making body.

"If any decision is finalised in the EC, I will address the media and let them know my decision. But as of now, in this critical time of the university, I will perform all the duties as a registrar. Right now, we have to reply to the questions that the state fact-finding team has asked us and we are working to collect various data. Till this crucial phase is over, I will continue my duties. After that it may not be possible for me to continue due to ill health," Basu added.

As per the university's rules, the eligibility criteria for voluntary retirement is examined and in case the applicant is found to be eligible, the appeal is placed before the EC. The final decision is approved at the EC meeting. Sources said that in JU, if someone clears the eligibility criteria for voluntary retirement, the EC generally approves it.

Basu joined Jadavpur University as registrar in November 2018 at the age of 59. Before that she was a professor of Geography at Lady Brabourne College. She is scheduled to retire as registrar in November 2024.