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Two fresh ragging complaints show up schism within JU

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Kolkata: Jadavpur University (JU) had received two new ragging complaints through UGC helpline last Friday but no anti-ragging squad (ARS) meeting was convened till Monday despite “repeated requests” from ARS chairman Sanmoy Karmakar.

Karmakar, pharmaceutical technology department professor, in his letter to acting vice-chancellor Buddhadeb Sau on Monday, has written: “...till now no meeting has been called for although all of us are well aware about the seriousness of the current situation. In this precarious administrative condition, will it not be proper and justified for me to resign from the responsibilities of chairman of the ARS?”

He wrote that after receiving the complaint on Friday, he had requested an official to call for an emergency meeting either on Saturday or Monday. But the official, being busy with “SC Commission visit”, had reportedly requested Karmakar to get the meeting called either by the ARS convenor or another official. He had sent emails to these officials on Friday itself and dean of students Rajat Ray. He also sent emails to the VC, pro-VC and the registrar to urge the ARS convenor to call for an emergency meeting. But till Monday, no ARS meeting was called, the professor pointed out in his letter.

A source said that as per the rules, it is the responsibility of the convenor to call the meeting. “If the ARS chairman has to call the meeting, he has to get an official email regarding this. In this case, nothing was conveyed and the process was delayed,” a professor said.

Karmakar said: “I have not resigned but highlighted the problems when JU is running through a crisis. It is difficult if the machinery doesn’t work fast in such a situation.”

Sources said that one of the ragging complaints were from the arts faculty on the main campus and the other from the engineering faculty on the Salt Lake campus. Some felt the incidents must have taken place earlier but the students have gathered courage to lodge complaints now.

Jadavpur University Teachers Association (JUTA) general secretary Partha Pratim Ray said: “The authority has taken no lesson from the ragging incident in August.” AISA JU unit secretary Barsha Baral said: “The authority is indifferent and not at all concerned to curb the ragging menace on the campus.” SFI member June Guhathakurta felt the incident once again revealed the “lackadaisical” attitude of the authority.

VC Sau said he had received the letter and an investigation will be conducted to find out why the meeting had been delayed.