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Need some sleep, says man of the moment JU VC during convocation

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Kolkata: Amid the confusion and chaos at Jadavpur University, which went on to host the 66th annual convocation despite the Raj Bhavan removing officiating vice-chancellor Buddhadeb Sau from the post, the man of the moment kicked off the ceremony on Sunday and signed off saying “he needed some sleep”.

“I am tired after all the efforts put in to hold this convocation. Now I need some sleep,” Sau said when asked about his next step and whether he would continue as a VC at the university. Sau addressed a press conference during the first break of the convocation when he said he opened the event on a request from the JU court.

“I had received two letters — one from the Raj Bhavan and another from the state government. I placed both the communications before the university’s highest body — the Court — and they requested me to sign the certificates and open the convocation. I have kept their request,” said Sau.

He said the Court was aware of the legal implications, if any, associated with the decision. But they went ahead with the event for the “larger interest of the students”.

On being asked the reason behind his sudden removal, Sau said he had no answer to that and that the governor hadn’t mentioned the reason behind his removal in the letter sent to him. “It’s better to ask him the reason why he removed me. I don’t have the answer,” he told reporters.

Asked if he would continue as the VC, he said: “I don’t know what my next step will be. There are high courts and Supreme Court in our country. I am a law-abiding citizen and I will act as per the law.”

Sau went on to add that he had no greed for the post of VC. "Hence, I will do whatever the JU act asks me to do. The lives of 5,000 students depended on today's convocation. Hence, as per the instructions of the state government and the JU Court, I opened the convocation today. What I will do next, only time will tell," said Sau.

After a night of distress over the uncertainty, JU faculty and staff also heaved a sigh of relief on Sunday for the first time in weeks. "The most important thing for us was to ensure that 5,000 students, who would be graduating this year, did not lose out in their careers," said economics professor Saikat Sinha Roy.

Comparative literature professor Kunal Chattopadhyay lamented the dent that the last few weeks have made in academic history. "I have been associated with this university for decades. I have never seen a systematic destabilization of an institution in such a manner."