

'PR system a threat to democracy'

Says Rizvi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi yesterday said local leadership will not develop if elections are held under the Proportional Representation (PR) system.

"If elections are held under the PR system, the preferred candidate in the parliamentary constituency will not be able to become an MP. People will not be able to vote for their preferred candidate," he said at a programme in Rangpur.

Rizvi said under the PR system, the party, not the people, will choose MPs, which will pave the way for authoritarianism.

"Today, various things are being brought forward -- proportional voting. Why proportional voting? This will block the path to developing local leadership. If someone becomes a leader by staying in an area for a long time and maintaining contact with the people, even they could be excluded based on party decisions. This

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Three get life term for 2015 murder of Italian citizen

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced three people to life imprisonment for the 2015 murder of Italian national Cesare Tavella in the capital's Gulshan diplomatic zone.

The convicts -- Tamjid Ahmed Rubel alias "Mobile" Rubel, Russell Chowdhury alias "Bhagne" Russell, and Minhajul Arefin -- were also fined Tk 50,000 each. In default of payment, they will serve one additional year in jail.

Judge Sheikh Samidul Islam of the Third Dhaka Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court delivered the verdict in the presence of five of the accused.

The court acquitted four others -- BNP leader MA Quayum, his brother Abdul

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With no designated waiting area nearby, guardians sit on the staircase of the Farmgate Metro Rail Station in the capital yesterday, waiting for their children to finish the HSC exams at nearby centres. The photo was taken around 12:45pm.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Dengue cases see sharp rise in early July

Over 1,160 hospitalised in first 3 days, total cases cross 11,000

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 1,160 dengue patients were hospitalised in the first three days of July, compared to a total of 5,951 cases in June, painting an alarming picture of the outbreak.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), one more dengue patient died and 358 others were hospitalised in the 24 hours till yesterday morning.

With the latest deaths and cases, the total number of dengue infections this year has reached 11,456, while the death toll stands at 45, DGHS data shows.

Amid the rising numbers, Prof Dr Sayedur Rahman, special assistant to the chief adviser for health ministry, warned that the situation could become more difficult if cases continue to rise.

He said the situation is still under control and the government is prepared to respond.

Dr Rahman made the remarks yesterday after a ceremony at the Directorate General of Health Services in Mohakhali, where China handed over a batch of "Dengue Combined Kits".

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