



Sudden shift to PR system might create confusion: Rizvi

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BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi has said any abrupt departure from the current electoral system that the country has been following for decades might lead to widespread confusion.

He made the remark on Saturday while speaking as a special guest at a dialogue titled “The Quest for a Fair and Representative Electoral System for Bangladesh” held at North South University (NSU) in the capital.

The event, jointly organised by the South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance (SIPG) and the Private University Teachers’ Association of Bangladesh (PUTAB), began at 11am and concluded at 1pm.

During a question-and-answer session with students, Rizvi was asked about the proportional representation (PR) system. In response, he said, “We haven’t fully established democracy yet. If a completely new system is suddenly presented to the public, everyone will be confused.”

“We do not view this system (PR) negatively but under such a model, voters may not even know



who their representative is until the day before the election which does not align with the political reality of Bangladesh”, he said.

The dialogue focused on the need for electoral reforms to ensure inclusivity and democratic representation. Participants also discussed issues related to voter age eligibility and its impact on electoral participation.

Dr AKM Waresul Karim, Dean of the School of Business and Economics at NSU, presented a proposal on a “Weighted Mixed Member Proportional” electoral system.

The event was presided over by NSU Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr

Abdul Mannan Chowdhury, while Dr Badiul Alam Majumdar, Chairperson of the National Election Reform Commission, attended as the chief guest.

Prominent political leaders, academics, civil society representatives, journalists, and students also took part in the programme. Among them were Prof Dilara Chowdhury, Bangladesh Khelafat Majlish President Mamunul Haque, Nationalist Democratic Movement Chairperson Bobby Hajjaj, Associate Prof of Dhaka University Dr Abdullah Al Mamun and Dr Tasnim Zara, Senior Joint Member Secretary of the National Citizen Party.