

Staff Reporter

BNP senior leader Rafiqul Islam Miah on Sunday said the Prime Minister's absolute authority will be established if parliament's power to impeach Supreme Court judges is restored through the 16th amendment to the constitution.

"Judges won't be able to independently pronounce any verdict against the government if parliament gets back the power to remove judges," he said.

The BNP leader came up with the remarks while addressing a human chain in front of the National Press Club organized by the National Democratic Party (NDP), a partner of the BNP-led 20-party alliance, protesting the national broadcast policy and politicization of the judiciary.

Rafiqul, a BNP standing committee member, said the judges could not have ordered the government authorities to arrest the Rab officials involved in the Narayanganj seven-murder incident had the parliament had the power to sack judges.

He alleged that the government is trying to establish full control over the judiciary and the judges by empowering parliament to impeach judges.

Mentioning that Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had already established autocracy, the BNP leader said Sheikh Hasina is also tactfully trying to do the same following the footprints of her father. NDP president Khandaker Golam Mortuza, NAP secretary general Golam Mostafa, Bangladesh Labor Party chairman Mostafizur Rahman Iran and Islamic Party chief Abdul Mobin, among others, spoke at the program.