



Bangladesh Harijan Oikya Parishad Secretary General Nirmal Chandra Das speaks at a press conference at Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday. On his right are Sadhan Chandra Kesh and Osit Chandra Das.

## Refrain from setting up commercial outlets Uttara residents urge Rajuk

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Residents of an Uttara neighbourhood in the city yesterday organised a rally protesting setting up commercial establishments in the residential area.

The house owners and tenants living on road-3/c of Uttara sector-9 demonstrated on the neighbourhood streets urging all to refrain from establishing any commercial outlets or educational campuses in the residential area, says a press release.

They urged the authorities concerned, including Rajuk, to help preserve the serenity of the residential areas in Uttara.

Uttara sector-9 Welfare Association President Shamsul Islam, freedom fighter Fazlul Haq, retired captain Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, and the President of homeowners association of Road-3/c AKM Shahjahan and the Secretary retired Col Akhtaruzzaman addressed the protest rally.

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## SC BAR ASSOC OFFICE Chaos over hanging of Zia's photo

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A chaos and scuffle took place between pro-Awami League (AL) lawyers and pro-BNP-Jamaat lawyers centering hanging of the photo of late president Ziaur Rahman in the office of Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) president yesterday.

A group of ruling AL-backed lawyers removed the photo of Ziaur Rahman after some others broken the rear door of the SCBA president's office creating a serious chaos for around one hour in the afternoon.

Earlier, at about 12:30pm, the SCBA authorities hung photos of Ziaur Rahman, Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani and MAG Osmani on the north side wall of the office, opposite of the photo of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

On November 22, the pro-AL lawyers had once removed their photos immediate after the SCBA hanged those at the same place.

Witnesses say the AL backed lawyers removed the photo around 2:00pm, saying it was hung to dishonour Bangabandhu.

Earlier, the agitating pro-AL lawyers besieged the president's room protesting hanging of the photo of Ziaur Rahman.

During the agitation, a group of pro-BNP lawyers chanted slogans in support of hartal called by BNP.

At one stage, some people, including a few lawyers, broke open the rear door of the SCBA president's room and then the pro-AL lawyers removed the photo of Ziaur Rahman.

Pro-BNP lawyers rushed in and locked in the chaos and scuffle with pro-AL lawyers.

Around 2:30pm, another group of lawyers removed the photos of Bhashani and Osmani from the SCBA president's office.

Later, both the groups held separate meetings and accused each other of vandalism on SCBA premises.

SCBA President Khandker Mahbub Hossain told The Daily Star that there is no legal bar to hang photos of the three leaders on the wall of the president's room.

Attorney General Mahbubey Alam said the SCBA president and secretary are responsible for the chaos, since they have intentionally hung the photo of Zia facing the photo of Bangabandhu to make excited the general lawyers for creating a political issue.

## End discrimination against Dalits Leaders ask govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Dalit and Harijan communities yesterday urged the government to formulate a law to eliminate racial discrimination against them and protect their human rights.

They also called for action against those who look upon the people in these communities as untouchables.

They put forward their 10-point demand regarding implementation of humanity at a press conference at Jatiya Press Club in the city.

The communities will also hold human chain programmes in 54 districts of the country today marking the World Respect Day 2011.

Though the incumbent government pledged to protect the rights of minority communities in its electoral manifesto, its representatives often show discrimination towards the Dalit and Harijan people, said Secretary General Nirmal Chandra Das of Bangladesh Harijan Oikya Parishad.

He urged the government to fulfill their pledge through formulating a national development policy with the participation of the community's people.

"To ensure the representation of Dalit and Harijan communities at every government institution including the national parliament, reserve seats should be introduced for them,"

he said adding that, the communities should also be included in the government's safety net programme.

A quota system in the education and employment sectors should be strictly maintained for the community's people, he added.

The government allocated Tk 10 crore for the communities in the last fiscal, but it could not be put to use due to lack of policy. "We are urging the government to formulate a policy immediately", said Nirmal.

Vice-President of Bangladesh Harijan Oikya Parishad Sadhan Chandra Kesh and General Secretary of Bangladesh Dalit Parishad Oshok Das were also present.

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