



Awami League President Sheikh Hasina speaks at a view exchange meeting with party lawmakers of the eighth parliament at the party's Dhanmondi office in the city yesterday.

## Recast EC, issue voter ID cards with photo

### Demands Peshajibi Nari Samaj

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Peshajibi Nari Samaj, a platform for women professionals, yesterday urged the caretaker government to maintain neutrality and create an atmosphere conducive to a free and fair election.

They also demanded reconstitution of the Election Commission and removal of the CEC, rectification of the voter list and issuance of voter Identity cards with photos for a fair election.

They also called for an independent EC, depoliticisation of civil administration and the police and cancellation of all contractual appointments.

They also demanded necessary steps to ensure neutrality of the electronic media, including state-owned Bangladesh Television and Bangladesh Betar.

Reading out a written statement in a press conference, cultural personality Sara Zaker said mostly women become the targets of post-election violence. Women also find it difficult to exercise their franchise if the election is not held in a free and fair manner.

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad General Secretary Ayesha Khanam, Prof Nasrin Ahmad, Prof Sultana Shafi, artiste Lubna Mariam, Mita Haque, former lawmaker Shegufa Yasmin, sculptor Ferdousi Pnyabhashini and Dr Makhduma Nargis Ratna were also present.

The organisation submitted a memorandum to the Chief Adviser to the caretaker government at Bangabhaban at 11:00am yesterday to press their demands.

Later, the leaders and activists marched towards the EC to submit

another memorandum to the CEC, but the police picked up six of them near the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre without showing any reason.

However, they were released on bail later.

The speakers at the press conference condemned the arrest and said such arrest is totally illegal as the activists were going to the EC in a peaceful manner.

It is the democratic right of the people to submit a memorandum and the police cannot arrest them without showing any cause, said women's rights activist Dr Hamida Hossain.



Family members of slain former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria and civil society members line up on Sat Masjid Road yesterday under 'Blue for Peace' programme demanding trial of the masterminds behind the killing of Kibria.

## CPB public meeting today

Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) will hold a public meeting at Mukhtangan in the city at 3:00pm today demanding reconstitution of the Election Commission and a thorough purge of the administration, says a press release.

The CPB will also demand implementation of its 53-point electoral reform proposal.

It will also call for forging resistance to politics of plunder, communalism and imperialism.

CPB President Manzurul Ahsan Khan will chair the meeting.