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MACRON'S WARNING

"France will strike" if chemical
bombs are used in Syria

itting out on a busy city street is posing a risk to vehicles behind. The motorcyclist, without any safety
e between his ear and shoulder while riding past the truck. Such disdain for safety can lead to acci-
ken near Dhaka University's TSC yesterday afternoon.

PHOTO:
PRABIR DAS

urges UNSC Rohingyas

ber-countries say
anmar still not
epatriation

IN Security Council to undertake
ngladesh to witness the humani-
ingya amid continuous influx of

would add "momentum to the
Masud Bin Momen, permanent
esh to the UN, at a Security
ork on Tuesday.

y 700,000 Rohingya refugees fled
nflux, though reduced in recent
yanmar's assurances of stopping

February, about 1,500 Rohingya
n told the Security Council meet,
e violence began in late August.

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European Parliament for inclusive polls

Visiting team says it's important for
BNP to concentrate on polls

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

A visiting European Parliament
delegation has called for an inclu-
sive parliamentary election in
Bangladesh, and said it is impor-
tant for the BNP to concentrate on
the polls.

It hopes all political parties would be
willing to contest the upcoming polls to
ensure people have a real choice at the ballot
box.

The delegation has also said the BNP faces
a "challenge" following its Chairperson
Khaleda Zia's sentencing in a corruption case.

"We would agree that the situation is a
difficult one but as a political party it is
important for the BNP to concentrate on the



Jean Lambert

upcoming election," Jean Lambert,
chair of the European Parliament
Delegation to South Asia, said at a
press conference at the European
Union Embassy in Dhaka yesterday.

"...it [sentencing of Khaleda]
certainly presents a challenge to
madam Zia's party," she said.

"We know there have been challenges so
far in terms of organising, in terms of actu-
ally being able to conduct the [election]
campaign [by the BNP], so this is something
we raised with the Election Commission [of
Bangladesh]."

Responding to a question, Lambert said
the delegation would talk to BNP leaders to
know the party's view on these issues.

PHOTO ON PAGE 3

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KHALEDA'S CONVICTION FOR GRAFT BNP mulls second round of agitation

First spell ends peacefully with
nationwide hunger strike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The first spell of the BNP's agitation programmes over the jail-
ing of its Chairperson Khaleda Zia came to an end yesterday
with the staging of token hunger strikes across the country.

In the capital, party leaders and activists broke the hun-
ger strike in front of the Jatiya Press Club at 1:00pm, three
hours ahead of schedule upon request from law enforcers.

Meanwhile, seven days have passed since the jailing of
Khaleda, but her lawyers are yet to get the certified copy of the
special court's verdict in the Zia Orphanage Trust graft case.

Court sources said the copy might be supplied today. The
lawyers neither can file an appeal nor can lodge a bail peti-
tion for Khaleda with the High Court without having the
certified copy.

BNP sources said it was drawing up plans to go for a mass
signature campaign, submitting memorandums to the
deputy commissioners of districts and holding a mammoth
rally in the capital to press home the demand to free
Khaleda.

Earlier, BNP leaders and activists brought out proces-
sions on Friday, staged demonstrations on Saturday, formed
a human chain in front of the Jatiya Press Club on Monday
and staged a sit-in in front of the party's Nayapaltan central
office on Tuesday protesting the five-year prison sentence of
the party chief.

Hundreds of BNP leaders and activists began the hunger
strike at 10:00am yesterday in presence of a large number of
law enforcers.

Addressing the programme, BNP Secretary General
Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said the party would continue
its movement until the government released Khaleda Zia.

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