ers, prompting the police to lock in a clash with BNP men. Therefore, the developing situation may not offer anything good for the people, who are already panicking. The government has largely failed to contain the violence carried out by Jamaat. The anti-liberation forces have succeeded in terrorising people in the country. Gripped by panic, people did not come out of their homes in the last two-day hartal enforced by Jamaat.

The government did not come up with any strategy or plan to calm the situation and to ensure

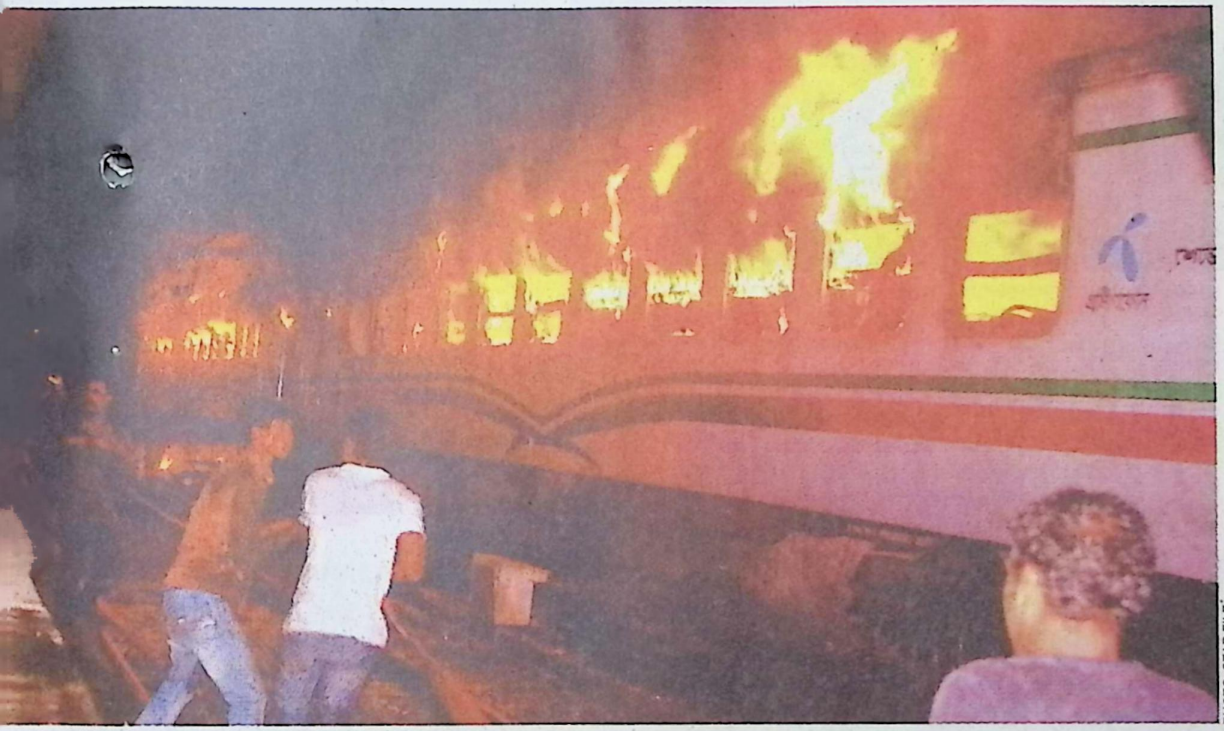


PHOTO: STAR FILE

public safety. It could not forge national consensus to get rid of the lurking danger. Rather, the government and ruling AL men in the last four years mercilessly blasted many eminent persons and made them enemies. Some political analysts think the government has become isolated to some extent due to its wrong strategy and lack of tolerance to criticism.

The ruling AL had announced that it would build resistance by taking people along with them. But the AL could not translate its announcement into actions in the districts where Jamaat-Shibir men have unleashed terror. The ruling AL men are even feeling insecure. Talking to some grassroots level leaders of AL in the districts where Jamaat-Shibir men unleashed mayhem it was learnt that the party remains in disarray. Grassroots level workers have been demoralised for many reasons including some major incidents like the share market crash, Padma bridge scandal, violent and unruly behaviour of some MPs and Chhattra League.

Under the prevailing situation, should the policymakers and ruling AL remain silent, letting the situation naturally take shape? Or should they make some game-changing efforts to control the situation? They should and must think separately of the two issues-- holding trials of war criminals and a non-partisan election time government. The two issues have been mixed and resulted in the government's wrong political strategy. The BNP's demand and agitation for installation of a non-partisan election time government is being wrongly termed by the government as the movement to save war criminals. BNP wants to grab power. And election is the only way to do so. So, for a free and fair election, the party will not allow the AL-led government to remain in office during the polls. And the majority people in the country still believe that a non-partisan election time government is needed to hold free and fair parliamentary polls. Therefore, it is not wise to continue refusing the demand for a non-partisan election time government.

The issue can be easily negotiated with the main opposition BNP to refrain them from taking to the streets. For the sake of the smooth completion of trial of war criminals, the government should and must resolve the political stand-off over the issue of non-partisan election time government. If this issue is resolved, it will put the government on a consolidated position to complete the trial of war criminals. Time demands that the government reassess its political strategy.

The writer is Senior Reporter, The Daily Star.