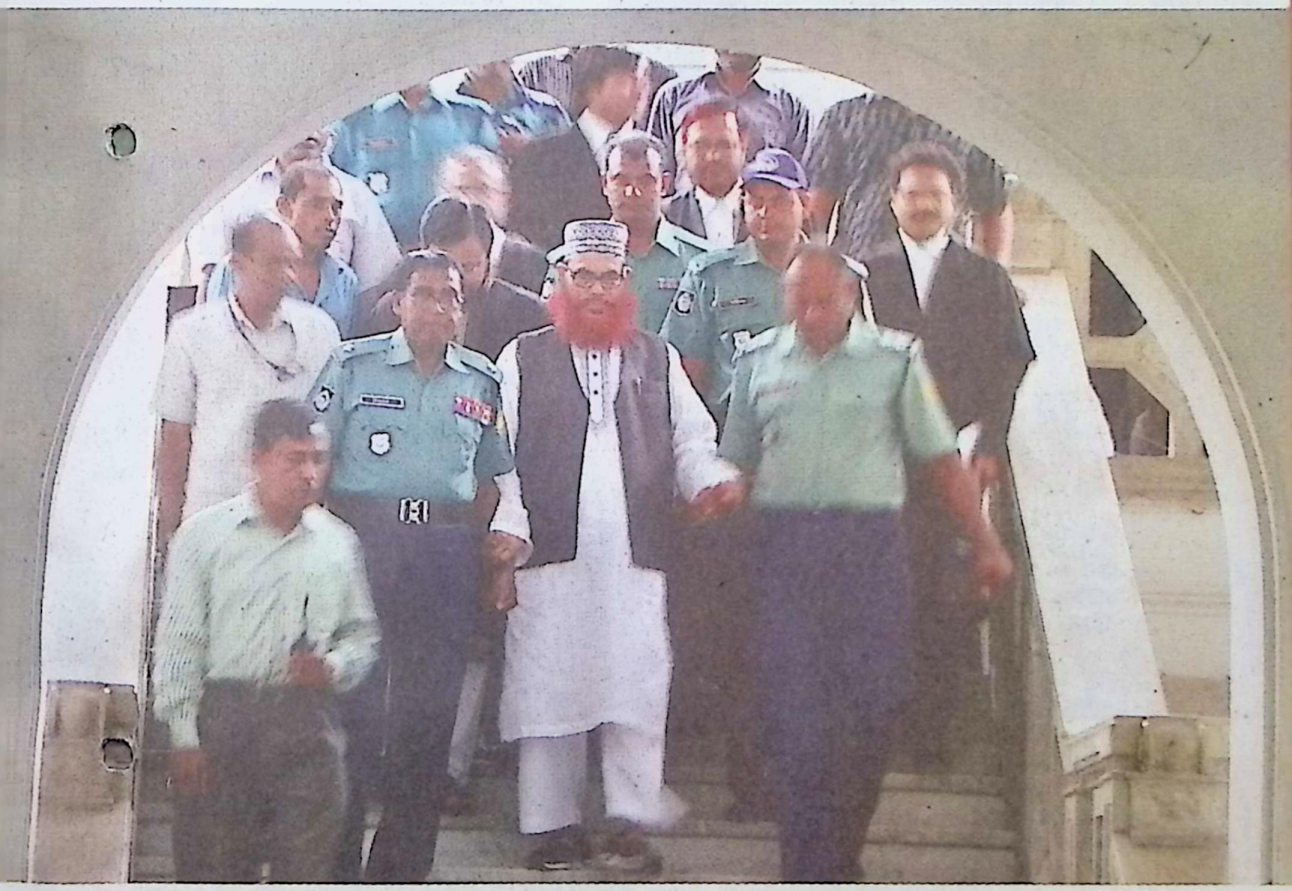
has been successful in making the situation unstable and has set the ground for making it worsen further in the coming days, triggering public fear of escalation of violence. The fear-factor is working successfully as the demand for holding talks to resolve the crisis is mounting fast. The government may not be able to continue ignoring the public demand if the situation keeps deteriorating.

Didn't BNP have any other alternative but to go for a one-point movement to topple the government? In view of Khaleda Zia and BNP's other policymakers, it did not have any other option as they now believe the AL-government will not pay any heed to the BNP's core demand for installation of a non-partisan caretaker government. Since cancellation of the caretaker government in June 2011 by amending the constitution, all signs suggest that the AL has been desperately trying to remain in office during the next parliamentary polls. It means that the AL will not hand over power to any makeshift cabinet prior to the next general election. In such a situation, BNP will not contest the polls. In that case, the AL will have a walkover. And if the AL is able to bring Jatiya Party, Jamaat-e-Islami, a fraction of BNP and some other parties to the polls, then it may have some credibility. And it will widen the scope for the AL to return to power through the polls. The other side of it is that it will close the window for the BNP to assume power. Therefore, a non-partisan election time government is a must for the BNP to grab power after the current government's tenure comes to an end. And considering the past records since 1991, it is almost certain that a free and fair election will ensure BNP's return to power.

Under such a situation, which party – BNP or Jamaat – is now the main political enemy of the government and the ruling AL? The way Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her colleagues in the cabinet and the party have been blasting opposition leader Khaleda Zia and the way BNP is acting it has encouraged many people to believe that BNP is now the main political enemy of the AL. Therefore, the rivalries between the AL and BNP may continue to benefit Jamaat. If the situation goes on like this, what will be the end result? That remains a million dollar question.



Delwar Hossain Sayedee escorted by law enforcers while appearing in court. PHOTO: STAR FILE

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