The defeats in Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet and Gazipur did not appear suddenly. The recent defeats have just made longer the procession of defeat which began in 2010 when the AL-backed mayoral candidates were defeated to BNP favourite in Chittagong City Corporation election.

The situation in former Gazipur municipality, which is another major part of the city corporation, was almost the same. Awami League leader AKM Mozammel Huq had served as the mayor of the municipality for more than three decades before getting elected as a lawmaker from a Gazipur constituency in 2008.

Yet the AL high command desperately tried to secure a win in Gazipur to revitalise its grassroots leaders and workers, who had been demoralised over the defeat of the AL-backed mayoral aspirants in the four city corporations. But the resounding victory of BNP-backed mayoral candidate shattered the AL's hope. This is the power of



BNP now wants more battles of the ballot to defeat the AL. PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

BNP had managed to win two seats in 1991 and one seat at the 2001 polls, while the AL won two and three seats in the two elections.

Even in the local bodies' election, AL leaders have traditionally held the record of doing well. The polls performance record of AL-backed mayoral candidate Ajmat Ullah Khan was also better than his rival Mannan. Ajmat contested three consecutive polls to the Tongi municipality, which is now a major part of the city corporation, and was elected every time.

ballots. The communications minister too has admitted its force. "There is nothing called a fort to people. They can raze any fort to the ground if they lose trust [in any party]."

His remarks suggest the lack of people's confidence in the AL-led government and the party even in AL's fort. What can be the situation in the country's remaining parts where the AL does not have such a stronghold? Imagine, what can be the results when the AL will contest the next parliamentary polls after a few months?