

Goons belonging to the ruling Awami League beat up an opposition activist inside the Supreme Court during the opposition-called 'March for Democracy'. PHOTO: STAR FILE

the polls after the installation of a non-partisan election time government. If the election is held under a non-partisan election time government, the BNP will join it and there is huge prospect of its win in such polls. If so, many BNP men will be elected and the party will form the government. Many BNP men will legally and illegally enjoy many state facilities. They will think themselves above the reach of the law. Many of them will be able to amass money using the state power as many of them did when the BNP was in power in 2001-2006. So, it is difficult to find any reason to say the march was for democracy! Moreover, the way the BNP is run, no one can say that the party practices democracy within it.

The situation in the Khaleda's rival's fold is almost the same. Intra-party democracy is a far cry in the ruling AL. The way the AL-led government has used and abused the law enforcers to stymie the opposition's march to Dhaka has exposed its undemocratic face. The government also effectively de-linked the capital from the rest of the country by cutting off the communication network to prevent opposition men to enter the city. It has caused huge sufferings for the people.

The way ruling AL men armed with sticks marched the city streets in the name of resisting the opposition programme also demonstrates the desperate manner in which they want to hold the January 5 election. It does not matter whether the election is going to be without the participation of the voters or not. It does not matter whether the international community endorses the election. The reason behind the desperate behaviour is clear. Holding January 5 polls means that the AL will again assume power, foiling the BNP's prospect to grab it. MPs and AL leaders who have illegally amassed wealth abusing the state power and embezzled the state funds will have government protection for another five years. The ruling party men who did not make much in the last five years will use the opportunity this time round. There are many in both the camps who really want true democracy. But they find no way to raise their voice.

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