



ELECTION 2007

TV channels prepare for the polls

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Despite an uncertainty in political arena over the upcoming general election, private television channels are taking massive preparations to cover the polls.

The biggest investment probably comes from ntv which has gone up to the extent of buying a helicopter, said Mostofa Feroz, chief reporter of ntv.

ntv will consider district towns as the centre point of the election activities to be covered by the channel using modern equipment like Satellite News Gathering (SNG).

"At present we have one SNG. We are going to procure another SNG for smooth coverage of election activities. To cover the news of nearby areas of Dhaka we will take the help of fibre optic cable," said the chief reporter of ntv.

"We also have a plan to arrange a helicopter to cover any incidents in the remote areas. It will also help us if we face any technical glitches in SNG. Then we will use the portable SNG by using the helicopter," he added.

Munni Saha, chief reporter of ATN Bangla, told Star City that they have already taken a number of measures to cover the election activities.

"We have produced several pre-election programmes. But we cannot telecast these programmes due to current unstable political situation," Munni said. As soon as the election schedule is announced, ATN will start telecasting the programmes.

On the election day, ATN Bangla will use two SNGs to cover the election news from different parts of the country. They have a plan to set up booths in Chittagong and Rajshahi or Bogra.

In 2001 election, Channel i used two chartered helicopters. They have a similar plan for the coming election, said Shah Alamgir, chief news editor, Channel i.

"Other than a fixed SNG we have an additional one. The footage we get from the divisional towns come through computer and they do not have a good resolution. If we can shoot using a helicopter then the resolution will be better," he said.

About the pre-election programmes, he said they have already started telecasting the programmes. A new episode on the election candidates will be telecast soon after the completion of the nomination process.

"We are now able to give live coverage of any programme held in Dhaka. During election days these activities will

increase outside the capital. To cover important districts and divisional cities we are planning to use latest technology with the help of different technological companies," Reaz Ahmad, planning editor of Channel 1.

"We also have a plan to arrange chartered helicopters from private companies," he added.

About the pre-election programmes he said, "We are telecasting a series of reports on 300 parliamentary seats across the country".

"In this series we are trying to analyse the situation of different political parties in the election years 1991, 1996 and 2001," he said.

Mudslinging with horrendous posters

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Nusaiba, a class four student went to her mother covering her face saying: "Mom this is awful."

"We expect more responsibility from the political parties. I do not dare to take a second look at these posters. The photographs are horrible and parties should be stopped from putting them up on school walls where over 4,000 children come everyday," said Momena Raihan, Nusaiba's mother.

Malek Hossain a Maghbazar resident suffers from a weak heart, and cannot

bear the sight of such photographs all over the city.

Although, in most cases, political parties do not use their names on the posters, they are published under the banners of 'Gagrata Janata, Socheton Janata, Nirjatito Jonogon, and Deshpremik Jonogon'.

Whatever the banner, it could be easily identified as publications of the political parties.

All these posters have come out ahead of the national elections.

Although lawyers say it is a punishable offence, no one has taken any action against

the offenders.

Section 268 of Bangladesh Penal Code states: "A person is guilty of a public nuisance who does any act or is guilty of an illegal omission which causes any common injury, danger or annoyance to the public or to the people in general who dwell or occupy property in the vicinity, or which must necessarily cause injury, obstruction, danger or annoyance to persons."

"There is not much practice of this section of the law, but these actions can be challenged accordingly," said Advocate Riaz Uddin Khan.

Transport costs hit

'Stop demolition,'

FROM PAGE 21

Some rickshaw pullers told Star City that they earned between Tk 800 and Tk 1,000.

Hamidul, a rickshaw puller at Rupnagar said that he enjoyed the period of the blockade, as he was able to earn a lot more than normal days.

"I usually earn between Tk 250 and Tk 300 and spends Tk 150 including the rickshaw deposit, lodging and three meals daily and save only Tk 100. But on the days of the blockade I was able to save at least Tk 500 even after being

a little extravagant," he said.

One of the most significant features of blockade, he said was that rickshaws could ply along any road, helping to reach destinations in a short spell of time. There were no traffic congestions and he was able to undertake more trips.

The fear of losing the rickshaw during any agitation was a point stinging his mind, he added.

On the suffering of the people he said: "I love to earn money but not at the cost of the people's suffering."

Built in the Revivalist Colonial Style, this two storied building is characterised by coupled circular brick columns with Ionic Capitals, said architects.

Semi circular arches supported by brick piers ornately decorated wooden louvers in the first floor represent the dominant architectural style of the late colonial period, they said.

Another distinctive feature of the building was a garden in front of it, which used to boast of a priceless collection of age-old trees.

10x5

12x3