tions and local government authorities to designate places where posters can be pasted or graffiti can be scrawled. The act further stipulates that those seeking to use unauthorised spots to paste posters or write graffiti need to seek prior permission from the concerned authorities, comply with the conditions prescribed in the legislation and pay a particular sum as fee. Violation of the law will be considered a penal offence with the guilty party being charged a fine of up to Tk 15,000 and in default, a jail term of up to 15 days.

I saved for years before we could afford to buy a piece of land and build our house. This might be our shrine but for many, it's just a medium of promotion," says Dhanmandi resident, Hafiz Mahmud.

Posters are put up on walls or poles not owned by the advertiser. As these places are public property, sponsors of poster advertising feel that they have the right to flood these spots with their mundane announcements. The wall soon becomes a collage of commercial posters, each competing



SM Hall has been declared a heritage site by the administration of Dhaka University and yet its entrance is defiled by unsightly commercial posters.

PHOTOS: PRABIR DAS

Posters and graffiti are a form of self-expression. True, that. But the walls of our capital city rarely get to experience the creative genius of aspiring artists or the ingenious creations of self-expressionists. We need to be content with the constant stream of commercial ads pasted in the form of posters on public walls. While this is just a visual obtrusion for most city dwellers, home owners, in particular, suffer the consequences of an inconsiderate social mindset. Most people are unwilling to do anything about an illegality that has no bearing on their lifestyle. And so others have to suffer quietly.

"I have had to repaint the exterior walls of my house thrice this year. I have personally taken down the posters but that didn't help. My wife and



Even letter boxes are not spared by poster fanatics.