

Illegal postering detract from the beauty of our country and creates a bad image for foreign visitors. PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Individuals or parties can only paste posters on selected public walls with prior approval of electoral authorities and only after they have paid the stipulated fee. Moreover, a clause within the act states that the posters need to be removed within 15 days of the concerned election.

"My grandfather was a freedom fighter. He always says that Shaheed Asad inspired him to join the Liberation War movement. It is sad to see the memorial of a national hero being desecrated by his own countrymen," says college student Shubel Ali.

With national elections around the corner, politicians are going out of their way to portray their political party as the sole 'saviour of the people'. The message needs to be loud and clear. And so party members ensure that their words are all you hear, the images that they conjure are all you can see. Not content with filling ears with tales of their "achievements" and the other party's failures, party members cover public walls with declarations, promises, congratulations, blames, disapprovals. Electioneering posters are considered necessary evils around the world. But only in Bangladesh do you get to see heritage sites and national monuments defiled by the very "beholders" of law.

According to a special provision of the Graffiti Writing and Poster Sticking Control Act, 2012, electoral laws will take precedence over the act during parliamentary or local government polls. However, individuals or parties can only paste posters on selected public walls with prior approval of electoral authorities and only after they have paid the stipulated fee. Moreover, a clause within the act states that the posters need to be removed within 15 days of the concerned election. But as we all can clearly see, political posters boast the central spot of public spots even months after voting takes place.

When contacted, Administrator of the Dhaka South City Corporation, Mohammad Nazmul Islam said that the corporation will soon release an official statement regarding the removal of illegal posters and graffiti. He has declined to further comment on the issue.

The government might be content passing laws without taking active measures regarding their implementation. But we, as citizens, can't remain callous. This country is ours to love and take pride in. We need to make a conscious effort to uphold the inherent beauty of our nation instead of sullying it for commercial wants.