

## Dhaka Day by Day

### Miles Lives upto its Billing

by Lamis Hossain



The four-member band

They dress like mid 80's hard rockers donning cowboy boots and mandatory leather, but their music is surprisingly sensitive with catchy pop overtones. Meet Miles — Bangladesh's pre-eminent rock band. The group performed their first Pepsi-backed indoor concert at the Engineer's Auditorium in Dhaka on August 23.

The four-member band comprising of Hameen Ahmed (guitar, vocals), Shafeen Ahmed (bass, vocals), Manam Ahmed (Keyboard, backing vocals) and Mahbub-ur-Rashid (drums, percussion arrangement) recently clinched a sponsorship deal with Pepsi Co, the multi-national renowned for promoting music the world over.

Pepsi's decision to back Miles rather than another group was made after careful consideration. The company's consumer market survey revealed the rockers to be the overwhelming favourite of the nation's urban youth, both male and female. It was thus up to the band on Tuesday evening to prove worthy not only of Pepsi's support, but also their fan's faith in them.

To add to the pressure, the Channel [V] crew was apparently on hand to film the event. The band had appeared earlier on the Source to discuss their upcoming concert.

But all did not start well that evening. Much of the beginning of the show was spent getting hoarse appealing to the fans, many of whom gatecrashed into the auditorium. "Appealing constantly hampers our performance," Hameen Ahmed admitted. But he did not lay all the blame on the audience. "We don't have a large enough auditorium for indoor concerts. The turnout today was much greater than capacity. The crowd doesn't mind paying as long as it can come in." Expensive concerts are not the solution. Until Dhaka has a proper indoor venue, Miles is most likely going to stick to outdoor alternatives.

Despite the initial disorder, the concert kicked off at 6 pm as scheduled. The first set began with "Dhiki Dhiki" from their second album Protasha, followed by "Pahari Meyee" and "Shanti Chai" from the same album. The band then burst into rock-n-roll mode with five cover songs. "In These Arms," the crowd-rousing "Paradise City" and "November Rain" from Guns 'n Roses, and the Scorpions' "Rhythm of Love" and "Winds of Change." The first set concluded with three of their own songs, "Rim Jhim," the divinely soulful "Rhidothina" and "Chand Tara," one of the most popular songs from their first album. Unfortunately, this reporter was unable to enjoy any of the first set as latecomers found it impossible to enter the crammed hall.

Luckily, the second half of the show was enjoyed from 'exclusive' side stage seats. The band launched into the second set with a rendition of "Hotel California." Amazingly, the audience was relatively well behaved during the group's masterful delivery of the Eagles' clas-

sic. The lighting and the special effects on the other hand, were lacklustre. The assorted orange, green, and red lights and the ubiquitous stage smoke failed to have any dramatic effect — partly because the house lights were kept on throughout the performance.

The second set continued with "Church of Desire" and Van Halen's "Jump." An energetic execution of the Van Halen's music managed to get the audience on their feet. The vocals however, did not come up to scratch with the original. Had the stage been larger, the band could also have pranced around à la Axl Rose instead of just shifting from foot to foot.

Once the three English songs concluded, Miles finally played some of their own music. They began with "Shupto Bashona" on which both Hameen and Shafeen sang. The crowd went so wild that the band had to plead with them to clear the speakers. It was followed by "Nila" which was easily the best so far. Spontaneous dancing broke out in the first few rows to match the song's Latinish beats. Hameen sweated so profusely during this number, that his white shirt became see-through. By the time they played "Jhor Bhango," the front crowd was headbanging crazily. Clearly Miles knew how to work their fans into a frenzy.

The band seemed much more relaxed by now. After an excellent drum solo, they began Aerosmith's "Living on the Edge" on a cheeky note "Don't stand on the edge!" This was followed by Mr Big's "Daddy, brother, lover, little boy," on which the drumming was fiercely muscular. Compared to the hard rock hall of fame covered during the entire concert, it was surprising that Miles chose a group with sparse credentials, for their penultimate number. They also didn't play anything from their favourite group Dream Theater.

Before launching into their final song the band announced, "You have to sing the next one because it's our last." Almost everyone was standing by now and began singing "Firiyee Dao" without further prompting. The band began their own powerful rendition following the audience's version. The fan's response together with the band's performance easily made "Firiyee Dao" the best of the second set.

The live show over, the band left the stage looking both elated and exhausted. Somewhat uncharacteristically for a rock concert, the curtains dropped at the end as if we had been quietly watching a play. What did Miles think of the evening? Shafeen and "tiring." Hameen gave a sarcastic grin: "The place was so well air-conditioned — I was chilling." On the more serious side, they thought the audience attitude was great. They enjoyed performing "Paradise City" and "November Rain" because of the crowd's reaction. "The peak of the show was definitely at the end," Shafeen thought. "We were supposed to finish at 8 pm but it went onto 9:20 pm!"

### 372 post offices set up in last 3 yrs

A total of 372 post offices, including 17 sub-post offices were established in the country during the last three years, reports BSS.

Besides, the existing laws are being examined for amendment in order to establish new post offices at the union level for the convenience of the people.

This was stated at the 20th meeting of the parliamentary standing committee on the Post and Telecommunications Ministry held in the city yesterday.

State Minister for Establishment Md Aminul Hoque presided.

The meeting discussed the complaints received about the irregularities in distributing money-orders, registered materials, cheques, drafts and other service facilities.

The meeting also discussed the progress of postal savings insurance policy. The meeting was informed that postal savings insurances was established in 1994 initially as a welfare project. A few projects are now under consideration to improve the postal insurance, the meeting was told.

It was also informed that over 13,000 new insurance policies were sold in the last financial year.

BNP MP Salahuddin Ahmed and Jamaat MP Nasir Uddin attended the meeting. T and T Secretary Dr A MM Sawkat Ali and senior officials were present.

### Airport emergency exercise held at ZIA

A preparatory airport emergency exercise was held in the Gridmap M-12 area near the approach path of Runway 32 at the Zia International Airport (ZIA) on Saturday, reports UNB.

Fire fighters and rescue workers of the Airport's fire station took part in the exercise.

Control tower at ZIA made a practice emergency call at 11:25 am that a DC-10 aircraft of XBC Airlines has crashed near the approach path of Runway 32.

The fire fighting and rescue personnel of the Airport and of Bangladesh Fire Service and Civil Defence, the airport security and police personnel, and the fire fighting team of the Air Force responded to the call and took part in the exercise.

Normal emergency flow-chart was followed as per rule. An elaborate discussion followed the exercise. The meeting held at the conference room which the Director of Airport in the chair evaluated the performance of the participants.

A proposed action plan for the final exercise, to be held later, was also discussed in the meeting.

Biman Bangladesh Airlines, Bangladesh Fire Service and Civil Defence, Airlines Operator Committee, Bangladesh Air Force, Army, Navy, JWTA, Health Directorate, Police and all other agencies located at the airport will take part in the final exercise.



Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman looking at a photograph at an exhibition which began at the Shilpakala Academy gallery in the city yesterday. — Star photo

### Italy keen to set up joint venture industries

New industries of dying, finishing and weaving will be set up in the country in joint venture between Bangladesh and Italy, reports UNB.

This was disclosed yesterday by the Italian Ambassador in Bangladesh Claudio Pacifico when he called on the State Minister for Textile Abdul Mannan at his office.

A close cooperation between the entrepreneurs from Bangladesh and Italy may lead to setting up of the new industries in Dhaka to meet the huge demand for fabric in the export-oriented readymade garments sector.

The envoy said to facilitate the process a seminar is also planned to be held at the Institute of Asia in Italy.

The envoy invited the Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, Minister for Industries, AM Zahiruddin Khan and Abdul Mannan to participate in the seminar along with the delegation of private entrepreneurs of textile and leather industries.

Claudio Pacifico stayed with the State Minister for some time and discussed matters relating to bilateral interest. They also exchanged views on the development of textile, garment and other allied industries in the country.

Mannan agreed in principle and lauded the envoy on his government's special interest in the development activities in Bangladesh, said a PID handout.



Employees of the wholesale depot for agricultural produce brought out procession in the city's Shyam Bazar area yesterday to press for their 8-point demands. — Star photo

### Janmastami programme

Janmastami — the birth anniversary of Lord Krishna will be celebrated today at Bholananda Giri Ashram, 12 KM Das Lane, in the city under the auspices of Sree Sree Gita Sangha with due religious fervour, says a press release.

The programme of the day includes Mongalacharan, recitation from Gita and Bhagbad, Sreekrishna Bhog, aroti, distribution of prasada, recitation, competition from Sree Sree Gita and discussion.

### 73 held in city

Police arrested 73 people, including eight wanted criminals, from different parts of the city yesterday on various charges, reports UNB. All the arrested people were produced before court.

### Photo show opens at Shilpakala

Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman, yesterday praised the photographers of Bangladesh for earning a good name for the nation by winning laurels in various international competitions, reports BSS.

He was inaugurating a four-day exhibition of photographs by three photographers at the arts gallery of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy in the city.

Photographs, he said, played an important role in mobilising support in favour of Bangladesh's liberation movement.

In more recent times, the foreign minister said, world opinion has been greatly influenced by the photographs on the situations in Rwanda, Bosnia and other places where humanity has been suffering.

Whereas, we only notice certain things and miss a lot, Rahman said, adding, "a camera does not miss anything."

In all 102 photographs are on display at the exhibition. 42 of them by news photographer Quazi Raunaq Hossain, 26 by amateur photographer Brig (Rtd) Atiqur Rahman and 34 by amateur photographer MA Taher.

The exhibition will remain open to visitors from 3 pm to 8 pm at the Shilpakala Academy gallery until August 31.

### 2 with arms held in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Aug 28: Chittagong metropolitan police arrested two miscreants and recovered one pipe gun and alive cartridge from their possession on board a baby taxi near Dewanhat over bridge here on Thursday, reports BSS.

### GCE A Level Dhaka Grammar School

House No. 36, Road-11 (New), Dhanmondi R/A Inhouse Science Lab

### NOTRE DAME COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

Sept. 1-17, 2-5 P.M.

Collect forms and books of sample questions from the college counter.

Requirements: I. Sc. I div. 750 marks with Elective maths. I.Com: I div.; Dhaka city 650 marks, outside Dhaka city 600. I.A. I div. Exam fee Tk. 150/-. Date of Exams Sept. 22, 23 & 24. Do not bring your mark sheet. Principal

### Corrigendum to DESA Tender

Value of Tender Document for TE No 2536/ER/L-5AB for ACSR/AAC Conductor and TE No 2536/PD/P/L-2 for 1.1/0.23KV Transformer is Tk 2,500/- (Taka two thousand five hundred) in each case.

All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.

DFP-2680-23/8 G-1340

Director, Procurement & Store, DESA

### Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD Ferry Division, Barisal

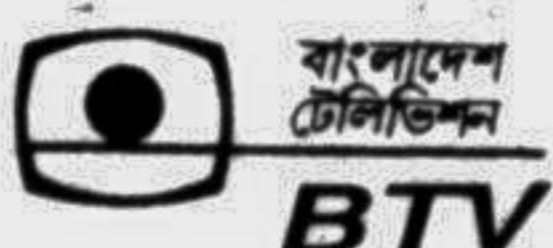
#### (RHD), Tender Notice

- Tender Notice No. : 19, of RHD, Ferry Division, Barisal/1994-95.
- Name of work : As described below:
- Eligibility of contractor : (RHD), General category contractor as per financial capacity and territorial jurisdiction
- Availability of tender : schedule
  - Executive Engineer, RHD, Ferry Division, Barisal.
  - Sub-Divisional Engineer, RHD, Ferry Sub-Divn, Barisal (only office hour. No tender will be sold on the date of opening tender schedule).
- Tender receiving officer:
  - Superintending Engineer, RHD, Mechl Ferry Circle, Khulna.
  - Executive Engineer, RHD, Ferry Division, Barisal.
- Last date of selling tender schedule : 6-9-1994 (only office hours).
- Date and time of opening tender : 7-9-1994/23-5-1401 at 1 PM.

Group No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money
1	Supplying different filters for 150 KW Man, 110 HP Daf engine, 75/120 HP Hydromaster (Newford) engine for regular use and servicing work of different utility ferries at Shikerpur, Dowarica and Gub Khan ferry ghat under Ferry Sub-Divn, Barisal during the year 1994-95.	1,50,450/-	3009/-
2	Supplying spare parts for 110 HP Daf and 75 HP Ford/Newford engine for different ferries under Ferry Sub-Divn, Barisal during the year 1994-95.	1,49,900/-	2,998/-
3	Supplying electrical spare parts for 150 KW Man engine of different utility ferries under Ferry Sub-Divn, Barisal during the year 1994-95.	1,90,000/-	3,800/-
4	Supplying spare parts for 110 HP Daf engine (Model DT-615) of different utility ferries under Ferry Sub-Divn, Barisal during the year 1994-95.	1,89,600/-	3,792/-
5	Supplying spare parts for 75/120 HP Hydromaster Newford engine and 150 kilowatt Man engine for different ferry ghat under Ferry Sub-Divn, Barisal, during the year 1994-95.	1,69,875/-	3,398/-
6	Supplying spare parts for overhauling and fitting fixing and repairing of 110 HP Daf Engine No E-66016 and E-66017 in the workshop under Ferry Sub-Divn, Barisal during the year 1994-95.	2,03,750/-	4,075/-

Md Humayun Rashid Khalifa  
Executive Engineer, RHD  
Ferry Division, Barisal

DFP-2658-23/8 G-1337



Monday

- 4:30 Opening Announcement
- 4:45 Cartoon Films : Captain Planet and the Planeters
- 5:10 News in Bangla
- 5:25 Sports Programme
- 5:30 Sukhe Dukher Nadi Magazine Programme based on River
- 7:00 Open University
- 7:25 Nazrul Songs
- 8:00 News in Bangla
- 8:30 Janomat
- 9:00 Geetishatodai
- 10:00 News in English
- 10:30 Comedy Series : Murphy Brown
- 11:30 Khabar/The News
- 11:45 Closing

### Weather

#### Temperature may fall

Moderately heavy falls are likely over the regions of Chittagong and Noakhali till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Met office says light to moderate rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over Chittagong and Barisal divisions and at a few places over Dhaka, Khulna and Rajshahi divisions.

Day temperature may fall by 2-3 degree Celsius over the coastal regions of the country and slight fall in day temperature is expected elsewhere across the country.

Meantime, Teknaf experienced the highest 30 mm rain yesterday.

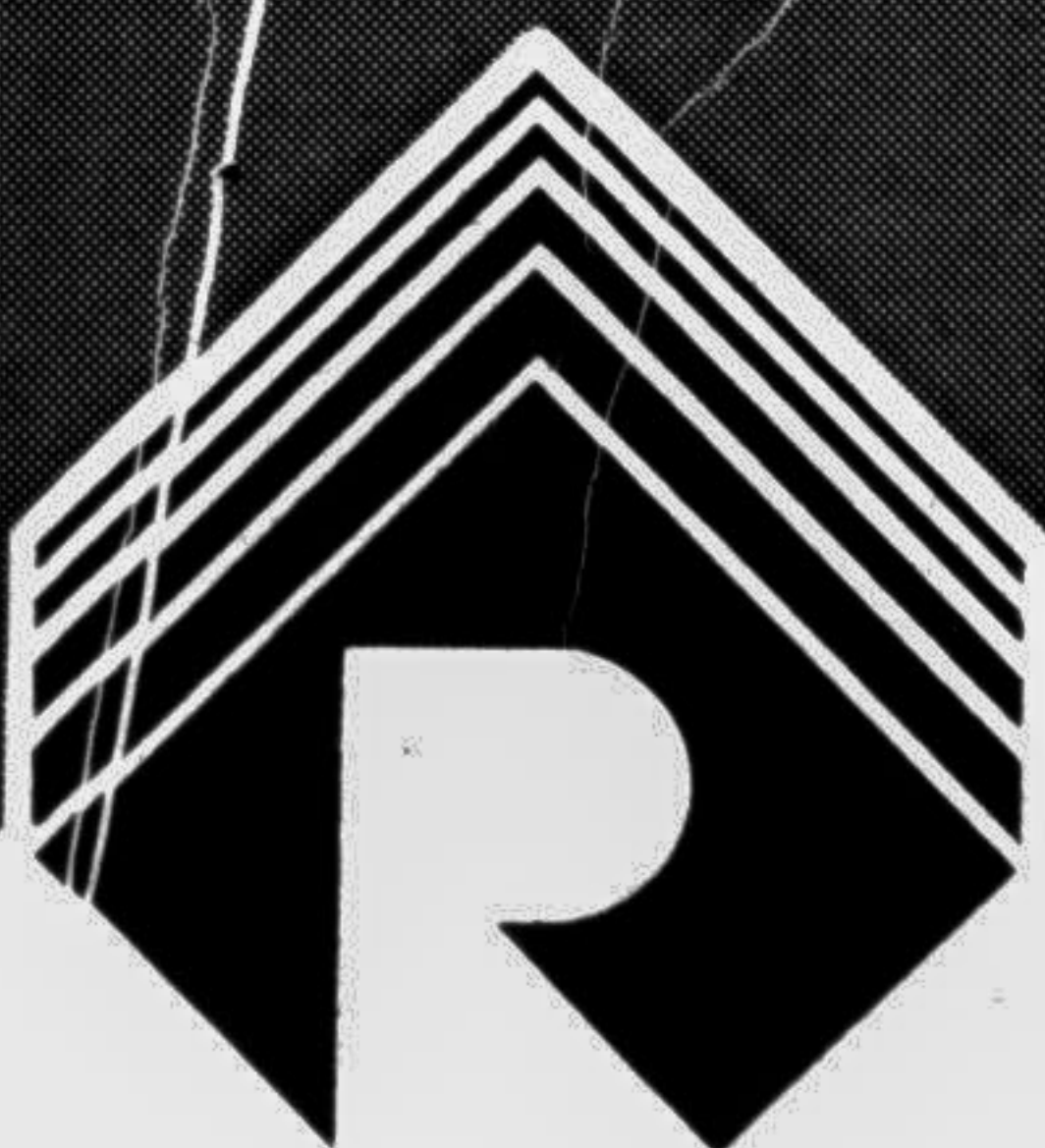
Country's highest temperature 36.0 degree Celsius was recorded at Sylhet and the lowest 23.3 degrees at Bogra.

Sun sets today (Monday) at 6:20 pm and rises tomorrow (Tuesday) at 5:39 am.

Maximum and minimum temperatures and humidity recorded yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in Percentage	
	Max	Min	6 am	9 pm
Dhaka	33.0	27.0	68	72
Chittagong	33.5	26.2	73	86
Rajshahi	33.2	24.5	79	73
Khulna	31.2	27.0	82	89
Barisal	31.2	26.2	82	89
Sylhet	36.0	26.0	74	69
Cox's Bazar	30.5	25.0	88	77

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