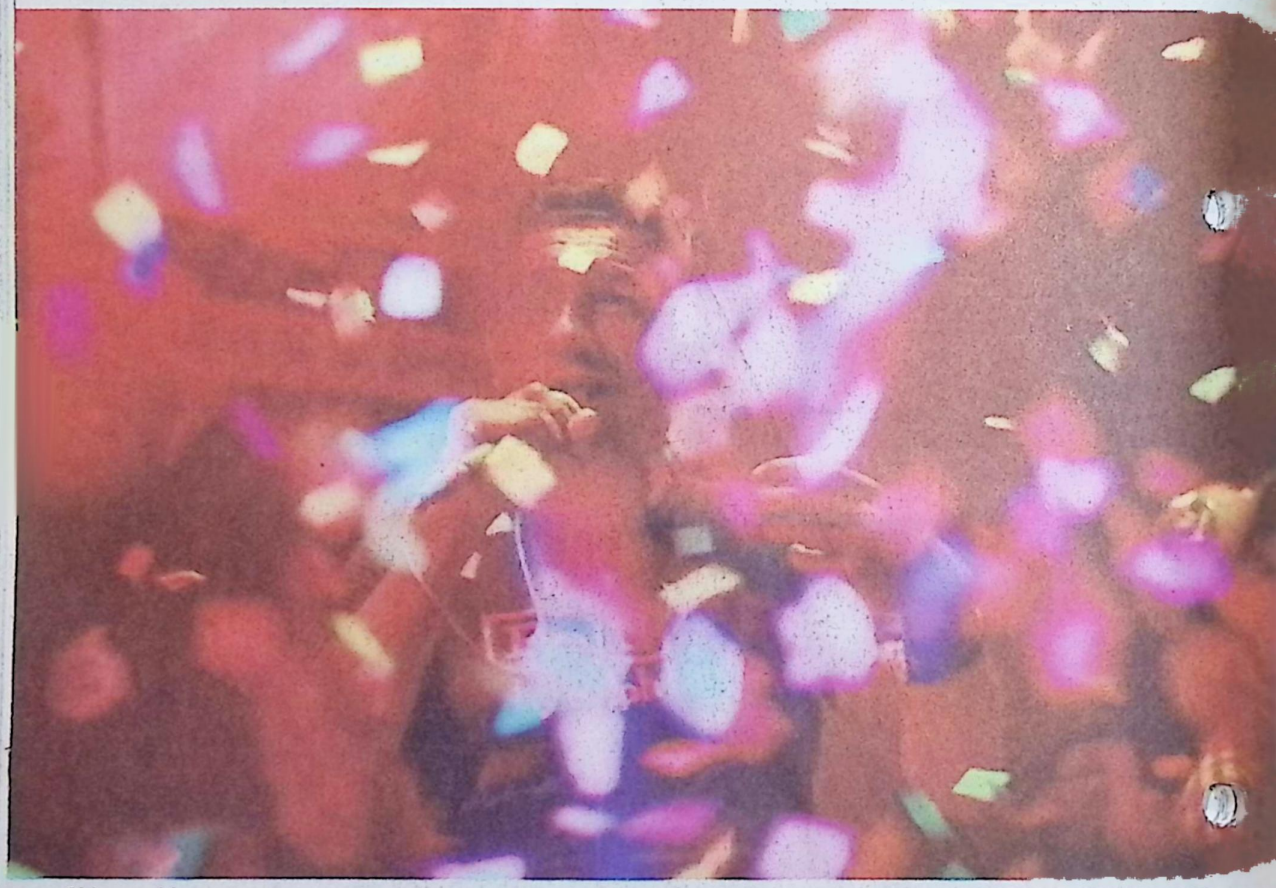
Faizan R Ahmad, Buno, Md Shoeb, Nazrul Islam, Saadul Islam and Maruf Kamrul Hasan. Jewel Pantha Kanai says that the band identifies itself as an indie music group which presents both original compositions as well as modern renditions of old classics. "Even when we cover songs of Durbin Shah, Tagore or Lalon, we maintain the original tunes and music and only experiment with the use of instruments," says Kanai. You can look forward to the band's second album Arnob & Friends 2, a studio live album that will hopefully be released sometime this year.



Shironamhin

PHOTO COURTESY: SHIRONAMHIN

Shironamhin took the country by storm with their first album *Jahajee*, released in 2004, eight years after the band was formed. The rock band's *Hashimukh* has become their signature song, gaining iconic stature almost overnight. Hear it once and it'll stay with you forever; its words, the music arrangement, composition, this is a song that comes from the soul, and reaches the soul. Like most rock musicians, Shironamhin experiments with different sounds, instruments and styles, infusing classical instruments like the esraj with Western instruments like the trumpet. Be it *Laal Neel Golpo* from Jahajee or *Chithi* from their latest album *Shironamhin Shironamhin*, most of their original narrate a story. While some might tell the tale of an individual lost in the crowd, others tell the story of a city lost in its own magnitude and grandeur.

"A song is like a poem and words are the most important aspect of a poem. That's the reason why we pay so much attention to the lyrics of our songs," says Ziaur Rahman Zia, bassist, songwriter and founder of the band. Shironamhin has also made optimum use of the digital media, uploading their latest songs on app stores for free to avoid the risk of piracy. "Instead of letting other people make illegal money out of our hard work, we've decided to let our fans listen to our music for free before they buy the album. We work hard on our music and can't let all that go to waste, that's why we decided to release an online edition of our latest album before releasing it as an album in the market," Zia adds.

While Shironamhin might not see themselves as directly addressing social or political issues, their counterpart Meghdol makes no bones about terming their music as their "social responsibility." This band does not want to fall under any particular genre, and that free flowing nature is prevalent in their music as well. *Chena O Chena* from their first album *Meghdol*, released in 2005, could be a particular example as the song truly seems unrestricted from formal, structured music patterns. This experimenta-