

PIRATE ATTACK!

Music piracy is a common phenomenon in Bangladesh. Broadly speaking, this generally occurs in two ways: when the final consumers (listeners) borrow a CD from someone and burn themselves copies, or illegally download music from the internet, and when major recording companies and CD/DVD businesses steal and replicate the work of artists without permission or payment.

Most of us have engaged in the first category of music piracy which means... yes, we have all been (and many of us still continue to be) music pirates. But that is not the worst part it is actually the second category of piracy that is occurring on a colossal scale and damaging the music industry several times more, often driving our artists to the brink of bankruptcy.

The rate of music piracy in Bangladesh is shocking 96% but this won't go a long way – thanks to bold initiative taken collaboratively by BAMBA (The Bangladesh Musical Bands Association) and The Legal Circle, a young and dynamic new band of attorneys, advocates, barristers and solicitors in Bangladesh.

A conference was jointly organized by the two parties on Thursday, 20 May 2010, at the *Jalsha* Banquet Hall of Hotel Sarina, Banani at 5:30 pm. The conference explored copyright issues related to intellectual property rights and was hosted by Attorney Masud Khan, Corporate, Strategic and Legal Advisor of TLC. The opening speech was delivered by BAMBA President Hamin Ahmed (Miles), followed by an address by Vice-President Fuad Naser Babu (Feedback). Renowned musicians Ayub Bachchu (LRB), James (Nagarbaul), Maksud Haque (Ex-Feedback; Dhaka Band) and Rafiqul Alam also spoke a few words about music piracy at the conference. A presentation was prepared by Barrister ABM Hamidul Mishbah, and at the end of these ceremonies, a MoU was signed between Mr. Hamin Ahmed, President of BAMBA and Barrister Anita Ghazi Rahman on behalf of The Legal Circle.

Many notable Bangladeshi musicians such as Andrew Kishor, Arnob and Upol Islam attended the conference along with representatives from various bands such as Miles; Feedback; Dhaka; LRB; Artcell; Obscure; Nagarbaul; Shironamhin; Prometheus; Mechanix; Beduin; Power surge; Rong kora Putul; Nagorik; High Rollers; Radio Active; Eclipse; and Arbovirus.

Story credit: ICE TODAY (www.ice-today.com)