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## A glimpse of adivasi life



Food, handicrafts, household items, music and dance were the attractions at the indigenous cultural festival.



NADIA SARWAT

"Weave our hearts together with a thousand colourful threads" -- with this slogan a three-day indigenous cultural festival was held recently at Bangladesh-China friendship Convention Centre. Organised by Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Facility (CHTD), the festival featured handicrafts, traditional attire, food and cultural programmes featuring diverse music and dance by different ethnic groups.

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to all and generated much enthusiasm among Dhakaiites who had an opportunity to have a glimpse of the lifestyle and culture of the indigelands of Bangladesh. A total of 14 ethnic groups including Chakma, gramme also included Marma, Tanchangya, solo and chorus songs by Malo, Khyang and others nic groups. On the secparticipated at the festi- ond day of the festival, a products. Handmade featuring indigenous household items, ear- clothing and a concert rings, bracelets, anklets, were held at the Mirpur toys and more attracted a performed a fusion of visitors young and old. popular Bangla and

garb. The foodies had their source of entertainment at stalls offering ethnic dishes including rice cakes.

The cultural programme included traditional "Biju/bihu" (a dance celebrating the new year), "Jhum" (dance celebrating 'jhum' cultivation and harvest -- one of the most important aspects of Chakma lifestyle), "Bottle dance", "War dance" display or martial arts and more. Khumi artistes performed the festival's theme dance. A group of The festival was open Manipuri dancers presented the famed "Rash Nritya" -- featuring the "leela" of Sri Krishna. They also performed a dance with the rhythm of "mridanga". Mridanga is nous groups living in frequently played at both the hilly and plain Manipuri festivals and celebrations.

The cultural pro-Garo (Mandi), Tripura, artistes of different ethval with a range of their vibrant fashion show beaded necklaces, dolls, indoor stadium. Artistes But the highlight was indigenous music at the hand-woven colourful concert. The closing



Scratch 'n Win

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