

<p>WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK</p>	<p>Arts and Crafts Exhibition Organiser: Society for the Welfare of Autistic Children Venue: 70/KA, Piscalure, Shyamoli Date: August 10-11 Time: 11am-6pm</p>		<p>Film Screening Film: "Summer Things" Venue: Auditorium, Alliance Française De Dhaka Date: August 13 Time: 6pm</p>		<p>Solo Art Exhibition Artist: Noriko Naito Venue: Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka Date: August 9-14 Time: 2pm-8pm</p>		<p>Contemporary Norwegian Glass and Ceramics Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, R-16, H-275F, Dhanmondi Date: August 6-20 Time: 12pm-8pm</p>	
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International Day of the World's Indigenous People observed



Mandi children sing at the programme.

MIRZA SHAKIL, Tangail

World Indigenous People's Day was observed in Tangail last Monday. The focus was on demands of constitutional affiliation and land rights for the indigenous people of the plains.

The day's programme was inaugurated in the morning with a colourful procession, which was brought out from the Shaheed Smriti Paura Uddan and ended at the Shilpakala Academy in the town.

Over 1,000 from the Mandi community, including women and children from Madhupur Garh region under Tangail and Mymensingh districts, joined the proces-

sion. Clad in their traditional attire, they carried colourful banners and festoons with slogans of the indigenous peoples' rights.

Lawmaker from Tangail-8, Shawkat Momen Shahjahan, also president of the Parliamentary Permanent Committee on Agriculture, inaugurated the procession and addressed the discussion as the chief guest.

The discussion was held at the Zila Shilpakala Academy auditorium with Joinshahi Adivasi Unnayan Sanghtha president Ajoy-a-Mre in the chair.

Among others, Tangail Deputy Commissioner M Bazul Karim Chowdhury; Acting Superintendent of Police Jamil

Hasan; executive director of Bangladesh Environment Lawyers Association (BELA) Syeda Rizwana Hasan; executive director of LIRD Shamsul Huda; leaders of Madhupur indigenous community Sulekha Mrong and Ugone Nokrake also spoke at the discussion.

In the course of their speeches, the indigenous speakers demanded immediate constitutional affiliation as well as a separate land commission for the indigenous people of the plains.

Child artistes from the Madhupur Mandi community performed their traditional songs and dances at the concluding session of the programme.

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

A cultural programme was held marking the International Day of the World's Indigenous People at Mymensingh Gymnasium on August 9. Some 150 artistes of several indigenous cultural groups from Mymensingh, Jamalpur, Tangail, Sherpur, Netrakona, Maulvibazar, Sunamganj and Gazipur performed at the programme.

Birishiri Indigenous Cultural Academy of Netrokona; Manipuri Cultural Academy of Maulvibazar; Holy Family Convent Team and Kanchijuly Indigenous Girls Hostel Cultural Team led the celebrations. Sulachana Sangma, Kuleshwar Singha, Sister Amita Gengcham and Dina Ghaghra led the cultural groups.

The cultural programme included dances highlight-



Garo (top) and Manipuri dances at the celebration.

PHOTO: STAR

ing the indigenous life and traditions like *jum* cultivation, harvesting, fishing and worship. "Every dance is closely related to the daily life and indigenous traditions," said Polinus Marak, convener of the cultural sub-committee marking the occasion.

Tribal Welfare Association

(TWA), Bangladesh organised the daylong programme that included a rally, discussion and cultural functions. More than 6,000 indigenous people -- of Garo, Hajang, Cooch, Banai, Dhalu, Khasi, Manipuri, Hadi, Burman and Rajbangshi communities -- attended the programme.

The venue reverberated with festivity as indigenous people wearing their traditional clothing items like *khatuk* (a kind of headgear), *kankashu* (head band), *dhakmanda*, *ganna* and *dakhami* (feathers) attended the function.

The day's programme started with a rally throughout the town and was attended by the leaders of TWA. Vice-Chancellor of Bangladesh Agricultural University, Dr. M.A Sattar Mandal, inaugurated the rally.

A discussion was held marking the occasion. Syeda

Sajeda Chowdhury, MP, also the deputy leader of the parliament, was the chief guest.

The discussion was presided over by State Minister for Cultural Affairs, Advocate Promode Mankin, MP, also the president of TWA. Among others, State Minister for CHT Affairs, Dipankar Talukder, MP; lawmakers Advocate Muslem Uddin, Hayatur Rahman Khan, Mustaq Ahmed Ruhi and Deputy Commissioner of Mymensingh, Lokman Hossain Miah, spoke at the discussion as special guests.

Leaders of the indigenous communities said that indigenous people of the plains are facing threats to their rights to ancestral land. They demanded a land commission to mitigate their legal woes. They also demanded proper reorganisation of the indigenous people and their culture in the constitution.

A singing sensation

Up close and personal with Atif Aslam

Atif Aslam exploded on the music scene in 2004 with his smash hit "Aadat" from his album "Jal Pari". Later in 2006, he proved that he wasn't just a one-hit wonder when "Doorie," his second album, shot up to number 1 on numerous charts.

Atif did playback for quite a few Bollywood movies, all of them chartbusters. He has a huge fan following in Bangladesh as well. On his fourth visit to Bangladesh, Atif recently performed at a concert organised by Nokia at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre, Dhaka. Freelance writer Nazmus Saquib interviewed the singing wonder during his stay in Dhaka.

Excerpts: You have been a huge success in the Pakistani and Indian music industry. How has the journey been so far?

Atif: Well, I started singing at the age of 16, but never thought about music as a profession. I wanted to be a cricketer but my father for some reason didn't agree to that. Fortunately whatever happened was for the best.

I was a part of the band Jal and later had to go solo because of some internal conflicts. My solo albums were huge hits both in Pakistan and India.

Throughout my journey, some people from the music fraternity criticised me. I'm facing this criticism till date. But I am quite used to it now. On a positive note, I am happy that my fans always shower me with their affection and good wishes. I have received numerous awards at home and abroad. I've also shared the stage with some renowned musicians of the world from time to time. I've performed at the Heineken Music Hall where legends like Michael Jackson performed. All in all, so far the journey has been very good.

Recently the Bollywood playback diva Sunidhi Chouhan said that you can't sing. What do you have to say to that?



Atif: I'm glad that a famed singer like Sunidhi Chouhan felt like making an observation about me. Frankly speaking, I do not care what they have to say about me. I just concentrate solely on my music.

What about your upcoming projects?

Atif: Currently I am busy with my new project with Guns n' Roses. The reason for doing a project with them is not limited to music only. My country Pakistan is known as a "terrorist country." I want to change this perception and I hope the message which this project would trans-

mit will have a favourable impact across the world.

You have massive fan following both in India and across the world. How do you feel about it?

Atif: It is amazing to perform and satisfy my fans, just the way you guys feel while interviewing someone. I love my fans no matter whether they are from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh or anywhere else.

Did you enjoy your stay in Dhaka?

Atif: To be very honest with you, Dhaka is one of my favourite cities. This city is amazing and it relaxes

me to a great extent. Apart from the horrible traffic jams of Dhaka, the city is great to explore. The women in saris look gorgeous, gracious and lovely. The people here are very nice to me. They seem to have something to tell me all the time, which is either related to my music or me.

Your fans are seemingly keen to interact with you. How can they do that?

Atif: For all of my fans across the world, my website is www.aadeez.com. They can send me e-mails and discuss with me about my concerts, my albums and anything and everything related to me. I personally maintain this website which is dedicated to my fans.

What's your take on the musical reality shows?

Atif: I'm sorry to say, they are not reality shows, rather they can be labelled as scripted shows. I took part in one such show as a guest judge. The director of that particular show asked me to hug someone, whom I did not want to hug. He went on to ask me to praise someone whom I did not want to praise. So I can't cheat my fans by participating in such shows, which are not real. Moreover I don't think I have reached that stage where I can judge someone. But on a lighter note, I would like to go on reality shows to meet the celebrities who feel like criticising me!

Is there anything you want to say to your fans in Bangladesh?

Atif: This is my fourth visit here. I hope to perform here as long as the people here would want me to. The organiser of this concert, Signal Events, deserves all the praise for arranging it. Hopefully next time I will perform at an open-air concert rather than an indoor one.

Courtesy: Jesus, chairman of Signal Events and Tawheed Samad, director of Signal Events.

Ailing studio MGM facing bankruptcy

Things are going so badly with MGM's restructuring review that a forced bankruptcy is a real possibility by September 15.

Then again, lenders don't want to lose control of the studio's lucrative "James Bond" movie rights. So one of them could still dig deeper to provide enough new equity capital to make a voluntary restructuring feasible. Or if that option fails, the Century City studio could obtain a seventh extension of its debt forbearance agreement with its 100-plus lenders.

In any case, little more than a month before \$400 million-plus in owed debt and interest payments come due, this much is certain: Frustration has never been higher with the more than yearlong effort to heal the ailing Lion.

The studio has secured six forbearance agreements, or delays of the deadline for paying principal and interest on its senior bank debt. Strapped by almost \$4 billion in total corporate debt, MGM repeatedly has gotten lenders to postpone recoupment of a \$250 million revolving credit facility and \$200 million or so in related interest payments.

Several major film projects already have been stalled by the studio's financial ill-health, including the next "James Bond" picture and two films based on J.R.R. Tolkien's book "The Hobbit." Other projects treading water include a planned "Three Stooges" movie and a "Robocop" remake.

Source: Internet

Reese Witherspoon moving from June Carter to Peggy Lee

Reese Witherspoon is working her way through the classic American songbook.

The actress, who won an Oscar in 2005 for portraying June Carter in "Walk the Line," is pulling together an untitled biopic about Peggy Lee with writer-director Nora Ephron, reports Variety. Though Witherspoon is still negotiating to star, she is producing the Fox 2000 project with Marc Platt.

Witherspoon secured rights to the vocalist's life from the Lee estate and brought the project to the studio. She then approached Platt, who produced the "Legally Blonde" movies, and Ephron, who counts herself a major fan of Lee's music.

Lee, who got her start in the 1940s singing for Benny Goodman's band, went on to record popular jazz-influenced albums and compose for film soundtracks. She appeared in the 1953 movie "The Jazz Singer" and the 1955 musical "Pete Kelly's Blues," which earned her an Oscar nomination for best supporting actress. Her song writing and voice-over contributions to Disney's 1955 film "Lady and the Tramp" eventually led to a lawsuit that won her video tape royalties decades later.

Witherspoon's last live-action role was in the 2008 comedy "Four Christmases." She returns to theatres in December with the James Brooks film "How Do You Know."



Witherspoon as June Carter in "Walk the Line." Ephron last wrote and directed "Julie & Julia."

Source: Internet