

Mopin Festival *5th April, 2011*



Festivals are essential aspect of Socio-Cultural life of the people of Arunachal Pradesh. The festivals are believed to be the mirror of the culture of the State. Every society of Arunachal Pradesh celebrates number of festivals which are agricultural, religious and socio-cultural, by nature and give them enough opportunity to enjoy freely. The God-fearing people of the State celebrate numerous festivals round the year, together with their own set of rituals, music and dance. Among all the festivals of the State, **Mopin** is the most colourful festival of the **Galo Tribe**. The Galo tribes are mainly found in the Siang Frontier Division of the State of Arunachal Pradesh. It is a sub group of the Adis. The main festival of the tribe is **Mopin**, a festival celebrated in the month of April, for acquiring prosperity and wealth. Popir, generally performed by girls, with a lead singer, and Erap are the main dances of the Galo.



Mopin as a festival:

Mopin is the main festival of the **Galo Tribe**. This festival is celebrated in the month of (Lumi) April every year. It's held on 5th April. It is celebrated with much gaiety for wealth, good health and universal happiness. Such festivals are celebrated at a large scale for thanking gods for their providence and for a bumper crops. During **Mopin** festival, smearing rice powder in



each other faces marks the beginning of the festival. And animal sacrifices are the ritual of the **Mopin** festival. Mithun is a very auspicious animal and used in animal sacrifice ritual.

Mopin across Arunachal Pradesh lasts for a grand total of five days principally during the month of April. This festival is celebrated prior to sowing the paddy. One other feature of the **Mopin** festival is that a dance known as **Popir** is performed in a very elegant way. **Popir** is one among the most popular dance forms of Arunachal Pradesh. It is an indigenous dance form. **Popir** dance is also performed by Galos. This beautiful dance form shows great resemblance with the Ponung Dance. The dance is mainly performed by young girls; the performers wear white dresses and elaborate headgears. They dance on their best traditional costumes and adorn themselves with multi-colored beaded ornaments. During this festival rice wine (apong) is served, prepared by the women of Galo community. Varieties of meals are served, made of rice which is known as Aamin, meat and bamboo shoot.



The primary reason that lies behind feting this spectacular festival called **Mopin** is to drive away evil spirits who bring bad luck with them and pose a lot of vexations. The local folks also pray during the festival known as **Mopin** in Arunachal Pradesh so that even the cursed shadow of any devastating natural calamity does not hit them and they can lead their lives peacefully and prosperously.

Some Aspects of Mopin:

Mopin story carries many a meaningful message for the good health of the human relation on earth. Behind the celebration each festival there is innate value, indispensable for the moral growth of the Society. A society has culture, faith and

activities as is destined by the creator DONYI POLO, God, Bhagwan or whatever name you may call.

As festival **Mopin** is organized in the beginning of the agricultural cycle. But basically **Mopin** is a worship of goddess MOPIN ANE. As is seen in the chanting the Mopin and here daughters endowed various agricultural implements and seeds; and taught the art of cultivation to ABO-TANI - (Though other duties also contributed in their own way).

The importance of Mopin mother could be placed along with Lakshmi and Annapurna Devi. The celebration could be equated with the celebration of the Minoans. Several different deities were worshipped, including the god of animal and hunt. Bulls were also believed to be sacred. The most important deity was a goddess of the earth and fertility.



Mopin is also all about the maintenance of environment and preservation of vegetation.

Mopin also shows the protection of animal. In this festival, the most important part is smearing rice powder and paste. Smearing ITI on each other's face is a symbol of purity, social harmony, exchange of love and affection and showering of plentifulness.

Mopin, 2011:

In this year, the **Mopin** festival is going to celebrate at Mopin Ground (near the Art and Culture Directorate, Naharlagun) by the Mopin Festival Celebration Committee (MFCC), Naharlagun-2011. The Chief Minister and the Minister of Water Resources Department would grace the Mopin Celebration as Chief Guest and Guest of Honour respectively at Itanagar.

As part of the innovation this year the *Galo Ponu* has been part of the folk dance competition (under twenty categories). Other important activities includes photo exhibition on Galo and Mopin, release of a Souvenir, agam decoration of the stage

with artificial mithun horn to showcase that without killing too many hobo a house can be traditionally decorated and organization of community feast on 6th, informed: to the President, MFCC Capital complex Itanagar. For smooth celebration of Mopin Gidi 2011, the distribution of work and its Leader and Assistant Leaders has been finalized as per the details below. All the Leaders and Assistant Leaders and its members shall voluntarily take responsibility of their works assigned to them:

Sl. No	DATE	TIME	NATURE OF WORKS
1	1 st April, 2011 to 3 rd April, 2011	4pm onwards	- Cultural competition at Mopin ground
2	3 rd April, 2011	8 am -2pm,	- Nyinam Alo (Social service at Mopin ground - Comstruction of pendal, Borko Borlo and Udu (podu) ponam
3	4 th April, 2011	8am-2am	- Mopin Dipe monam, construction of gate, Hogi ginam, Dosi ginsi tuge monam.
		2pm-3pm	- Lunch at Mopin ground, hoisted by Dr. Kirto Loyi General Secretary, MFCC-2011
		3pm onwards	- Pobor nennam at Mopin ground by: Digo Yamo Popir Party.
		4pm onwards	- Mopin Uyo Barnam - Hikana dintek monam - Mopin Nyibo em poka hikanam
4	5 th April, 2011	9.30 am onwards	- Reception of Guest and Chief by all Executive Members and Senior members - Popir competition and Mega dance - Mithun sacrifice - Lunch hoisted by Dr Keni Ete, President cum Pinggi Nen - Ayi Agam dugenam at respective residence
5	6 th April, 2011	7am onwards	- Preparation of community feast - Community feast - Prize distribution of cultural events - Invitation by Moji Mopin - Mopin Nite
6	7 th April, 2011	8am onwards	- Mopin Riiga at ground

Mopin Gogre
(Mopin, Anthem)

Mopin Ripin Nagla Ju 2

Asi Abir Akum To

Losi Lore Bume Laju 2

Gomte Nyite Gage Be

Memmen Menen Menla

Menjig Menkok Kobe

Asi Abir Akum To

Losi Lore Bume Laju

Nedu Tuter Goju

Nepen Pakter Goju

Diko Bogdo Menlin Memba

Yego Dugo Lega be

Asi Abir Akum To

Losi Lore Bume Laju 2

Mopin Mopin Mila 2

Lai Lamir Api Ye

Losi Lore Bume Laju 2

Mopin Popir Pogla Ju

Rugum Rugum Ado Be

Pokter Hemma Be Pogla Ju

Asi Abir Akum To

Losi Lore Bume Laju 2

Mopin Ripin Nagla Ju 2

Asi Abir Akum To

Losi Lore Bume Laju ----- 2

“Agam Be... ..-”