

THE Mamdouh Bahri Trio renders the audience spellbound with their Afro-Jazz music at a concert in Islamabad on Wednesday

French jazz band captivates Islootes

By Jonaid Iqbal

ISLAMABAD, Nov 15: French jazz band Mamdouh Bahri captivated the audience during their one-hour performance at the NIC auditorium on Wednesday night.

The jazz concert, the first of the two concerts of the season, was hosted by the Alliance Francaise in collaboration with the French embassy.

The Tunisian-born guitarist, Mamdouh charmed the guests with unabashed demonstration of his Mediterranean heritage, Afro-Asian jazz, blues and rock and unique combination of traditional notes with new experiments.

He also demonstrated the extent to which African music had influenced jazz, particularly in Montpellier, a nice cozy town in France.

Mamdouh began with playing oral traditions of his Arab culture but then played swifter ragtime with a lot of improvisation and variation of a high kind of interposed with rhythmic feeling and delicious melody.

His two companions, Jacky Dacosta on the drum and the Algerian-born musician Farnicis Valzoma on the bass guitar, very ably supported him. While Valzoma tickled at the bass guitar producing humming effect while the drum prevailed in interpreting varied themes with improvisation and a faster and fleshier tempo.

The trio performed for an hour much to the delight of the audience who were not only thrilled but became the wiser to learn the commonality in the music of recent times and repetition of short phrases, the characteristic of jazz music.

We were also told by the Alliance Francaise director Mathieu that there was a lot of interplay and enquiries among the three musicians.

He said the notes of the jazz musicians particularly brought meaning to the theme 'Autumn Bloom'.

The trio had also performed in the world Festival of music at Lahore, and in a concert at Karachi.