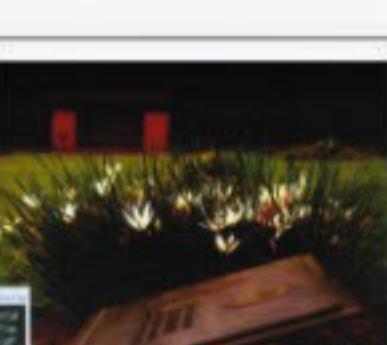


WHAT'S ON

Amar Ekushey Book Fair
Venue: Bangla Academy premises
Date: February 1-28
Time: 9am onwardsIranian Film Festival
Venue: Dance and Music Auditorium, Shilpakala Academy
Date: Feb 7-9
Time: 11am onwardsPhotography Exhibition
Title: Kaleidoscope of Life
Venue: Bangladesh Shishu Academy
Date: February 6-9
Time: 10am-5pmGroup Art Exhibition
Title: Rooted Creativity-8
Venue: Bengal Gallery, 275/F Dhammandi, Road-16, Dhammandi
Date: February 4-13Solo Painting Exhibition
Artist: Mohammad Eunus
Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, R-7A, 1-60, Dhammandi
Date: January 28-February 10
Time: 5pm-8pmMimo Drama
Drama: Jadur Prodip
Troupe: Swapnadal
Venue: Studio Theatre Hall, BSA
Date: February 10Solo Painting Exhibition
Artist: Tiana Khaled
Title: Alchemy of Existence
Venue: Alliance Francaise
Date: Jan 28-Feb 10National Street Theatre Festival 2011
Venue: Central Shaheed Minar Premises
Date: February 1-7
Time: 4pm onwards

A World of Music Descends on Dhaka

AKRAM HOSEN MAMUN

Dhaka World Music Festival (DWMF) 2011 offered the intoxicating grooves of soul, jazz, afro-beat, funk, reggae

splendid concoction of salsa, timba, and jazz, the sounds of various percussion were prominent. Lead singer Javier Camilo's impassioned singing - although in Spanish -- and his busy hands on bongos moved the audience.

Lalon's fusion of rock

and Bangla folk was also much appreciated.

The band covered "Boshonto Batastey", "Khypa", "Krishno Prem" and some popular songs of Lalon Shai.

The sounds of the horns of

Soothsayers,

a South London collective,

were probably the most remarkable

at the gig.

Their mix of reggae,

Afro-funk and urban jazz has already

earned them international recognition.

They played some of the popular

remixes of their "One More Reason" sessions.

The prominence of horns

was evident in their performance.

Music lovers - young and not so

young -- swayed to Idris Rahman's eddying saxophone and Robin Hopkraft's bold trumpet.

The constant improvisation, a characteristic of jazz, and the rhythmic off-beat forms of reggae were outstanding.

along with traditional Bangla folk for the first time at a major open air concert on February 4 and 5 at Sultana Kamal Mohila Kriria Complex, in Dhammandi.

The concert, on February 4, kicked off with Motimba featuring Baul artists. Renowned Baul singers - Shajahan Munshi, Rob Fakir, Rinku, and Baby Akhtar -- rendered popular Bangladeshi folk numbers to the music of Motimba, a band recognised for their blending of funk and afro-beat with Cuban grooves. In their

When asked about their highly experimental music, Julia Biel, one of the vocalists of the group, said: "Through our music we hope to reach a point where genre stops to matter." She added, "With the soulful mixing of these different forms we hope to transcend the boundaries of language as well." The players of guitar, bass,

and drums also got enough room to show off their skills.

Lokkhi Terra's renditions of Bangla classics like "Tumi Eshechhile Porshu", "Kalarey Koirogo Mana" and "Bhromor Koijo Giya" featuring Afro-beat, jazz, and Latin forms were also cheered on by the audience. The group is recognised for its efforts to

popularise Bengali musical heritage

in Europe.

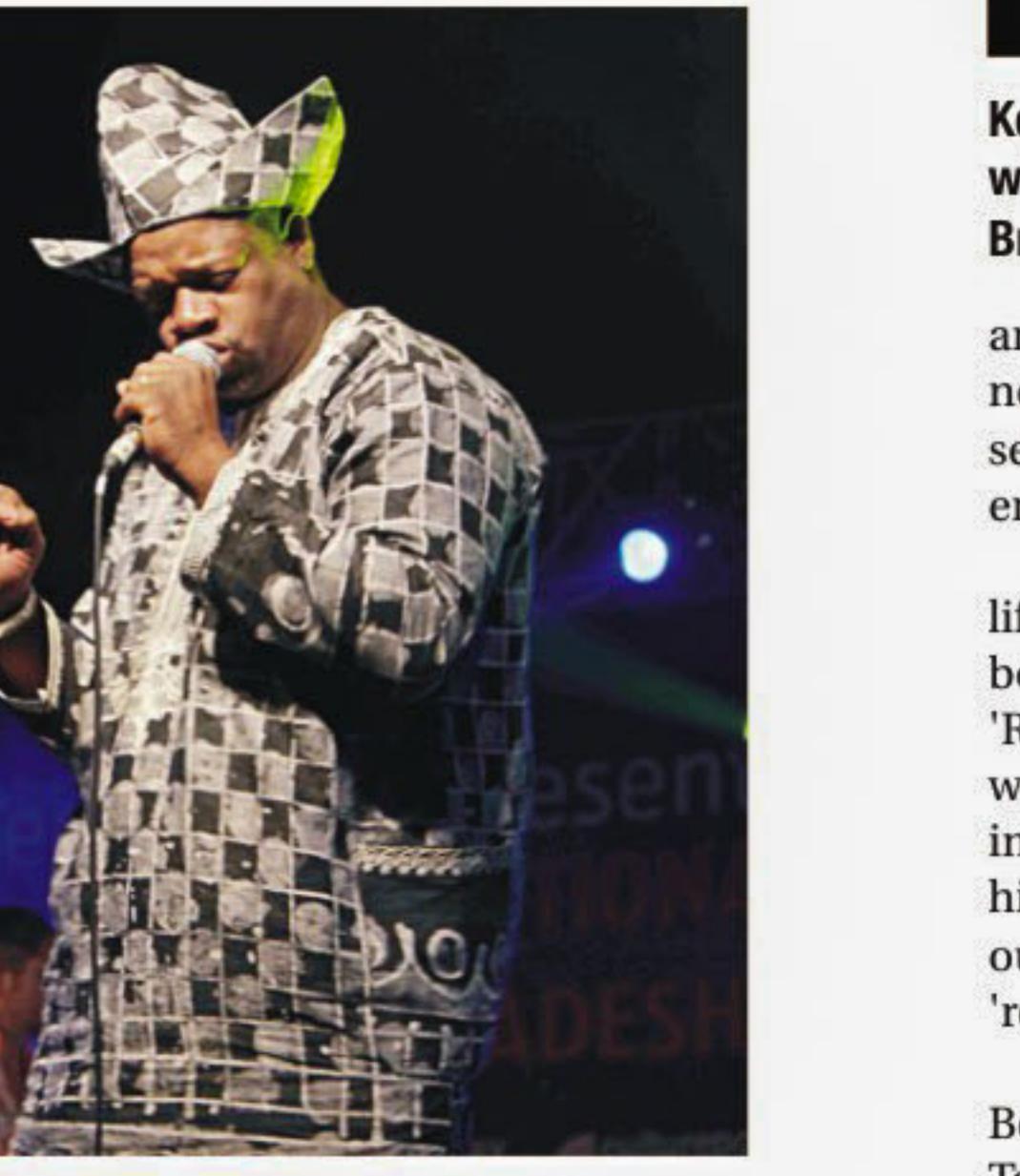
Dele Sosimi, credited as one of the originators of the art form called Afro-beat, gave a hypnotic performance late at night.

For a Bangladeshi who admires

global music,

this was like being in a

candy shop.



Clockwise (top-left): Rob Fakir, Baby Akhtar and her troupe, Dele Sosimi, Soothsayers and Lokkhi Terra.

Rediscovering Tagore

British Council's four-month long festival in the pipeline

A CORRESPONDENT

British Council looks forward to showcase the outcome of the workshop at the Ekushey Boi Mela.

The focus of the Tagore Music Show on Channel i will be an analysis of western influence on the bard's songs by Rezwana Chowdhury Bannya. The rendition of Tagore songs by aspiring artists will be judged by famous Tagore musicians. The finale will have up and coming British musicians as special guests to give the show a global flavour.

The British Council will organise a Tagore inspired fashion show which will aim to visualise western influences in

along with traditional Bangla folk for the first time at a major open air concert on February 4 and 5 at Sultana Kamal Mohila Kriria Complex, in Dhammandi.

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Key advisor for the festival, Professor Emeritus Anisuzzaman (4-L); Dr. Kamal Lohani (C) with Rezwana Chowdhury Bannya; Lubna Marium (3-R, front); Emdad Haque (5-L) with British Council personnel Eshita Azad, Masud Hossain and Nahin Idris.

and experimented on in the west with none of his glories diminished, I'd like to see the young Bangladeshi empowered enough to do the same with Tagore."

It is evident through Tagore's creations, lifestyle, and associations that he harboured the idea of global citizenship. "In 'Rediscovering Tagore', said Eshita, "we want to bring to focus his passion for intercultural dialogue. Contextualising his works of literature in modern times is our objective, and that's what we mean by 'rediscovering'."

With the theme "Crossing Boundaries", a two-day long workshop on Tagore inspired writing (in English) will open the festival on February 9. The

events will highlight the underlying emphasis on intercultural dialogue in Tagore's works. For more information please visit: <http://www.britishcouncil.org/bangladesh>.

Tagore's lifestyle.

An adaptation of "Tasher Desh", contextualised to a contemporary setting, will be the centre piece of the festival. The theme of "crossing boundaries" will also be prevalent in the staging. The dance-drama will be a product of collaborative work of Bangladeshi dancers, Indian musicians and UK dance experts.

It is worthy of mention that the storyline of Tagore's play was inspired by "Alice in Wonderland".

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