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Bhutan celebrates His Majesty's 49th birth anniversary

HIS MAJESTY'S 49TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

IN PICTURES

Long live the King: Thimphu students in a march past at the Changlimithang ground

Grammy winner entertains Bhutanese

The mood was festive. The audience tapped their feet and clicked their fingers as the sound of the flute blended in with the background music played from a laptop.

Some Thimphu residents were given a rare treat this week at Om bar as two time Grammy award-winning flautist Paul Horn took to the stage with mesmerizing music from his flute.

For many Bhutanese it was a night to remember to see Paul Horn perform in front of them. He has recorded with legends like Nat King Cole, Ravi Shankar, Frank Sinatra and Quincy Jones and has more than 40 albums to his name.

Paul Horn was accompanied by his friend and a Grammy nominee, Christopher Hedge, and together they improvised Bhutanese music produced by local performer Jigme Dukpa. The end result was rich in sound. The night's show also featured Paul Horn's improvisation on a piece he had composed in Tibet.

Christopher Hedge played on the Kalimba a West African musical instrument with metal strips on a wooden box, which were plucked to produce sound.

The group who came as tourists visited several districts like Bumthang and Trongsa to make a documentary on Bhutan.

"We will be making a documentary on Gross National Happiness," said Paul Horn. "I have heard and read a lot on GNH and that brought me to Bhutan."