

## RECOMMENDATIONS

## Exhibition

July 11-August 1  
A miniature art exhibition will be held at the Shilporag Art Gallery from 11 July to 1 August daily from 11 pm to 8 pm. The inaugural programme will take place on 11 July at 5.30. Venue: Gallery Shilporag, House: 15, Road: 16, Dhanmondi.

## Theatre

## Silver Jubilee

## July 19-21

Group Theatre 'Tarun Shampodray' from Seraijan celebrates its Silver Jubilee at the Bhashani Auditorium on July 19 at 10 am. Veteran theatre personality Azkarul Haque will inaugurate the celebration which features three stage performances. A reunion of all activists of the group will take place at 7:30 pm including a discussion session and reception of eminent personalities. Below is the schedule of the three drama performances:

July 20 at 7.30 pm  
Oedipus by Pabna Theatre '77  
July 21 at 7.30 pm  
Muktochoda by Rangpur Natya Kendra

## Video show

## July 16-July 20

An exhibition presenting video works of 15 French resident artists is going on from July 16 at Alliance Francaise. The screening will take place everyday at 5:30 pm, except Fridays. La Galerie will also present the exhibition of digital pictures by French artist Alexandre Bocquillon. Opening times from 9 am to 12 am and from 5 pm to 8 pm everyday except Saturday, 5 pm to 8 pm.

## Play

## July 23

The 22nd show of the play 'Tomasby' by the group Avantgarde will be staged at the Mahila Shamiti auditorium on 23rd July at 7.00pm. The play has been jointly written by Mamatuzzuddin Ahmed, Abdul Gaffar Choudhury, Abed Khan, Muntasir Mamun, ABM Musa, Ballal Sen, Shahriar Kabir, Dr. Shubhagat, Wahidul Haque and others and has been directed by young Ashim Das who received his degree from Delhi National School of Drama.

## Exclusive

## Kamal Das Gupta

*The legend lives on*

## SHAFIN AHMED

DURING 1930s to '50s it was like a proverb in the music arena that "No matter where and how much you try, in the end you will have to go to Kamal Das Gupta to find success." Among many artists who found recognition through Kamal Das Gupta's compositions were Juthika Roy, Jognonoy Mitra, Shanta Apté, Hemanta Mukherjee, Talat Mahmood, Shubhalakshmi, K. Mallik, Indubala, Angurbala, Minal Kanti, Satya Chowdhury and of course Feroza Begum, the finest Nazrul Sangeet artiste. The total number of songs composed by him is an astonishing number of over 8000 of which about 400 are Nazrul songs.

The 29th death anniversary of the sub-continent's greatest music composer/director Kamal Das Gupta will be observed today.

## Early Days

At the age of only eighteen, my father joined His Master's Voice (HMV) as a music director. His full name was Kamalprasad Anna Dasgupta. My grandparents were in village Kalia of Jessor district, although it was in Kuchbihar, when the family had moved there, where my father was born on 28th of July in the year 1912. His schooling started in Kuchbihar, and he graduated as an engineer from the Bengal Engineering College in Shibpur.

My grandparents Taraprasanna Dasgupta and Kaminiranjan Dasgupta were both well trained in classical music and hence a musical environment existed at home. My father would say that because of the disciplined training in music at home five/six out of the ten brothers and sisters could record songs at HMV at very early ages, and three brothers excelled as music directors, including his elder brother Bimal Das Gupta and his younger brother Shubal Das Gupta, who composed many memorable songs. The two brothers Kamal and Shubal would sing kawali in the radio as Chand-Suraj Kawals.

Kamal Das Gupta had his first formal training in music from his

elder brother. Then he devoted three/four years for learning and practicing mainly *Sargam* in the company of the famous singer Sri Krishna Chandra Dey, who was blind. But, it was the renowned Ustad Zamiruddin Khan who was Kamal Das Gupta's true Guru. Kamal Das Gupta was already getting busy as a promising music director at HMV. It did not take

His composition was first released as a record in 1932 in the voice of Satyaboti.

## Music Styles

Kamal Das Gupta has worked with various styles of music. He composed Geet and Bhajan in Hindi, he did Urdu, Naat, Thumri, and Ghazals. His Raaga based songs were truly wonderful. *Bhairab* was probably one of his favourites.

instances. About four to five hundred of his songs are indeed special in this respect and could be analysed deeply. Let me mention just a handful of such songs, which have delighted those who have followed Kamal Das Gupta's songs *Jodi Bhalo Na Lagé to Diona Mon* (film: *Jogajoge*); *Ami Chanchal Jhorna Dhara*; *Ami Bonophul Go* (*Kawali rhythm*); *Shopné Dekhi Ekti Notur Ghar* (*Dadra* played in half time); *More Mon Cholé Jai Deshe Go* (*Dadra* mixed with *humur*).

Geets like *O Preet Niván wali*; *Kinté Dukh Bhulaya Tumne* in the voice of Hemanta Mukherjee are worth mentioning here.

After the second World War, around the mid-1940s, one would find expressions of rebellion and protest in some of his songs. An unique blend of romance and revolution are found in these ever popular songs *Prithibí Amaré Cháe*; *Jége Aachhi Eka Jége Aachi Bhulobeshé*; *More, More, More*; *Na Mitte Aasha Bangali Khela*; *Ami Bhorer Juthika, Jetha Gaan Theme Jai*; *Gharí Ek Na Sahabé Piya*.

The two spent many busy mornings, tired afternoons, vibrant evenings and late nights in the company of each other. Readers might find it interesting to know how a typical day in the lives of these two great men was, as narrated by my father himself: "A lot of hard work was put in by the two of us each day. At 8 in the morning Kazi Da would start writing lyrics and melody in the HMV rehearsal room for the first artistes to come. Some lyrics he would pass on to me to tune, while I would be busy making other songs. By 9 AM the first group of singers would arrive for their training. One hour was allotted for them. The second group of singers would then come for their training and so on until 3 PM. We had no break up to that

time. After 3, we would start preparing songs for the next day, which would end at 6 PM. This afternoon session was between just the two of us. Sometimes I would be in mine, Kazi Da would leave at 6 PM. Kazi Da and I have spent years and years without having a day-time meal. Often, food were arranged to be brought from home, but it would remain untouched. There was no time."

## Films and Kamal Das Gupta

A vast expanse of Kamal Das Gupta's glorious career covered films. He made music for more than forty films during the period 1936 to 1967. Those were in Bangla, Hindi, Tamil, and English documentaries. Kamal Das Gupta's first film was *Pandit Moshai* (1936) and the last one was *Bodhubaran* (1967). I believe he will always be remembered for his songs in such movies as *Gormil, Shesh Uttar, Jogajog, Gobindodas, Bhagaban Sri Krishna Choitano, Meghdoot* (Hindi).

## Kamal Das Gupta and Feroza Begum

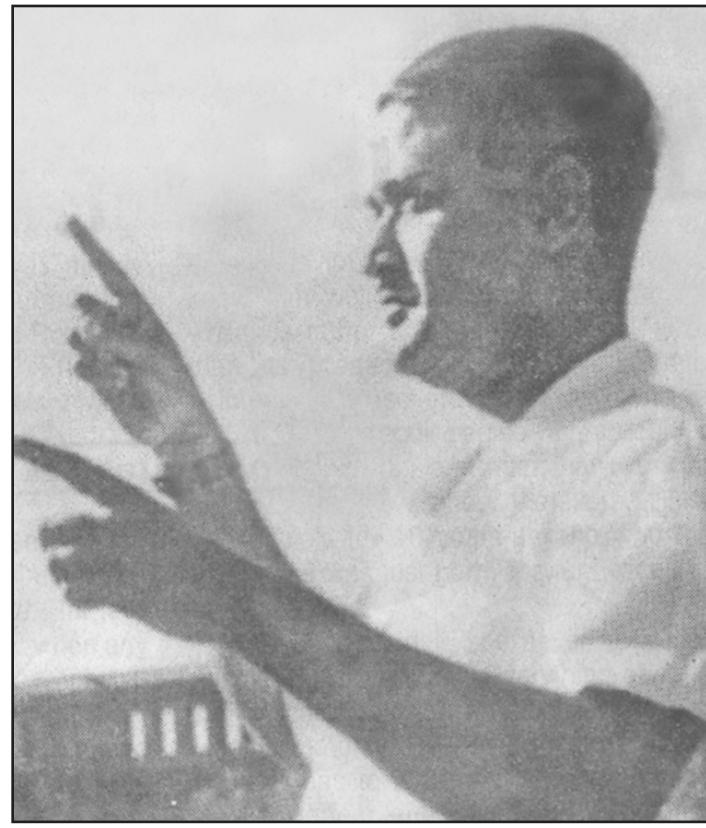
It is a long chapter in the life of Kamal Das Gupta. He is recognised as the foremost composer of Nazrul songs besides Kazi Nazrul Islam himself. My father had worked closely with Kobi Nazrul for long eleven years from 1934 to 1945. It is indeed an important chapter in the history of Bengali culture.

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## Last Days in Dhaka

My gloriously successful father left us all forever, on the 20th of July 1974 at the P.G. Hospital in Dhaka. We had moved to Dhaka from Kolkata in 1967. But the small horizon of Dhaka's music and the government of the time made the giant feel caged. After the independence of Bangladesh, my father was given the citizenship of Bangladesh and was later offered the position of Chief Music Director of the Transcription Service of Ban-



Comparable only to himself. His tunes continue to mesmerise listeners.

gladesh Betar. He had lamented that six years of inactivity had done him a lot of harm and they should take from him whatever they could. He had planned to develop an orchestra, a concert hall and teach training methods, short hand notation and several other projects for the Transcription Service.

I also remember the first time my mother bought us a guitar, which Hamin and I were trying to play. My father hearing from the next room, told us how to first tune the six strings of the guitar on EADGBE, and how if we knew where Sa was, we could tune the rest of the strings.

The last Nazrul song my father had tuned was appropriately written: *Khela Shesh Holo*  
*Shesh Hoy Nai Bela....*

Shafin Ahmed, the youngest son of Kamal Das Gupta, is also the lead singer of the popular band Miles.

## TV GUIDE

All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme.

## News Bulletin

**BTV**  
News Headlines(Bangla) at 12:10 pm; 2:00 pm 3:10 pm; 4:00 pm; 7:00 pm.  
News(Bangla) at 8:00 am 1:00 pm; 5:00 pm; 8:00 pm; News (English) at 3:00 pm, 10:00 pm. Late Night News(Bangla and English) News Headlines at 11:30 pm. **CHANNEL-1**  
Breakfast News 07:15am, 9:00am News(Bangla) at 7:15 pm; 9:00, 10:30, 12:15 am. Telecast of BTV news(Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm. **ATN BANGLA**  
News(Bangla) at 8:00 am, 12:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11:00 pm. News (English) at 9:00 pm. Telecast of BTV News(Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm. **STAR BANGLA**  
News(Bangla) at 8:00 pm. News(Bangla) at 8:30 pm. **TARA BANGLA**  
News(Bangla) at 5:30 pm, 7:30 pm. **ATN BANGLA**  
News(Bangla) at 8:00 pm. News(Bangla) at 8:30 pm. **BBC World**  
Every hour on the hour

## BTV

**ATN BANGLA**  
Morning News  
Rabindra Sangeet  
News  
Film: *Sensitive Samurai*  
News Headlines  
Health Bulletin  
Shukhi Paribar  
Priyo Manush  
Cartoon Show  
News Headlines  
Khalidhala  
Amader Ranna  
English News  
Prothom Bangladesh  
Shukhi Paribar  
Live Telecast of Nitol-Tata National Football League Match: Mohamedan SC Vs Arambagh KS  
News  
Desh Janapod  
Geetanjali  
Programmes of Chittagong Centre  
New Headlines, Share Market, Weather Forecast  
Mati O Manush  
Wild Life  
Bangla News at 8  
Harek Rokom  
Ekh Pashla Brishti  
English News at Ten  
Weather Bulletin  
News Report  
The X Files  
Late Night News/News Headlines

**SONY TV**  
Click Online  
Simpsons World  
Sangbad  
Musical Prog: Uro  
Kol Saat Rang  
Islamic Prog:  
Islamlee Sawal O  
Jawab  
ATN Bangla Evening News  
Street Show Danish  
English Serial

## CHANNEL-i

07:15 Channel-i Morning News  
09:00 Channel-i Morning News  
09:30 Shangbadpatrey Bangladesh  
09:45 Tritiyo Matra  
10:00 Music Plus  
10:30 Drama Serial: Antorlado  
11:00 Radhunir Ranna  
11:30 Magazine Show: Flop Show  
12:00 Talk Show: Tara O Shampa Raza  
12:30 Drama Serial: Jibon Chhobi  
02:00 Bangla Feature Film: Rajajmata  
05:20 Aparanya Kotha  
05:35 Jonopoder Khabar  
05:45 FCT Business Talk  
06:10 Music Plus  
06:45 Banijo O Aurtherniti  
07:15 Channel-i News  
07:55 Shanchita  
08:25 Drama Serial: Gribagajlo  
09:00 Channel-i News  
09:35 Drama Serial: Ekanobartti  
10:00 Drama: Shabjantar Ojana  
10:30 Channel-i News  
11:30 Late Night News of BTV  
12:15 Channel-i News

## STAR MOVIES

7:30 Kiss The Bride  
9:15 Shallow Hal  
11:15 Bugsy  
13:00 Miss Julie  
3:15 Bojangles  
5:00 Leaving Las Vegas  
7:00 Steven Spielberg Presents "Taken"

7:30 The Next Karate Kid  
9:15 August  
11:15 Trail Of Pink Panther  
13:00 Red Letters  
7:00 Traffic  
9:30 Sunday Best Hell Raiser Inferno  
11:00 What Women Want

7:30 The Daily Newspaper  
9:30 This Week  
11:00 University Challenge, TBA  
13:00 Zee & You  
15:00 Jai Jai Tridev  
17:00 Sa Re Ga Ma Pa  
19:00 Golden Voice Hunt  
21:00 Khel Main Hain  
23:00 The Gold Health Show

7:30 Bambai Ka Babu  
10:30 Bombay to Goa  
13:00 Unwed Mothers Kya  
15:00 Kehna  
17:00 Imitian  
19:30 Mashooq

7:30 Cartoon Network On ZEE CINEMA  
9:00 Bhai Bhai  
10:30 Bombay to Goa  
13:00 Unwed Mothers Kya  
15:00 Kehna  
17:00 Imitian  
19:30 Mashooq

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