

International artists display their works at Dots Gallery

Thought-provoking installations

FAYZA HAQ

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HE installation exhibition at Dots Gallery, which opened on July 25, brought together artists from Nepal, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Bangladesh. This followed a residency programme arranged by Britto, in which the artists stayed and worked together.

Sunil Sigdel from Pokhara, Nepal, holds a BFA degree from Kathmandu, and has been painting professionally for six years. "Coming to Dhaka I saw workers in garages, tea-shops and small metal industries. I decided to give them some rest by doing their work for two hours every day," Sunil said. The four white shirts with long sleeves and hoods that are exhibited stand for the artist and the three workers whom he replaced. Since he was

taking the place of the workers, these low-grade workers felt that they were not mere underlings after all. "I wanted to focus on the dignity of labour," he said. Another installation piece by Sunil shows cushions piled on one another and by this he represents the rule of dynasties in his country.

Johan Thom from Johannesburg, South Africa, took flying as a metaphorical subject. It stood for human dreams. The various success of our dreams in the past and present are reflected in the man in his floating position as captured by the video in the image reflected on four sheets of glass. The subject of the chicken and duck in the hands of the man came to him when he saw them aplenty in Dhaka markets. Johan often uses video, sound and performance to explore the close link between human being, their socio-political and eco-



Clockwise (from right): Artworks by Sulekha Chaudhury (Bangladesh), Hasnat Mehmood (Pakistan) and RM Vijita Bandara (Sri Lanka)

nomic environment and spirituality.

His installation, *The theory of flight* is a commentary on the failures and success of humans who are in search of mental and spiritual enlightenment. Johan has taken part in various exhibitions such as the Venice Biennale (2003, 2005), the International Computer Arts Festival in Slovenia (2004) and various national festivals in South Africa. He has a master's degree from South Africa.

Sulekha Chaudhury, from Bangladesh, calls her work *Which is your path*. Sulekha says, "There is good and bad in our society and we may move on to one path," she says. Her many canvases put together make one work. The apple with the snake in one of the paintings stand for greed. The canvases, at times, are covered with images of cockroaches, human hands and eyes. The two

praying figures stand for peace. The colours applied are flat and raw. Two sand pits carry footprints.

Sulekha, a freelance artist, has held a solo exhibition in Dhaka and has taken part in many joint exhibitions at home and overseas. She has participated in workshops and residencies.

Vijita Bandara from Sri Lanka had numerous dramatic masks made from paper pulp, clay, jute, straw and beads. He has also used bird feathers and *gamcha*. They are reflections of his impression of people back home and in Bangladesh. Vijita holds a bachelor's degree in Fine Arts from Colombo.

Hasnat Mehmood, a miniature artist from Pakistan, who lives and works in Lahore, has a huge depiction of an elephant and its *mahout* (keeper) from Mughal days. He has exhibited his work in Europe, USA, Iran and Japan.

ALL TIME GREATS

Komol Dasgupta: An unparalleled composer

July 28 marks the birth anniversary of brilliant singer, Nazrul Sangeet composer and music director Komol Dasgupta. A versatile musical genius, he sang modern songs in Bangla, Urdu, Hindi and Tamil. Another feather in his cap was his composition for about 8,000 songs. His work was based on classical music and veered towards the *thumri* style, although he also drew from other sources.

In the course of his 15-year career, Dasgupta also composed music for about 80 Bengali films, including *Tufan Mail*, *Shyamaler Prem* and *Ei Ki Go Shes Dan*. His last film as a music director was *Badhu Baran*. In addition, he also composed the background score for an American film, titled *War Propaganda*. According to some reports, he composed as many as 45 songs a month. Particularly popular are songs such as *Pritibhi Amarey Chai*, *Gumer Chaya* and numerous other songs, which are still recorded by a new generation of artists. Apart from this, he made a mark with film songs in Hindi, Tamil, Bangla, Tamil and English documentary films.

Born on July 28, 1912, in Narail, Jessor, he married Feroza Begum, the renowned exponent of Nazrul songs.

At the very young age of around 22 years, he transformed into a capable successor of Ustad

Zamiruddin Khan as a trainer at HMV Recording Company, Kolkata. The turning point in his

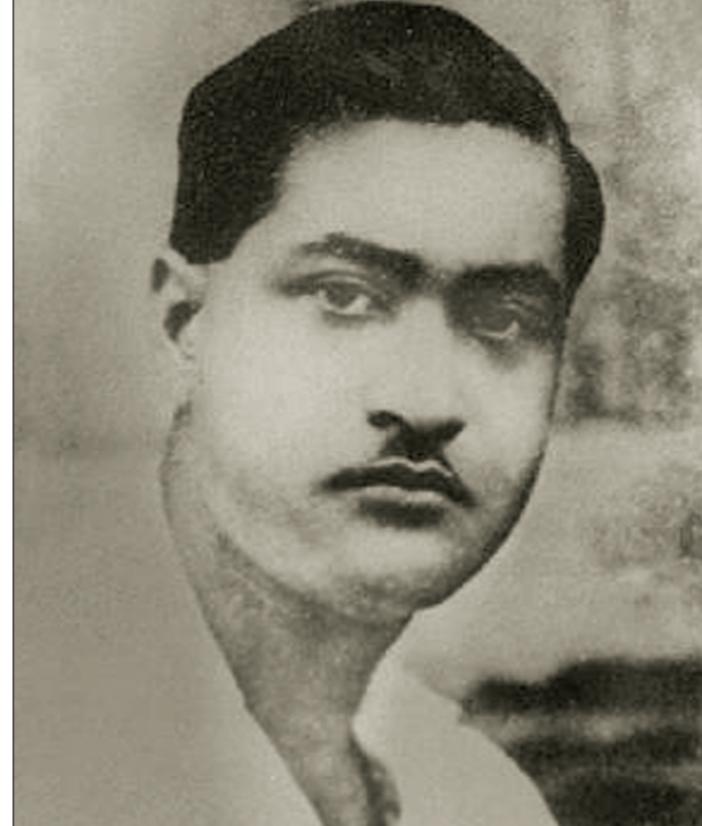
musical career was his first modern Bangla song, *Ami Sanjher Taroka*. This all time hit at HMV led to many other superb compositions.

In 1935, Dasgupta joined the Gramophone Company of India as a music director. In the course of this assignment, he developed a close association with Kazi Nazrul Islam and composed the music for as many as 400 of his songs. The gramophone records for which he composed music reached their peak of popularity in the 1950s and 1960s. Among his evergreen songs are *Sanjher taraka ami* (I am the star of the twilight), *Pritibhi amare chay* (The world needs me) and *Ami bhorer yuthika* (I am the jasmine of the morning).

His musical works ranged from *kirtan* to Mira's *bhajan* and modern songs in both Hindi and Bangla. His repertoire included Nazrul songs, *ghazals*, *Naat* and *Shyama Sangeet*. In the ranks of these acclaimed songs were *Projapoti Proojapoti*, *Ami Jar Nupurero Chondo*, *Jobey Tulai Prio* and many others.

Dasgupta's life ended at the age of 62, on July 18, 1974. To the talented composer goes the credit for inspiring both upcoming and established artists.

Compiled by Cultural Correspondent



CULTURAL FEAST

Classical Music

Title: Monthly Pritibha Sondhan
Organiser: Shuddha Sangeet
Proshkar Gosthi

Date: July 27

Venue: Biswa Sahitya Kendra

Time: 7:00pm

Dance-Drama

Title: Shapmochon
Organiser: Rabirag
Venue: Shishu Academy Auditorium

Date: July 28

Time: 7:00pm

Film Screening

Title: Ontorjatra
Venue: British Council Auditorium
Date: Running 2nd week from July 17

Time: 5:00pm and 7:00pm (except Sundays)

Title: Cyano
Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dacca

Date: July 28

Time: 10:30am and 6:00pm

Title: The Hours
Organiser: Ananya Film Club
Venue: Noton House, 10/14 Iqbal Road

Date: July 29

Time: 5:00pm

Exhibition

Artist: Laila Sharmin
Title: Truth, Beauty and Me

Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts

Date: July 19-28

TV GUIDE

PICK OF THE DAY



Shurey Aka Chhobi
On Rtv at 09:20pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Humayun Faridee, Diti, Agun



The Street Fighter: The Ultimate Battle
On HBO at 09:30pm
Genre: Action/ Adventure
Starring: Jean-Claude Van Damme, Raul Julia

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

BTB

09:05 Open University

05:45 Islami Sawaal O

Jobab (Live)

06:20 Papok

08:00 Horton Bibi

08:30 Drama Serial:

Ferari Siren

09:00 Musical Programme

09:30 Drama Serial: Mon

Tui Badhahin

02:15 Khelte Khelte

Computer Shekha

04:00 Rup Kothar Deshey

04:30 Ai Dhaka Sei Dhaka

05:05 Protiyashar Alo

05:30 Drupadee

06:10 Talk Show

06:35 Jiboner Alo

07:05 Grantha Bhubon

07:30 Agiye Cholar Pothey

08:35 Protidin Bangladesh

08:45 Weekly Drama

10:25 Teknaf Thekey

Tetula

10:30 Apnar Shawsthya

(Live)

12:30 Shashtho Tathya

01:30 Selected

programe

02:15 Khelete Khele

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