

## The GHAZAL-KING @ HILLSONG

- Dr Khairul Haque Chowdhury

It's widely acknowledged in the South Asian Classical musical arena that Jagjit Singh has a knack for performing ghazals. But in the evening of 26<sup>th</sup> September, he found the music working through him. The man who is the King of ghazals was performing it at Hillsong auditorium in Sydney's west. Never parting with his sublime vocal-melody, Jagjit let it be felt to the South Asian music-lovers that he was initiating the audience to the trance to be attained in the evening. What is going to happen in the evening experientially, everyone wondered aloud, was Jagjit lifting them to that Himalayan height? Perhaps subtly, Jagjit presented his instrumentalists and a couple of young artists from Sydney to perform the contrast of earthly with his unearthly voice in a musical contestation. The audience's expectation from the evening was obvious in underestimation of his ability to outperform rather outpace them with the following numbers:

- *Sarakti jaye hai rukh se naqab aahistha aahistha;*
- *Aah ko chahiye*
- *Baat nicklegi tho dhoor thalak jayegi*
- *Who kagaz ki khisthi*
- *Jhuki jhuki se nazar, bekarar hai ke nahi.*

But just when the ensemble was settling on a long journey upward to the galaxies – the King cut it short. The music-connoisseurs will definitely cherish the evening for a long period of time!