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**THEATRE**

# Nimajon: Al Deen's thoughts on genocide

JAMIL MAHMUD

As part of the ongoing theatre festival on Rabindranath Tagore, Selim Al Deen and Badal Sircar, Dhaka Theatre staged its popular play "Nimajon" at the Experimental Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, on August 4.

The play, an epic journey into the history of genocide, is written by Selim Al Deen and directed by Nasiruddin Yousuff.

Theatre troupe Swapnadal has organised the festival.

"Nimajon" does not develop any particular storyline. It presents a chronological look at genocides around the globe through narratives. The play starts with a stranger, who makes a visit to an imaginary state after receiving an invitation from his friend. During his journey he passes across lands where he observes only genocide.

"Nimajon" significantly highlights that the history of civilisation and genocide is interwoven-- every civilisation has had a history of genocide. And the repetition of these brutal incidents has brought human beings down from their pedestal. It is a paradox.

Al Deen does not want to identify



"Nimajon" presents a chronological look at genocides around the globe through narratives.

PHOTO: JAMIL MAHMUD

"Nimajon" with any particular genre, though he considers the play as a strong articulation of his philosophical thoughts known as "Daitadaitobadi". He finalised the theme of the play during a visit to Chandpur. He faced a sudden nor'wester that set him thinking about drowning and subsequently gave him

the ultimate idea about the presentation of "Nimajon" or drowning.

Asaduzzaman Aman plays the role of the stranger in the play while the cast includes Sirajul Islam, Samiun Jahan, Rony Hossain and Saidul Islam.

Dhali Al Mamun's art direction is one of the significant aspects of the play.

Nasirul Haque Khokon's light design aptly syncs with the set and creates a colourful presentation. The play also features the use of multimedia.

Today, Swapnadal will stage Rabindranath's dance drama "Chitrangada". The festival is to end on August 6.

# Remembering F.R.I.E.N.D.S. on Friendship Day



AFSANA TAZREEN

Remember the six people you would not dream of cutting out from your life? Our friends and family accused us of spending more time with Ross, Chandler, Joey, Rachel, Phoebe and Monica at the coffeehouse "Central Perk" than with them.

If you were born between the '70s and the '90s you would know that I am talking about "Friends", arguably one of the greatest television phenomenons of the last century. Being addicted to the show, I could watch reruns of the show for hours and never come remotely close to boredom.

No one thought that the world would care about the lives of a group of 20 something New Yorkers. However, with the slick storyline and the side-splitting humour, it did not take long for the world to make friends with "Friends".

Created by writers Marta Kauffman and David Crane, the series was lauded as being "the first true ensemble show", where all the six actors were equally prominent. The makers of the show could take a mundane incident or an everyday conversation and turn it into a hilarious story all within the first couple of minutes before the opening credits.

The show was also blessed with a talented troupe of actors who turned into household names over its journey of 10 seasons. One of the keys factors to its success has been the subsequent evolution of the characters and the dynamics of the core relationships over the years.

Jennifer Aniston as the scatter-brained Rachel became the darling of American television, with her love for shoe-shopping and bubble baths. David Schwimmer perfectly portrayed the role of the hapless Ross Geller, a geeky paleontologist with three failed marriages. The Ross-Rachel saga -- from his unrequited crush for Rachel to a romantic relationship to a break-up made us laugh and cry with them.

Matt LeBlanc played role of the dim but loveable actor, Joey Tribbiani, a womanizing Italian hunk with an endearing innocence. Matthew Perry was hilarious as Chandler

Bing, the dry wit who is seldom at a loss for words. His constant sarcastic remarks sometimes drove his friends to the point of punching him but made the viewers giggle helplessly.

Attractive yet down to earth, Phoebe Buffay (Lisa Kudrow) was the most diverse of the group. The ever optimistic quirky singer would sing (about topics such as smelly cats, illness and death) at the coffee house or at the kindergarten without the slightest hesitation. As for Courteney Cox, she played the levelheaded Monica Geller who had an obsession for neatness and order and as Ross rightly pointed out, was "the glue that holds the group together".

Though, the show might be mistaken for "just another American sitcom", the series, an instant hit from its debut consistently ranked in the top ten in the primetime ratings. Critics loved it as well. The show was ranked No. 21 on the critic's list of 50 greatest TV shows of all time. "Entertainment Weekly" said the show "operates like a Broadway farce complete with slamming doors, twisty plots and intricately strung together jokes.... 'Friends' is pretty irresistible."

Glittering Hollywood stars like Elliot Gould, Julia Roberts, Charlie Sheen, Tom Selleck, Susan Sarandon, Billy Crystal, Robin Williams, Helen Hunt, Bruce Willis, Brad Pitt and Jeff Goldblum also guest starred in the show making it even more special.

Today, it says something about "Friends" popularity that we huddle around with our friends, watching the-runs and quoting the lines of the show eight years after it wrapped up. Setting aside the awards it won and the fame it garnered, the fact that it made us smile even in our darkest hours is the show's greatest achievement.

"When it hasn't been your day, your week  
Your month or even your year but  
I'll be there for you."

The theme song of "Friends" kept its promise. "Friends" was there for us, always.

On the surface, the six may appear to be up to their waist in pranks and silly jokes. Underneath all the silliness is a bond not easily broken.

# Bappa Mazumder's solo album launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Popular singer-composer Bappa Mazumder's solo album titled "Bechey Thak Sabuj" was launched in a Dhaka restaurant on August 1. The album features 10 songs about love, patriotism, nature and contemporary issues. The title track, written by Shankar Shawjal, is based on Raga Desh.

Other songs in the album are written by Zulfikar Russel, Rasel Onil, Shahab Kabandha, Masum Rana, Indran, Swapnil, Wahid Rajib and Joy Shahriar. Bappa Mazumder has composed all the songs and directed music for the album.



Bappa says that the album is substantially different from its predecessors. "I have tried to break away from my usual style," he says.

For the first time, Mazumder has recorded a Rabindra Sangeet that is featured in the album. Another song on motherhood has also been recorded in the album.

Mazumder's mother, noted classical singer Ila Majumdar, passed away on May 3 last year. The album "Bechey Thak Sabuj" is dedicated to her. Under the label of Agniveena, Eastern Bank Limited has supported the release of the album.

# TV play Oparey Eka on ntv tonight

A CORRESPONDENT

To mark Friendship Day, single episode TV play "Oparey Eka" will be aired tonight at 9pm on ntv. Written by actress Richi Solaiman, the play is directed by Chayanika Chowdhury.

The play revolves around a love affair between a Muslim boy and a Hindu girl. Family pressures on both side jeopardise their relationship. To placate their parents, the duo sacrifice their love and go their separate ways. The girl gets married to another boy and goes to America, while the boy stays in Bangladesh.

Many days go by; one day the girl encounters the love of her life. The meet-



Apurba and Richi on the TV play.

ing leads to a dramatic denouement.

Richi Solaiman and Apurba don the lead roles in the play while Jamaluddin Hossain, Rawshan Ara and others enact other characters.

BTV	07:00	Style File	
11:05	Mukta Alap	08:15	Drama Serial: Ladies First
01:00	Amrao Pari	11:25	Business Vision
02:30	Olympic Games 2012 (Live)	Desh TV	
08:40	Drama Serial: Bonshai	03:00	Gaan R Gaan
12:00	Olympic Games 2012 (Live)	03:30	Bondhur Pothe Pothe
		05:02	Durpath
		06:20	Ramzan Protidin
		09:45	Tribute to the Legend
ATN BANGLA		Diganta TV	
11:20	Business and Finance	01:05	Pothey Prantorey
01:25	Shurer Madhuri	03:05	Shonali Alokdhara
04:45	Jhatpat Iftar	04:30	Shorol Poth
06:10	Islami Sawal O Jawab	05:30	Islamic Talent Search
08:40	Drama Serial: Shongshar Shukher Hoy Bedonar Guney	09:40	Drama Serial: Ranga Maa
CHANNEL i		Maasranga Television	
01:05	Ebong Cinemar Gaan	11:00	Bangla Feature Film
02:40	Gorey Ghorey Gaaner Utshab	06:10	Mahey Ramzan
		08:30	Drama Serial: Khonikaloy
05:50	Ramzanul Mobarak O Kafela		

TALK SHOW	
ATN BANGLA	ETV
12:30am	Lead News
09:45am	Tritio Matra
12:30pm	Taroka Kothon
nTv	
12:30am	Ei Shomoy
Boishakhi TV	
11:00pm	Reporters Dairy
12:00am	Zero Hour
	10:10pm
	Media Gossip
	Rtv
	07:40pm
	Our Democracy
	Desh TV
	11:45pm
	Shoja Kotha
	Maasranga Television
	12:02am
	Shamprotik
	CHANNEL 24
	12:00am
	Modhyraater Muktabak

**Tribute to the Legend: Shah Abdul Karim**  
On Desh TV at 09:45pm  
Musical Programme  
Singers: Baul Sirajuddin & Ashiq

**The Italian Job**  
On HBO at 07:10pm  
Genre: Action/ Crime  
Cast: Donald Sutherland, Mark Wahlberg

**Long March**  
On BANGLAVISION at 09:05pm  
Drama Serial  
Cast: AKM Hassan, Tisha

09:35	Drama Serial: Alice in Wonderland	09:00	Tele-quiz
11:30	Prakriti O Jibon	11:00	World Music
ntv		CHANNEL 9	
08:45	Bangla Feature Film	09:15	Bangla Feature Film
03:10	Drama Serial: Ronger Manush	05:30	Alokito Ramzan
06:15	Cholbo Nobir Pothe	07:45	Drama Serial: Dead And
09:00	Drama: Oparey Eka	09:25	Kobir Lorai
11:30	Aponar Jiggasha	11:15	Islami Jiggasha
ETV		CHANNEL 24	
11:30	Ekushey-er Business	04:30	Made in Bangladesh
03:30	Desh Jurey Oporadh Porikroma	08:10	Move with Musha
04:30	Siyam O Shushastha	09:30	Drama Serial: Jadur Shahar
06:20	Drama Serial: Rojadar	10:15	Drama Serial: Ekaki Gangchil
11:45	Ekushey-er Raat	Gtv	
Boishakhi TV		11:30	Bangla Feature Film
01:20	Shudhu Cinemar Gaan	04:20	Jiggasha O Jawab
03:30	Alokito Poth	06:00	Mahey Ramzan
05:30	Ramzan Protidin	09:35	Life in Metro
08:00	Tarar Ranna	HBO	
08:35	Fashion Haat	04:10	Forrest Gump
BANGLAVISION		07:10	The Italian Job
11:45	Bangla Feature Film	09:30	I Still Know What You Did Last Summer
04:05	Ramzan O Amader Jibon		

**DRAMA SERIAL**

ATN BANGLA	08:15pm	Chhayamukhosh	
08:00pm	Palabar Poth Nei	ETV	
09:20pm	Jhulonto Babura	09:30pm	Tattu Ghora
CHANNEL i		Boishakhi TV	
07:50pm	Noorjahan	09:20pm	Ognipath
ntv		BANGLAVISION	
08:15pm	Bondhu Amar	09:05pm	Long March
Desh TV		Rtv	
07:45pm	Sat Kahon	09:05pm	Oloshpur

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