















Gtv going ad-free this Eid!

A CORRESPONDENT

Paying heed to viewers' complaints that it gets nearly impossible to enjoy the entertainment on TV during the Eid season, Gtv has taken a massive step - to broadcast ad-free entertainment during the whole week of Eid.

With the theme "Swopner Ayojon Birotihin Binodon", the channel will not broadcast any ads in between programmes from 4:30pm to midnight. The channel held a press conference to make the announcement on Thursday.

While the films to be aired every day at 9am and 12 noon will have small ad breaks, the single-episode plays, tele-films, mini-series, celebrity talk shows and musical programmes can all be enjoyed without interruption of commercials. Most of the time-chunks are blocksponsored by major advertisers, facilitating for such arrangements, preserving both the channel's financial and viewers' entertainment interests.

excited for new projects

diverse roles to play in her upcoming films "Rock On 2" and "Azhar". "Rock On 2" is a sequel to the 2008 music drama which marked Prachi's film debut, while "Azhar" is a biopic on former Indian cricket captain Mohammad

Actress Prachi Desai says she has

Azharuddin. While inaugurating a jewelry store in Mumbai, Prachi revealed that the shooting for "Rock On 2" had partly begun and the first schedule of "Azhar" was done. "It's pretty exciting. I'm doing two very diverse films and diverse roles," Prachi

Produced by Ekta Kapoor, "Azhar" features Emraan Hashmi in the titular role. Prachi reportedly plays his first wife Naureen. "People really don't know about Naureen (Azhar's wife), so it's going to be little challenging to put a face to her on-screen. With Rock On 2, there is a challenge to make the film better than the first, she said.



FAHMIM FERDOUS

It's not too often that tickets for a theatre play run out six days before the staging in Bangladesh, but for the penultimate day's showing of the Ganga Jamuna Theatre and Cultural Festival at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on Friday, it was the least of surprises. Last year at the festival, Nagorik Natya Sampradaya brought back the likes of Sara Zaker and Aupee Karim to the stage in "Naamgotroheen -- Manto'r Meyera", and this year, they did one better. Nagorik brought back a classic to the National Theatre Hall -- an important part of Bangladesh's theatre history, "Dewan Gazi'r Kissa". And with it they brought the most heavyweight cast in recent memory on the Dhaka stage -- thespian icons Aly

Zaker, Sara Zaker and Abul Hayat, supported by the formidable likes of Shamima Naznin, Ziaul Hasan Kislu and Runa Khan, among others. Under the direction of no less than the Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor (who also adapted the play and directed it originally, from Bertolt Brecht's "Herr

Puntila und sein kencht Matti"), it transported the audience to another era of Bangladeshi theatre.

"Dewan Gazi'r Kissa" is a comedy, but not of the garden variety. It's a small, linear story but dressed in an epic presentation, and one of the foremost things to notice about it is the dialogues. Spontaneous, conversational and yet incredibly punchy, it manages to add in nuances without compli-

cating the plot. At the heart of it is an alcoholic aristocrat -- and his righteous, stoic and a genuine good soul of a servant. The powerful Dewan Gazi (Zaker) has two alteregos: a kind, congenial man when he's drunk and a straight-up obnoxious angry

jerk when sober. He looks to marry his only

Abul Hayat (in the role of Makhon the servant) who shines the brightest. Not for a second does he walk, talk or act like the 72-year old that he is. When the lights come on, Abul Hayat truly transforms into Makhon, a role he first played at age 35, and still does today. Runa Khan, who

daughter Laily (Runa) off to a spineless,

not her that Nofor really is interested in.

(Mostafiz Shahin), but Laily realises that it is

While it's almost surreal to watch the

likes of Aly Zaker and Sara Zaker act live

up front, and they do a brilliant job, it is

gold-digger police officer Nofor Ali

A Classic, Relived

Nagorik brings back theatre icons on "Dewan Gazi'r Kissa"

left the stage 12 years ago, also puts on a commanding display every time she is on. Sara Zaker and Shamima Naznin, as Chamely and Lata respectively, are also vastly entertaining.

The set, props and costume are neat and no-nonsense, while the other characters (Mostafiz Shahin and Ruhe Tamana Labonyo as Sakhina being the most noteworthy) also hold their own.

It's a little frightening to nitpick on such a high-profile production, but as Asaduzzman Noor himself admitted, it was not flawless. The positioning of actors on stage ('blocking' in theatre jargon) were a little off once or twice, the timing of lighting wasn't pinpoint, and in one particular sequence, the music (played live, as is tradition) interfered with the dialogues and made it a little inaudible.

To all those who missed the show, Nagorik announced another staging on September 20 at the Experimental Theatre Hall, promising to make it better.

"Shesher Kobita" was staged by Prangonemor on the same day at the Experimental Theatre Hall, while curtains came down on the festival yesterday with Dhaka Theatre's "Dhaboman" (NTH) and Mohakal Natya Sampraday's "Neelakhyan".

Bangladesh Cultural Festival in Russia

A CORRESPONDENT

As part of a two-year memorandum of cultural exchange between Bangladesh and Russia, a weeklong Bangladesh Cultural Festival is being organised in the Russian capital of Moscow and the city of St. Petersburg. A 60-member cultural delegation, including singers, dancers, musicians and officials has left Dhaka to take part in the festival. The delegation is being led by Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor.

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They will perform at three venues, where photography exhibitions will also be held.

Bangladesh and Russia share a cultural exchange agreement since 1972, and as part of a 2013 MoU, a Russian Cultural Festival was held from November 21-24, 2014 organised by the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, in association with the Cultural Affairs Ministry.

The delegation is expected to return home on September 17.



Delegation members pose for a photo.



এই অফার চলবে ২৫ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০১৫ পর্যন্ত

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