



## **Assignment 1**

### **Section: 01**

#### **Course**

**Introduction to English Drama**

**ENG 114**

#### **Submitted By:**

Sumaiya Hossain Surovi

ID: 22301078

Department: CSE

#### **Submitted To:**

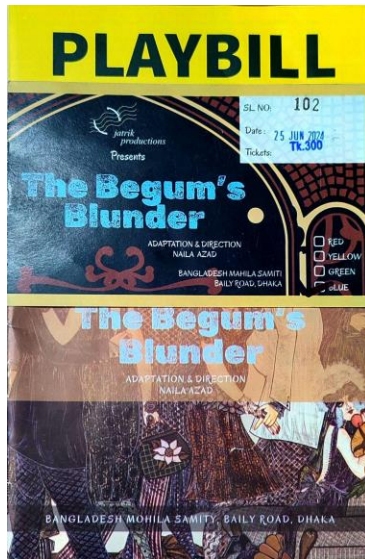
Samirah Tabassum

Lecturer

ENH Department

Brac University

I watched the play named **'The Begum's Blunder'** on **25 June, 2024** at Bangladesh Mohila Samity, Bailey Road, Dhaka directed by **Naila Azad Nupur**. She also did the playwright with the adaptation of **Oscar Wild's *Lady Windermere's Fan***. The play was performed by the theatrical group named **'Jatrik Productions'**. The genre of the play was comedy.



The play Begum's Blunder is a sarcastic representation of **1920's** Bengali upper class society with the concept of their culture of gossip and scandal. Though the play starts with a happy scene of **Begum Mumtaz Nizamuddin's** birthday where she got a shawl from her husband as her birthday gift, it gradually turns into conflict, mistrust and relationship breakdown under the influence of gossip and backbiting from the upper class of society. Some of the main characters of the play were **Aftab Nizamuddin** who wanted to protect his wife from a horrible truth, Begum Mumtaz Nizamuddin who suspected that her husband was in a relationship with a mysterious woman, **Amirun Nahar Khanam** who the mysterious woman based on whom the story took a new turn and **Pyar Singh** who introduced each character to the audience at the time of their entering through a charming voice delivery. Here, Amirun Nahar cleared Begum Mumtaz's doubts through emotional and caring behavior and took the blame of the blunder done by her. The play ended with revealing the surprising truth of the mother - daughter relationship between Mumtaz and Amirun Nahar.

All the casts of the play gave their best performances to portray the character. The synchronization of the casts was perfectly done. Among all the characters I liked most the acting of Amirun Nahar. She alone was able to hold all the attention from the audiences. Her emotional speech delivery touched me. All the cast did their best to convey the play's message. The emotional depth of the relation of Amirun Nahar to the Nawab Family was surprising and an epic truth. Also the character of Pyar Singh and Mirza Alimuddin was enjoyable to me.

From the set design, background and costume of all the characters, there was a noticeable presence of the color Blue. The props changed with the changing of scenes to portray the change of location. The light of the stage was bright to depict the splendor of a Nawab's residence. There was a Birthday Party of an upper class society in which the performance of classical dance was shown as a token of Bengali culture. In the background, the sounds of some classical instruments were heard. The costume of each cast and the set design had significant contributions to illustrate the overall atmosphere.

The play relates contemporary society in a vivid way. The play teaches us the message that if you listen to the rumors and scandals said by others, an arranged family will be shaken in an instant,

then many women of today's society like Begum Mumtaz are ruining their honor by making wrong decisions due to the instigation of a third person like **Shehzada Darius Shah**. Here, the character Aftab Nizamuddin is a social vigilante character who stood by a woman like Amirun Nahar despite all the gossip. Also as a good husband, he protected his wife from knowing the terrible truth that would have shocked her.