

NEWS bytes

Winslet in Woody Allen's next

Woody Allen's latest film, "Cafe Society", hasn't hit theatres yet, but the filmmaker is already moving on to his next project.

Variety reports that Kate Winslet is in final negotiations to star in Allen's next movie, which will shoot this fall. Allen is writing, directing and producing the untitled film, and like all his recent films, plot details are being heavily guarded.

Letty Aronson and Edward Walson will produce. The film hasn't found a distributor yet, although Amazon seems to be a likely destination, given Allen's recent relationship with the studio.

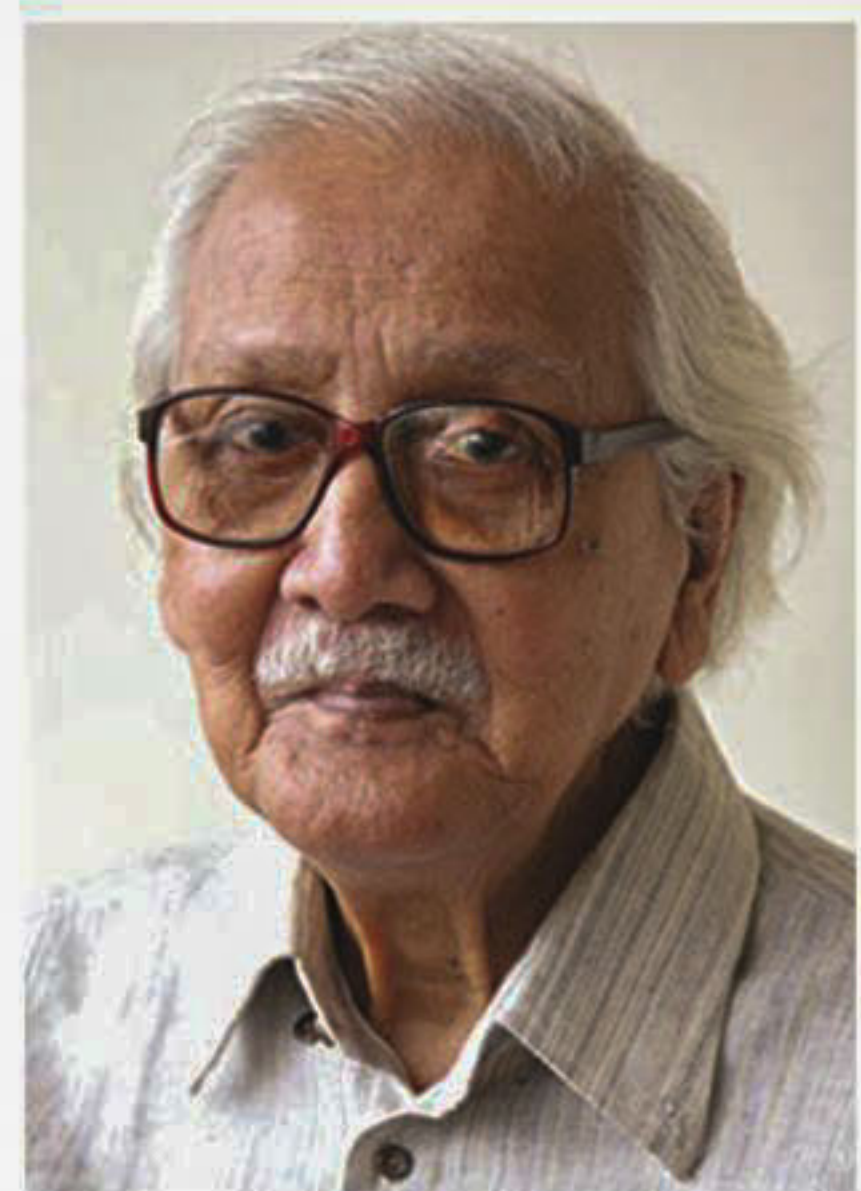
Though Winslet's career has spanned more than two decades, the actress has never worked with the auteur prior to this



project. Winslet is coming off her Oscar-nominated role in "Steve Jobs" and was also recently seen in Open Road's crime drama "Triple Nine". She just wrapped production on New Line's "Collateral Beauty" opposite Will Smith and recently boarded the Fox drama "The Mountain Between Us", co-starring Idris Elba.

Source: Variety

TRIBUTE



SAFIUDDIN AHMED
A LEGEND OF PRINTS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today (June 23) marks the 94th birth anniversary of eminent painter and printmaker Shilpaguru Safiuddin Ahmed (1948-2012). One of the founders of Dacca Art College (now the Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka), Ahmed was a friend and colleague of Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin. From 1948 to 1979, he served as head of the Department of Printmaking at the institution.

Ahmed entered the world of fine arts encouraged by his mother after his father passed away in the era of the British Raj. He studied in Calcutta. Ahmed earned fame for his lyrical prints from the time of Partition (1947). When he finished studying in Calcutta at the Government School of Art in 1943, Romendranath Chakraborty, the principal, taught him printmaking, although it was not in his syllabus. Mukul Dey also guided him at one stage. He later studied printmaking in London at the Central School of Arts and Crafts.

Ahmed's art mainly focused on rural panorama, pastoral life, landscapes, memories of 1971, the Language Movement, floods and

other natural calamities as well as Santal life.

The Shilpaguru's artworks evoked romanticism coupled with the meanderings into the world of dreams and symbols. Imagination, reality and experimentation went into his works in grey, black and white. In sharp contrast to that was his neat and precise prints where waves, curves, lines and dots blended with one another to reflect sunshine and harmony over the land of rivers, boats, and birds in the valleys. Bulrushes, tree-tops, bushes and human beings were woven into his tapestry of dreams and reminiscences of the raindrops and musk-laden emerald and mustard fields of the Bangladeshi countryside.

Ahmed used muted colours along with his more buoyant ones but the overwhelming message was that of peace, tranquility and harmony for days to come. Man was seen as working in unison with nature so that the farmers, fishermen and honey-gatherers were seen as the triumphant heroes of Bangladesh. Blending in the impressions of European masters with the impact of the Indian icons, Ahmed made his own creations as his mood and imagination took him.

Ahmed was known for his woodcut engravings. He devoted much time to a single piece of painting and print. Black was the predominant aspect in his work. From the beginning, the maestro experimented with black and its mysterious tones, tenors and layers of colour. His pencil and charcoal sketches too are in black. His lines created a distinct idiom where one could learn about his perseverance, longing and devotion to art.

Some of Ahmed's outstanding achievements included the President's Gold Medal by Academy of Fine Arts, Calcutta; first prize in the category of black and white in International Contemporary Art Exhibition, New Delhi; first prize in the category of black and white (etching and drawing) in Inter-Asian Art Exhibition in New Delhi and Patna Maharaja's Gold Medal. He was a recipient of the prestigious Ekushey Padak and Shadhinota Puroshkar.

Ahmed's first solo exhibition was held in 2008 by Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, on his 86th birthday. A two-part exhibition was later held in December 2010, with all his works, titled "Shilper Oshesh Alo".

He passed away on May 20, 2012 at the age of 90.



Suborna Mustafa and Tariq Anam Khan strike again



A CORRESPONDENT

Noted TV actors Suborna Mustafa and Tariq Anam Khan will be seen on screen once again for Eid, this time as husband and wife in a new TV play directed by Himel Ashraf titled "Bikel Belar Golpo." The TV play will be aired on Rtv.

Shooting has been taking place in Uttara. Tariq commented, "The plot is very intricate, and I don't want to risk giving spoilers; all I can say is that the story's development depends on the female lead. This is indeed a very unique romantic drama."

On his co-star he added, "She plays my wife in the play, and we both began our careers around the same time in theatre. We have a lot of similarities in taste and the way we think. She is a very powerful actor, and working with her is always rewarding."

Suborna Mustafa echoed, "We

have worked together many times before, and have had similar beginnings in the industry. He is a mind-blowing actor."

Recently, Tariq Anam Khan and Suborna Mustafa have largely appeared in TV series, but their career successes were achieved after working in the films "Lal Shobujer Pala" and "Ghuddi."

The first drama serial that they worked in was titled "Moddho Shomudro Jatra." After that they appeared in plays such as "Chokher Bali," and "Ghore Baire." Suborna added, "We have also worked together in "Esho Nipobone," which was written by Humayun Ahmed. Humayun Faridee also worked with us as a cast member. We all had a great time working together."

The prolific actress will also appear in another drama serial with Tariq Anam Khan titled "Shongshoptok."

AFD celebrates WORLD MUSIC DAY

A CORRESPONDENT

Alliance Française de Dhaka (AFD) celebrated Fête de la Musique 2016, also known as World Music Day.

The first day's programme (June 21) featured several individual and group songs presented in Bangla, English and French by the students and teachers of French at AFD, as well as cultural workshops on violin, guitar and piano.

On the second day, several young talented bands performed, along with the perfor-

mance of saxophone by Rahin Haider and reputed band Monoshoroni.

Fête de la Musique began in France in 1982, and is now celebrated in 120 countries. The idea was conceived by French Minister of Culture, Jack Lang, in 1981. Since then, June 21 has been celebrated every year as the World Music Day. The concept of Fête de la Musique is an open air and non-stop musical performance, to make different genres of music accessible to the public.



AFD students render a chorus on the first day.

Indigenous culture fest in Moulvibazar

MINTU DESHWARA, back from Patrokhola tea garden

A daylong cultural competition, including traditional dances of ethnic communities of Moulvibazar, was organised at the remote Patrokhola tea garden field of Kamalganj upazila, under Moulvibazar district on June 19.

The competition was held to promote indigenous culture in the locality, organisers said.

Aloghar project under Caritas Sylhet region organised the competition funded by European Union and Caritas, France. Children from different parts of the tea garden took part in the competition in groups.

Hundreds of people from the tea gardens and communities in the vicinity gathered at the venue,

clad in traditional attire.

Father Joseph Gonsalbes CSC, head teacher of Notre Dame junior school spoke at the discussion as chief guest. Parul Corraiya, Union Parishad member of the area, presided over the discussion.

The speakers asserted that cultural competitions encourage children's creativity.

The tradition and culture of indigenous people are on the wane and to uphold them, there should be more cultural activities, they added.

The speakers said that the traditional culture and lifestyle of ethnic communities are in danger of being lost forever due to apathy.

After the competition, the chief guest and other dignitaries distributed prizes among the winners.



Indigenous girls pose for a photo.

PHOTO: STAR

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