

NEWS
bytesFelicity Jones
to star in "Swan
Lake" film

Felicity Jones is attached to star in an untitled pitch that's inspired by the classic ballet "Swan Lake."

"A Bigger Splash" helmer Luca Guadagnino is on board to direct with Kristina Lauren Anderson penning the script. Several major studios, including Paramount and Universal, are among the bidders for the property, which went on the market right before the Fourth of the July week-



end. Mandeville Films is producing, and WME is representing the hot film package.

"Swan Lake" follows Odette, a princess that is turned into a swan by an evil sorcerer's curse. The new take will not involve any ballet but will instead use the story as the centerpiece for a major studio tentpole.

Jones starred in "Star Wars" spinoff "Rogue One" and "A Monster Calls" this past fall. Guadagnino's latest film, "Call Me by Your Name", starring Armie Hammer, was a breakout at Sundance and is set to be released by Sony Pictures Classics on November 24.

Source: Variety

M E E M
returns to TV after four years

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shabreen Shaka Meem was once a busy TV actress but she had shied off from those commitments in recent years, focusing more on TV programme hosting and news presenting. The actress, however, is returning to TV plays with "Pata'r Bhela", co-starring Mir Sabbir.

Filming for the play recently took place at Tangail, under the direction of Zafar Al Mamun. Meem plays a simple village girl with big dreams of becoming a doctor.

"I'm doing it just out of hobby, and don't have plans to act regularly," Meem told The Daily Star. "I plan to stay busy with news-casting and programme hosting at Rtv, and will only do acting sporadically."

"However, it has been quite fun to be acting on screen again," Meem said.

"Mubarakan" releases splashing new song



Arjun Kapoor and Ileana D'Cruz's next film, "Mubarakan", hit top gear on pre-release buzz on Thursday, when it released a song from the film, "The Goggle Song".

Voiced by Sonu Nigam, Armaan Malik, Tulsi Kumar, Neeti Mohan and Amaal Malik, the song is a quintessential Punjabi wedding number visualized in all its Bollywood colour and grandeur. Anil Kapoor, Ileana D'Cruz, Athiya Shetty and Arjun Kapoor, in his double role, dance along with a big line of backup dancers to the upbeat, festive number.

The film revolves around Kartar Singh's (Anil Kapoor) dysfunctional

family consisting of two identical twins: An urban dude Karan, and the naive Charan, both played by Arjun Kapoor.

The twins, through a twist of fate, end up becoming cousins: One brought up in Chandigarh and the other in London. The fun starts when their families start searching for a bride for them, unknown to the fact that they already have girlfriends. Will their genius uncle, Kartar be able to get them out of this mess or create more confusion?

Directed by Anees Bazmee, "Mubarakan" will hit screens on July 28.

Source: Hindustan Times



Professor Rafiqul Islam speaks at the programme.

Sudhin Das and Karunamaya Goswami remembered

Nazrul Institute organises memorial programme

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nazrul Institute organised a memorial programme on eminent Nazrul exponent Sudhin Das and renowned Nazrul researcher Karunamaya Goswami – both of who recently passed away – at its auditorium in Dhanmondi on July 6.

Professor Emeritus Rafiqul Islam presided over the programme, while executive director of the institute Abdur Razzaq Bhuiyan delivered welcome address.

Ahsan Morshed, member of Nazrul Swaralipi Sattyam Parishad along with renowned Nazrul singers Shaheen Samad, Dalia Nausheen, Subir Nandi, Yasmin Mushtari, Nashid Kamal, Bulbul Mahalanobis, Ferdous Ara and others reminisced on memories of Sudhin Das and Karunamaya Goswami.

A one-minute silence was observed paying tributes to the memories of Sudhin Das, Karunamaya Goswami and Professor Rajib Humayun.

"Sudhin Das will forever be remembered in the history of the nation for safeguarding the sublime creations of Kazi Nazrul Islam from distortion while Karunamaya Goswami upheld the legacy of Nazrul among the civil society," said Professor Rafiqul Islam.

"Sudhin Das is no more on

this Earth, but he will remain forever in the hearts of every Nazrul singer," said Shaheen Samad.

"Sudhin Das dedicated his entire life to uplift the pure practice of Nazrul sangeet," said Dalia Nausheen.

Noted Nazrul singers Yasmin Mushtari, Nashid Kamal, Salahuddin Ahmed, Yakub Ali Khan and others offered favourite songs of Sudhin Das. Seema Islam recited Nazrul poems at the event.

Abu Sayeed completes "Ekjon Kobi'r Mrittu"

A crowd-funded film about a man's love for nature

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Abid Haider is a nature-loving poet with an existential crisis: he cannot do star-gazing due to a thick grey coating caused by air pollution that covers the night sky over Dhaka. He feels it is his right not only as an individual but that of his generation to enjoy to the hilt a star-studded sky.

Haider wants nature free from pollution but his desire goes beyond that: he wants unhindered communication with the stars and the universe. This is a non-negotiable demand for the poet who sticks to it even after his death.

This, in short, is the story of award-winning director Abu Sayeed's crowd-funded feature film "Ekjon Kobi'r Mrittu" that stars veteran actor Jayanta Chattopadhyay in the role of the poet, and Irina Sultana in the role of 'Death'.

The work on the country's first crowd-funded feature film is over, and will soon be submitted to the Censor Board for clearance, Sayeed tells The Daily Star. He adds that he also has plans to send it to the international festival circuit along with the release in Bangladesh.

Chipping in with money ranging from Taka 100 to Taka 300,000, more than four thousand people from different strata of society have

contributed to the making of the film since October 2015.

The film is "slightly surrealistic and experimental in nature," says Sayeed, who earlier made six feature films and short films. Some of them, like "Kitonkholo" and "Nirontor" have won national and international awards.

"Ekjon Kobi'r Mrittu", whose story and script is written by the director himself, was extensively shot in Dhaka and its adjoining areas, Sirajganj, on the highway from Sirajganj to Bhandabari village in Bogra.

Asked if concerns over environmental pollution inspired him to make the movie, Sayeed says it was one of the reasons but the bigger motivation was to explore a person's intimate links with the universe and how he or she communicates with it.

"That is why my film shows the poet trying to communicate directly or indirectly with the nature and the universe even after his death," said the director, adding "I have attempted a new manner of presentation."

Sayeed said one-fourth of the shooting of another of his crowd-funded films, "Sanjog", that began in the year 2016 is also completed, and the rest would be completed soon. The director is also working another feature film "Dressing Table".



A still from the film.

TV WATCH

"Vagabond" series finale today



A CORRESPONDENT

TV series "Vagabond" will air its final episode tonight, at 9:45pm. Written by Zahir Hossain Ujjal and directed by Zahid Hasan, it casts Syed Hasan Imam, Dilara Zaman, Laila Hasan, Ali Raj, Urmila, Shilpi Sarkar Opu and Hasan himself.

The story revolves around Pulok, a talented but eccentric chemistry graduate. There is a philosophical side to him, and he refuses to join any employment. His father, a retired government official, tries to help his son out but in vain.

"Jhamela Unlimited" to air on Rtv

A CORRESPONDENT

Rtv will air TV serial "Jhamela Unlimited" tonight at 9:50pm. Scripted by Ahsan Alamgir and directed by Shams Zaman, cast members include Mamunur Rashid, Wahida Mollick Jolly, Shamim Zaman, Faruk Ahmed, Mosharraf Karim, AKM Hasan, Prova, Kalyan Corraya, Hillol and more.

The plot follows an ordinary man who has a grouchy wife. The childless couple often take in young people to stay at their home, who are often up to mischief. Their antics cause the matriarch to turn them away, only to be deterred by her husband. Various twists and turns follow in the narrative as the story progresses.

"Jhamela Unlimited" airs air Wednesday through Saturday every week.

