

NEWSbytes



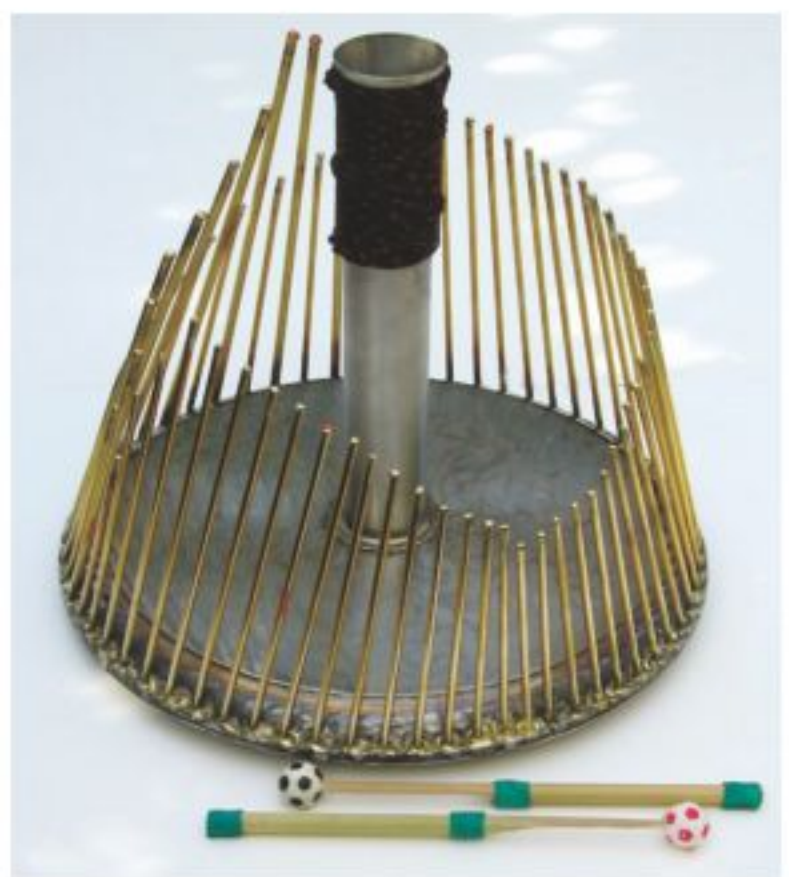
Danny Boyle to make new TV series

Multiple-Oscar winning director Danny Boyle has announced plans for a TV series based on allied efforts to prevent Hitler producing a nuclear bomb during the Second World War. The 10-part series, "Telemark", will be produced by the US cable channel FX, and overseen by Boyle and his writing partner Simon Beaufoy. It will tell the story of the Norwegian saboteurs who successfully infiltrated a heavy water production plant where the Nazis were preparing to manufacture nuclear weapons. Thanks to their efforts, the facility was destroyed in 1943. "This is one of the world's greatest stories," Boyle told Variety, "and we want to tell it on an epic scale."

Perhaps coincidentally, acclaimed director Michael Bay also recently announced his plan to direct his own Telemark film, an adaptation of the book "Sabotage: A Genius Scientist, His Band Of Young Commandos, And The Mission To Kill Hitler's Super Bomb", by Neal Bascomb. The book is yet to be written, but has already been the subject of a Hollywood bidding war.

Source: Telegraph

IT'S TRUE!



A waterphone is a type of atonal acoustic musical instrument consisting of a stainless steel resonator bowl or pan with a cylindrical neck and bronze rods of different lengths and diameters around the rim of the bowl. The resonator contains a small amount of water, giving the waterphone a vibrant ethereal sound. The instrument -- invented and developed by Richard Waters -- is generally played in a seated position by a soloist and either bowed or drummed with movements to affect the water inside. The sound of the waterphone is often used to evoke mystery and suspense. It has been featured in the soundtracks to many movies, including "The Matrix", "Star Trek: The Motion Picture", and "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon".

Farmers' Eid Ananda Mela in Tangail

MIRZA SHAKIL, Tangail

Farmers and their families from Chhoto Basalia village in Tangail Sadar upazila celebrated Eid with a day-long Ananda Mela on Thursday. 'Lion' Nazrul Islam Degree College arranged the fair at its premises as in previous years.

Traditional village games such as Hadudu (kabadi), football matches and more were arranged for the farmers at the fair. An event of quick and long braiding of straw for women was also held.

A cross-section of people from the village and adjacent villages thoroughly enjoyed the event.

Administrator of Tangail Zila Parishad, Fazlur Rahman Faruq attended the function as chief guest. Founder of the college Lion Nazrul Islam, along with noted local personalities were also present.

The guests distributed prizes among the winning farmers.

Blending spirituality and myth

Artist Ronni Ahmmed takes part in OPEN

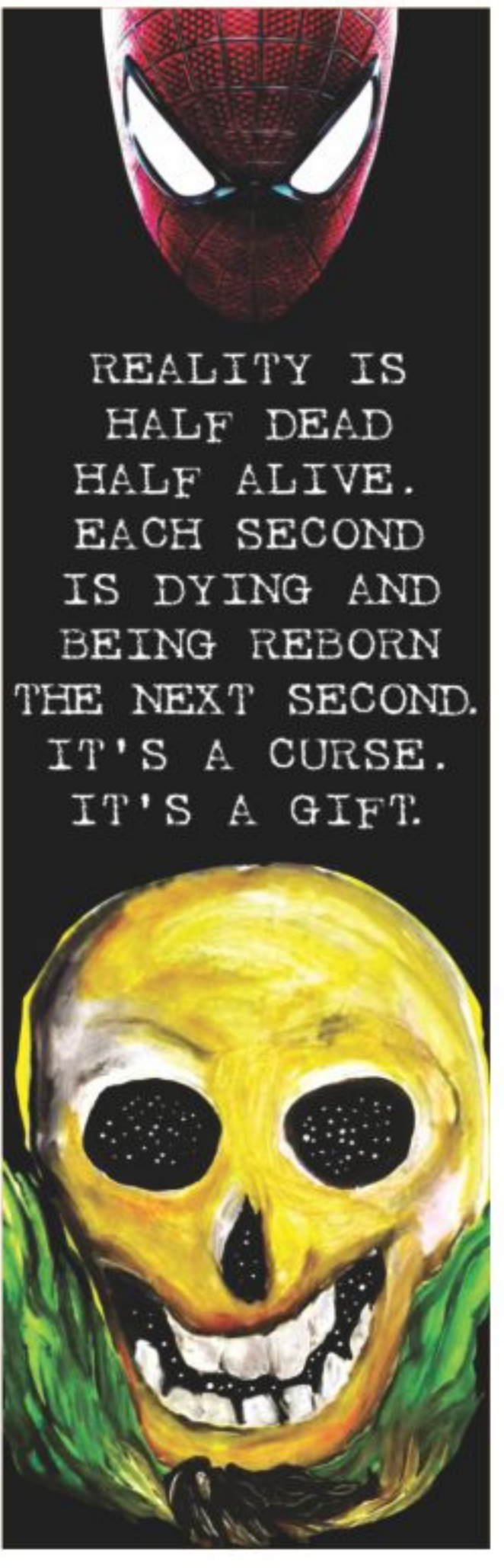
TAKIR HOSSAIN

OPEN, the International Exhibition of Sculptures and Installations, recently organised its sixteenth edition at Venice Lido, Italy. Conceived and curated by Paolo De Grandis, co-curated by Carlotta Scarpa, the exhibition was organised by PDG Arte Communications in collaboration with the Municipality Lido Pellestrina and was held under the patronage of the Italian Ministry of the Cultural Heritage, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the Veneto Region and the Province of Venice.

Celebrated Bangladeshi artist Ronni Ahmmed participated in the mega festival with his thought-provoking artworks. Sponsored by Mermaid Art Foundation, Ronni's four works included, "Spiderman describing reality on top of the Burj Khalifa", "Batman saving the world while lord Krishna was dreaming", "Hulk needs more power to fix the problem of knowledge" and "Superman's love...in the time of cholera".

Through his artworks, contemplative artist Ronni focuses on myths, and merges the past and the future of man and nature, using comic book heroes as subjects of his artworks. He applies varied symbols, motifs and fantastic elements, using human forms, animals and varied surrealist imageries from his imagination and his thoughts.

Ronni's works hold a kind of illusory atmosphere, which seems unfamiliar but



this depiction of an apparently unknown civilisation or community expresses the same kind of message one gets when confronted with strange reality. Absurdity, mockery, brutality, power play, hypocrisy, hallucination, loneliness, science -- all these get diffused in his visions. The artist seems fascinated with myth and its many aspects and his message has been integrated in his tinted paintings.

The painter believes in the uniqueness of an individual, which he endeavours to present via paintings and posters that are lined with fine touches of absurdity and morbid melancholy. He is mainly a storyteller of the ludicrous and this young exponent tells his stories in an unusually humorous way. He tries to focus on various facets of our society. He never misses any incident, which happens in front of him.

Ronni's works criticise different elements in our existence, giving us an unusual insight into the realm of a world beyond.

The painter makes us realise that the introduction of fantasy and illusion in our world is only for bridging gaps difficult to perceive in mundane concrete terms. This toying with the vicarious, illusory world is necessary for in the present times we tend to forget that peace and a serene ambience are continuously striving to be perennial part of our surroundings. Idiosyncrasy and social trespasses are also covered in Ronni's work. He truly leads us to an unfamiliar and fascinating world.

Sitarist Ebadul Huq Shaikat's solo album in audio market

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A solo album titled "Peace Love Devotion", featuring sitar recital by artiste Ebadul Huq Shaikat, is now in the audio market. The album contains three tracks based on two ragas -- "Yaman Kalyan", an evening raga and "Hemant", created by Baba Ustad Allaudding Khan.

The first track of the album includes alap, jod, jhala while its second track comprises gaut on jhaptaal.

Both the tracks are set on third track of the album takes in *auchar alap* coupled with vilambit and drul gaut on teentaal. Tabla artiste Shobuj Ahmed accompanied sitarist Shaika in the album. Under the label of Laser Vision, the album tracks were recorded at Chhayanaut Studio.

Ebadul Huq Shaikat, a Chhayanaut teacher, is a disciple of Pandit Kartik Seshadri, a senior disciple of Bharat Ratna Pandit Ravi Shankar.

Shaikat embarked on his musical journey by learning tabla from noted Bangladeshi Guru Madan Gopal Das. Later he took sitar lessons from Ustad Khurshid Khan at Chhayanaut.

Shaikat then went to India for higher studies in music at Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata, supported by an ICCR scholarship. There he completed his Honours and Masters in instrumental music (sitar). The artiste also received a Bengal Foundation scholarship in 2002.

In Kolkata, Shaikat was mentored by famous master late Pandit Ajay Sinha Roy of Maihar Gharana, a disciple of Baba Ustad Allauddin Khan Shahib. After the demise of Pandit Ajay Sinha Roy Shaikat started taking lessons from sitar maestro Pandit Deepak Choudhury and continued to train under him for 10 years till the last days of his guru.



Rowing all the way...

AMANUR AMAN, Kushtia

A traditional boat race to create mass awareness for saving river Nabaganga was held on Thursday, a day after of Eid-ul-Azha in Magura.

Magura municipality organised the event, participated by competitors from different parts of the district.

Mayor of Magura municipality told journalists that the once mighty Nabaganga is now a dying river. "We want to bring the life back into the river. We want government initiative to dredge the river and this is why are trying to create awareness among the people," said the mayor. The municipality will arrange boat race every year, he said.

Thousands of people thronged the venue and enjoyed the traditional event.

Among others, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Kalachand Singho, Additional police super Mizanur Rahman were present at the event, who handed over cash prizes among the winners of the competition.

Harun Mollah and his boat was awarded first prize of Tk 25,000 while Mokhles Mollah bagged second prize of Tk 15,000.



PHOTO: STAR

The poet of Islamic Renaissance

39th death anniversary of poet Farrukh Ahmad



Poet Farrukh Ahmad is one of the most powerful poets of Bangla literature. He is widely known as the poet of Islamic Renaissance.

Islam was not only the central point of his literature, it strongly guided his personal life, and his strong conviction in Islamic ideology. His poems symbolise the spirit of resurrection particularly in the hearts of downtrodden Muslims of the then (early '30s and '40s) Bengal.

Yesterday marked the 39th death anniversary of the poet.

Ahmad was born in the village of Majhail of Magura District in 1918. He was the second son of Syed Hatem Ali and Begum Rawshan. He graduated from Khulna Zilla School in 1937 and did his intermediate from Ripon College, Kolkata in 1939. He enrolled at the prestigious Scottish Church College and did his BA (Hons) in Philosophy and English Literature, but did not complete graduation. He started writing poems during his school life.

About Farrukh Ahmad, literary critic Mahfuz Ahmed Khan said, "Farrukh became famous for 'Lash', a poem written on the 1944 famine. His poems reflect the Arabic and Persian legacy in Bengal and are replete with Arabic and Persian words. He also wrote satirical poems and sonnets."

As a student, Ahmad was attracted to the radical humanism of MN Roy and participated in leftist politics.

Immediately after the partition in 1947, Ahmad joined Radio Pakistan (now Bangladesh Betar), Dhaka and served as staff artiste till his death in 1974. Ahmad's literary works include "Sat Sagorer Majhi", "Sirazam Munira", "Naufel O Hatem", "Muhurter Kabita", "Dholai kabob", "Hatemtayi", "Habida Marur Kahini", "Kafela", "Sindabad and Dilrubab".

Compiled by Correspondent

A 100-year-old tradition continues

Laxmi'r Haat in Barisal

SUSHANTA GHOSH, Barisal

The 100-year old traditional market known as Laxmi'r Haat ended at Barisal Hatkhola Hori Mandir premises after the completion of Laxmi Puja on Friday night. The market is held for selling idols of Laxmi, pottery and decorative pieces.

"This year, as Eid ul Azha, Durga Puja and Laxmi Puja fell almost next to each other, the fair was limited to three days. Sales were therefore less brisk than in previous years," lamented Bipul Biswas, who had brought his products to the haat.

Traders Malati Rani and Shib Shankar Paul came to the haat from Failpara and Neamoti. They pointed out that though profit margins were slim, they were carrying on their ancestral profession and also sought to gain the blessings of Laxmi.

Preserving a legacy

Folk music festival at Chapainawabganj

RABIUL HASAN, Chapainawabganj

A two-day folk music festival began on Thursday, organised by Chapainawabganj Sadharan Pathagar (CSP) at their premises premises in the town amidst much festivity.

The folk music festival is the first of its kind in the area.

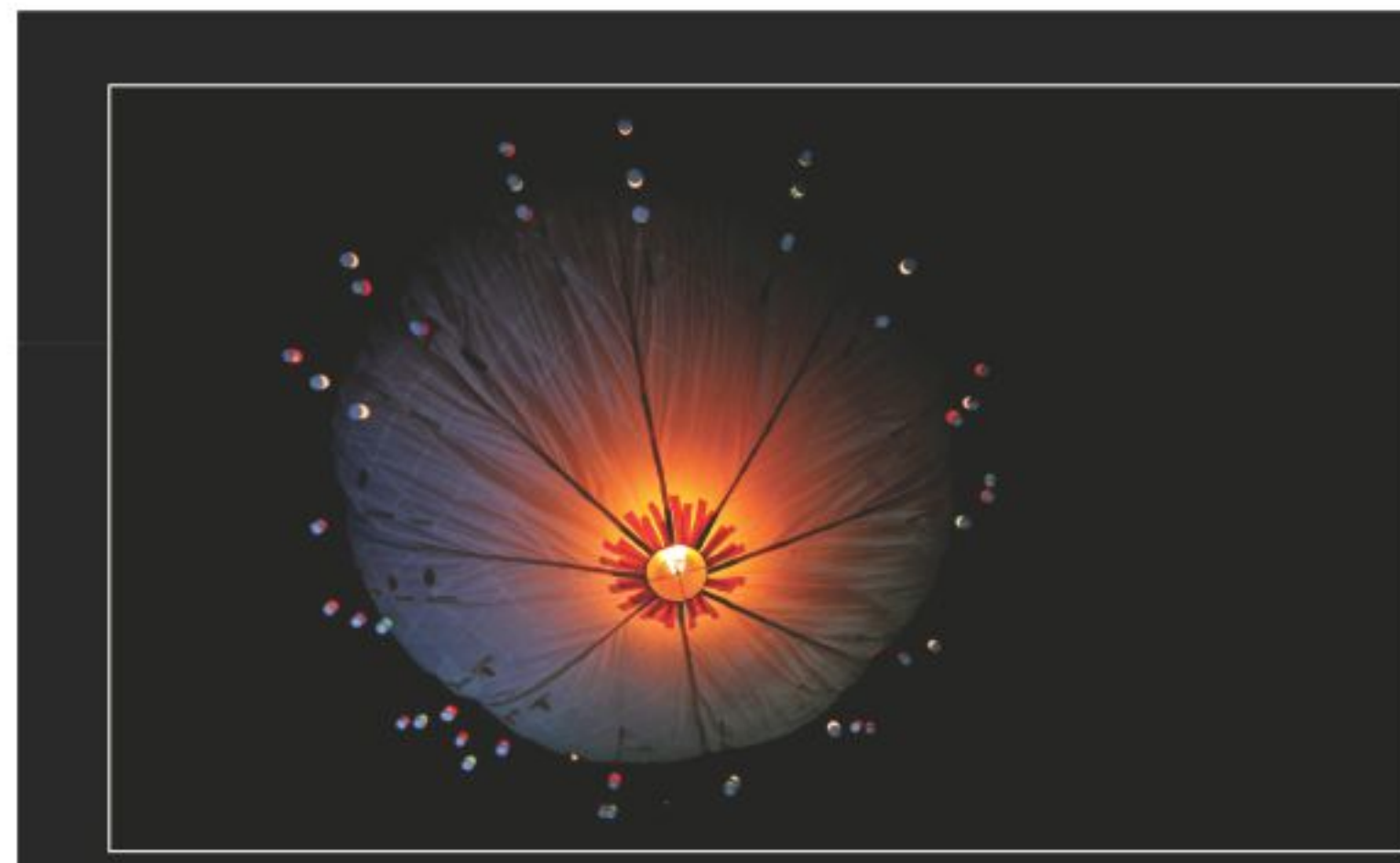
Sardar Sarafat Ali, DC of Chapainawabganj, also president of CSP attended the inaugural ceremony as chief guest.

Touhidur Rahman, secretary of CSP delivered a speech the programme.

The speakers said locals take great pride in their traditional folk music such as Alkap, Gambhira, Kobi Gaan, Biyer geet, Puthi path and Jhandi, and that people of the area should make strong efforts to preserve their musical legacy.

Traditional Gombhira, Alkap, Punthi path and Biyer geet including other folk numbers performed at the festival attracted several hundred people from different parts of the district.

Artistes of Mohananda Sangeet Niketan and Mahbub-Mani's troupe of Chapai Gombhira performed on Thursday. Shafiqul Islam Sarkar and his troupe performed alkap on Friday, while other local artistes also performed various sub-genres of folk music, including Lalon geeti.



Pravarana Purnima, the second largest religious festival of the Buddhist community, was celebrated on Friday with due festivity. The full moon marks the end of three-month lent of Bhikkhus. On the occasion, the Dharmarajika Buddhist Temple in the capital's Basabo brimmed with the presence of devotees. Multi-coloured lights, larger-than-life fanush, fireworks and a candlelit vigil illuminated the monastery, and the sky beyond.

PHOTO: RIDWAN ADID RUPON

