





The Oft-overlooked Attractions at Ekushey Book Fair

There are around hundred stalls by the

road. Most of them are not publication

houses, rather stalls representing socio-

cultural, political, non-political and non-

profitable organisations.

To get to Ekushey Book Fair, one has to get off the vehicle in front of TSC. Not much of a distance to Bangla Academy, but seems so when there are labyrinth of queues. If fortune does not favour, you may find yourself at the tail end of a queue near the

Apart from inside Bangla Academy, there are around hundred stalls by the road. Most of them are not publication houses, rather stalls representing socio-cultural, political, non-political and non-profitable

The stall of Bangladesh Astronomy Association is one of them. The stall has a telescope for visitors. Its aim seemed ful-

filled well, as a mini queue was apparent all the time in front of the stall. In some way, every stall offers something special -- some play songs; while at some, volun teers always seem busy. All these create a hectic atmo

sphere at the venue. A first-timer might get confused. One might wonder, why so many stalls that are not directly involved with books, occupying significant space at a book fair?

A regular feature of the fair is a group of amateur artists, though

who sketch portraits of people within 30 minutes in exchange of Tk 300-700. The group usually sits on the island in front of the acad emy. These artists are silent observers of the gradual changes the fair goes through, as most of them have been coming here for years. Raju Saha is one of them. He said that this year his income

has not been satisfactory as the turnout is not high yet. Abdul Gaffar, a second year student at Mirpur Bangla College, was painting the national flag, Shaheed Minar and other popular designs on peoples' faces. Gaffar comes to the fair everyday, hoping to make some quick cash that would help him cover his academic expenses. He said that sometimes it gets difficult to

work because of restrictions imposed by authorities.

Street vendors occupy the space right before the entrance. One can always find something interesting and exciting here; the range of products is diverse.

Some of the vendors said that they come here as the rush of people could lead to good sales. Occupying this part of the venue might hamper in maintaining security

The Daily Star-Pathanatak Parishad Street Theatre Fest on its Last Leg

RAJAT KANTI GOSWAMI, Moulvibaza

at the open stage of Srimangal Municipal Shaheed Minar in Moulvibazar district. The plays were part of the month-long street theatre festival jointly organised by The Daily Star and Bangladesh Pathanatak Parishad to mark the 40th anniversary of independence and 20th anniversary of the national daily.

The festival started on January 14 and will end on February 14.

Uchchhash Theatre of Srimangal directed by Govinda Roy Sumor Srimangal Theatre staged the play "Golachipa", scripted and directed by Barisal Delwar Hamid Dinu; Bijoy Theatre staged "Ashraful Makhlukat", written Daily Star for initiating such Kumar Boran. Gono Natya Dol staged "Swapno".

presented by local child artistes, prior see the plays.

inaugurated by Ranadhir Deb, chairman of Srimangal Upazila The Daily Star and Pathanatak spondent of The Daily Star, and Shaheed Minar. conducted by Gobinda Roy Sumon, Chairman of Srimangal upazila occasion. parishad and Jalal Uddin Rumi, Pathanatak Parishad.



and directed by Delwar Hussain programmes across the country. They International of Bangladesh (TIB) upholding the spirit of the Liberation nario of the country.

Two dance performances were Several hundred people came to on the occasion.

The festival in Srimangal was RAFIQUE SARKER, Rangpur

Parishad. Presided over by Rajat Parishad's street-drama festival was Kanti Goswami, Moulvibazar corre- held recently at Rangpur Central Two local troupes, Beacon Natya

the gathering was addressed among Kendra and Sarothi Natya others by Tofazzol Husain, Vice Samproday, staged two plays on the The recent street theatre festival

central member of the Bangladesh Khela", written by Brindabon Das and ple to the premises of Munshiganj Parishad's street theatre festival was directed by Abu Azad. Sarothi Natya Press Club. People of all strata held at 'Bijoy Bihanga' square in the spoke about the aims and objec-mortem", written by Nazmul Huda The speakers at the function Samproday staged "Jontu" of Sayed thronged here to enjoy themselves citylastTuesdaynight. expressed their appreciation of The Shamsul Hoque, directed by Poritosh with their children.

Mamun and Transparency also lauded the role of the paper in tional socio-political-cultural sce-throughout the chilly night.

ident of Rangpur Press Club Sadrul Jote's local unit. Alam Dulu; secretary of Sammilita The play "Rajar Pala" highlighted Sangskritik Jote's Rangpur unit the distance between the ruler and his Sakhawat Ranga and secretary of subjects, and the mobilisation of the

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshigani

spoke on the occasion.

organised by The Daily Star and Beacon Natya Kendra staged "Dorir Pathanatak Parishad drew many peo- The Daily Star and Pathanatak

The plays are satire on the conven- "Dhabi" -- kept the audiences rapt

The festival was inaugurated by Mir Earlier, a brief discussion was held Nasiruddin Ujial, president of the Press Club and Matiur Islam Hiru, TV personality Biplob Prasad; pres- president of Sammilita Sangskritik

Beacon Natya Kendra Ariful Huq Ruju commoners to end anarchy. The second play "Dhabi" brought to light the atrocity of the anti-liberation forces

As part of the

nationwide street

theatre festival.

jointly organised

by The Daily Star

and Bangladesh

Parishad, Dipalok

Academy staged

"Footpath" written

Sangha staged the

by Mannan Hira

and Palashpole

Adarsha Tarun

play "Raktakto

Asha" written by

Sayedur Rahman

in Satkhira

PHOTO: STAR

Patha Natak

the play



Jaglul Haidar Shahin; Mintu Miron. Kumar Kar and Sushanta Ghosh tives of the festival.

At the inaugural session of the Barisal Natak staged "Shonai Mistri

festival, activists Jibon Krishna Madhab", a lyrical drama based on Dey; Shuvangkar Chakraborty; folklore, directed by Saifur Rahman

Brojomohon Theatre staged "Post-

and directed by Himangshu Chandra

Paean to the Goddess of Arts and Knowledge



Students of Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University sing at the cultural programme on the occasion (left).

KONGKON KARMAKER, Dinajpur

Saraswati Puja, dedicated to the goddess of knowledge music and the arts, was celebrated in Dinajpur, while extending good wishes to the Bangladesh Cricket team for the forthcoming ICC World Cup Cricket 2011 scheduled to begin on February 19.

Marking the festival, Dinajpur district wore a joyou and festive look.

The residents were in a carnival mode to welcome the spring season and offered prayers to Goddess Saraswati at several places on the occasion of 'Bashanto Panchami'. Devotees were seen offering prayers before idols of the goddess. They also participated in other rituals including 'pushpanjali'.

Professor Tapan Chakraborty, general secretary of Dinajpur Puja Udjapan Committee said that about 2,000 Saraswati Puja were held this year in the district The festival is a lifeline for the idol-makers as it

enables them to earn an extra income from a dying

profession in the country, he added.

The idol immersion ceremony was held on Thursday. Students also installed idols of the goddess at educational institutes to celebrate the puja.

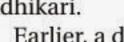
AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Marking Saraswati Puja, a major Hindu festival, a discussion and cultural function were held at Gahi Shammer Gaan stage of Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University (JKKNIU) in Trishal here on February 8.

The cultural function included renditions of songs and kobi gaan, along with dance sequences, and staging of a play.

Students of Music Department of the university performed chorus songs and dances, while students of Drama Department staged a play titled "Nazrul Collage".

Nishi Kanta Sarker and Ashutosh Sarker performed kobi gaan, an ancient art form, lending colour to the programme. Other members of the troupe were Ashok Biswas, Anindranath Biswas, Ashtosh Bachar, Deepswar Biswas, Shankar Bagchi, Dilip Mollick and Biswanath



Earlier, a discussion was held with the convener of the celebration committee Dr. Subrata Kumar Dey in the chair. The Vice-Chancellor of JKKNIU Professor Syed Giasuddin Ahmed was the chief guest

Among others, Dean of Social Science Faculty, Dr. Habibur Rahman; head of English Language and Literature Dr. Bijoy Bhushan Das; Dr. Nirmol Chandra Saha; Dr. Md. Emdadul Huda; head of Music Department Rashidun Nabi and Dr. Md. Ataur Rahman spoke on the occasion.

The speakers underlined the importance of religious functions in fostering spiritual growth to purify our hearts from sins and misdeeds

No community can engage in philanthropic activities if it does not take religious precepts seriously, they

They also thanked the students for arranging such programmes with the participation of hundreds of students and teachers.



Becoming Superman

Henry Cavill had long road to landing the iconic role

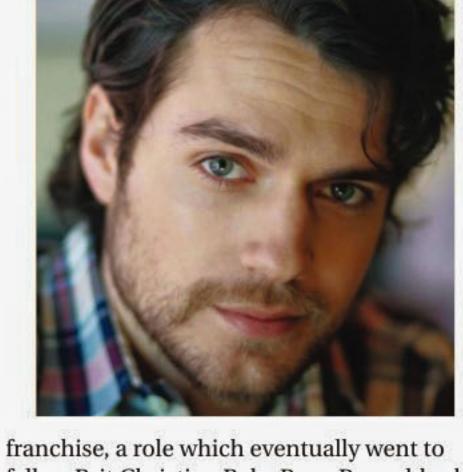
He'll be flying into movie theatres in 2012 but who exactly is the newest Superman, Henry Cavill? The latest screen star to don the famed crimson cape has gained fame as a castmember of Showtime's period romp "The Tudors," and will hit the big screen in the upcoming Greek mythology epic "War of the Gods". But before he was tapped to play the iconic superhero, he was super close to portraying everyone from Twilight's Edward Cullen to James Bond to, ironically, Superman in another filmmaker's vision of the superhero.

He was up for Superman before Back in 2009 the then 25-year-old star was set to zip through the sky as the Man of Steel in director McG's ("Terminator Salvation

take on the American icon. However, a shuffling of filmmakers resulted in Cavil getting dropped from the project, which eventually became the 2006 flick "Superman Returns." "[The McG and Singer versions] were two

different movies," Cavill explained. "So it wasn't so much of a sting because it was like, 'Oh, I got [the role],' and then the movie just didn't happen." He also reportedly missed out on "Batman" ... and "The Green Lantern"

baddies in Christopher Nolan's "Batman'



fellow Brit Christian Bale. Ryan Reynolds also reportedly beat out Cavill for the "Green Lantern" series. He lost Edward Cullen to Robert

Thanks to RPattz, Cavill missed out on one

of the biggest movie franchises in recent years, "Twilight," even though he had some strong support in his corner. "Twilight" author Stephenie Meyer once said that Cavill was her dream choice, but Mother Nature thwarted the casting.

Cavill was rumoured to be on the shortlist "The only actor I've ever seen who I thin of leading men up to vanquish Gotham-area could come close to pulling off Edward

young son in 'The Count of Monte Cristo.' Can you see it? I know I can!" Meyer blogged in 2007. However, after some delays in development, Meyer conceded that Cavill had aged out of "Twilight" territory. "The most disappointing thing for me is losing my perfect Edward." "By the time the movie came around, I

explained to MTV News in 2009, adding, "No one even called me or my agent." ... And he was almost James Bond The actor also auditioned for the role of 007 in "Casino Royale," but instead Daniel Craig knocked back shaken martinis and

coolly took out henchmen as the world's first

didn't look right for the character," Cavill

He may not have played Bond, but he does drive the character's famed car In a 2009 interview with JustJared.com, Cavill opened up about his biggest splurge, which he said was an Aston Martin -- the same sleek, high-end ride that's been

associated with Bond. "It was one of those things that just ended up happening, like, 'Right, okay, just treat yourself'," he said. The star also dished that he enjoys video games like World of Warcraft and shows like "Dexter."

Cullen is Henry Cavill. Henry was Albert, the Compiled by Correspondent

Freida Pinto More Beautiful than Pretty Woman!

Freida Pinto has outrun Hollywood stars like Natalie Portman and Julia Roberts in a new 'Most Beautiful Women in Film

Compiled by the Los Angeles Times magazine, the list has the "Slumdog Millionaire" star at number 38, followed by Oscar-nominated Portman and Hollywood's own "Pretty Woman"

Pinto even pipped Sharon Stone and Elizabeth Taylor, who were at 43 and 44 respectively. French actress Isabelle Adjani, 55,

and "Possession", topped the list comprising 50 names. Adjani is followed by Brigitte Bardot, Kim Basinger, Monica Bellucci and Halle

Spanish beauty Penelope Cruz took the 11th place. Yesteryears' screen beauties Farrah Fawcett, Greta Garbo and Ava Gardner came 15th, 16th and 17th. Audrey Hepburn and Marilyn Monroe were

Angelina Jolie could only manage the 23rd place, while R&B star Beyonce Knowles was at 25 and Australian beauty

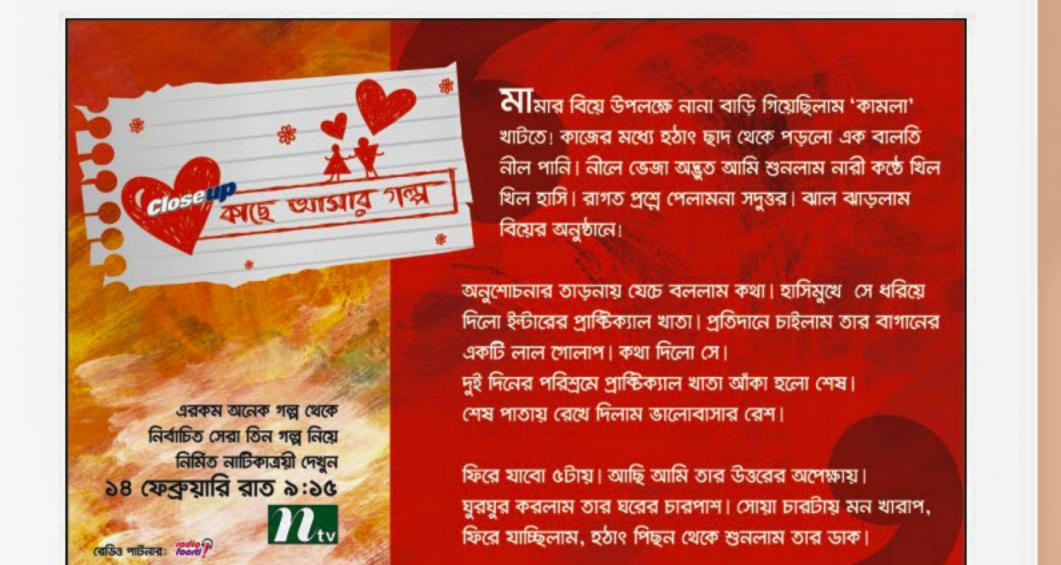
voted in at number 22 and 32 respec-



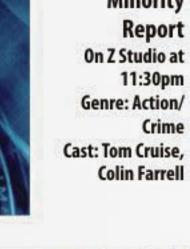
Nicole Kidman at 26. "Gossip Girl" actress Blake Lively, who took the 30th place, was the youngest

star on the list at the age of 23.

Source: Internet







Two And A Half Men

09:30 The Good Guys 11:30 White Collar National Geographic

02:30 Binds And Beauty Jailed Abroad

Diganta TV 12:30 Score Cards

Boishakhi TV

03:30 The Battle for Bomb 12:00 BBC World News DRAMA SERIAL

09:30pm Durer Manush

NEWS BULLETIN

News (English) at 10:00am, ate Night News (Bangla an telecast on all Bangla News (Bangla): 7:00 am, 9:00 am, 2:00 pm, 9:00 pm ATN BANGLA

NEWS (Bangla): 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11:00 pm, 1:00 am, 4:00 am

TALK SHOW

ATN BANGLA 10:45am Bashudha

BANGLAVISION 2:30pm Citycell Taroka Kothan 06:05pm Front Line Desh TV 12:10pm Ei Shomoy

Middle East Business

08:15pm Jamaimela

News (Bangla) at 7:30am.

News (Bangla): 2:30 pm, 4:30 pm, 6:30 pm, 8:30 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:30 am

12:05am Banglalink Ekushey

11:45pm Shoja Kotha