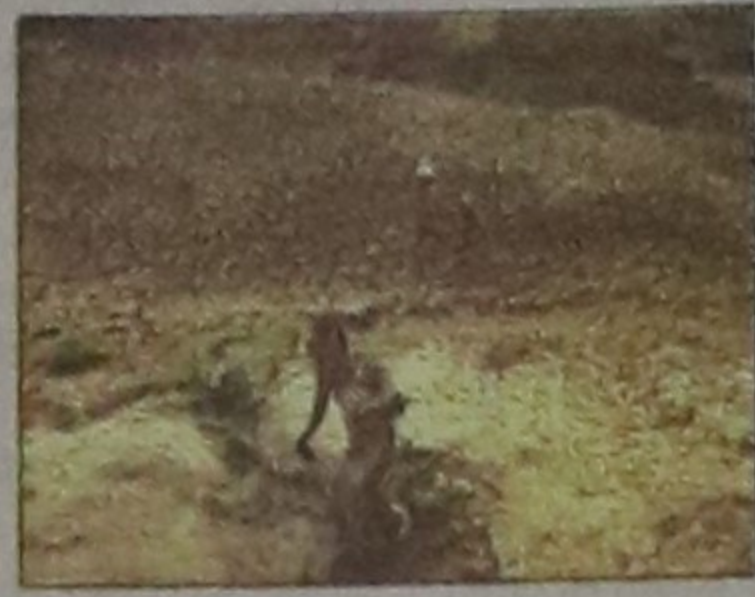


WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

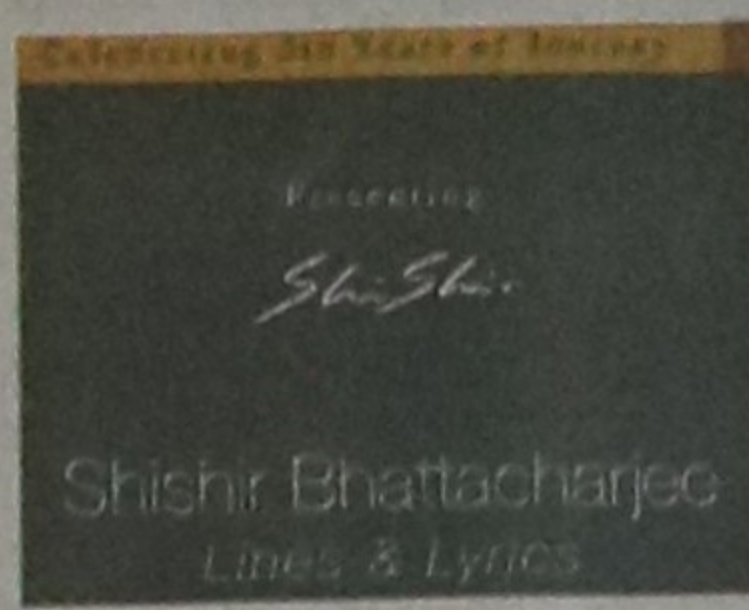
Photography Exhibition

Title: Climate Change
Venue: Drk Gallery, H 58, Rd 15A (new), Dhanmondi
Date: June 5-11
Time: 3pm-8pm



Solo Exhibition

to mark the 4th anniversary of Galleri Kaya
Title: Lines & Lyrics
Artist: Shishir Bhattacharjee
Venue: Galleri Kaya, H 20, Rd 16, Sec 4, Uttara
Date: June 6-20
Time: 11am-8pm



Art Exhibition

Artists: H. R. Tutul and Ayan Mazumder
Venue: Zainul Gallery, Institute of Fine Arts, DU
Date: June 3-9
Time: 10am-8pm



Solo Art Exhibition

Title: The Enchantment of the Transcendental
Artist: Nurul Islam
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, H 275/F, Rd 27 (old), Dhanmondi
Date: June 7-18
Time: 12pm-8pm



Blast from the past

Special exhibition of classics at National Museum

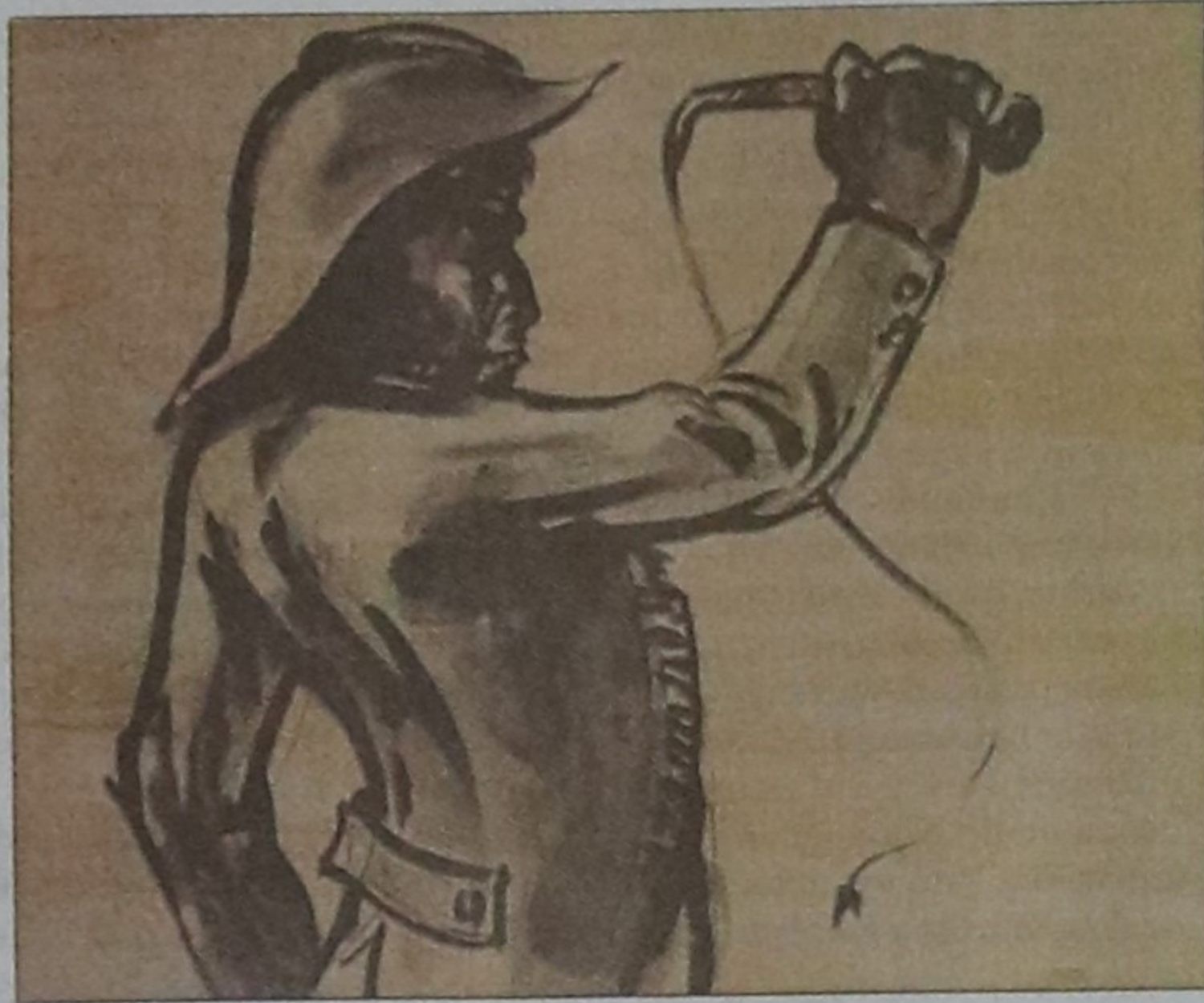
FAYZA HAQ

The artworks of five master artists -- Jamini Rai, Zainul Abedin, Qamrul Hassan, S.M. Sultan and Rashid Chowdhury -- were recently on display at the National Museum. Many Art lovers have not had the opportunity to see most of these works before. The exhibition was organised as part of Dhaka city's 400th anniversary celebration.

Jamini Rai's portraits of women -- with doe eyes, dark hair and statuesque figures -- are seen seated and standing, about to make offerings during their *puja*. The jewellery at the ears, arms and wrists match the design on the skirts. The portraits in muted reds and yellows take one away into a dream world of the past.

The presentation in black and white by Zainul Abedin of a cruel British ruler with the swishing whip, complete with hat and buttoned coat, introduces an example of history of tyranny.

There are also the sketches of the fleeing Palestinian and a boot of the oppressor on the common man, and the feet of a soldier guarding prisoners. In contrast is the waiting woman in yellow and the sketch of the cow with its calf in the manger. The repertoire also



(Clockwise from top) *Nabobodhu* by Qamrul Hassan, a work in tempera by Jamini Rai, *Juddho* by S.M. Sultan and *British Shashok* by Zainul Abedin

includes a painting of Titimir's bamboo fort under attack. Zainul's contribution also bring in boats and steamers in black, blue, mauve and other contrasting colours.

Qamrul Hassan's paintings present a vast landscape with dried up fields with houses and trees in the backdrop. The rooster done in quick sweeps of blue and splashes of red is breathtaking. So is the

depiction of Bangladesh with cows, foxes, crocodiles and faces and torsos of men in indigo and black.

Qamrul's other depiction of Bangladesh, once more fill the canvas with innumerable faces and bodies of men and women along with domestic animals, has touches of red, yellow-ochre and blue. The oil presentation of a couple, lying on the ground, with



the blue and white moon behind there is also stirring.

Variations of landscapes by S.M. Sultan delight the viewer. There are stumpy brown tree trunks, with masses of leaves and grass below. Clumps of brown trees with yellow-ochre tops and a single boat resting in the foreground introduce the simplicity of village existence.

Pen sketches of the hungry and

needy in search of food, and men in loincloth, quarrelling with one another are also to be seen. Sultan's quick, dramatic strokes depict families of starving people, praying for their needs be satisfied. Done in pen and brush, using black strokes, is a scene from a battle of the past.

Rashid Chowdhury's presentation of simplified, geometrical figures in

brilliant colours in his depiction of harvest, a gaily decked elephant, portrayal of a woman chasing a butterfly, along with floating cows and people -- that remind one of Chagall -- are also delightful.

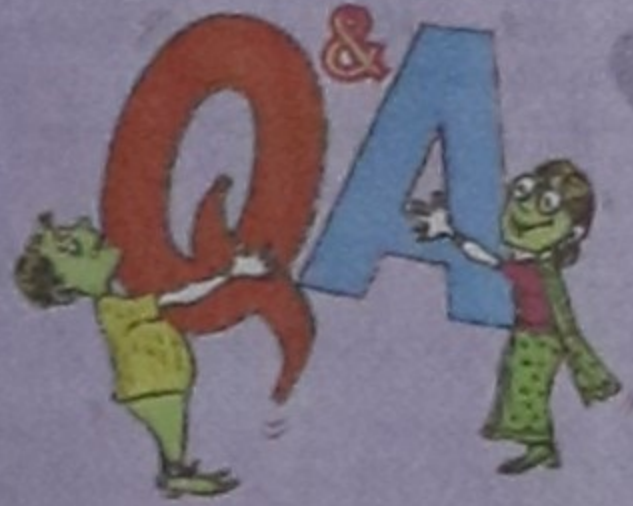
Along with the paintings of the noted artists of yesteryears are



Art enthusiasts looking at a tapestry by Rashid Chowdhury

also the "Pata Chitra" that bring in numerous depictions of Kali and Ganesh in vivid reds, yellows, greens and burnt-sienna. The impact of the "Kalighat"

paintings as the "Pata Chitra" are called, is seen in the use of lines, colours and subjects of all the master artists mentioned in this article.



I gave him some money and he handed me back some change...He recognised me too and told me how much he liked my songs.

-- Fahmida Nabi

Recently, *The Daily Star* had a brief chat with popular singer Fahmida Nabi. A judge on *Close-up 1*, last year she gave the music fans the hit song *Lukochuri*, from the movie *Aha*. Excerpts from the conversation:

If not a singer, what would you have wanted to be?
Honestly speaking, I do not remember ever wanting to be anything but a singer. But I have been in the profession of teaching for quite some time, and am quite keen on interior designing.

When did you start singing?
At the age of 7 or 8.

Any hilarious experience?
It was back in 2003 or 2004; I was walking on the streets humming a song to myself. There was this really old beggar wearing thick glasses. I gave him some money and he handed me back some change. I was really amazed by his generosity. He recognised me too and told me how much he liked my songs. It was a truly emotional moment for me, and has been etched in my memory ever since.

Are you involved in any social welfare activities?
I am actively involved in working for acid survivors, and prevention of music piracy. I have also been a part of charity concerts organised to raise money for Sidr victims, and like to work with underprivileged children and for women's rights.

What is your favourite colour and season?
Favourite colours would be black and red. And I really enjoy the time between February and April, when spring sets in.

Favourite attire?
Definitely sari.

Favourite hangout place?
I cannot think of any specific place that I like to visit frequently, but we often like to go to "Bhoot" for dinner.

Your favourite singers?
Lata Mangeshkar and Asha Bhosle are two of my favourite singers.

What do you think about the *Close-up 1* auditions?
This year we received a huge response from people. Selection round is underway and the piano round will hopefully start mid June. It is worth mentioning that the youngsters are now more eager to acquire training and guidelines from professionals. Number of contestants are greater compared to last year, for which elimination process is even more comprehensive.

Recently you mentioned in a TV interview that Selim Al Deen has left some of his music compositions with you. Tell us about that.
Selim Al Deen wanted to make an album with me for which he had written and composed the songs. The lyrics are very dramatic and powerful. Unfortunately he could not complete the album, but I hope and plan to complete it.

Upcoming albums?
Actually I am pretty busy this year. I will be working on two or three albums, which will require me to be very focused.

ALL TIME GREATS

Paul Newman: Graceful transition of a screen legend

The former blue-eyed boy of the silver screen, Paul Newman, is truly a legend. In recent years, the 82-year-old actor has soldiered on: In 2003, he appeared in a Broadway revival of Thornton Wilder's "Our Town" for which he bagged his first Tony Award nomination. PBS and the cable network Showtime aired a taping of the production and Newman was nominated for an Emmy Award for 'Outstanding lead actor in a mini-series or TV movie'.

Cine goers will remember his 2002 production "Road to Perdition". In the film he played a conflict-ridden mob boss opposite Tom Hanks though he continued to provide voice work for films. With an avid interest in car racing, he provided the voice of Doc Hudson, a retired racing car in Disney/Pixar's "Cars". He also served as a narrator in the 2007 film "Dale" about the life of the legendary NASCAR driver Dale Earnhardt.

Explaining his exit from acting on May 25, 2007, he said: "You start to lose your memory, you start to lose your confidence, you start to lose your invention. So I think that's pretty much a closed book for me."

Newman is also the founder of Newman's Own, a food company from which he donates all profits and royalties to charity. As of May 2007, these donations have exceeded US\$ 220 million.

Newman, born in Shaker Heights, Ohio, is the son of Theresa and Arthur S Newman, who ran a successful sporting goods store. His father was Jewish and his mother was born to a Slovak Catholic family. Newman is a self-professed Jewish, explaining, "It's more of a challenge."

Encouraged by his mother, Newman developed an early interest in theatre. As a mere boy of seven, he made his acting debut in a school production of "Robin Hood" where he played the role of the court jester. Finishing his school years at Shaker Heights High School in 1943, he joined the Ohio University in Athens, Ohio. After a stint with the Navy in World War II, Newman completed his degree at Kenyon College in 1949. Later he went on to study acting at Yale University as well as under Lee Strasberg at the Actor's Studio in New York City.

Newman made his Broadway debut in the original production of William Inge's "Picnic".

Later he appeared in another original Broadway production of "The Desperate Hours" and "Sweet Bird of Youth" with Geraldine Page.

His first film was "The Silver Chalice" (1954), followed by acclaimed roles in "Somebody Up There Likes Me" (1956), "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" (with Elizabeth Taylor) and "The Young Philadelphians" (1959).

The 1960s and 1970s also revealed Newman at his creative best with "Exodus" (1960), "Hombre" (1960), "The Towering Inferno" (1974) as well as the all time hits of "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid" (teaming up with actor Robert Redford and director George Roy Hill) and "The Sting".

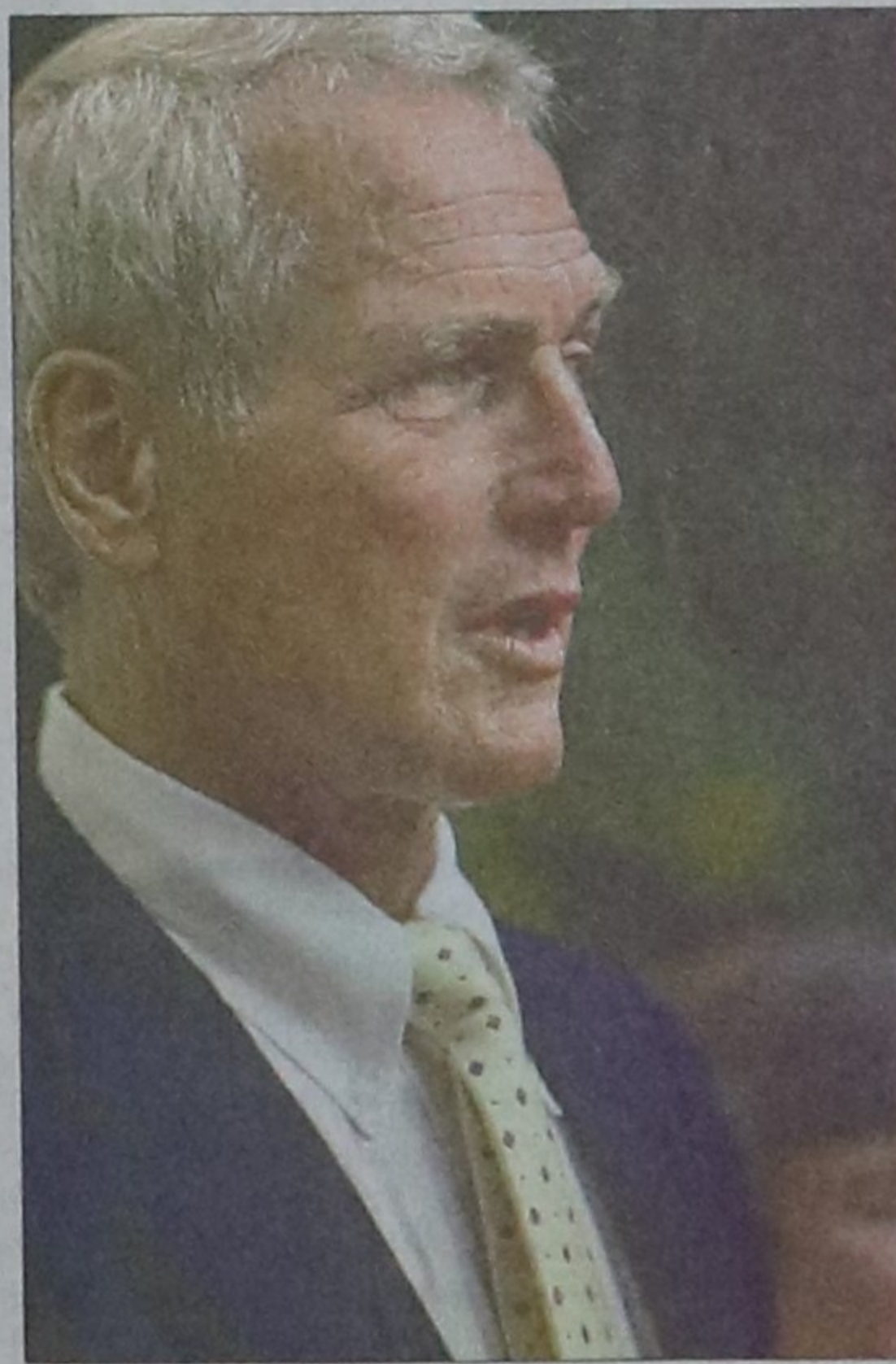
Newman is also remembered for his long lasting -- and in Hollywood rare -- marriage with actor Joanne Woodward. The duo starred in feature films such as "The Long, Hot Summer" (1958), "Paris Blues" (1961), "A New Kind of Love" (1963), "WUSA" (1970), "Harry & Son" (1984) and "Mrs Bridge" (1990). The couple also starred in the HBO mini-series "Empire Falls", but did not have any scenes together.

Apart from donning the role of an actor, Newman also directed "Harry & Son". Other directorial ventures were four feature films with Woodward in the lead roles. Among them was a screen version of Tennessee Williams' "The Glass Menagerie".

In his illustrious career, Newman bagged many an award -- an Academy Award, six Golden Globe Awards, a Cannes Film Festival Award and an Emmy Award.

It's not easy for screen mega-stars to grow old gracefully and stay on top at the same time. Tied to the action genre, even Clint Eastwood began to look stale and a little frail, his body too old to convince the viewers he was still a genuine tough guy. Robert Redford meanwhile, chose to play only ladykillers, employing ever-softer focus to get away with it. Marlon Brando simply ignored the whole process.

Paul Newman recognised the passing of time, chose his roles carefully and stuck to his guns. Thus he is one of the few screen legends to have retained the absolute respect of critics and public alike.



"Amar-o Gaitey Ichchhey Holo" on ntv tonight

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Music based programme *Amar-o Gaitey Ichchhey Holo* will be aired tonight at 6:45pm on ntv. Apart from young and talented

music enthusiasts, several well-known artistes also take part in the programme.

Hosted by Farah Ruma, the programme is directed by Nazmul Huda Shapla.



Host Farah Ruma, along with guests on the show



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