

## Paul Newman passes away

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house near Westport, publicist Jeff Sanderson said. He was surrounded by his family and close friends.

In May, Newman had dropped plans to direct a fall production of "Of Mice and Men," citing unspecified health issues.

He got his start in theater and on television during the 1950s, and went on to become one of the world's most enduring and popular film stars, a legend held in awe by his peers. He was nominated for Oscars 10 times, winning one regular award and two honorary ones, and had major roles in more than 50 motion pictures, including "Exodus," "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid," "The Verdict," "The Sting" and "Absence of Malice."

Newman worked with some of the greatest directors of the past half century, from Alfred Hitchcock and John Huston to Robert Altman, Martin Scorsese and the Coen brothers. His co-stars included Elizabeth Taylor, Lauren Bacall, Tom Cruise, Tom Hanks and, most famously, Robert Redford, his sidekick in "Butch Cassidy" and "The Sting."

He sometimes teamed with his wife and fellow Oscar winner, Joanne Woodward, with whom he had one of Hollywood's rare long-term marriages. "I have steak at home, why go out for hamburger?" Newman told Playboy magazine

when asked if he was tempted to stray. They wed in 1958, around the same time they both appeared in "The Long Hot Summer," and Newman directed her in several films, including "Rachel, Rachel" and "The Glass Menagerie."

With his strong, classically handsome face and piercing blue eyes, Newman was a heartthrob just as likely to play against his looks, becoming a favorite with critics for his convincing portrayals of rebels, tough guys and losers. "I was always a character actor," he once said. "I just looked like Little Red Riding Hood."

Newman had a soft spot for underdogs in real life, giving tens of millions to charities through his food company and setting up camps for severely ill children. Passionately opposed to the Vietnam War, and in favor of civil rights, he was so famously liberal that he ended up on President Nixon's "enemies list," one of the actor's proudest achievements, he liked to say.

A screen legend by his mid-40s, he waited a long time for his first competitive Oscar, winning in 1987 for "The Color of Money," a reprise of the role of pool shark "Fast" Eddie Felson, whom Newman portrayed in the 1961 film "The Hustler."

Newman delivered a magnetic performance in "The Hustler," playing a smooth-talking, whiskey-

chugging pool shark who takes on Minnesota Fats -- played by Jackie Gleason -- and becomes entangled with a gambler played by George C. Scott. In the sequel -- directed by Scorsese -- "Fast Eddie" is no longer the high-stakes hustler he once was, but rather an aging liquor salesman who takes a young pool player (Cruise) under his wing before making a comeback.

He won an honorary Oscar in 1986 "in recognition of his many and memorable compelling screen performances and for his personal integrity and dedication to his craft." In 1994, he won a third Oscar, the Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award, for his charitable work.

His most recent academy nod was a supporting actor nomination for the 2002 film "Road to Perdition." One of Newman's nominations was as a producer; the other nine were in acting categories. (Jack Nicholson holds the record among actors for Oscar nominations, with 12; actress Meryl Streep has had 14.)

As he passed his 80th birthday, he remained in demand, winning an Emmy and a Golden Globe for the 2005 HBO drama "Empire Falls" and providing the voice of a circus 1951 car in the 2006 Disney Pixar hit, "Cars."

But in May 2007, he told ABC's "Good Morning America" he had given up acting, though he intended to remain active in charity projects. "I'm not able to work anymore as an actor at the level I would want to," he said. "You start to lose your memory, your confidence, your invention. So that's pretty much a closed book for me."

## Foreigner 'raped'

**ROM PAGE 16**  
she got down from a bus at Cox's Bazar Bus Terminal around 9:00pm Friday.

The woman told reporters at the hospital yesterday that Sunny was watching TV in her room as she was having dinner around 11:00pm Friday. He around midnight asked her to go to the beach with him. As she refused, he raped her.

She alleged that none from the guesthouse came to her rescue even though she screamed and pressed the call bell several times.

Superintendent of Police of Cox's Bazar Bonoj Kumar Majumder told The Daily Star over telephone that a case was filed in this connection and they have already arrested Sunny.

Officer on duty at Cox's Bazar Police Station Delwar Hossain said Sunny was a staff of the guesthouse.

## First Chinese

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unavoidable once the astronaut left the capsule, Xinhua said earlier, citing Yang Liwei, who piloted China's maiden space flight in 2003.

The Chinese Internet offered a forum for local enthusiasts to express their pride over the fledgling space power's achievements.

"Go China! Go Zhigang! We wish you good luck!" said a typical posting on popular web portal Sina.com.

The astronauts, who took off from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in the desert of northwest China late Thursday, had passed most of their first day in space preparing for the walk.

On Friday, Zhai and his colleague Liu Boming spent 12 hours unpacking and assembling the special China-made space suit that must be used during the walk outside the Shenzhou craft.

It was the first time the two tried to assemble the suit in conditions of perfect weightlessness as it is impossible to create a real zero-gravity environment on Earth, the papers said.

As part of China's space programme, two more unmanned craft will be launched by 2010, as well as another manned space ship with a crew of three to start work on the lab or space station, according to the China Daily.

After China sent its first man into space in 2003, it followed up with a two-man mission in 2005.

The astronauts also had time Friday to enjoy the view, witnessing 16 sunrises during their first 24 hours in orbit, and to sample the 80-dish menu they brought with them on their 68-hour mission.

Sleep was necessarily limited, but the spacecraft has sleeping bags hooked to the wall of the craft. However, the astronauts were told to keep their hands inside the bags in order to avoid them accidentally pushing a button or flipping a contact while asleep, Xinhua said.

The Shenzhou VII is scheduled to land in the northern Inner Mongolia region after the mission is completed.

## Zia orphanage

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submission of charge sheet in the case soon.

On July 3 this year, the ACC filed the Zia Orphanage Trust case with Ramna Police Station, accusing Khaleda, her son Tarique Rahman and five others of misappropriating or abetting in defalcation of Tk 2.1 crore that was meant for spending on the welfare of orphans.

The five other accused are late president Ziaur Rahman's nephew Mominur Rahman, former BNP lawmaker Kazi Solimul Haque, Syed Ahmed, Gias Uddin Ahmed and Sharfuddin Ahmed.

## Govt urged to finalise Bihari camp

**FROM PAGE 1**  
machine readable passports and visas." Abdur Rob Hawlader, director general of the passport and immigration department, told The Daily Star yesterday.

He said everything should be done on an urgent basis otherwise meeting the deadline will be very difficult.

"Even if we start issuing the passports in September 2009 it will not be easy to convert all handwritten passports into machine readable ones in five years," he observed adding the country has over 1.2 crore handwritten passports which must be converted by November 2015.

The department already received Tk 2 crore to appoint an international consultant and applications for the job were invited.

It hopes to appoint a consultant within a couple of months, who will have at least a year's experience in preparing machine readable passports.

The consultant's responsibilities will include monitoring, evaluation and supervision of the project, and training passport officials and employees.

The consultant will also develop a master plan for introducing the machine readable passports and visas.

Bangladesh desperately requires introduction of MRPs to bring an end to the frequent harassment its citizens face during international travel.

MRPs will also help curb forgery of passports, which are often used for human trafficking.

If Bangladesh fails to comply with the ICAO requirement by April 2010, the country's access to international manpower market as well as its citizens' chances of getting all types of foreign visas will be at risk, immigration officials said.

The last Awami League (AL) government first took the initiative of introducing MRPs in 1998.

BNP-Jamaat-led four-party alliance government later took a fresh initiative, but their Tk 1.546 crore mega project for MRPs, MRVs and national identity cards was scrapped following controversies over appointment of a consultant and tender document manipulation in 2006.

Some 115 out of 187 member nations of ICAO, including India and Pakistan, already issued machine readable passports to their citizens.

Bangladesh is a member of ICAO, a global forum for civil aviation

also a specialized United Nations agency that codifies principles and techniques of international air navigation, and fosters planning and development of international air transport.

Four consultants from the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) are voluntarily assisting Bangladesh's effort to introduce MRPs. They are also expected to monitor the work of the consultant to be appointed.

In a machine readable passport the data on the identity page is encoded in optical character recognition format. Most passports in the world can now be read by machines.

Once the project is implemented, passport seekers will be able to apply online, reducing mistakes in spellings of names and other details, experts said adding that online applicants will still have to go to passport offices for being photographed and fingerprinted.

There will be offices in all 64 districts of the country for passport delivery, said official sources.

## AL starts work

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Awami League single handed," Motia said.

She said, "What ever we want to do we will do it collectively. We want to compete in elections... we will go for it with Sheikh Hasina. If anyone thinks about elections without Hasina, he or she is making a mistake."

She said work is also going on to prepare their election manifesto.

The AL leader said even though the AL and the EC have no major differences regarding the Representation of the People Order (RPO), 2008, the AL wants stop to all religion-based politics. She said the AL does not want to curtail the rights of expatriates in politics.

Motia said her party is going to take various measures in line with the RPO, including curbing the use of muscle power and black money in elections. She said the party would nominate eligible candidates for the elections. She, however, said everything will be finalised after Hasina returns home.

Motia said if anyone wants to serve the country, first that person has to work for three years and get involved with the general people.

"We will collectively take real and pragmatic steps after discussions to pull the country out from the edge of the cliff where it was taken by the five-year rule of BNP-Jamaat alliance government followed by the last two years," Motia said.

## Khaleda to start

**FROM PAGE 1**  
newspapers, senior journalists, leaders of the Jatiya Press Club, BFUJ and DUJ, and other professionals were present at the 11th party.

Khaleda Zia said she would exchange Eid pleasantries with all at the Ladies Club on Eskaton Garden Road in the city on the day of Eid.

Meanwhile, four-party alliance leaders are scheduled to meet today to discuss issues related to the upcoming parliamentary election, said alliance insiders.

The Election Commission's (EC) latest decision to ease party registration criteria and the dates for upazila elections will also come into discussion, said a BNP leader adding that the alliance might declare its decision regarding the parliamentary election today after the meeting.

Besides discussing their preparations for the election, the alliance leaders might also announce demonstrations for realising their demands for lifting of the emergency, deferring of the upazila election dates, and release of all detained political leaders.

"We will discuss our preparations and participation in the election," Islami Oikya Jote Secretary General Abdul Latif Nezami told The Daily Star yesterday.

## Rejoinder, our reply

**FROM PAGE 1**  
In a separate statement, Daffodil Institute of IT (DIIT) said The Daily Star report which stated that DIIT was in a list of 56 banned branches of foreign universities is very much unfortunate for the institute.

The DIIT has sent a legal notice to the University Grants Commission (UGC) demanding justice and seeking to have its name removed from the UGC list of 56 banned branches of foreign universities, said a statement signed by the institute's executive director.

**OUR REPLY**  
The main focus point of The Daily Star report was that UGC has declared illegal 56 branches of foreign universities in the country and all other campuses of some private universities. The report also dealt with the fact that some of these branches who HSC passed students for admission through false promises in their advertisements.

The above three institutes did not disagree with this point. UGC and education ministry on

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India is currently gearing up for the Muslim Eid-ul-Fitr celebrations marking the end of the fasting month of Ramadan and the Hindu festival of lights, Diwali, next month.

The government also unveiled security measures to tackle what Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said were "vast gaps" in intelligence gathering.

## Ex-Ansar

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Officer-in-Charge of Uttar Khan SM Alamgir Hossain told The Daily Star that the incident might have occurred due to past enmity and no one had been arrested in this connection till yesterday evening.

## Hasina to file

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ACC Deputy Director Sabir Hasan filed the barge-mounted power plant case with the Tejgaon Police Station on September 2 last year accusing Hasina and six others of helping Wartsila Power Development Ltd Consortium and its two local partners to win a power-plant deal depriving the lowest bidder.

The ACC official filed the other case with the Tejgaon Police Station on December 9 the same year accusing the AL chief and six others of corruption and abuse of power while awarding three abandoned gas fields to Canadian energy company the Niko Resources Ltd incurring a loss of Tk 13.6 crore to the state exchequer.

## Obama, McCain

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McCain, 72, frequently referred to his age and experience.

Sometimes he joked at one point he wagged his eyebrows and quipped that the moderator didn't think he could hear the question and other times he went out of his way to mention the foreign countries he has visited and the years he has spent on Capitol Hill.

"I have a long record and the American people know me very well," he said.

But Obama, a 47-year-old serving his first term in the Senate, challenged McCain frequently and offered himself as someone who can be trusted to make sound choices.

Obama noted that he opposed invading Iraq, while McCain supported it. He said McCain has voted with the unpopular President Bush 90 percent of the time. He argued McCain backs corporate tax breaks and lax regulation that have contributed to the Wall Street economic crisis.

"We have to recognise that this is a final verdict on eight years of failed economic policies promoted by George Bush, supported by Senator McCain," Obama said.

Obama sought to connect with voters who might have doubts about a relative newcomer to national politics, a black man with an exotic name and background. He talked often about the struggles of ordinary Americans "the nurse, the teacher, the police officer who, frankly, at the end of each month they've got a little financial crisis going on."

In a long exchange with McCain over the Iraq war, Obama tried to avoid being seen as soft or reluctant to use force when necessary.

An early opponent of invading Iraq, he stressed that his position was prompted partly by worries that it would distract from hunting down Osama bin Laden, and he said withdrawing from Iraq now would free up resources to re-energize that hunt.

Obama suggested McCain might overreact to national emergencies, noting that the Arizona senator has talked about "extinction" for North Korea and joked about bombing Iran.

McCain accused Obama of seeking to "snatch defeat from the jaws of victory" in Iraq. He said the "surge" of US troops has reduced violence there and withdrawing would destabilize the country and the entire region.

Asked what lessons he had learned from the long war, McCain said, "that you cannot have a failed strategy that will then cause you to nearly lose a conflict."

On Iraq and many other issues, McCain said Obama was naive, experienced, confused. He criticised Obama for saying he would meet with Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad without precondition. "This is dangerous. It isn't just naive; it's dangerous," McCain said.

The two bickered at times, talking over one another and throwing accusations of twisted words and false statements. But Obama sometimes acknowledged agreements with McCain concessions that might reinforce

the price of beef rose by Tk 20-30 per kg last week. Beef is now selling between Tk 200 and Tk 250 a kg while the price of mutton climbed up by Tk 20 a kg. A kg of mutton was selling for Tk 320.

Price of sugar saw a fresh hike yesterday as prices rose by Tk 2 a kg. A kg of sugar was selling between Tk 38 and Tk 42. It was between Tk 36 and Tk 40 a day before.

The price of non-brand vermicelli, a major item prepared in Eid, rose by Tk 10 per kg last week. Now vermicelli is selling between Tk 55 and Tk 60 a kg.

The price of imported onions went up by Tk 2 a kg during the three days. Now they are selling between Tk 18 and Tk 24.

Prices of non-brand palm oil and super palm oil rose by Tk 7 per kg. However, the price of soya bean oil remained unchanged.

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