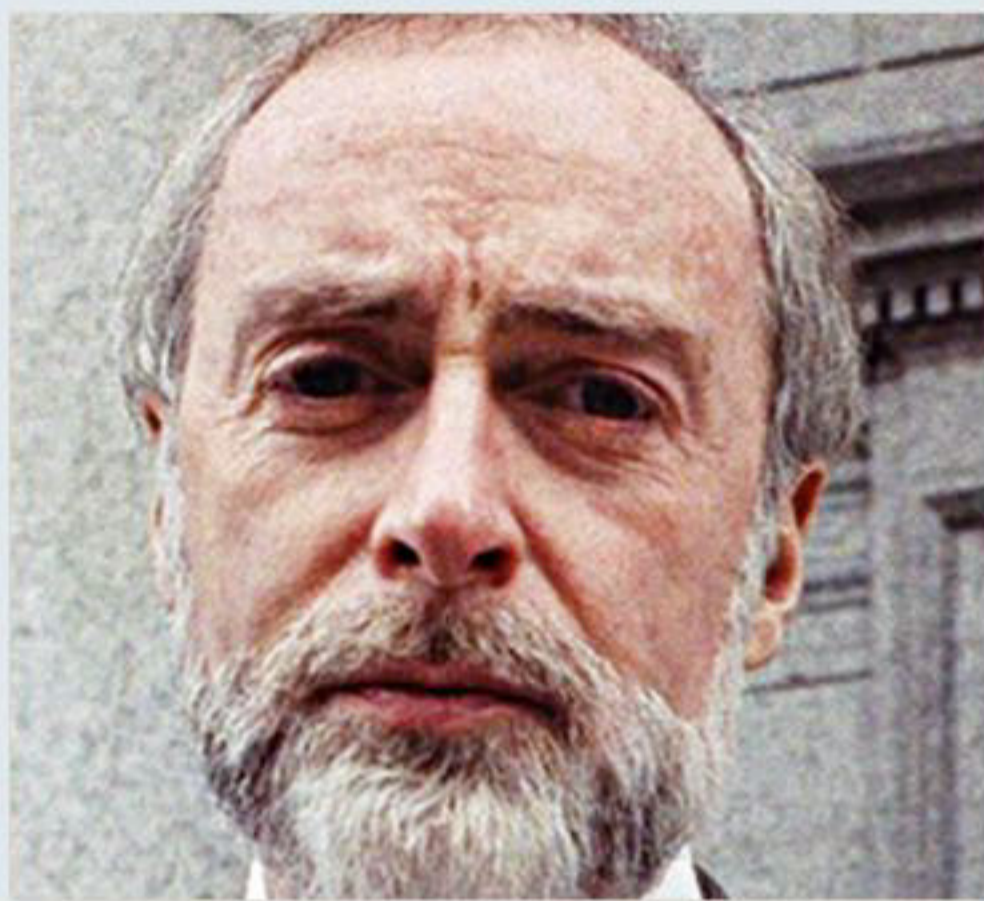


**MUHAMMAD ALI****JANUARY 17, 1942 – JUNE 3, 2016**

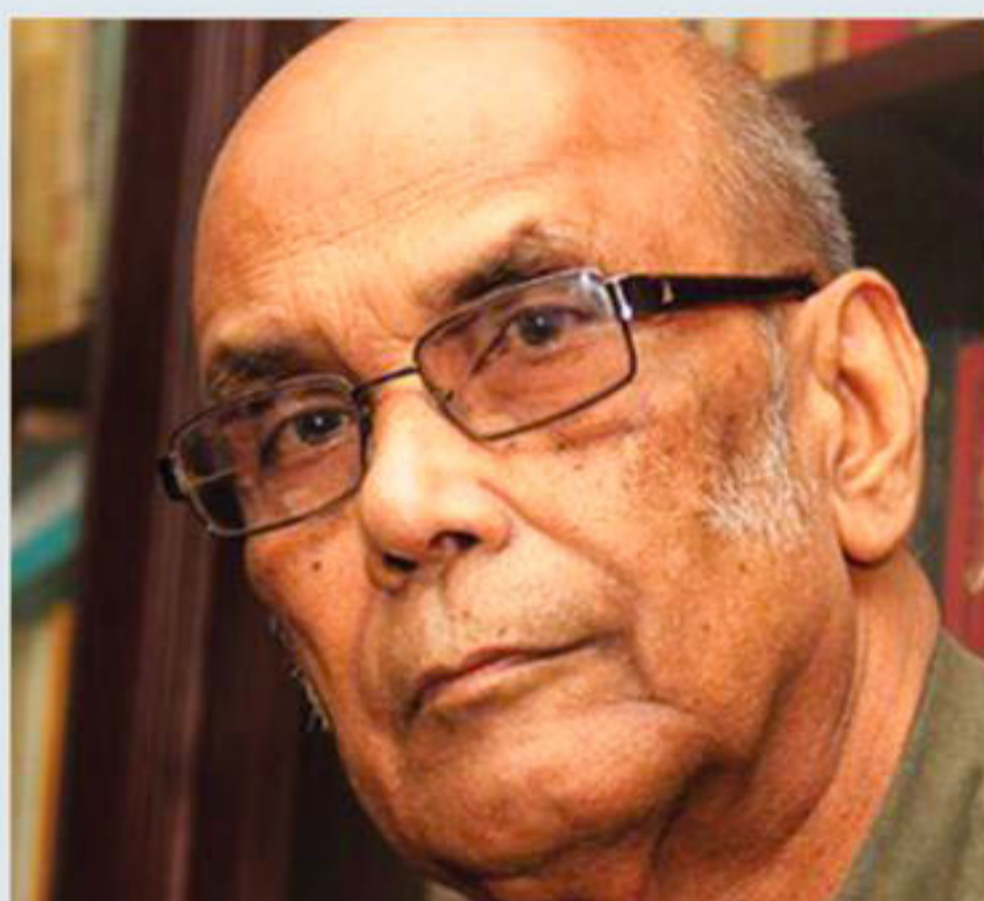
Three-time boxing world champion and one of the greatest heavyweights in the world of sport, Muhammad Ali was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2005. He championed the cause of African Americans in their fight against racism and that of other oppressed people around the world.

**SYDNEY H SCHANBERG****1934 – JULY 10, 2016**

An eminent US journalist, Sydney Schanberg was among the few to awaken the world to the atrocities of the Pakistani military against the then East Pakistan through his reporting.

**MAHASWETA DEVI****JANUARY 4, 1926 – JULY 28, 2016**

A writer, journalist and activist, Mahasweta Devi used her writings as a tool to fight for the rights of the oppressed. Her seminal work, *Hajar Chaurashir Ma*, continues to inspire thousands across the world.

**SYED SHAMSUL HAQ****DECEMBER 27, 1935 – SEPTEMBER 27, 2016**

One of the best novelists and playwrights of the country, Syed Haq's famous *Payer Awaj Pawa Jaye* moves theatre-goers to this day. A recipient of the *Ekushey Padak*, this prolific author penned innumerable poems, novels, plays, essays, film scripts and patriotic songs that remain incomparable.

**LEONARD COHEN** SEPTEMBER 21, 1934 – NOVEMBER 7, 2016

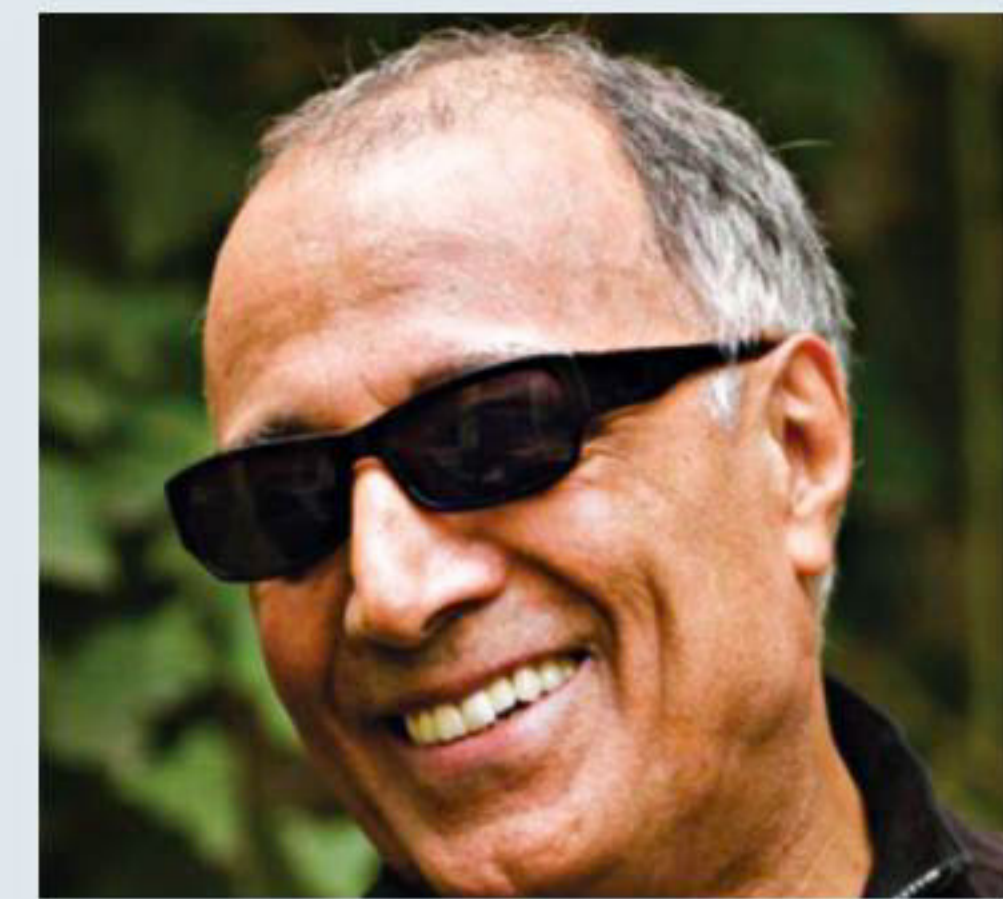
A musician whose fans compared his works to spiritual prophecy, Leonard Cohen's work spanned five decades, producing famous albums like *Old Ideas* and *Various Positions*.

**JOYA PATI****SEPTEMBER 12, 1932 – DECEMBER 9, 2016**

A life dedicated to humanitarian works, Joya Pati continued the work of her father Rai Bahadur Ranada Prasad Shaha's remarkable establishments including *Kumudini Hospital*, *Bharateswari Homes* and *Kumudini Women's Degree College*.

ABBAS KIAROSTAMI**JUNE 22, 1940 – JULY 4, 2016**

The internationally acclaimed Iranian film director had been involved in over 40 films, including shorts and documentaries. His *Taste of Cherry* won him the *Palme d'Or* in 1997.

**SHIRIN BANU MITIL****1951 – JULY 21, 2016**

Popularly known as the "fighter in disguise", freedom fighter Shirin Banu dressed up as a man to take up arms against the Pakistani regime during the Liberation War.

**SHAHID QUADRI****1942 – AUGUST 28, 2016**

An *Ekushey Padak* recipient, Shahid Quadri is credited with bringing in a new sense of modernity and urbanism in post-1947 Bangla poetry. His notable works include gems like *Uttaradhikar* and *Tomake Abhibadan Priotoma*.

**KING BHUMIBOL ADULYADEJ**
DECEMBER 5, 1927 – OCTOBER 13, 2016

The longest reigning monarch of the world, who ruled Thailand for 70 years, King Bhumibol acted as a stabilising figure in a nation of deep political divides.

**FIDEL CASTRO****AUGUST 13, 1926 – NOVEMBER 25, 2016**

A towering figure of the second half of the 20th century, the former president of Cuba stuck to his ideology beyond the collapse of Soviet communism and remained widely respected in parts of the world that had struggled against colonial rule.

**GEORGE MICHAEL****JUNE 25, 1963 – DECEMBER 25, 2016**

One of pop's reigning stars in the 1980s and '90s George Michael became famous for his hit singles such as *Last Christmas* and *Wake Me Up Before You Go-Go*, and albums such as *Faith* (1987) and *Listen Without Prejudice Vol. 1* (1990).

