

**NEWS**  
bytes

**McCartney resumes tour**

Sir Paul McCartney has resumed his concert tour after being forced to take nearly two months off due to a virus that left him in hospital.

The 72-year-old played an arena in Albany, New York, on Saturday night as part of his Out There tour.

The former Beatle called off the Japan leg of the tour and a South Korea show after falling ill on May 16, and later postponed a



number of US dates. He spent six days in a Tokyo hospital being treated for the viral infection.

Before his illness, Sir Paul had last performed on May 1 in Costa Rica. He opened the show at the Times Union Centre with Beatles' hit Eight Days a Week and dedicated a song, "My Valentine", to wife Nancy.

**IT'S TRUE!**

One of the rare artists to be nominated for Grammys, Golden Globe and Emmy awards, Zoey Deschanel is the daughter of Academy Award-nominated cinematographer-director Caleb Deschanel and actress Mary Jo Deschanel. Deschanel attended Crossroads, a private preparatory school in Santa Monica, California, where she befriended future co-stars Jake Gyllenhaal and Kate Hudson. Many people don't know this, but the role of Dr. Temperance Brennan on popular TV series "Bones" is played by her elder sister, Emily Deschanel.



ZAHANGIR ALOM

Anwar Hossain comes from a family of artists, scholars and aficionados of art and culture. Early on, his parents discovered that he had an inborn gift for art and encouraged him to explore his talent.

Born in Bangladesh, Anwar was strongly influenced by the towering Bengali creative personalities of great bard Tagore, legendary filmmaker Satyajit Ray and celebrated musician Pandit Ravi Shankar, among many others.

The young artist came to the USA in the 1980s and became involved with the flourishing New York art community through his art study and training at The School of Visual Arts and The Art Students League of New York. His works have been shown in many galleries and exhibitions both nationally and internationally that have won him many awards as well. Anwar's popularity as an abstract expressionist on the contemporary American art scene is on the rise. His artworks find place in many private collections around the world, including the United States, England, Finland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Germany.

Anwar's artworks are affluent and luminous in their multifaceted bold strokes, geometric shapes and colourful vibrancy and they represent a sensitive approach to his personal feelings on the visual form. In his abstract paintings as well as portraits and drawings, Anwar brings the work alive with idiosyncratic vision, exuberant brushwork and a highly creative palette. The artist's masterful colour uses, sharp lines, rhythmic strokes and contours recount the tales of his personal feelings, acquired experiences and individual beliefs. Thus he has created an art language of his own.

"I believe that a true artist does not belong to a certain race, religion or ethnicity. Creative persons are born, and can never be

made. They are, I think, gifted and that gift should be utilised for the betterment of mankind," says the artist.

"For me, colour expression is very personal and private. I like using bright and strong colours. When I put them side by side relating to each other on the canvas, it gives me a great feeling. Literally, a great painting has a great feeling!" the artist adds over phone from USA.

Anwar has been an incessant explorer of art since an early age and has met diverse individuals. Along the way, he has gathered knowledge and wisdom that have significantly influenced his canvases. The philosophy of Anwar Hossain is very interesting. He believes that human life is fully intertwined with nature and the universe. "Everything we



The artist at work (top); an artwork from his series on Michael Jackson.

**Emotions on canvas**  
Expatriate artist Anwar Hossain's creative journey

do in our life has an outcome and we have to remember that truth," asserts the artist.

An ardent fan of Picasso's art, Anwar cites a quote from the master that rightly describes the artistic route he took next: "Learn the rules like a pro, so you can break them like an artist." The artist prefers oil painting to other mediums as having a mutable quality.

Anwar has taken part in a number of solo and group art exhibitions and received many awards and accolades. Since 2005, Anwar has held a big solo show of his paintings every year at the Long Island City Art Center (LICAC) where he has a studio. The focal point of each show describes the diversity of his sensibilities. For example, in 2008 the artist displayed paintings of Mexican painters Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera.

In 2010 his show dealt with the 2005 disaster of Hurricane Katrina that caused death and sufferings for many people. What surprised and motivated the artist to do the series was that it took the United States' government five days to come to the aid of the victims.

Displaying over 55 paintings on legendary pop singer Michael Jackson along with several monochromatic abstracts works, one of his solo exhibitions was held at LICAC in 2009. The artist's latest solo art exhibition titled "A Fresh Look", displaying his early works; mostly portraiture was held at Gallery77, Jackson Heights, New York in 2012. Anwar's "War on Oil" series signifies his strong stance against war. Recently, the artist is doing portrait works of Paris-based famous mime maestro Partha Pratim Majumder.

The artist resides in the Long Island City Art Center (New York), a hub of professional artists. A Bangladeshi-born Nebraska State College Professor Dr. Shafiqur Rahman has written a book titled "Anwar Hossain: From Bangladeshi Painter to American Artist", featuring life and works of the artist. The book was published from USA in 2013.

**Five films on Channel i this Eid**



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Channel i will premiere five films this Eid, from new and veteran directors alike. The films (in chronological order, starting Eid day) are: "Priya Tumi Sukhi Hou", written and directed by Gitali Hasan and casting Sohel Rana, Sucharita, Ferdous and Shayla; "Akash Koto Durey", written by Zulfiqar Russel and directed by Samia Zaman, casting Razzaq, Sharmily Ahmed, Faria and Mostafa Prakash; "Adorer Jamai" written and directed by Shahadat Hossain Liton, casting Shakib Khan and Apu Bishwas; "Mukti" written and directed by PA Kajol and casting Diti, Sohel Rana and Helal Khan and "Headmaster", written and directed by Delwar Jahan Jhontu and casting Alamgir and Suborna Mustafa.

The first film will be televised at 2:30pm, while the others will all begin at 10:30am.

**TRIBUTE**

**SYD BARRETT**  
The 'Crazy Diamond'



FAHMIM FERDOUS

"You were caught in the crossfire of childhood and stardom, blown on the steel breeze / Come on you target for faraway laughter, come on you stranger, you legend, you martyr, and shine!"

- Shine on, You Crazy Diamond (Pink Floyd)  
Roger Waters, Richard Wright and David Gilmour wrote the nine-part song (split in two, parts 1-5 and 6-9) about a close friend, one of the founders of Pink Floyd and a musician in his own league, Roger Keith 'Syd' Barrett. Their entire 1975 album "Wish You Were Here (one of their most popular albums), as a matter of fact, was a tribute to Barrett, the guitarist-vocal-songwriter who shaped the band's 'psychedelic' reputation in the mid-sixties.

Barrett, born in a middle-class family in Cambridge, UK, and played the piano and guitar from an early age, and influenced by The Beatles, Rolling Stones and Bob Dylan, he along with childhood friend Roger Waters, and Nick Mason formed the band that had undergone several line-up and name changes before becoming Pink Floyd and going into the studio for the first time in 1965.

The band recorded their critically-acclaimed debut album "The Piper at the Gates of Dawn" with Barrett's vision; he wrote eight of the 11 songs and co-wrote two others. But soon after, his behavior became more and more erratic, partly as a consequence of reportedly heavy usage of psychedelic substances, including LSD. He would strum one chord throughout the entire concert, not play at all, and detune his guitar. While the audience enjoyed the antics, it became difficult for his band-mates. Barrett would forget to bring his guitar to sessions, and was at the point of failing to hold his guitar pick. David Gilmour, a college friend of Barrett's, was called in to back up for him on guitar and vocals; he played and sang at a few shows with Barrett wandering on stage and occasionally joining in. Tired of his unpredictable behaviour, the band decided to keep him just as anon-touring member.

At one of Barrett's last practice sessions with the band, he came with a song that he called "Have You Got It Yet?" The seemingly simple song became impossible to muster as Barrett kept changing arrangements, and asking them "Have you got it yet?" It took them a while to realise they were being victims to typical Syd Barrett humour.

Barrett left the band after being briefly hospitalised with suspected mental illness, and then embarked on a brief solo career that had two albums "The Madcap Laughs" and "Barrett", and formed a band called "Stars" that didn't last long. Following that, Barrett went on a self-imposed seclusion which he maintained until his death on this day (July 7) in 2006. An album of unreleased tracks and outtakes of his were released in 1988 with his permission by record label EMI.

On June 5, 1975, Gilmour married Ginger Hasenbein, and it was also the eve of Pink Floyd's second US tour that year. The band was completing the final mix of "Shine On" when an overweight-man with shaven head and eyebrows entered the room. Waters, who was working in the studio, initially did not recognise him. Wright presumed that the man was a friend of Waters' and asked him, but soon realised that it was Barrett himself. Wright later recalled, "When 'Wish You Were Here' was played, he (Barrett) stood up and said, 'Right, when do I put my guitar on? And of course, he didn't have a guitar with him. And we said, 'Sorry, Syd, the guitar's all done.'"

Just a couple of days before the eighth anniversary of Barrett's death, news of a new Pink Floyd album "Endless Rivers" featuring unreleased material from sessions of the band's 1994 album "Division Bell" has Floyd fans all excited, and the "crazy diamond" of psychedelic rock must be looking down on the legacy that he laid the foundations of, and smiling to himself.

**STEPPING STONE**

**In conversation with theatre director Debashish Ghosh**



A scene from the director's latest production Somepur Kathan.

SAURAV DEY

Debashish Ghosh has been associated with the theatre world for decades. Though he started off as a theatre actor, he is now better known as a director with Dhaka Padatik. In a conversation with The Daily Star, he talked about his journey in theatre and more.

**How did you make a foray into theatre?**  
Debashish: In 1982, after my SSC Examinations, I joined a local theatre troupe in Sylhet. I was too young then and it was difficult to get a role but I was wholeheartedly involved. A couple of years later some other theatre enthusiasts and I joined hands to form a troupe called Sondhani Natya Chakra which still exists in Sylhet. When the troupe took wing, we staged many plays.

**How did you get involved with Dhaka**

**Padatik?**  
Debashish: I joined Dhaka Padatik in 1988 when my family shifted to Dhaka. It is a strong platform for theatre enthusiasts, which helped me work with some great theatre personalities including SM Solaiman, Dr. Jamil Ahmed and Khaled Khan. Meanwhile, I strengthened my acting skills through workshops and training programmes.

**What led you to become a director?**  
Debashish: My inspiration was probably working in "Bishad Shindhu" when I realised that I needed to be more focused and move into direction if I wanted to firm my position in theatre. Then I received a scholarship and went to Rabindra Bharati University in Kolkata to study theatre. I majored in direction during my post-grad education as I felt my strength lay in my quick wittedness.

Studying in Rabindra Bharati enriched my knowledge and opened my eyes.

**Tell us about your journey as a director...**

Debashish: After coming to in Dhaka in 1998, I started working with Padatik. My first directorial work was a street-play, a genre which was neglected then. Gradually I started working with other troupes including Mohakal Natya Smaradaya, Natyajjan and Udichi. However, "Kotha Ekattor"-- a 2005 play on the liberation war--firmed my reputation as a director.

**Tell us about your current works...**

Debashish: Currently I'm working as a researcher in a project of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy which is developing a website (Art Directory of Bangladesh) combining art and cultural heritage of the country. Recently I directed "Somepur Kathan" an archeological drama of BSA.

**Search begins for 'The Ultimate Man'**



Participants of the show pose for a group photo.

The audition round of 'Fair & Handsome, the Ultimate Man-Season 2, powered by Bangladesh Navy' was completed recently.

Over one lac contestants from the Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna and Rajshahi took part in the preliminary round; of them, 100 contestants proceeded to the grand audition, held in Dhaka. After a rigorous screening, top 20 contestants have been selected as the 'handsome twenty'.

The handsome twenty were attitude, charm and intelligence. "Fair & Handsome Channel i - Handsome, The Ultimate Man" is a joint venture between Emami Bangladesh Limited and Channel-I, says a press release.

The show will be full of power packed challenges showcasing an individual's capability of solving problems. Actress Kusum Sikder and actor Riaz are the judges of the show, that will be airing from July 10 on Mondays and Thursdays on Channel i.



Noted personalities of the cultural arena gather at the Institute of Fine Arts, Dhaka University on Saturday to bid a final farewell to Subir Chowdhury. The director of Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts and a trustee of Bengal Foundation, Subir Chowdhury passed away on June 30 of neurological cancer at a Sydney Hospital on June 30. His body was kept at the Faculty of Fine Arts and Shilakala Academy on June 5, for people of all walks to pay their respects.