

Many happy returns to the theatre powerhouse DR. ENAMUL HAQUE

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Noted actor and theatre personality Dr. Enamul Haque is the founding president of Nagorik Nattyangon. His accolades include the esteemed Ekushey Padak for his illustrious career in acting. Today is the celebrated thespian's 75th birthday. Despite his years, the veteran artiste is full of vigor and continues to act. In a recent interview with The Daily Star, he talks about his plans for the day, and more.

How do you plan to celebrate this day?

EH: I never make plans of my own. I leave that to my fellow brothers and sisters at Nagorik. Every year they throw me a surprise birthday party, and I always look forward to spending time with them.

A birthday that has remained the most memorable?

EH: That would be my 50th birthday, when Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy arranged a grand celebration in my honour. I remember feeling extremely overwhelmed after seeing numerous members from the theatre world united under one roof.

Having come this far, what are your realisations regarding life?

EH: It's the beauty of human nature to strive to do good for the country and its society. I am grateful that I have been able to contribute in people's lives, and I want to do more. Goodness in your heart will bring out the good in others, and that is something I have always lived by.

Do you have any regrets?

EH: I worry that I have not finished all that I have set out to do. But when people pour forth their love for my work, all those worries melt away and I realise how truly blessed I am. It makes me realise that if things are planned ahead of time, it makes progress far easier.

As a thespian of many years, what does the theatre mean to you?

EH: Theatre is not just entertainment; it is a reflection of society and its people's thoughts. You can learn a great deal about life from the theatre. It exists to make life beautiful, and bring change when it's needed the most.

What do you wish for in life?

EH: I'd like Bangladesh to become compassionate. I'd like every household to remember what the Freedom Fighters sacrificed to give us the lives we have today. Nobody lives forever, but this land beneath our feet will exist in perpetuity.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

PRIYANKA

on her visit to the Rohingya refugee camp

In a recent conversation with an international media portal, Priyanka Chopra revealed the reason she went to visit Rohingya refugee camp in Balukhali, Teknaf. Chopra says she has a gentle heart and feels extremely emotional and sensitive towards children. She thinks children are the most innocent souls, who are not even aware of the life they are living in. She finds it disheartening that these children from the refugee camp do not have access to the basic human rights. According to the actor, the Rohingya refugee crisis is one of the biggest humanitarian crises in recent times. Therefore, it was important for her to show concern regarding this issue.

Source: Times of India



'Obak'- Exhibition and more by Liton Saha

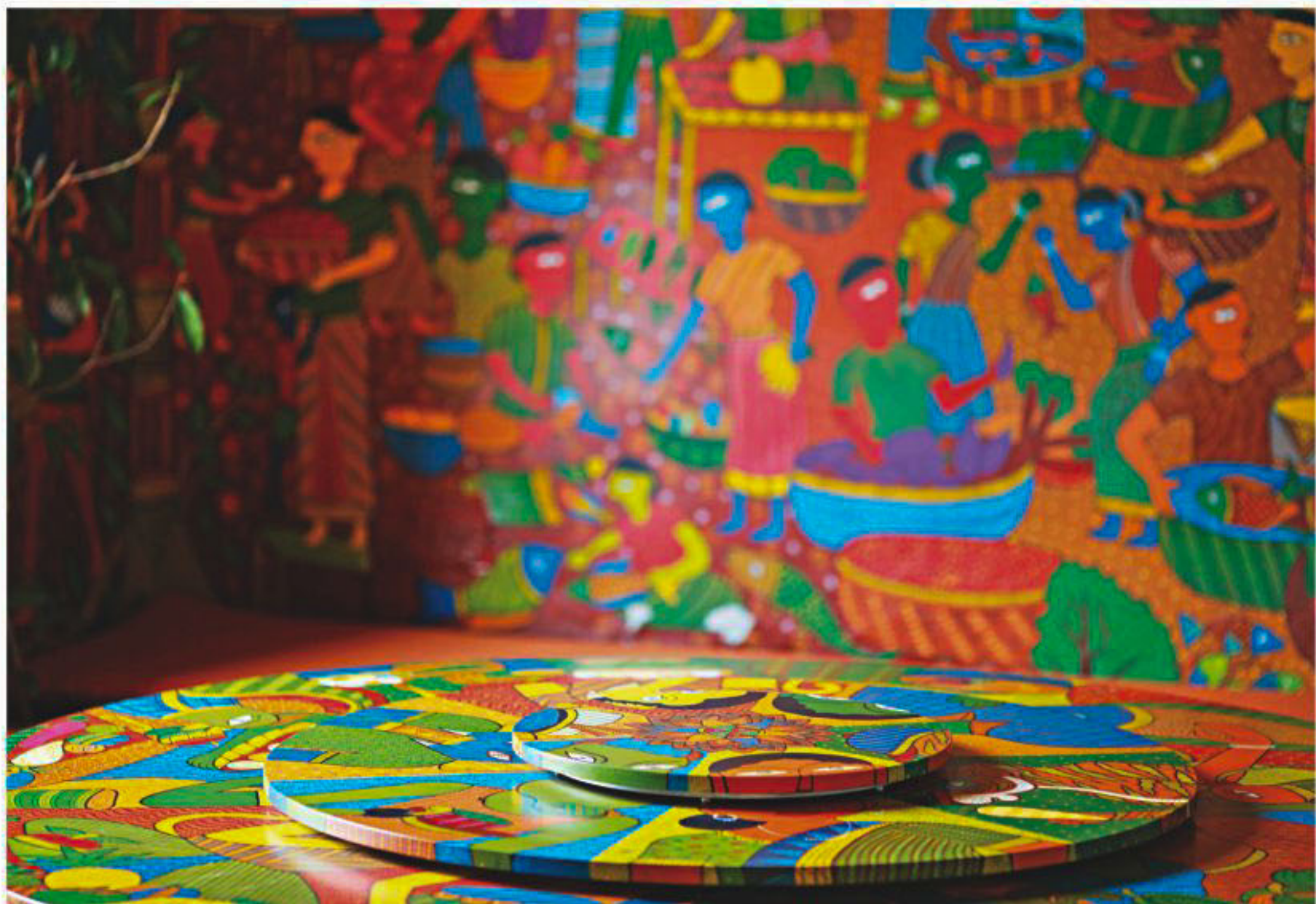


PHOTO: SALIM SADMAN SAMOY

Artist Liton Saha has been devotedly painting on behalf of *Jatra-a journey into craft*, a creative shop, selling a variety of items from apparels to furniture. One of its uniqueness lies in the art that is seen painted on different items--It speaks a Bangali language, which is intriguing yet familiar at the same time. Liton Saha is one of the names behind the enchantment. Jatra Biroti, a multi-purpose event space-cum-art lounge, is proudly hosting the praiseworthy artworks of their very own, Liton.

The exhibition titled *Obak* started recently and will continue till June 9. However, the organisers have some special plans for the event on June 1. Sticking to its roots of authenticity, they plan to make the event more interactive so the guests can also contribute to the experience. Make sure to look into the frames at Jatra Biroti to learn more about the journey.



Cultural shows mark Nazrul's birth anniversary

MD AMINUL ISLAM, from Mymensingh

Cultural shows marking the 119th birth anniversary of Kazi Nazrul Islam at Darirampur in Trishal of Mymensingh concluded on May 27.

The three-day national level programmes organised by Ministry of Cultural Affairs and Mymensingh District administration began at Darirampur Nazrul Mancha on Friday.

The programmes included a discussion meeting, speeches, a musical soiree and poetry recitation sessions.

Sujit Mustafa, eminent Nazrul artiste from Dhaka enthralled the audience on the concluding day. Yakub Ali Kahn and Bijon Misri from Dhaka also performed on the occasion.

Around 20 cultural groups of Mymensingh took part in the celebrations. On the concluding day, nine groups, including Nazrul Academy,



Mymensingh Shilpakala Academy, Udichi Shilpi Goshthi, Sandipon Sangskritik Sangstha, Sargam and others were in attendance.

Professor Dr AHM Mustafizur Rahman, vice-chancellor of Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University; and

Nazrul researcher AFM Hayatullah addressed the discussion meeting.

A three day fair styled 'Nazrul Mela' was held marking the occasion.

Earlier, President Md Abdul Hamid inaugurated the celebrations as the chief guest while Minister for

Religious Affairs Principal Motiur Rahman, and Information Minister Hasanul Haque Inu were the special guests.

The three-day celebration was anchored by Sarwar Jahan, poet Amjad Dulon and Afreen Lamia.



Celebrating HUMAYUN FARIDEE

PRIYANKA CHOWDHURY

Humayun Faridee's name is bound to come up as one of the most powerful and intense actors in Bangladesh's history. He predominantly acted on stage, television and on the silver screen. He was also a master at recitations. Born in Narinda, Faridee was a restless child. He lived his childhood in different places of Bangladesh because his father had a job of transferable nature. It gave him the opportunity to interact with different people, which helped him become more articulate with communication. The post liberation war time engulfed him with depression, as he dropped out of his education life for five years after class twelve. According to him, he led a bohemian life during the gap, which gave him another opportunity to explore the world around him. Later on, he studied Economics at Jahangirnagar University.

When Faridee was young, he once stole some money from his father's pocket and later on acted like he did not do it. In a television interview the actor recalled that incident as 'his first acting experience'. In an interview with Imdadul Haque Milon, Faridee revealed that his name was derived from his mother Begum Farida Islam. Even though he had seen different parts of the world, his heart always stayed in Bangladesh, so much so that when he traveled abroad, he carried green chillies in his pockets. The actor was no ordinary man. His confidence and his honest confessions created an unparalleled aura.

From *Kan Kata Romzan* to various other memorable roles, Faridee dominated the space he was in with his acting. His skill of improvisation sets him apart from other actors. The impulsive actor not only would improvise on spot but also throw challenges at his co-actors. Many remember him for the range of negative roles he brought to life, but Faridee played many positive characters as well. He won the Bangladesh National Film Award for Best Actor for his lead role in film *Matritto* in 2004 and was awarded the *Ekushey Padak* posthumously in 2018 by the Government of Bangladesh.

He would have been 67 today. We lost this versatile actor too soon but quoting from *Saviors of God*, "The goal of ephemeral life is immortality." Happy Birthday, Humayun Faridee!