



# Made in Bangladesh running successfully across Europe

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

*Made in Bangladesh*, directed by internationally acclaimed Bangladeshi filmmaker Rubaiyat Hossain and distributed by Pyramid Films, is being screened in theatres across Europe.

It was released in 53 theatres in France, in the first week of its release on December 4. After a positive response from the audience, the film's release was extended to 62 theatres throughout France.

In addition, *Made in Bangladesh* is playing in seven theatres in Denmark and one theatre in Portugal. The film will also be released in the USA, Canada and Poland, according to the distributor. The makers are further discussing the film's release in Germany, the UK and Japan.

## Artist Firoz Mahmud nominated for France's COAL Prize

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Bangladeshi artist Firoz Mahmud is one of the ten nominees for France's COAL Prize, from the organisation, Coalition for Art and Sustainable Development, which works in the fields of contemporary art, sustainable development and research, in order to promote the emergence of a culture of ecology. The award ceremony, along with the exhibition of artworks by the nominated artists, will take place at Center Pompidou, Paris, in December this year.

Mahmud, who currently resides in New York, was a fellow artist at Rijksakademie VB Kunsten, Amsterdam, and did his MFA and BFA



Firoz Mahmud

from the Institute of Fine Arts, (Now Faculty of Fine Art) University of Dhaka. He had a solo exhibitions at Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Dhaka Art Center, Abinta Gallery of Fine Arts, Asian Art Biennale Bangladesh, Dhaka Art Summit and Bangladesh National Museum. He also exhibited his works at Aichi Triennial, Sharjah Biennale, Cairo Biennale, Echigo-Tsumari Triennial and Setouchi Triennial.

Mahmud has been creating paintings, installations, photo based artworks, drawings and mixed media works on paper. As an artist, he

focuses on historical and colonial legacies, war and warriors, cultural and mythological landscapes from Bangladesh, the greater Bengal and South Asian region. Most of his works depict colonial and post-colonial legacies of our region, myths and beliefs. He also highlights the issues of exodus and migration, and the dreams of minority groups through his art.

"I deliberately tear down the edges of the canvas to shape the composition of my artworks, so that they signify the unrepresented

historical legacies. The history of the migration of Bangladeshi people was the research topic during my two-year course at Rijksakademie VB Kunsten in the Netherlands," said Mahmud

In recent years, the globally travelling artist has exhibited his artworks at many important exhibitions, including the Bangkok Art Biennale, Lahore Biennale, Congo Biennale, Dhaka Art Summit, Office of Contemporary Art Norway, Sharjah Art Foundation and MAXXI-National Museum of the 21st Century Arts in Rome, among others.

From making texts and concepts to producing the finished artworks, Mahmud is dedicated to his artistic pursuit and perseverance. Reflecting on the recent contemporary global art practice and the challenges, he spoke about New York-based Italian artist Maurizio Cattelan. "The world of contemporary art is wild. Maurizio Cattelan, the controversial artist, made a fully functioning 18-carat gold toilet, titled *America*, which has not yet been recovered after it was stolen from an exhibition at Blenheim Palace in Oxfordshire, UK, in September this year. Contemporary art allows many non-academic artists to make a mark. Such artists are doing well in selling their unusual ideas," added Mahmud.

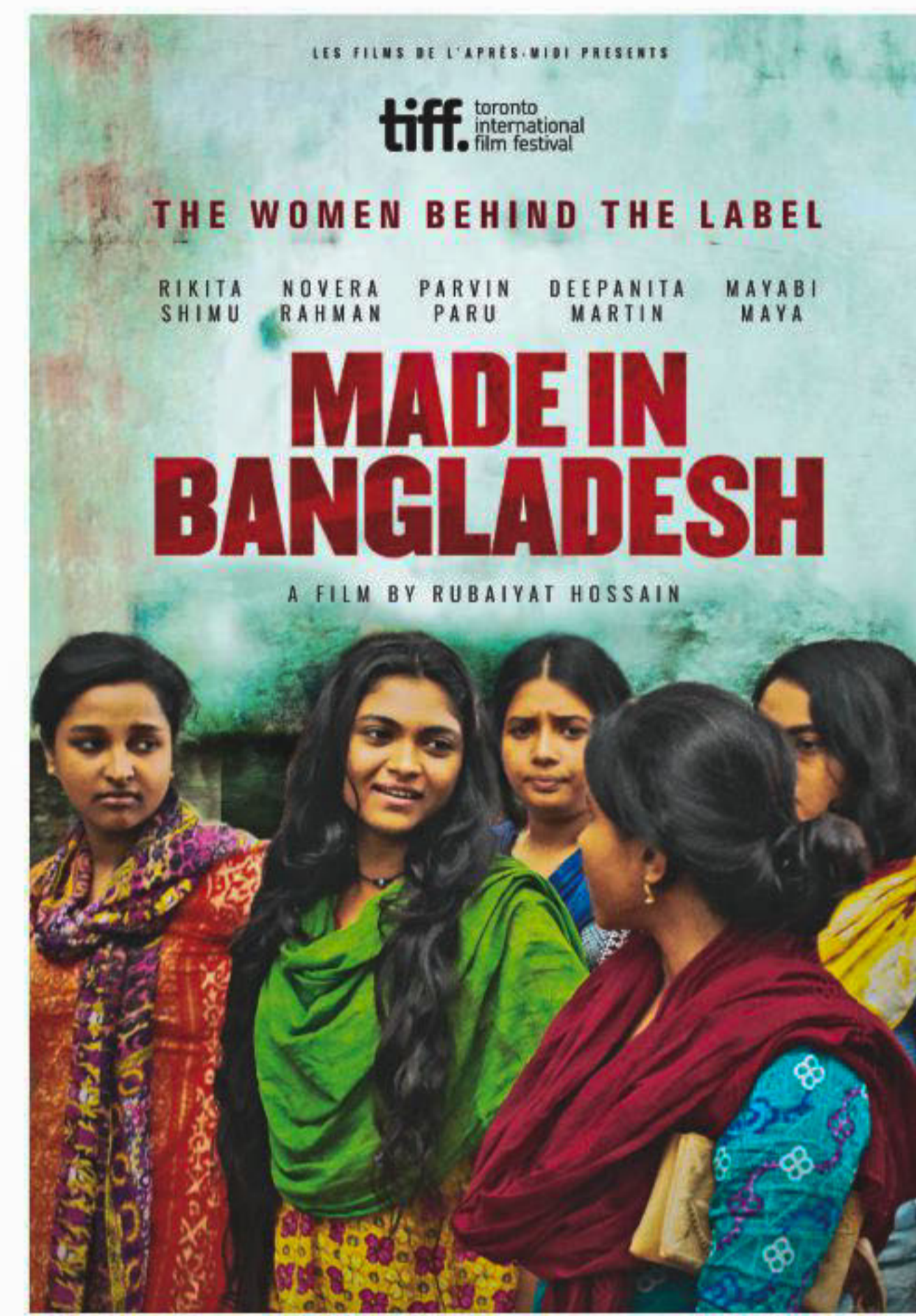


PHOTO: BSA

## Ninth arrangement of Shadhushongo held

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The ninth edition of the monthly arrangement, *Purnima Tithir Mashik Shadhushongo*, organised by Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA), was held at

Bot Tola, BSA, recently. Baul singers of BSA performed at the event. Discussions on the mysticism of the Baul songs was also held. The event concluded with the performances of *Shadhu-Gurus*.

## 'Cello Piano Audio 3' at Alliance Française de Dhaka tomorrow

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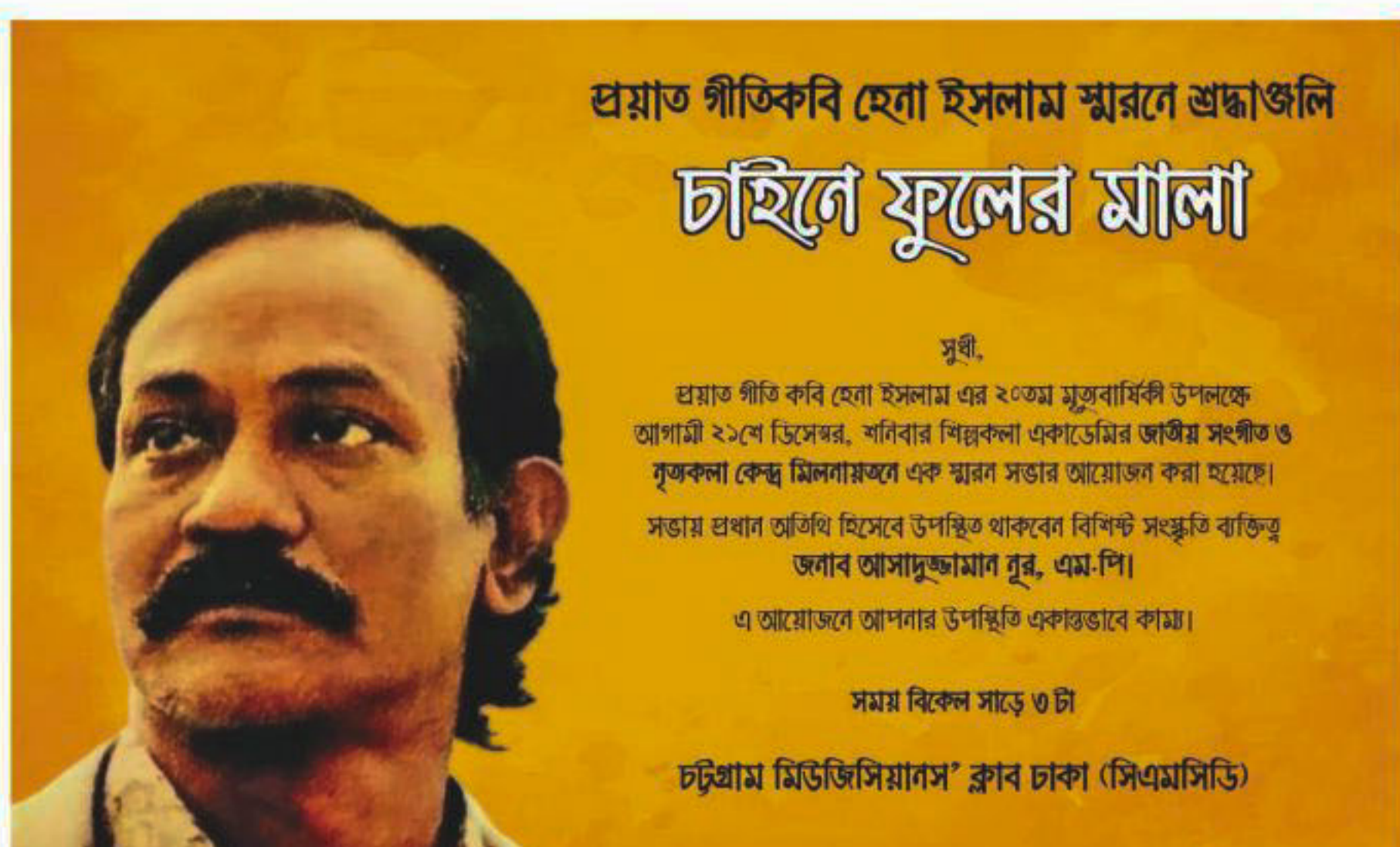
Alliance Française de Dhaka is set to host the musical concert, *Cello-Piano-Audio 3*, by Philip Hazra and Yulia Evdokimova tomorrow (December 21) from 6:30 pm onwards at their La Galerie.

The concert will feature a duet between maestro cellist Philip Hazra and Russian pianist Yulia Evdokimova. The evening will also have solo and duet performances of L V Beethoven's *Minuet*, C Saint-Saens' *The Swan*, R Schuman's *Traumerei*, and many others. Philip Hazra has been playing a vital role to promote western classical music in Bangladesh through teaching violin, viola, cello and double bass. He has been teaching violin and cello at Alliance Française de Dhaka since 2007. On the other hand, Yulia Evdokimova has also been teaching piano in Bangladesh for the last twenty years. The concert will be an enjoyable evening for connoisseurs of classical music.

*Cello Piano Audio 3* is open to all. Seats are limited, and available on a first come, first serve basis.



PHOTO: COURTESY



Commemorating poet-lyricist Hena Islam, on his 20th death anniversary, a memorial programme, 'Chaine Phuler Mala', will be held tomorrow at the National Music and Dance Centre auditorium of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA), at 3:30 pm. The programme is organised by Chattogram Musician's Club, Dhaka (CMCD). Former Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor, MP, will be present at the event as chief guest.

## A new 'Bunty Aur Babli'!

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Saif Ali Khan and Rani Mukerji are reuniting on the silver screen, after a gap of 11 years. This time, they are coming back in *Bunty Aur Babli*'s fully rebooted sequel. Saif and Rani are a popular onscreen pair, having starred in films such as *Hum Tum* (2004), *Ta Ra Rum Pum* (2007) and *Thoda Pyaar Thoda Magic*

(2008), and their infectious chemistry always got a thumbs up from fans.

The 2005 hit *Bunty Aur Babli* (2005) had Rani and Abhishek Bachchan in the titular roles. *Bunty Aur Babli 2* will see a time leap of 10 years and feature two pairs of Bunty and Babli. Siddhant Chaturvedi of *Gully Boy* fame and debutant Sharvari are one of them. Saif and Rani, on the other hand, will play

the roles of the 'senior' Bunty and Babli, respectively. Rani has claimed that although she will miss Abhishek dearly, she is excited to welcome Saif to the team. Now with Rani and Saif in the cast, it will be interesting to see the dynamics between the two onscreen con couples in the film, which is directed by debutant Varun Sharma and produced by Aditya Chopra.



PHOTO: COLLECTED

