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With 'Dwando', the Bengali film goes global

Sirshendu Panth

February 1st, 2009

KOLKATA - It's a film that promises to bring US corporate efficiency to Bengali filmdom. From roping in a leading Hollywood film distribution house to tying up with a Miami-based IT solutions firm for tapping new marketing avenues, 'Dwando' has much to boast of.

Being directed and produced by Suman Ghosh, the movie will have a global release, including in Eastern Europe and the US, in early July.

According to director Ghosh, LongTail, the second largest film distribution house in Hollywood after Warner Brothers, has given a commitment to buying the world distribution

rights of the movie.

Ghosh has also teamed up with Oney Seal, chairman of Databazar, a Florida-based imaging and information supplies and distribution company, for production and marketing of the film.

'Basically, we are interested in bringing US corporate efficiency to local filmmaking. We have a strong marketing plan which includes e-marketing. There will be typical corporate qualities like transparency and documentation,' Seal told IANS.

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What do you think about the recent attack on Indians in Australia?

- It indicates deep rooted racism
- Just some stray incidents, nothing to make a big deal of
- It isn't racism, its just the recession

Ghosh's previous film was 'Podokkhep' and won lead actor Soumitra Chatterjee a National Award for his performance in the movie. Prior to that, the director had made a highly acclaimed documentary on Nobel Prize winner economist Amartya Sen.

'After the National Award, I was getting a lot of offers from US investors, willing to put their money in my film. When I was thinking which producer I should choose to work with, I thought about my old acquaintance Oney Seal,' Ghosh said.

Set in present Kolkata, 'Dwando' revolves around Sudipta, a young woman trapped in an ethical dilemma. The story also involves a bunch of techies. Ananya Chatterjee plays Sudipta and Ghosh has roped in Soumitra once again to play a well-known neurosurgeon, who becomes pivotal in the unfolding of Sudipta's future.

While Kaushik Sen plays Suditpa's husband, Rana will be seen as her lover. The narrative is like a chamber drama.

Samrat Chakraborty, a New York-based actor, will also be making his debut in Bengali cinema with 'Dwando'.

Ghosh is expected to start shooting from Feb 5 till March 4 and he will film it in Kolkata as well as the US.

'Much of the film will be shot indoor. Only a small part will be shot in the US, and Miami could be the location,' said Ghosh.

(Sirshendu Panth can be contacted at s.panth@ians.in)

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Indian films' sales pitch peaks at Cannes

May 20th, 2009 CANNES - With 'Slumdog Millionaire' having made waves on the global scene, Indian movie themes and filmmakers are beginning to reap the benefits in the international sales and co-productions arena at the ongoing Cannes Film Market. ' 'Slumdog' has opened a door for Indian cinema,' says Hollywood producer Ashok Amritraj.

Rohit Roy reprises Big B's role in 'Abhimaan' adaptation

April 20th, 2009 NEW DELHI - Actor-director Rohit Roy is all set to step into Amitabh Bachchan's shoes for the Bengali adaptation of 1973 hit film 'Abhimaan', best remembered for its songs like 'Teri bindiya re' and superlative performances by the Big B and Jaya Bachchan. 'I'm doing a major project called 'Pa Ma Ga Re Sa', which is a modern musical love story.

Prosthetic excesses overtake creativity in bizarre 'Dashavatar' (IANS Film Review, Rating: **)

April 18th, 2009 Film: 'Dashavatar'; Cast: Kamal Haasan, Mallika Sherawat, Asin, Jaya Pradha; Director: K. Ravi Kumar; Rating: ** Several hours after I saw the amazing camera chameleon Kamal Haasan transform into 10 utterly different characters, my head was still reeling.

Hillary Clinton greets Bangladeshis on New Year

April 12th, 2009 DHAKA - US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton Sunday sent a New Year message to all Bangladeshis living across the world ahead of the Bengali New Year 1416 - which is celebrated Tuesday. 'I send greetings to all around the world who are observing Pahela Boishakh (the first day of Bengali calendar), the New Year festivity celebrated by those who share common Bengali culture,' Clinton said in a message released by the US embassy in Dhaka.

US shot Bengali film to create awareness about India's disabled

April 9th, 2009 WASHINGTON - 'Piyalir Password,' the first Bengali film shot entirely in the United States, is all set to be screened in seven US cities to create awareness about the plight of individuals with developmental disabilities in India. The film which premiered at the Kreeger Auditorium in Maryland, on the outskirts of the capital, last week will be screened in New Jersey on April 11 and in Detroit, San Francisco, Houston, Boston and Chicago thereafter.

Ramkumar Chattopadhyay was 'last emperor' of traditional Bengali music

March 19th, 2009 KOLKATA - The death of legendary singer Ramkumar Chattopadhyay, who was regarded as the repository of Bangla Puratoni Gaan (old Bengali songs), marked the end of the era of vernacular traditional music, feels the music industry here. Chattopadhyay, 89, died here Wednesday at the Belle Vue Clinic.

Bengali actor's campaign stage collapses

March 16th, 2009 KOLKATA - Bengali film actor-turned-politician Shatabdi Roy suffered minor injuries Monday after her stage collapsed in West Bengal's Birbhum district where she was campaigning for the Trinamool Congress. Roy is contesting the Lok Sabha polls from Birbhum on Trinamool Congress ticket.

Bangladesh to have exclusive TV channel for children

March 14th, 2009 DHAKA - Bangladesh will launch Dugdugi TV, a channel exclusively for children, April 14 on Pahela Baishakh that marks the beginning of the Bengali year. 'Movies and special programmes for children will form the mainstay of the channel.

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Tolly star Satabdi to contest from Bolpur seat

March 4th, 2009 KOLKATA - Popular Bengali film actor Satabdi Roy will contest the Lok Sabha election on a Trinamool Congress ticket from West Bengal's Bolpur constituency, a party leader said here Tuesday. 'We told our party chief Mamata Banerjee to field Satabdi Roy in the Bolpur Lok Sabha constituency,' Trinamool Congress legislator from Birbhum district Ashis Banerjee said.

Director Rituparno Ghosh to play lead in gay love story

February 27th, 2009 KOLKATA - Bengali filmmaker Rituparno Ghosh is all set to debut as an actor with director Kaushik Ganguly's gay love story 'Chhaya Chhobi'. But Ganguly clarified that the character is not inspired by Ghosh's life.

Prosenjit to play Byomkesh Bakshi in Rituparno Ghosh's trilogy

February 22nd, 2009 KOLKATA - The famous fictional detective Byomkesh Bakshi will soon be back on celluloid, courtesy director Rituparno Ghosh, who has roped in Bengali film industry's superstar Prosenjit to essay the role. Uttam Kumar played Bakshi in Satyajit Ray's film 'Chiriakhana' (Zoo) in 1967.

I lost a dear friend in death of Tapan Sinha: Dilip Kumar

January 14th, 2009 MUMBAI - Bollywood Thespian Dilip Kumar was shattered to learn that his friend of over 40 years, Tapan Sinha, passed away Thursday in Kolkata. Not keeping good health himself for quite some time now, Kumar said that in Sinha's death he lost a yet another friend after B.R.

Kolkata film fraternity mourns Tapan Sinha

January 14th, 2009 KOLKATA - The film fraternity here came out Thursday to pay homage to director Tapan Sinha, who died here Thursday, with another veteran director Mrinal Sen calling Sinha's death an 'irreparable loss'. 'Sinha's death is an irreparable loss not only to Bengali, but the entire Indian film industry.

Films Division to make a movie on S.D. Burman

December 29th, 2008 AGARTALA - The Films Division will make a movie on the life of legendary music maestro Sachin Dev Burman, an official said here Tuesday. The director of the Eastern Regional Centre of the Films Division, Rajiv Kumar has sent a letter informing about the decision to the Tripura government.

A Bengali grammar book, now in Polish

December 24th, 2008 WARSAW - A scholar here has published the first Bengali grammar in Polish so that people can 'grasp the beauty of the language of Rabindranath Tagore and Bankim Chandra Chatterjee'. Elzbieta Waltorwa, who has been teaching Bengali at the Oriental Institute of Warsaw University for the past three decades, accomplished her life-long desire when her book hit the stands recently.

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