

Structure thought to be incomplete bridge was a completed shade all along

AKHMER KRIMER, *Crime and Development*

Ten years ago, construction of a bridge started over a fully functional road in the Kauwasaki upazila of Bangladesh costing the people a hefty Tk 55 lakh. It stopped midway causing massive confusion, consternation and other difficult words to pop across the minds of IELTS students of that area.

"Is it a bridge? Is it a table? Is it a helipad?" asked Shams Bin Absent who was in Qatar during that time working on a bridge construction in the desert. "We built bridges there but then we put water underneath. This just has a bucket on the dry road below."

Others were upset that this large 20-foot high

concrete structure resembling a table was not the bridge they were promised. For one thing, there is no ramp that leads to the top of the bridge. Secondly, there is no ramp leading off the bridge either. So that would make two things very wrong with the fundamental concept of a bridge.

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"This is just a well-made shade for the road below," observed a local named Doctor Mumin who sells medicinal herb extracts right under the non-bridge.

The local MP commented, "We have these structures all across Bangladesh. A 40-foot-long bridge on Palgaon-

Mukundapur road in Rautgaon union was constructed for a mere Tk 22 lakh. Sure, the river below is 60-feet wide. But that is beyond the point," he further explained while wiping his sweat-soaked forehead with a wad of Tk 500 notes. "Many districts

summer heat and to meet with Doctor Mumin to seek treatment for aches and pains of the soul. Tourism has gone up as new tea stalls have been set up to accommodate visitors who want to see the bridge that is not a bridge.

"See, the local administration has been looking into the future. They looked far ahead. They have also looked up to see the sky is the limit," explained the MP. "When the young generation looks at it, they see a platform for their social media growth. When floods

happen, you can look at it as a rescue shelter. It is progress depending on how you look at it. One thing reporters need to do similarly is look away."



have these bridges that are more art than anything else."

TikTokers have flooded this area to make videos. Some have climbed up and fallen to their death. Bikers have congratulated the government on building such a wonderful shade so they can rest during rain, to escape the scorching



TikTokers seen testing the durability and fine finishing of the unfinished bridge, which is actually a completed shade.



Desi Christopher Nolan ready with local Oppenheimer to fight against imported Jawan

MAHBUB ALAM MUNNA

Whoever thought the battle between Oppenheimer and Barbie was over, is actually living in a fool's paradise.

A local film director, widely known as Deshi Christopher Nolan, has just resurrected the clash by releasing his homemade Oppenheimer to fight imported Jawan.

Deshi Nolan entered the battlefield with his bag and baggage to teach a lesson to SRK's Jawan. He had to face Jawan as it has already been released after his barricade was eventually defeated. The man left no stone unturned to stop Jawan and redirect it to its country of origin.

He made all-out efforts to avoid the unhealthy clash between films, which was witnessed during the simultaneous releases of Barbie and Oppenheimer weeks ago.

Movie enthusiasts are keen to call Deshi Nolan's movie Oppenheimer, although it has a different name.

"Oppenheimer is a metaphorical name for such a movie," one of the enthusiasts, named Karim, said.

Reliable reports from India even suggested that Shahrukh Khan was severely afraid of sending his movie to Bangladesh at a time when the local Nolan was releasing his masterpiece. The alleged Nolan wants to call this clash Barbenheimer 2.0 as he believes that the intensity of fans of his Oppenheimer and SRK's Jawan are unreal, just like that of the Barbie and Oppenheimer fans days ago.

"Just like Oppenheimer, our local piece is going to shake its surroundings, including people," he added.

"Oppenheimer is based on one person's life story, while our movie is based on so many people's life stories, including a shoe. So, which one weighs more?" Jamal, the alleged actor of the movie explained the plot leaving twists unexposed.

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"I see my movie, aka local Oppenheimer, miles ahead of Jawan in terms of direction, story, casting and so on," the local Christopher Nolan claimed with joy.

When asked why he protested the import of Jawan if his movie was so good, he said, "Well, it was one of my promotional strategies. Haven't you guys heard about negative marketing? Ridiculous!"

Later, our Satireday correspondent learned that the director has been teaching marketing in Farmgate-based coaching centres for decades.

Husband keeps making excuses to get on expressway, wife fed up

"His bright idea was to take the on-ramp from Bijoy Sarani, in the opposite direction mind you, go to Kuril [7 kilometres in the opposite direction], get off the expressway, get on again from the opposite side, and then drive seven kilometres back to get off a few hundred feet from his office! Obviously, we missed the dawat."

ELEVATED CORRESPONDENT

A wife in the capital has become exasperated following the opening of the elevated expressway as her husband refuses to take any other road, even though the expressway doesn't yet serve the areas where they live or work.

"Okay, we know Dhaka has a severe traffic problem," Sanjida told this correspondent yesterday after getting off their car, following what she said was the 38th time in six days that her husband, Hasan, had veered onto the on-ramp of the expressway at the last second.

"And I know he, as someone who drives a car, has suffered in traffic all these years, but come on! It was fine the first day when the expressway opened, even cute how excited he was," she said.

"But this is too much. I mean he comes home every day from work at least two hours late, because according to him, he took the expressway to make the journey 'quicker'."

Sanjida said they live in Mohammadpur, and her husband works in Farmgate.

"I somehow knew, once I heard that the expressway would have a landing in Farmgate, that we were in trouble. Just yesterday, I left work and met him at his office, and we were supposed to visit relatives in Dhanmondi. Pretty simple, right? Wrong."

Sanjida narrated that instead of taking a left turn at the Farmgate bus stand, or the next on after that, Hasan went on to the Bijoy Sarani signal, answering her frantic protests with the words "You'll see, it'll be quicker", and took a right.

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PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

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She claimed this was the route Hasan took every day from work, even though there was no need for him to do that to get to their home.

"The expressway is great, you can get from Farmgate to Mohakhali, Banani, Uttara really fast and you can come back the other way in a jiffy. But we're not going there.

"So, when today we were going from Banani to Gulshan, and he just saw the on-ramp and took a sharp turn onto it, I just got off," Sanjida said.

When asked for her husband's number, she willingly gave it. "Yeah, you talk to him, because I won't."

Contacted, Hasan said, "Listen, it is up to me to know the ins and outs of the expressway. And the roads are so good, the traffic so light, and all the while you know there is insane traffic below. Plus, whenever people discuss the expressway at work, which is like all the time, I have the best answers.

"And can you imagine? Airport to Farmgate in 10 minutes! I just know there is a hack to Dhaka traffic, and I will keep trying till I figure it out. Hold on, I have to pay the toll at Kawla now."