Led Zeppelin's **'STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN'** gets rare nod for 'Narnia' trailer

Led Zeppelin guitarist Jimmy Page has approved the use of the band's iconic song ***Stairway to Heaven*** in the trailer for Greta Gerwig's upcoming film ***Narnia: The Magician's Nephew,*** marking a rare licensing exception.

Released in 1971, the classic track has been reworked for the Netflix adaptation of C S Lewis's ***The Chronicles of Narnia,*** scheduled to arrive in cinemas in February.

According to Variety, Gerwig personally approached Page and vocalist Robert Plant for permission, sharing an early version of the film with them.

Page praised Gerwig's filmmaking, expressing excitement about her vision for the fantasy film.

Led Zeppelin have historically been selective about film licensing, previously rejecting requests from ***Wayne's World*** and ***Almost Famous.*** However, their music has featured in several recent productions.



PHOTO: COURTESY OF AGANTUK

When crows make more sense than humans

'Kaak'- a notable comedy of errors on display in Cox's Bazar

ASHLEY SHOPTORSHI SAMADDAR

Living in Cox's Bazar for the past couple of years, my hopes of engaging with the fine arts had dwindled to almost zero — until I came across ***Kaak***, a theatrical production staged at the Public Library's Shaheed Subhash Auditorium in Cox's Bazar this weekend.

According to the tickets and flyers circulated among visitors (myself included) during recent shows, this eco-satire, directed by Shahidul Shannon, promised nothing but humour, wrapped in its delicious disclaimer: "This play strictly resembles reality." And me being me, that was precisely what clicked!

Agantuk's sixth production, ***Kaak***, drew a sizeable audience on Saturday, October 3. I had also heard accounts of a full house at the previous day's show, which only added to my anticipation.

Walking down the rugged red carpet covering the gallery staircase, I entered the auditorium, where I was greeted by torn and broken seats. Yet, I was pleasantly surprised by the very first scene: a "murder" (yes, folks, that is what a group of crows is called) of ravens, echoing the "songs" of Ted Hughes's much-maligned, arguably blasphemous poetic masterpiece, ***Crow***.

The opening scene transported me back to a college lecture on ***Apple Tragedy,*** perhaps the finest poem I have read so far, and one whose simplicity of verse has stayed with me, owing, in part, to my Christian roots. As the play progressed, it continued to build on these familiar ideas, taking them in unexpected directions.

While I had expected the narrative to remain faithful to its original framework, the director ventured well beyond the Adam–Serpent–Eve narrative, weaving in new characters and themes with remarkable ease.

As an added delight, he explored the socio-cultural dimensions of love, complemented by a selection of evergreen melodies performed live and unplugged.

What struck me most was the ironic reversal of roles: humans behaved foolishly like crows, while the crows displayed greater intelligence and awareness.

Through this inversion, ***Kaak*** offered a pointed ecological critique, holding up an uncomfortable mirror to our own foolishness.

Bacchu is one character I will certainly remember, thanks to the actor's understated, minimalist portrayal. His restrained performance felt just right, marking him as a promising emerging talent.

My evening ended on a note of pleasant rediscovery. What I had witnessed was not merely an adaptation, but rather a contextualised deconstruction of an experience I had once deeply cherished — and was now delighted to relive, albeit through an entirely different lens.

Shilpakala Academy to commemorate Lalon's 136th death anniversary

Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy will organise a special programme on October 17 to commemorate the 136th death anniversary of Baul legend Fakir Lalon Shah.

Supported by the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, the event will begin at 6:00pm at the National Theatre Hall in Segunbagicha, Dhaka.

A cultural programme featuring Lalon songs will follow at 6:30pm, presented by BSA and JASAS.

Meanwhile, a three-day commemorative festival and fair will take place from October 17 to 19 at Lalon's Akhrabari in Chheuriya, Kushtia.



EVENTS



'Company'

Aranyak Natyadal brings ***Company***, its 66th production, to the stage. Written and directed by Mamunur Rashid, the play traces Robert Clive's rise to power and the conspiracies that led to the fall of Bengal's independent Nawabi rule. Through the story of British conquest, exploitation and division, it draws parallels with the plunder of wealth and siphoning of money that continue today, asking whether new versions of Clive remain among us.

Date: Today | October 15
Time: 7:00pm
Venue: National Theatre Hall (Main Hall), Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Dhaka

NEWS

100 flights cancelled

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seeking alternative flights to Jeddah and Madinah to enter Saudi Arabia and reach their workplaces.

Biman Bangladesh Airlines has also advised passengers requiring urgent travel to consider using Jeddah and Madinah airports while its Riyadh and Dammam services remain suspended until October 17.

Among direct operators, Biman accounted for 17 affected flights, US-Bangla Airlines 10, and Saudia and Riyadh Air seven each.

Among connecting carriers, IndiGo recorded 22 affected flights, Emirates 14, SalamAir and Qatar Airways seven each, flydubai six, Air India two and EgyptAir one.

Meanwhile, Riyadh's King Khalid International Airport will remain closed until October 17.

The security situation deteriorated further yesterday, with Saudi authorities reporting the interception of another ballistic missile aimed at Riyadh.

Yemen's Houthi rebels also threatened further attacks on Saudi airports and oil infrastructure following a strike on Saudi Aramco facilities in Dhahran, Reuters reported.

Against this backdrop, the Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies (BAIRA) yesterday urged the government to take immediate diplomatic steps to protect the employment and legal status of affected migrant workers.

In a statement, BAIRA expressed concern that newly recruited workers awaiting departure and expatriates returning to Saudi Arabia after visiting Bangladesh could face difficulties over expiring visas, residence permits and employment arrangements.

The association called for discussions with Saudi authorities to extend affected workers' visas and iqamas and ensure that their jobs remain protected.

It also demanded free ticket rescheduling or full refunds without additional charges, alongside government assistance for affected workers and their families.

The government is already pursuing bilateral discussions with Saudi Arabia over visa extensions for stranded workers, said Md Nurul Haque, the state minister for expatriates' welfare and overseas employment, earlier this week.

On October 12, CAAB directed airlines operating direct and connecting services to Saudi Arabia to promptly notify affected passengers of cancellations, delays and schedule changes through SMS, telephone, email and other communication channels.

Airlines have also been instructed to provide information on revised schedules, rebooking and refunds, and guide passengers requiring visa extensions or immigration assistance towards the relevant Saudi authorities and diplomatic missions.

However, with Riyadh airport closed until October 17 and further attacks threatened, uncertainty persists over when affected passengers will be able to complete their journeys.

বাড়ী বিক্রয়
বনানী কামাল আতাতুর্ক এভিনিউ কাকলীতে
সামনে পিছনে রাস্তা ৬ তলা বাড়ী বিক্রয় হবে।
শুধুমাত্র প্রকৃত ক্রেতারা যোগাযোগ করুন।
যোগাযোগ ইমেইল- bananihousesell@gmail.com
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Man dies

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He added that on Tuesday evening, Shamim had attempted to take his own life by ingesting poison at home and had appeared distressed amid threats from people following the circulation of the audio clips.

Later, as family members were taking him to a local doctor, a group of people began beating him in the Sakhipur area, Jalil said, adding that Shamim was attacked again at the upazila health complex.

Arif Billah, an emergency department physician at the facility, said Shamim had multiple serious injuries. When his condition worsened suddenly, he was referred to Satkhira Medical College Hospital.

OC Shaheen said no complaint had been filed with the police station as of about 8:30pm yesterday. "Legal action will be taken if the complaint is lodged."

Proposal for 3rd LNG terminal

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be signed.

CNEE submitted the proposal on June 19 for the offshore LNG terminal under a build-own-operate model, with a base regasification capacity of 600 million cubic feet per day (mmcfd) and a peak capacity of 750 mmcfd.

A comparison by The Daily Star found large portions of the proposal closely mirror another proposal submitted just 38 days earlier by US-based company NS Energy Navigation, whose chief executive is the grandson of Brahmanbaria-4 MP Mushfiqur Rahman, also the chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on the finance ministry.

The similarities are so extensive that a project map in CNEE's June 19 proposal still carries the name of the earlier proposer: "Proposed NS Energy FSRU".

The total cost of the proposed project has been estimated at Tk 12,324 crore for a 15-year term or Tk 13,161 crore for a 20-year term.

Earlier on September 5, The Daily Star reported that the regasification service fee to CNEE would be 35-37 percent more than what the government pays to existing LNG terminals, although the government's negotiation committee could not determine how much of the premium is justified.

Under the 15-year arrangement, CNEE will charge $3,42,000 per day for the FSRU.

At present, the daily fee for Excelerate Energy's FSRU is $2,54,000 and Summit LNG terminal's is $2,49,115.

It is also higher than the $3,00,000 daily fee agreed by Petrobangla in March 2024 for Summit's proposed second FSRU at Moheshkhali with a capacity of 600 mmcfd and a 15-year tenure.

Petrobangla terminated the deal in October 2024 following the fall of the Awami League-led government, and Summit contested the termination in court. The matter is still pending.

CNEE's solicited daily fee is even higher than the benchmark of $2,39,653 per day recommended in a 2025 feasibility study by RPGCL.

Despite the higher rate, the seven-member negotiation committee on August 30 recommended two options before the government: a 15-year deal at $3,42,000 a day or a 20-year deal at $3,29,000 a day.

The charge under a 15-year agreement will include $2,46,000 fixed fee, $59,000 operational fee and $37,000 port service fee.

The committee calculated the value of Petrobangla's payment obligation for the 15-year option at $1.002 billion, equivalent to Tk 12,324 crore, at a 12 percent discount rate.

Turkey appoints trustee to run pro-opposition Halk TV

REUTERS, *Ankara*

Turkish authorities appointed a government trustee to run pro-opposition broadcaster Halk TV, prosecutors said yesterday as police raided its Istanbul office, extending a crackdown on the opposition and prompting fresh concerns over media freedom.

The Istanbul Chief Prosecutor's Office said its financial crimes unit had conducted an investigation into Halk TV Chairman Cafer Mahiroglu over "bribery, tender-rigging, and laundering of assets derived from crime."

Prosecutors ordered the detention of 17 people, including Mahiroglu, and 11 have been detained, the statement said, with firms linked to Mahiroglu seized and the Savings Deposit Insurance Fund (TMSF) appointed as trustee.

Mahiroglu is currently outside Turkey and being sought by the authorities.

The channel's live broadcast was cut at 6:30 am (0330 GMT), after which pre-recorded material began airing. "Hundreds of police" were inside and entry into the premises was not being permitted, it said on its website. A Halk TV programmer said negotiations with the trustee delegation to continue broadcasts had yielded no results.

Govt clears import

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variations totalling over Tk 765 crore under the ongoing Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport Expansion Project (1st Phase, 3rd Revised).

For the main construction contract, the committee approved an additional Tk 360.65 crore, raising its value by 1.75 percent, from Tk 20,598.64 crore to Tk 20,959.30 crore.

The contractor, Aviation Dhaka Consortium (ADC), is a joint venture of Japan's Mitsubishi Corporation and Fujita Corporation and South Korea's Samsung C&T.

The committee also approved an additional Tk 405 crore for consultancy services, raising the contract value by 52.48 percent, from Tk 771.72 crore to Tk 1,176.72 crore.

The consultancy contract is with NOCD JV, a joint venture of Japan's Nippon Koei Co Ltd and Oriental Consultants Global Co Ltd, Singapore's CPG Consultants Pte Ltd, and Bangladesh's Development Design Consultants Ltd.

The committee also approved a proposal from the commerce ministry to purchase 10,000 tonnes of sugar from Meghna Sugar Refinery Ltd in two lots for over Tk 100 crore.

Govt moves to tap economic potential

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e-waste generation and recycling.

According to a 2017 Department of Environment survey, Bangladesh generates nearly 13.3 million kilogrammes of e-waste annually, of which only 3 percent is recycled and exported. The data on the remaining 97 percent is sketchy and collected through the informal sector.

The data on current years are not available.

Although the import of used electronic items is prohibited, such products continue to enter the country, Osmani said, adding that no organisation involved in manufacturing, importing, exporting or marketing electronic equipment was registered with the DoE or had established an e-waste collection centre.

Sumon Ahmed Sabir, chairperson of WEEE Society Bangladesh, delivered the introductory speech at the seminar, jointly organised by TIB and WEEE Bangladesh at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre.

20 out of 30 Bangladeshis trafficked to Russia killed

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He said investigators believed the Bangladeshis were deployed as bait.

"When opposing forces launched drone strikes against them, the attacks revealed the enemy's positions," he added.

The SRB said the Bangladeshis were deployed in three sections of the battlefield: the front, middle and rear. Seventeen reportedly died in drone strikes on the first day, while three others died later.

The battalion said it had so far confirmed the deaths of 20 of the 30 Bangladeshis.

Of the 10 survivors, two injured men have returned to Bangladesh, while two others are receiving treatment at a hospital in Moscow. The remaining six are still on the battlefield, according to the SRB.

Asaduzzaman said one of the returnees, identified as Rajon, suffered a fractured lower back and lower-body paralysis following a drone strike. He dragged himself on his chest for nearly four kilometres to reach a camp.

The SRB official said most of the victims came from impoverished backgrounds, with some taking out substantial loans to finance their journeys. Many families have received news of their relatives' deaths but have been unable to see their bodies or bring them home.

The victims came from several districts, including Gopalganj, Mymensingh, Narayanganj, Jamalpur, Pabna, Chapainawabganj, Faridpur, Rajbari and Gazipur.

Asaduzzaman said investigators had also gathered preliminary evidence suggesting that nationals of several other countries had been recruited through similar methods to fight in the war.

The SRB said a Russian national named Igor and a Kyrgyzstani woman named Julia were also allegedly involved in the operation, alongside Bangladeshi members of the ring.

The battalion is gathering information about the two foreign suspects and conducting drives to arrest another alleged syndicate member, identified as Mostafizur.

In March, a joint investigation by Bangkok-based Fortify Rights and Ukraine-based Truth Hounds found that at least 104 Bangladeshis had been recruited into the Russian military by February 2026, with at least 34 reportedly killed in the fighting. Researchers interviewed survivors, relatives of the deceased and other sources in Bangladesh and Ukraine.

The investigation found that recruiters targeted economically vulnerable men with promises of jobs as cleaners, factory workers, electricians and security guards. Some travelled through Saudi Arabia or the United Arab Emirates before reaching Russia, where they were allegedly forced to sign military contracts in Russian, a language they did not understand.

Several reported receiving little training before being sent to the front lines, while others described beatings, unpaid wages, passport confiscation and threats when they tried to escape.

In April 2025, The Daily Star reported that the Criminal Investigation Department's Human Trafficking Cell was investigating allegations that Dhaka-based Dream Home Travel had trafficked around 20 Bangladeshis to Russia with promises of civilian jobs paying monthly salaries of Tk 2 lakh to Tk 2.5 lakh.

Investigators said at the time that three of the men had been killed after allegedly being forced into combat.