Wife beaten to death

by husband for dowry our correspondent, Lalmonirhat

A young woman has been allegedly beaten to death by her husband over a domestic dispute involving a Tk

50,000 dowry in the Kaliganj upazila of Lalmonirhat. The incident took place on Wednesday at Dakshin Dalgram Tetultala village of the upazila's Dalgram

The deceased was identified as Mousumi Rani

She was the mother of a three-and-a-half-year-old

Police recovered her body Wednesday night and sent it to Lalmonirhat Sadar Hospital morgue for

Following the incident, her husband, Milon Chandra

Milon is the son of Naresh Chandra Roy of Dakshin

Laboni's father, Manik, filed a written complaint

According to Manik, Milon got Tk 5 lakh in cash and

As a continuation of that abuse, Laboni was

beaten to death on Wednesday, said Manik. "To divert

attention from the issue, Milon and his family members

SI Ershad said the police would take action after

told everyone that Laboni had died of electrocution."

with Kaliganj Police Station against Milon and four

a motorcycle as dowry at the time of the wedding five

years ago. For the past six months, Milon and his family members had been beating Laboni so that she would

autopsy, said Kaliganj Police Station Sub-Inspector (SI)

Roy, 28, and his family members left their home, he

Dalgram Tetultala village of Dalgram union.

members of his family in this connection.

ask Manik for Tk 50,000.

receiving the autopsy report.

Laboni, 25, daughter of Manik Chandra Roy of Jawrani

Dakshin Sardarpara village in Bhelaguri union of the

district's Hatibandha upazila.

Ershad Hossain.

added.

ARMED FORCES DAY Khaleda receives warm welcome

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia made her first public appearance in six years yesterday when she attended the Armed Forces Day reception at

This also marked her first attendance at the annual celebration

During the reception, Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus exchanged greetings with Khaleda. The two were seated next to each other and were

minister arrived at the venue around

She was accompanied by Sharmila Rahman, the wife of her late son Arafat Rahman Koko, and BNP standing committee member, Dr AZM Zahid Hossain.

According to party sources, upon her arrival at Senakunja, Khaleda Zia was greeted by the Chief of Army Staff General Waker-uz-Zaman, the Chief of Navy Admiral Mohammad Nazmul Hasan, and the Chief of Air Force Air

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Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus adorns army chief General Waker-uz-Zaman with a rank badge at the Dhaka Cantonment yesterday on the occasion of the Armed Forces Day.

New Election Commission takes shape

Awal, resigned. The EC had never been vacant for this long since it was founded in 1972.

Awal and the other commissioners were about halfway through their five-year tenure.

On October 29, the interim government formed a six-member search committee led by Justice Zubayer Rahman Chowdhury of the Supreme Court's Appellate Division to come up with the names of two individuals for each EC membership.

BNP and several other parties proposed the names of Nasir and former secretary Shafiqul Islam as the chief election commissioner (CEC).

bureaucrat to be in the position. REACTIONS OF NEW

COMMISSIONERS

Prime

Nasir said he would leave no stones unturned for a free, fair, and credible election. The commission will work independently with the goal of establishing people's right to vote.

who nominated me. I will work independently. If I find out which party chose me and which did not, it might make me biassed, even if

subconsciously," he said.
"We must learn from [past ECs'] mistakes. We aim to avoid those flaws so that no allegations are raised

All political parties desire a free 1983. and fair election, he said.

one particular party, he said, High Court Division before being

"I would rather not comment on this at the moment. When it is time for the election, we will see. You will see. We aim to include everyone in the electoral process, but for now, I refrain from making comments.'



Rahmanel Masud

meeting the After other commissioners, he will sit with the electoral reform commission and set

Born in 1952 at Kutubdia, Cox's Bazar, Nasir studied economics at Chittagong University. He was a lecturer at the same department for a brief period before joining the civil service in 1979.

of information, energy, and health before retiring in 2010. Rahmanel retired as a member of the Administrative Tribunal-1 in Dhaka in 2017. He began his career

judiciary as an assistant judge in he said.

through the 11th BCS exams. She

promoted as a district judge in 2000.

at private universities and wrote

She joined the civil administration

The former judge also taught law

Tahmida was born in Sunamganj.



about legal matters.

Abul Fazal Tahmida Ahmad



Brig Gen (retd) Sanaullah joined the army in 1988 and served for 34 and a half years. His last work station was Bangladesh High Commission in Islamabad. Prior to this, he worked at the Bangladesh Embassy in Tehran. He also studied at Defence Services Command and Staff College, National Defence College, US Army Command and General Staff College, and College of Defence Management,

"I am grateful. This is a huge responsibility, but I am sure we will be able to meet people's aspirations,"

Anwarul joined the public service He worked as an assistant through the BCS exams in 1985. He There are controversies regarding registrar and deputy registrar at the retired as additional secretary to the

Armed forces

"Today, I recall with great respect all the brave martyrs who sacrificed their lives in the war," he added.

The chief adviser also remembered

all those who were martyred and injured in the July uprising. "Their sacrifice has created a new scope to rebuild the

At the onset of his speech, Prof Yunus expressed gratitude to former prime minister and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia for joining the reception despite her illness. The chief adviser wished Khaleda Zia a speedy recovery.

Earlier in the day, Prof Yunus said

the interim government wants to build Bangladesh in such a way that the people become the true source of all power.

"We want to establish the idea that we are all equal. None is above anyone and

The chief adviser made the remark

none is below anyone in national life," he

while addressing a reception accorded to the gallantry award-winning freedom fighters and their inheritors arranged by the Armed Forces Division in Dhaka Cantonment's Multipurpose Complex.

He also said his government's responsibility is to bind people into a larger family.

There will be differences of opinion in the family... but we will not be enemies to each other. We will not think of anyone as an enemy because of his or her opinion. We will not consider anyone an enemy because of religion," he added.

The chief adviser also paid respects to the award-winning and war-wounded freedom fighters and all the family members of the valiant freedom fighters.

No one paying any tolls

FROM PAGE 1

In many cases, they claimed that the tolls collected had already surpassed the cost of constructing the bridges and thus refused to allow further toll collection, according to officials. The issue was discussed during the

monthly coordination meeting of the Road Transport and Highways Division on September 24. The meeting decided that the division will send a letter to the home ministry seeking help for toll collection on the 16 bridges, read the meeting minutes.

A subsequent monthly coordination meeting on October 29 discussed the same issue. The meeting was informed that a letter was sent to the home ministry, and toll collection from 12 bridges was halted.

The meeting also decided to send a second letter to the home ministry.

According to the RHD, as of yesterday, toll collection from nine bridges remained suspended. At one bridge, battery-run

rickshaws are not paying toll. The nine bridges are: Shambhuganj Bridge, Khurshid Mahal Bridge, Banar Bridge and Rafiq Uddin Bhuiyan Bridge in Mymensingh; Chandpur Bridge in Chandpur; Toilardwip Bridge in South Chattogram; Dalla Bridge (Shaheed

Rumi Bridge in Kushtia; Tulshikhali and Maricha bridges in Munshiganj.

Battery-run rickshaws are not paying tolls on Mohananda Bridge in Chapainawabganj. Tolls for seven of these bridges are

handling toll collection for three, shows document. The government is losing revenue due

o the suspension of toll collection, but

Hasan said they were trying to resume toll collection from the 10 bridges through discussions with the local administrations

he told The Daily Star yesterday.

Moinul said they were collecting tolls following a toll policy, and they have to do so until the government declares those toll-free.

Officials said there is no government policy for stopping toll collections for

Toll collection is a source of government income which is supposed to be used for maintenance of roads and

bridges, they added.

18-member executive

Rashidul Islam Rifat, Nusrat Tabassum, Lutfor Rahman, Ahnaf Sayeed Khan, Tarekul Islam Reza, Tarikul Islam, Mehrab Hossain Sifat, Asadullah Al Galib, Mohammad Rakib, Sinthia Jahin Ayesha, Asad Bin Rony, Nayeem Abedin, Mahmuda Sultana Rimi, Ibrahim Nirob, Rasel Ahmed, Rafiqul Islam, and Muinul

While unveiling the central committee on October 22, Abdul Kader, a coordinator of the movement, said, "This committee will not emerge as a political

He said the formation of the committee was based on the opinions of

A complete list of those martyred and injured during the July-August mass uprising will be published by December 31, said Sarjis Alam, general secretary of

"We want this list of the injured to remain unquestionable -- not just today, but even 20 years from now," he told reporters at a press briefing organised by the foundation and the health ministry

yesterday. To ensure that, the foundation is

verifying every case with the highest caution. By the end of November, verification

of information concerning the martyrs' families will be complete, said Sarjis, a key coordinator of the Students Against Discrimination movement.

The financial assistance for the injured has been increased from Tk 1 lakh to 3 lakh with lifelong allowances for those unable to work, said Mir Mahbubur Rahman Snigdho, chief executive officer of the foundation.

Those who spent out-of-pocket on medical bills will be reimbursed under a second initiative taken by the foundation.

submit proof of their expenses to the foundation's mobile number, and after thorough verification, the amount will be reimbursed.

will receive Tk 5 lakh as financial aid through the July Martyrs Memorial Foundation along with employment or economic support for their dependents,

All injured individuals verified under cards and lifelong free treatment at all government hospitals, said Md Savedur Rahman, special assistant to the health ministry.

They will be provided with priority fast-track services, while any unavailable treatments at public hospitals will be arranged through contracted private

the costs. The government has designated the cabin block of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital as a multi-disciplinary treatment centre, offering outpatient services and

pecialised care for the injured. As part of ongoing efforts, patients in critical condition are already being sent abroad via air ambulance for treatment,

with more expected to follow, he said. For complex cases, such as eye injuries, foreign specialists will be consulted, and

robotic therapy, will be gradually introduced, and expert teams from

A nationwide network of hospitals including divisional and specialised facilities, will be established to ensure injured individuals receive timely and

Bodi: Yaba overlord's reign of terror On November 2, 2016, a Dhaka court home and tortured at the police station

members, relatives, and close aides through the surrendering arrangements.

Each of the self-confessed yaba

godfathers was out of jail after one and a half years. Despite being accused of leading

such a big network, he has not yet faced any coordinated investigation by government agencies.

This exemption made him the most powerful person of Teknaf and Ukhiya over the last 15 year. NO DRUG CHARGES

During the BNP-led alliance government's tenure, four cases were filed against Bodi on charges of murder, rape, and repression of women while he was the mayor of Teknaf municipality.

All those lawsuits were withdrawn as the plying of battery-run rickshaws "politically motivated cases" during the on highways and flyovers across the erm of the AL government after Bodi became a ruling party lawmaker.

During the army-backed caretaker government, the ACC filed a case with Double Mooring Police Station in Chattogram on December 17, 2007 against Bodi on charges of amassing wealth of Tk 66.7 lakh beyond known source of income.

The charge sheet in that case has been submitted and witness deposition is almost complete. The case is now pending with the court of Senior Special Metropolitan Sessions Judge in Chattogram, said Sanwar Hossain Lavlu, ACC public prosecutor in Chattogram.

For the delay in the trial, he blamed the absence of a judge in this court, appeals pending with the High Court and the Appellate Division, and the concerned to take steps to ban Covid-19 pandemic.

> His name appeared on a list of suspected yaba smugglers, prepared by the Department of Narcotics Control (DNC) in 2014. However, the agency did not go ahead with the investigation.

We cannot file a case against a person who amassed illegal assets. We can only take action against the person who is arrested with any kind of drugs," said Sirajul Mostafa, assistant Director of Cox's Bazar DNC.

sentenced Bodi to three years in prison for "concealing" and "deliberately" providing false wealth statements to the ACC in March 2014.

He was also fined Tk 10 lakh, in default of which he will have to spend three more months in jail. He landed in jail but came out after

securing bail from the High Court. ACC lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star that the case is still

pending with the High Court. In December 2017, the DNC sent the ACC a list of 141 yaba godfathers, including Bodi and his family members, requesting probe into their wealth, several DNC officials said.

The ACC had indeed started investigating the wealth of Bodi's brothers, nephew, cousin, and cousin's wife, but not the former MP.

Reaz Uddin, an assistant director of ACC's integrated office in Cox's Bazar, told the correspondent that the inquiries against Bodi's brothers Abdur Shukkur, Mubibur Rahman, uncle Md Islam, nephew Nipu and some others were still underway.

'MAFIA' Bodi was elected MP from Cox's Bazar-4 (Ukhiya-Teknaf) constituency in the 9th and 10th parliamentary elections as an AL candidate.

The party nominated his wife Shaheen Akhter in the 11th and 12th national polls as he was convicted in a corruption case. She was elected MP in both elections. Though Shaheen was the MP,

Bodi acted as a "shadow king" in the constituency, according to local politicians. They said Bodi's network of criminals also included human traffickers, extortionists, and illegal remittance channel operators. After the AL was ousted on August 5,

and looting of Teknaf BNP leader Mohammad Abdullah's businesses. Abdullah, finance secretary of Cox's Bazar district BNP, said, Bodi had filed at least 50 cases against him. "My elderly father was picked up from our

Bodi was arrested by the Rapid Action

Battalion from Chattogram's GEC area

on August 20 in a case over vandalism

on his instruction," he said.

"Many politicians of other parties had taken advantage from and compromised with Bodi. But I didn't.

"He is a mafia. He smuggled yaba and arms into the country," the BNP

legal cattle corridor from Myanmar and smuggled cows through hilly bordering areas to establish a monopoly in the business.

through his relative Omar Faruq and bought hundreds of acres of land in the name of Faruq and many of his close aides, according to the BNP leader.

the jail gates," Abdullah said.

going on to let Bodi get out despite many serious allegations against him. Farug could not be contacted for

comments on the allegations made by Abdullah since the former is reportedly

Despite Bodi and many of the drug lords in jail or hiding, yaba trade is still going on unrestrained in Teknaf.

Some of his close aides were trying to blend in with the supporters of other political parties, said locals who wished not to be named.

Teknaf, are roaming freely in Teknaf. The ACC in recent months seized Moniruzzaman's wealth worth around Tk 4.16 crore and Enamul's Tk 35 lakh,

around 80 lakh yaba pills and 32 kg of crystal meth were recovered in Cox's Bazar this year until September. The hauls recovered last year

abroad will assist in providing the service.

the scrapping of the decision to ban battery-run rickshaws on Dhaka streets.

at event

referring to the Awami League.

Nasir Uddin, aged 72, would be the 14th CEC and the seventh former

"I am not interested in knowing

He was also a member of the Planning Commission and served as the secretary to the ministries

in 1981 as a lawyer and joined the

sports ministry.

That's why he was angry with me.

leader added. Abdullah alleged Bodi closed the

Bodi also controlled the Teknaf Port

"I have video footage where Bodi is ordering his goons to set my petrol pump on fire. In the footage, he is seen shooting with a gun at my business centre. However, police didn't recover the gun and completed the remand at

He alleged a conspiracy was still

UNRESTRAINED YABA TRADE

Two of Bodi's accomplices, Md Moniruzzaman and Enamul Haque of

allegedly earned through vaba trade. According to the district police,

totalled over 1.5 crore yaba pills and 78 kg of crystal meth.

being collected by lessees while RHD is

the RHD cannot give the figure. RHD Chief Engineer Syed Moinul

and the communities. "The number of bridges from which toll collection is not possible is decreasing,

those bridges where toll collection has exceeded construction costs.

Rafiq Bridge) in Dhaka; Syed Masood

FROM PAGE 1

158 coordinators across the country LIST OF MARTYRS, INJURED SOON

the July Martyrs Memorial Foundation.

The injured individuals can Additionally, families of the deceased

he added. the programme will receive unique ID

facilities, with the government covering

patients may be sent abroad for advanced procedures. New physiotherapy facilities, including

efficient treatment.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Senakunja in Dhaka Cantonment.

in 12 years.

seen interacting cordially. The 79-year-old former prime

3:30pm from her Gulshan residence.

AFP, Bucharest Nato member Romania yesterday signed a deal with Washington to buy 32 F-35 jets, citing an "acute need

for credible deterrent and defensive

capabilities" as war rages on in

Romania signs deal with US to

buy F-35 jets

neighbouring Ukraine.

With an estimated cost of \$6.5 billion approved by Romania's parliament, it is the most expensive military purchase by the poor eastern European country, which has gained in strategic importance since Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022. The F-35A combat aircraft, which

are expected to begin arriving in

the early 2030s, will "significantly

strengthen" Romania's defence

Minister Marcel Ciolacu said at the

Romanian

signing ceremony.

Electric rickshaw FROM PAGE 1

capabilities.

Hossain, 45, a battery-run rickshaw driver said his seven-member family depends on his income and it will put them under serious hardship if the government bans battery-run

He said they just want to be able

to use their battery-run rickshaws in

Dhaka city to earn a living. It's the government who should tell them on which streets they can drive, he said. Humayun Kabir, a driver who is from Raipur of Lakhmipur, said his four-member family moved to Dhaka FROM PAGE 1

a few years ago as there was a scarcity

battery-powered rickshaw for the

last two months after taking out a

"I have been running my own

of work in their village.

loan of around Tk 80,000 to buy the rickshaw. I cannot do other work as my left leg got broken in an accident last vear.' He said he has to pay Tk 2,200

every week as instalment for the

loan and it will take him another 10 months to pay off the loan. Meanwhile, supreme court lawver Md Bahauddin Al Imran yesterday sent a legal notice to the authorities concerned, asking them to take necessary steps in three days to stop

country. If they do not take steps, a writ petition will be moved before the HC, seeking necessary directives, he said in the legal notice.

On Tuesday evening, Afsana Karim

Rachi, a student of the 53rd batch

(2023-24 session) of the Department

of Marketing at Jahangirnagar

University, died after being hit by a battery-run rickshaw on the campus. According to witnesses, the victim was crossing the road in front of the New Arts Building when a batteryrun rickshaw struck her at speed and pinned her to a tree.

Earlier on May 15, former road

transport and bridges minister

Obaidul Quader asked the authorities

battery-run rickshaws on Dhaka streets. Battery-run rickshaw drivers on May 18 took to the streets and clashed with police that left at least

Then on May 19, former prime minister Sheikh Hasina instructed