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AUGUST 23, 2012

## Accused of killing husband with coffee mug

**LOS ANGELES:** A prominent professional tennis referee who was preparing to officiate at the US Open in New York was arrested on Tuesday on a felony murder warrant accusing her of bludgeoning her elderly husband to death with a coffee mug.

Lois Ann Goodman, 70, was taken into custody on a warrant filed a week ago by the Los Angeles County district attorney's office charging her with the April 17 slaying of her husband, Alan Goodman, who was 80 years old, prosecutors said.

The district attorney's office said Goodman would remain in custody in New York to await being sent to Los Angeles, where she faces a maximum sentence of life in prison if convicted. Prosecutors said they would ask for bail to be set at US\$1 million (RM3.1 million).

She is accused of killing her husband by beating him to death with a coffee cup at the couple's home in the Woodland Hills section of Los Angeles.

According to Los Angeles police Lieutenant Dave Storaker, Goodman had called authorities to report that she found her husband dead in their home, with no sign of forced entry, and assumed he had fallen down some stairs after suffering a heart attack.

Details of her account however immediately aroused suspicions, and police subsequently conducted several searches of the home for evidence, which included a broken coffee cup that roughly matched the multiple bruises on the victim's head.

Storaker said the coroner ruled the death a homicide on Aug 2. - Reuters

# Two-pronged approach

> Random checks and database to monitor errant public transport drivers

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**PETALING JAYA:** The Land Public Transport Commission (SPAD) is adopting a two-pronged approach to monitor drivers of commercial and public transport vehicles to improve road safety.

SPAD chief operating officer Azhar Ahmad told *theSun* the two-pronged approach involves:

- ▶ building a database of commercial and public service vehicle (PSV) drivers, and
- ▶ conducting random drugs test on these drivers with the help of the National Drug Agency.

Azhar said the database will include information of PSV drivers who have previous violations such as driving under the influence of drugs and alcohol as well as traffic offences such as reckless driving.

The database will not only be accessible to law enforcement agencies like the Road Transport Department and the police but also to operators of lorry transport, bus, limousine and taxi companies.

The database, announced by SPAD chairman Tan Sri Syed Hamid Albar in June last year, is aimed at helping the commission regulate the industry and provide up-to-date information on drivers.

It is derived from information gathered during a licensing re-registration exercise conducted since last year.

Under the exercise, all commercial and public vehicle operators had to submit information on all the drivers they employed, including their MyKad number and public service vehicle licence number.

Azhar said the database, which also integrates police records and those of the RTD, is expected to be ready for use by the end of the year.

Through the database, SPAD will have access to the employment history of a commercial or public transport vehicle



ZULKIFLI ERSAL/ THE SUN

**NEVER TOO YOUNG** ... 20-month-old Nur Shuhada Samsul shows her Malaysian spirit by helping her parents decorate their home in Sentul, Kuala Lumpur, with the Jalur Gemilang for the upcoming 55th Merdeka celebrations this month.

driver as well as information on any offences, including drug use.

Asked if the public will be able to access this database, Azhar said that details of drivers and the operators are confidential.

However, the commission will consider allowing the public access to information on the quality of public transport operators via a "rating system".

For example, the public can find out if a particular express bus operator has a record of employing drivers who have been caught for

using drugs, or if its vehicles have been involved in serious accidents.

An operator with many complaints lodged against it will be rated lower than an operator with a clean record.

"We will look into these in the interest of public safety," said Azhar, adding that in the meantime, people can call up the commission's customer service division for information on drivers or operators.

Commenting on the 46 express bus drivers who tested positive for drugs under "Op

Selamat" in conjunction with Aidilfitri this year, Azhar said they will be penalised accordingly under the Road Transport Act.

Confirmation of the positive drugs tests was verified by the National Drug Agency on samples collected from 32 bus terminals throughout the country.

"Op Selamat", which was launched on Aug 12, will end on Sunday.

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