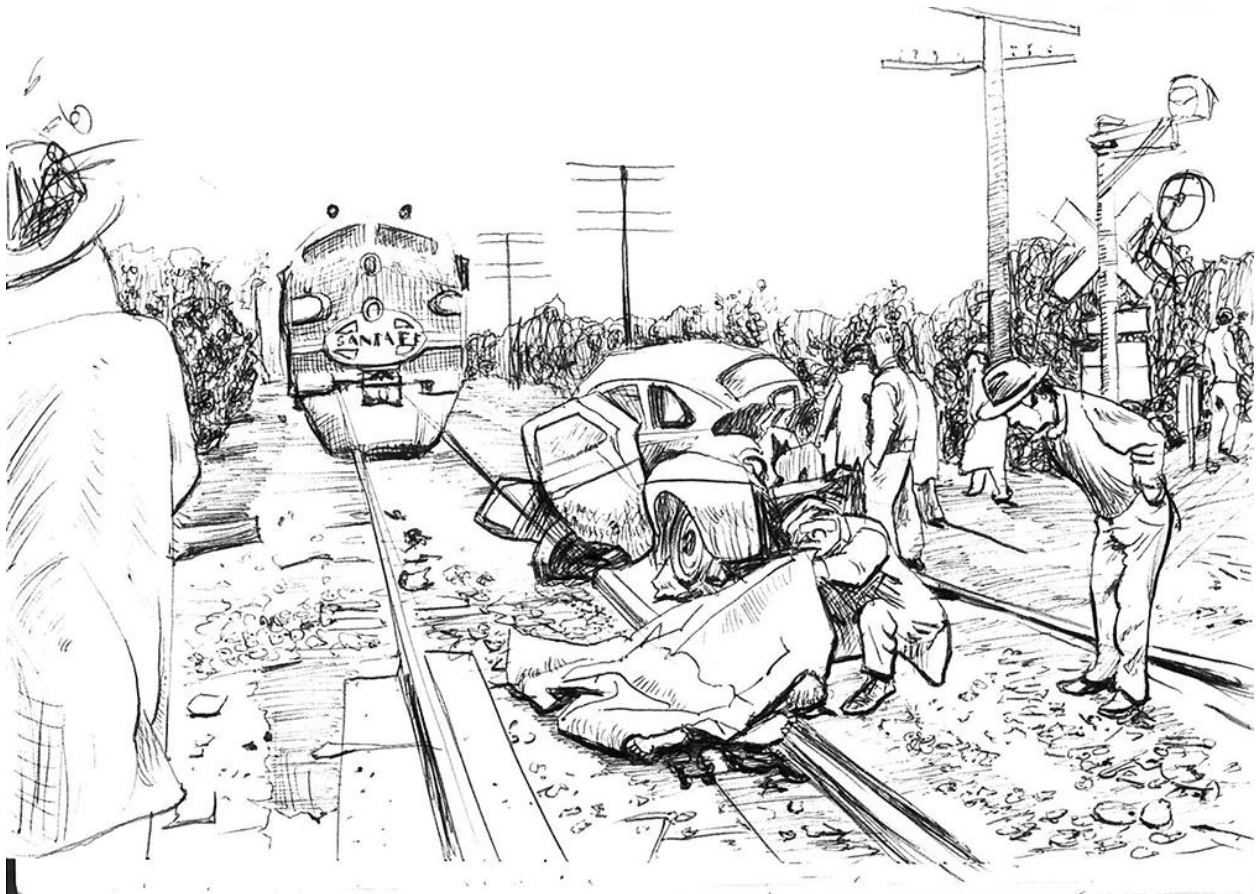


ACCIDENT



Couple, two sons among six dead as picnickers' van catches fire

Six people, including a couple and their two sons, were burnt to death when the van they were travelling in caught fire in the Garden area on Sunday morning, police and rescuers said.

City SSP Adeel Chandio said that two families were heading towards the Hawkesbay beach for picnic and they made a brief stopover near the Karachi Zoo where the tragedy happened.

He said the exact cause of the fire had not been confirmed.

Garden SHO Ghulam Nabi Afridi explained that families of two brothers, residents of Chandni Chowk in Soldier Bazaar, rented a van to go on picnic on Sunday morning.

Around 11 members of the two families were travelling in the van and they stopped near the zoo to pick a few more relatives of theirs before 7am.

The area SHO said that when the van reached near the Saifi building, the occupants of the vehicle heard some noise from the engine.

Some of them, including children, sitting next to the driver's seat with the driver got off the vehicle apparently to fix the problem (By Imtiaz Ali, Dawn News, 15, 14/08/2017)

Karachi van tragedy

THE tragedy that took place in Karachi on Sunday is an awful reminder that Pakistan's roads need cleaning up, that the law is not enforced and that society lacks awareness of even basic safety standards. Six people were burned to death when the van in which they were travelling suddenly exploded in flames.

Two families had rented the vehicle for a trip to Hawkesbay beach. Some 11 persons were seated in the van and they stopped near the zoo to pick up more people. Hearing an odd noise from the engine, the driver stopped.

According to the police, the battery had caught fire while there was also a gas leak from the CNG tank; even as some of the occupants poured water on the fire, the van exploded into a fireball.

The six persons still in the vehicle were unable to open the door — typically this sort of vehicle has a sliding door — and were killed. As per the latest reports, a charge of manslaughter has been registered against the driver and the van's owner. Both of them are in custody. Initial investigations show that the driver was under the influence of narcotics.

Regarding the culpability of these persons, the law will take its own course. However, the fact remains that while there are regulations on the books about vehicle safety and maintenance standards, especially those that are used for public transport, they are rarely, if ever, enforced.

. This is obvious from a cursory glance at the traffic on any of the country's roads. Patently unfit vehicles of all sorts are in use, with the traffic police helpless in enforcing the law amidst the chaos that reigns supreme.

Even so, the onus cannot be placed solely on the authorities; it is obvious that citizens themselves, including owners, operators and passengers of vehicles, remain unconcerned about their own and others' safety. In terms of traffic safety, Pakistan is in a double bind, and it is difficult to see light at the end of the tunnel. (Dawn News, 08, 15/08/2017)

Police yet to arrest driver who ran over woman at Seaview

Despite the passage of a couple of days after the killing of a mother of three children in a hit-and-run case at Seaview, the police have yet to arrest the driver responsible for the accident.



A woman, who was later identified as Sana Khurram, 32, wife of Ali Khurram Pasha, had lost her life in a road accident near Sea View Apartments late Friday night. However, the family identified her on Saturday night at a morgue after the news spread through social media.

The police officials claimed that they were looking for the driver responsible for the accident. "We are waiting for the family to register a case so that we can transfer the case to our investigation wing to arrest the driver," said Darakhshan police Post Incharge Khamiso Khan. The police have identified the owner of the car, who hails from Thatta, he claimed. The officer rejected the rumors that the woman had left her house for committing suicide over a family dispute. "It was a 100% accident case while all are rumours," the officer declared.

Road accident claims woman's life

According to the deceased's family, Sana had gone out of the house for a routine walk when the accident took place. "The accident took place when my daughter left home for a walk," Javed Pasha, the deceased's father, told The Express Tribune. He was hopeful that the police will soon arrest the perpetrator. "The owner of the car has been traced and the police will arrest him soon," he said.

Eyewitness account

There were some eye-witnesses, who saw the driver fleeing the site and the victim breathing her last. Aqib Baloch was one of them. He narrated the story through social media.

"I was on my way to pick my brother up from Seaview Apartments. I took the main Seaview route, which is partially dark at night due to bad street lights. When I came near Chunky Monkey, I saw a woman with her phone in [her] hand and earphones on, who seemed to be was on her way home after jogging on the sea front. As she reached the middle of the road, suddenly a white Toyota Corolla passed me accelerating at a speed of [70 kilometre per hour] to 80kph," Baloch posted on the social media.



"Due to earphones, she couldn't notice the horns and headed towards the service lane slowly. When she noticed the car heading towards her, with no time to react, [she] got stunned in the middle of the road and stood straight in her place. On the other hand, the person driving the car made no effort to save that poor soul and ran over her. As soon as [he] ran over that woman, he did not stop for a second and ran away from the scene," Baloch claimed.

11 killed, 20 injured in Layyah bus accident

Speaking to The Express Tribune, Baloch said as this all happened within five to 10 seconds, he went into a state of shock for a while as he had not witnessed such an accident before. "When I stopped my car, the first thing that came into my mind was to cover her body up and call the ambulance."

"People nearby rushed to help. Cars and motorcycles stopped to provide a helping hand and the police from the nearest police station came to have a look. A couple shouted in the middle 'try to call her relatives for identification'. Interestingly, her mobile phone had also been stolen by someone in the crowd," narrated Baloch. He further reported that a couple from the crowd took her to the nearest private hospital in Defence where she was pronounced dead.

Medico-legal formalities

The body was later shifted to the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre (JPMC) where the post-mortem was performed on Saturday due to the unavailability of the lady medico-legal officer (MLO) on Friday.

Three professors die in accident

When contacted, JPMC Executive Director Dr Seemin Jamali clarified that there is a massive shortage of lady MLOs in the hospital. "We have only one lady MLO," she admitted. "We have also asked the health secretary to provide us with at least 10 lady MLOs," she said.

(By Faraz Khan The Express Tribune 13, 28/08/2017)

Karachi's only traffic accident data compilation project shuts down

The Road Traffic Injury Research and Prevention Programme (RTIRPP) was the only programme through which data regarding road traffic accidents in Karachi was collected but now that the programme has been shut down.

Any accidents that occur in the city now will not be compiled into a collective data package. The programme is being shut down due to lack of funding.

Dr Rashid Jooma, a neurosurgeon at the Aga Khan University Hospital, began the programme in 2006 and worked without government help ever since.

When Dr Jooma first started the project he collected data from five hospitals in Karachi – the Aga Khan University Hospital, Liaquat National Hospital, Civil Hospital Karachi, Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre and Abbasi Shaheed Hospital.

Two killed in road accidents

According to Dr Jooma, there is no collective compilation of traffic accident data in the country. We raised our voices on every forum but the Sindh government was not interested in compiling the data. "In Karachi dozens of pedestrian bridges are built in technically incorrect manners and directions as they are far from bus stops, which is why pedestrians do not use them. This is a main cause of traffic accidents in Karachi," he explained.

He told Express News that not only was he compiling figures of road traffic accidents, he was using the data to research the main causes of such accidents.

According to a former employee of the programme, road traffic engineering in Pakistan's biggest city has not received any importance, which is why the RTIRPP has been shut down – due to lack of funds as well as lack of interest of the authorities.

According to Dr Jooma, he is not interested in starting the project again in the future, all he can do is share his experience if the provincial government ever decides to restart the data collection process. He said now that the Asian Development Bank has given the Sindh government a loan to construct security corridors on highways, we can hope that the government will look into this project in the future.

Three die in road accident

According to Dr Seemin Jamali, executive director at Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre, the hospital is treating 200 patients daily who are injured in traffic accidents. She said the collection of traffic accident data at the hospital is our responsibility, but said Dr Jooma's programme was a major project for the betterment of traffic issues in the city. Now the project has been shut down, and there is no one in the city to compile data of road traffic accidents, she said, urging the government to play its part to create a department that can collect data from all hospitals in the city, both public and private.

(By Fasahat Fatima THE EXPRESS TRIBUNE 13, 03/10/2017)

Two girls, brother crushed to death by water tanker

Two sisters and their brother were crushed to death by a speeding water tanker in Shah Faisal Colony on Saturday, officials said. The three were riding a motorbike when apparently a fast-moving 18-wheeler water tanker went out of the control of its driver and overturned on their bike, said Shah Faisal Colony SHO A.D. Chaudhry.

They died on the spot. The police and rescue services with the help of heavy machinery removed the water tanker and recovered the victims. Their bodies were taken to the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre for legal formalities.

"The bodies of the brother and sisters were crushed badly," said Dr Seemin Jamali, executive director of the hospital.

The errant driver of the tanker escaped, but the police arrested its cleaner, Shoaib, said the SHO.

When the tanker overturned, its water spilled in Shah Faisal Colony No. 2 and mixed with diesel, which leaked from the tanker.

The police called in heavy machinery to clear the road for public transport by removing the tanker.

The victims were identified as Abdul Jabbar, 18, his sisters, Quratul Ain, 13, and Zaibunnisa, 12.
(Dawn 17, 12/11/2017)

31 schoolchildren, three teachers injured as dumper truck hits bus

At least 31 schoolchildren and three teachers sustained injuries when a dumper truck hit a coaster hired by a school for a picnic party on Northern Bypass on Saturday morning, police and hospital officials said.

The condition of five schoolgirls, including two sisters, was stated to be critical. They were admitted to different hospitals.

The driver of the dumper truck, Amir Baz, was arrested and the vehicle impounded, the Gulshan-i-Maymar police station acting SHO, Akbar Ali, said.

The SHO said the management of a private school in Surjani Town had hired three coasters for a picnic party. They were on their way to a water park in Gadap.

When they reached at Abbas Cut on the Northern Bypass, a dumper truck hit one of the coasters in which around 40 students and teachers were travelling.

It was a head-on collision between the truck and the bus, said the officer.

As a result, around 31 children and three teachers sustained injuries.

They were taken to a nearby private hospital in Gulshan-i-Maymar, the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital and the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre for treatment.

However, 30 wounded persons were discharged after first aid, said the SHO.

Five schoolgirls were admitted for further treatment. One of the girls, eight-year-old Afza, was taken to the JPMC.

"She received wounds on her head and her condition was critical," said Dr Seemin Jamali, executive director of the JPMC.

Four other girl students who were admitted to the Abbasi Hospital were identified as two sisters, Aleeza Nadeem and Sawera Nadeem, Hufsa Nasir and Uzma Rafiq — all aged between 10 to 12 years.

Their condition was serious, said the police officer.
(Dawn 17, 19/11/2017)

34 students, teachers injured in dumper-van collision on Northern Bypass

At least 34 students and teachers were injured on Saturday in a tragic accident on Northern Bypass. Five of the injured were said to be in critical condition.

Witnesses and rescue volunteers said that the accident took place when a speedy dumper hit a coaster carrying over 50 students and teachers of a private school, who were en route a farmhouse for a picnic in the Gadap area from their school in Surjani Town.

13 dead in Pindi road accident

"The coaster had turned turtle and was on the roadside when we reached the site," narrated Muhammad Asif, a volunteer of the Chhipa Welfare Association. "The victims, particularly students, were crying in pain. They were in a state of shock," he said.

Later, more volunteers and police officials also joined them and participated in the rescue operation. The victims were initially shifted to a nearby private hospital from where most of the victims were discharged after receiving first aid treatment, however, at least five of them were later moved to Abbasi Shaheed Hospital and Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre as the doctors termed their condition critical.

The critically injured students included Rida, Aliza, Hifza, Afshan and Shama.

Karachi's only traffic accident data compilation project shuts down

"Most of the students had internal injuries, especially on their faces and abdomen," said Dr Fahim of Abbasi Shaheed Hospital. "We have shifted two of the students into the intensive-care unit."

The students and teachers injured in the accident belonged to Surjani Town, from where they were going to a farmhouse for a picnic. The injured students were aged between 12 and 16 years.

The school administration said that they made arrangements for the picnic following the end of the students' examinations.

"There were two more coasters comprising students and teachers, but both the coasters had crossed the area before the accident took place," said the school administration. "We had no idea about how the accident took place but it seems that the accident occurred when a speedy dumper hit the coaster."

Six-year-old child dies in road accident

The students and teachers on the three coasters were on their way to Gadap Town from Surjani via Gulshan-e-Maymar and the accident took place near Abbas Kut on Northern Bypass.

An extra contingent of law enforcers reached the scene. The coaster driver managed to escape the scene following the accident. However, the police have arrested the dumper driver and impounded the dumper and coaster.

The arrested driver, Ameer, is a resident of Korangi and was driving a truck loaded with reti bajri.

Son going to hospital to collect father's body killed in road accident

SHO Ali Akbar said that apparently the dumper, which was coming from the opposite side, hit the coaster which suggested that the dumper driver was responsible for the accident. He said that a few of the students went unconscious following the accident, however, the volunteers rescued them by breaking the coaster windows before shifting them to the hospital.

No case was registered as the officer said that a case would be registered after initial investigations were made and statements of the students, teachers and drivers were recorded.

(THE EXPRESS TRIBUNE 13, 19/11/2017)

Speeding tanker kills teenager, injures family members

A teenager was crushed to death while her family members were injured on Tuesday when a speeding tanker hit them while they were asleep inside their home in Korangi Industrial Area.



The accident took place when the family was asleep inside their home located at Darul Uloom Colony, within the limits of the Awami Colony police station. "A speeding oil tanker crushed them after it collided with the walls of their house," said witnesses. They added that the driver and cleaner managed to escape the scene.

24 killed, 66 injured in bus crash near Chakwal

Upon hue and cry, a score of neighbours gathered at the spot and started a rescue operation themselves. Ambulances from different welfare associations also reached the site and shifted the victims to Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre. However, a sixteen-year-old girl, identified as Naureen, daughter of Nazeer succumbed to her injuries.

The injured included Abdul Hakeem, his wife Fatima and their children, Kamran, Shumaila, Naila, Sohail, Noman, Farman and Adnan.

13 dead in Pindi road accident

"Hakeem's house had two portions, one was occupied by his family while the other was rented by Naureen and her family," a resident of the neighbourhood said. Naureen was the eldest among three siblings and her marriage was scheduled in January, said her father, Nazeer. "We had planned her marriage in our hometown, Bhawalnagar," he added. Her mother, a garment factory worker, was the only breadwinner of the house.

The family said that they did not want to register a case, however, they only wanted compensation so that they could take the body to their hometown for burial.

Three killed, 10 injured in road accident

The situation turned violent when neighbours gathered and tried to stop the police team from removing the oil tanker from the site. A scuffle broke out between the police and the residents. An extra contingent of the police was called to disperse the protesters. The police resorted to aerial firing, baton-charging and tear gas shelling to disperse the crowd. The protesters resisted and pelted the police with stones. "We want the driver to be arrested immediately," demanded the mob. The demonstrators said that they would not let the police remove the tanker until the culprit was caught.

The driver was drunk as liquor bottles and drugs were found from the tanker, said the residents. Meanwhile, the police managed to disperse the protesters after a local political party leader intervened and assured the protesters of justice.

Road accident claims man's life

SHO Nasir Mehmood said that the police used force when the protesters took the law into their own hands. He added that besides creating hurdles, they attacked the police. A case was registered and further investigation was initiated, said the police. However, the driver was not arrested till the filing of this news story.

(THE EXPRESS TRIBUNE 15, 22/11/2017)

Woman killed, 11 persons injured as dumper runs over several vehicles

A woman died and her brother was among the 11 persons who sustained injuries when an apparently speeding heavy vehicle ran over several vehicles on Shahrah-i-Pakistan in the Liaquatabad area.

The incident triggered a protest by area people. However, police prevented the vehicle from being set ablaze by the angry mob, according to officials and witnesses.

It appeared to be another incident resulting from allowing heavy vehicles to operate during daytime.

A heavily loaded dumper truck apparently went out of its driver's control on the main road near Firdous Shopping Centre and ran over a rickshaw, two cars, a van and three motorbikes, according to Central district's senior superintendent of police Irfan Ali Baloch. It caused injuries to 12 persons, including a woman. They were taken to the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital, where doctors pronounced the woman as dead while the others were admitted for treatment.

The senior officer said that the horrible accident angered area people who came out on the main road and tried to set the heavy vehicle on fire. But contingents of police rushed to the spot and stopped people from torching the dumper.

The errant driver initially tried to escape but police caught and detained him. The suspect was identified as Naimatullah.

Another police officer, Liaquatabad SHO Rao Shabbir identified the deceased woman as Ambreen Aziz, 30. The SHO said the victim was travelling on a motorbike with her brother, who also sustained injuries in the accident with 10 other persons, all males.

The wounded persons were stated to be out of danger.

The rickshaw was destroyed in the accident while the other four-wheelers and two-wheelers sustained substantive damages.

The arrested driver in his initial statement before the police said that he had applied the brake but it malfunctioned and the vehicle went out of his control, said SSP Irfan Ali Baloch.

However, the SSP added that the police were further investigating the tragic accident.

The Central SSP said that the seized dumper belonged to a private person.

Three of a family killed in generator fire

A young woman and her minor son were among the three family members who died from burn wounds when a generator caught fire in their Lines Area home, police said on Thursday.

Electricity had gone out in the area. The family tried to turn on the generator, which ran out of fuel. As someone tried to put petrol into it while the generator was still running, a fire erupted, causing burn wounds to four family members on Wednesday, said Brigade SHO Nasrullah Khan.

They were shifted to the Burns Centre of Dr Ruth Pfau Civil Hospital Karachi, where Anila, 26, her three-year-old son Ashir and her sister-in-law Kausar, 25, died during treatment.

They had sustained up to 90 per cent burn injuries.

Another family member, Naheed Afzal, 16, was admitted for treatment. She had received 16pc burn wounds and her condition was stated to be out of danger.

Funeral prayers of the deceased family members were held in a mosque in Lines Area, which was largely attended by family members, friends and area people.

(By Imtiaz Ali Dawn 17, 15/12/2017)