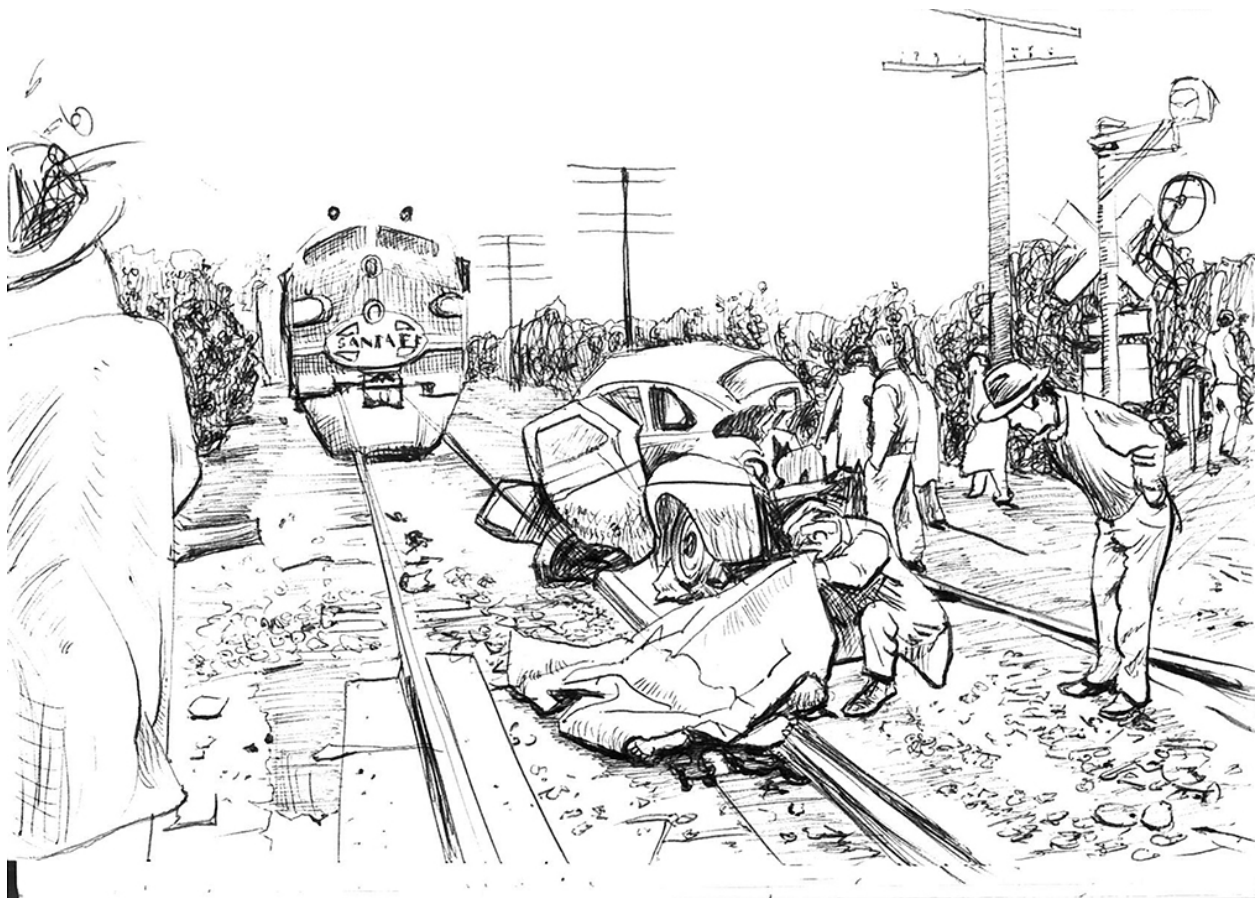


ACCIDENT



Three members of family killed in road accident

A woman and two other members of a family were killed in a hit-and-run accident involving a dumper truck on Shaheed-i-Millat Road on Sunday, said Ferozabad police.

They added that the victims were travelling on a motorbike when an unidentified dumper-truck hit them. The truck driver escaped with the vehicle.

The victims suffered critical injuries and were taken to hospital, where doctors pronounced them dead on arrival.

The deceased were identified as Noor Saba, 60, Abdul Shakoor, 55, and Abdul Ghafoor, 18. Area SHO Aurangzeb Khattak said the victims were members of a same family.

They were residents of Bilal Colony in Korangi.

The officer added that apparently the truck driver was driving the vehicle at a high speed and hit the motorcycle. The three victims died on the spot.

The police investigators with the help of closed-circuit television camera footages and witnesses were trying to trace and arrest the truck driver.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter Dawn, 13, 20/07/2020)

Heavy vehicles crush 16 to death in 10 days

At least 16 people were killed in road accidents involving heavy vehicles during the first 10 days of October in Karachi, while traffic police officials, reportedly, continued to film the incidents instead of taking the required action.

Besides, it has also been reported that in most such incidents, traffic police officials are more interested in issuing challans and letting the culprits go rather than apprehending them and handing them over to relevant authorities.

This could be because the number of challans issued by an official is used as a parameter to appraise his performance.

Such reports of officials' callousness has resulted in citizens questioning who would take action against the drivers of heavy vehicles involved in accidents, if traffic police officials remained negligent of their duty.

The incidents

Among those killed in accidents involving heavy vehicles during the first ten days of this month, a man was killed after a heavy vehicle hit him near Akhtar Colony on October 1.

The next day, on October 2, two persons on a motorcycle were crushed to death by a heavy vehicle in Raees Goth. Meanwhile, the deaths of a man and a minor were reported as a consequence of similar mishaps the same day.

On October 3, a truck hit a cop, leaving him dead near Chamra Chowrangi in Korangi, while a man lost his life in a similar accident in Landhi.

A day later, on October 4, a woman was killed by a heavy vehicle near Johar Mor, and two other persons were killed in separate road accidents on October 5.

Then, on October 6, a girl was crushed to death by a heavy vehicle near Musharraf Cut, and four others were killed in three separate accidents on October 8.

A man was killed after a truck hit him near Mazar-e-Quaid on October 9.

Of these incidents, the video of the accident near Akhtar Colony has surfaced. The person who shot the video has claimed that citizens had caught the truck driver responsible for the accident, yet the traffic police official present at the spot let him escape.

Later, he said while talking to The Express Tribune, the official was absolved of the accusation after the matter was investigated. (By Raheel Salman The Express Tribune, 05, 12/10/2020)

Teenage boy dies as motorcycle skids

A teenage boy died and another two were injured in a road accident near Karimabad bridge on Wednesday. The accident took place as their motorcycle skidded. Consequently, one among them, Abdul Hannan, 17, died on the spot, while two others, Abdullah, 15, and Shahzad, 16, sustained injuries. The body and the injured were shifted to Abbasi Shaheed Hospital for medico-legal formalities and treatment, respectively. The body was later handed over to the heirs.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter The Express Tribune, 04, 15/10/2020)

Mauripur Road — the city's death avenue?

On Monday morning, Abhan Maheshwari was thrown into a panic after he received a call at work. His wife Sughra and niece Radha were no more. A speeding mini-truck had claimed their lives on Mauripur Road - a thoroughfare extending for three kilometres from ICI Bridge to Lyari Expressway and notorious for deadly accidents.

Not in Abhan's wildest imaginings had it ever occurred to him that his wife would fall prey to one of the fatal accidents that have become a common occurrence on the road. But she had, and four other women belonging to his community and accompanying his wife and niece had sustained injuries.

Later, still reeling from shock, Maheshwari told The Express Tribune that Sughra, 35, had recently switched her job and was on the way to her new workplace, a factory.

"They [his wife, niece and women injured in the accident] were trying to cross the road when a speeding truck hit them. My wife and niece died on the spot," he whispered, before falling silent.

The silence served as a cue for his relative Karo Maheshwari, the first from the family to reach the hospital, to join the conversation.

"It was the driver's mistake," he insisted angrily "One of the four injured women is still critically wounded."

And the truck driver fled soon after the accident, said Abhan, adding that bystanders and rescue workers had shifted the women to Dr Ruth Pfau Civil Hospital's trauma centre.

The lethal road

On Mauripur Road, fatal crashes are a norm.

"Most accidents are hit-and-runs," Rahat, an Edhi Foundation rescuer deployed on the road, told The Express Tribune, explaining that speeding vehicles would run over pedestrians either crossing the road or waiting for traffic to recede so they could walk to the other side.

He added that most of the victims were women, crossing the road in groups.

Chhipa Welfare Association rescue worker Jawwad, who has also been deployed at Mauripur Road in the first shift this month, said he regularly witnessed accidents there. "At least 24 accidents have been reported here this month, during the first shift," he said, reckoning that a similar number was likely reported during the second shift in October too.

According to rescue workers, most accidents on the road take place at night. "There are no streetlights, so drivers are unable to see people crossing the road at night," explained one.

Meanwhile, area residents and businessmen running shops on Mauripur Road and its vicinity also point to heavy traffic and the lack of safety measure as two of the reasons behind the frequent accidents.

The road lies between two residential areas, with Lyari and Machhar Colony on either side.

"People living here have relatives residing across the road and often walk across to visit them," said Mohammad Ibrahim, a resident of Machhar Colony. "We have lost loved ones here."

He, too, attributes the high frequency of accidents on the road to the absence of streetlights, along with transporters parking heavy vehicles there.

The bane of bridges

The road sees frequent accidents despite the installation of four pedestrian bridges along its length.

According to area residents, the bridges are "unfriendly", especially for the elderly, children and persons with disabilities.

"I cannot walk on this long bridge that has a hole in it," said Mohammad Hasan, an elderly resident of Agra Taj Colony, unnerved at the proposition.

He visits one of his relatives and his daughter in Machhar Colony, across the road, at least twice a week. Dubious about the rickety pedestrian bridges, he said he waited for the traffic to ebb or for others to move before him in order to walk across.

Similarly, Sakina Bai, accompanied by her two children, said she was aware that crossing the busy road was risky, but she would choose it over the pedestrian bridges and suffering daily joint pain.

She talked fast as her eyes wandered along the road's length. She would get her chance to hurry across any moment now and she did not want to miss out. And when she did, she almost ran, with her children tagging along, narrowly escaping a speeding truck.

She and her children were lucky. Sughar and young Radha, though, were not.

Like Abhan, his two daughters and three sons are struggling to come to terms with the tragedy.

Seemingly scared and in a shaky voice, Abhan refused to get a case registered against the yet unidentified driver.

"Let the police do their work," he said, adding that a constable had contacted him on the phone. But in a dazed state, he seemed unable to bring himself to initiate and pursue any legal proceedings, as he himself shared with tears, "I am devastated."
(By Sameer Mandhro The Express Tribune, 04, 02/11/2020)

One dies, five hurt as water tanker rams into bank

An overspeeding water tanker rammed into a private bank in North Nazimabad due to brake failure on Monday, as a result of which one person died and five others were injured, according to police and rescue services officials.

Area SHO Rashid Ali said that the tanker descended from Kati Pahari when ostensibly its brakes failed. Thereafter it hit several persons before ramming into the bank. Several cars parked there were also damaged in the incident. Six persons were injured who were shifted to Abbasi Shaheed Hospital where an unidentified man in his 60s was pronounced as dead while five others namely Meer Saeed, 50, Ibrahim Ali, 40, Hikmat Ameer, 35, Amir Gulzar, 45, and Murtaza, 30, got admitted for treatment. Their condition was stated to be out of danger.

Funeral prayer of martyred police officer held

The police have seized the water tanker while the driver managed to escape from the spot.

The officer said that the deceased was a passerby.

Some of the area residents pointed out that Kati Pahari project was 'faulty' owing to which tragic accidents tended to take place there frequently. While talking to media, the residents proposed that speed breakers should be installed at the slope of Kati Pahari to prevent such accidents in future.

Meena Bazaar encounter

Funeral prayer of police head constable Fayaz Ali, 40, who was martyred during an encounter with robbers in Karimabad's Meena Bazaar on Sunday evening was offered on Monday, which was attended by IGP Sindh, the Karachi police chief and other senior officers.

As relatives claimed that the wounded policeman was not provided proper treatment on time, the police denied these charges.

The police spokesperson said that the martyred officer was on his way to join his duty at Azizabad police station, therefore, he was in civilian dress. When he saw that two robbers were looting a citizen, he came to rescue him. He fought bravely by saving the life of the citizen and killed one suspect whose accomplice injured the policeman while fleeing. Later on, the wounded officer succumbed to injuries during treatment.

He left behind a widow and three children. He joined the police force in 1999.

Both the IGP and the Karachi police chief said that several policemen had sacrificed their lives while fighting terrorists and criminals.

Meanwhile, Central SSP Arif Aslam Rao in a statement said that statements were being circulated that the police did not make timely arrangements for treatment of the wounded head constable. The officer explained that when the encounter took place, Fayaz was not in uniform and he was on his way to join duty. He alone fought with the robbers when he saw that the citizen was being looted. No other police officer was present there. Therefore, the citizens present there took the wounded policeman in a private vehicle to Abbasi Shaheed Hospital for treatment. When the police came to know about it, they immediately shifted him to Aga Khan University Hospital where he embraced martyrdom.

Under these circumstances, the charges of not providing proper treatment to the wounded officer were wrong and contrary to facts, believed the Central SSP.

Harassment of polio worker

Gulshan-i-Maymar police on Monday claimed to have arrested one person over charges of harassing a female polio worker in the area.

The police said that the female polio worker got an FIR registered at the police station and nominated five persons in the case. The police immediately took action and arrested one nominated suspect while efforts were under way to arrest others. The suspects were allegedly harassing the worker since the last few days.
(By Imtiaz Ali Dawn, 14, 10/11/2020)

Water tanker kills one as it rams into bank

A man was killed and five others injured on Monday when a water tanker ran over them and plunged into a private bank across the road.

The water tanker skidded down Kati Pahari, in North Nazimabad's J Block, reportedly due to brake failure, running people over and damaging several vehicles along the way.

Rescue workers and the police shifted the deceased and injured to Abbasi Shaheed Hospital. While efforts were made to extricate the water tanker from the private bank, its driver managed to flee.

According to North Nazimabad SHO Rashid Alvi, the deceased, identified as Ibrahim Muhammad Din, was at the bank to pay utility bills when the tanker hurtled into the bank and hit him.

The injured were identified as Ibrahim Rajab Ali, 40, who was the driver of one of the bank employees, Mir Saeed, 50, the security guard, and Murtaza Muktiar, 30, Hikmat, 35, and Mir Saeed, 50, who the police believe were pedestrians or bank customers.

The SHO said the accident occurred due to the tanker's brakes failing, adding that the police were working to locate and arrest the driver.

However, speaking to the media, North Nazimabad assistant commissioner Faheem Khan maintained they would investigate whether the accident was caused due to speeding by the driver or brake failure. Heavy cargo vehicles are barred from traveling in the city during daytime but there is no restriction on water tankers, he added.

Area residents, though, asserted the accident occurred due to dilapidated roads, long ignored by the administration despite several complaints.

Meanwhile, Traffic Central SP Aijazuddin pointed to flaws in the Kati Pahari project, stating that the hill was not cut properly and there was no service road for residents. "A service road would have acted as a fence between Kati Pahari and the main road," he opined, adding that it might have prevented such accidents from occurring.

According to Aijazuddin, a similar accident had occurred at Kati Pahari before, and there was no restriction on movement in the city for water and oil tankers or dumper trucks.

"The Traffic DIG has imposed a ban on movement of water tankers over the capacity of 5,000 gallons and this tanker had a capacity of 3,000 gallons," he pointed out, adding that the tanker was carrying water and its brakes had failed. "We will henceforth ensure that no water tanker of an older model is allowed to move down the hill."

Traffic collisions

Meanwhile, four other people were killed and three other injured in separate traffic accidents in the city on the day.

A man died when a speeding car ran over him near Quetta Darbar Hotel at the Super Highway in the wee hours of Monday. The body was shifted to Abbasi Shaheed Hospital for medico-legal formalities. According to the police, the deceased was identified as Muhammad Farooq, 22.

In the meantime, a motorcyclist was killed in a road accident at Karsaz. The body was shifted to Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre for medico-legal formalities, while the deceased was identified as 66-year-old Mohammad Shahnawaz.

Two people, including an eight-year-old boy, were killed when they were hit by a speeding vehicle while crossing the road near Jamali Bridge at the Super Highway. The bodies, which could not immediately be identified, were shifted to Abbasi Shaheed Hospital for medico-legal formalities.

Meanwhile, a car and a police mobile van collided in Nazimabad, leaving two police officials and a citizen wounded. They were rushed to ASH for treatment, where the police officers were identified as Abdul Aziz and Abdur Rehman. The citizen was later shifted to a private hospital.

(By Newspaper's Staff reporter The Express Tribune, 05, 10/11/2020)

Road accidents in Karachi claimed 154 lives over last 10 months

The city has witnessed more than 150 deaths in traffic accidents during the last 10 months with many involving water tankers as their round-the-clock operation due to water scarcity across the metropolis has increased the occurrence of such deadly episodes, officials and sources said on Sunday.

Figures compiled by traffic authorities and hospitals suggest that fatal traffic accidents continued posing a serious threat mainly to the lives of motorcyclists and pedestrians.

The data shared by the authorities shows that till October 31, a total of 147 fatal cases of road accidents were reported at different hospitals in the city.

"In 147 accidents, 154 people lost their lives in different parts of the city," said an official. "In 41 other non-fatal road accidents, some 135 people sustained injuries."

Water tankers are involved in most fatal accidents

The official said that most of the deceased were motorcycle riders and pedestrians, who met with the deadly fate in collision with different vehicles. "Recently, we have witnessed a number of deadly accidents where water tankers were involved. The movement of water tankers has definitely increased and under the defined rules they are allowed to operate 24 hours a day unlike other heavy vehicles."

20 deaths in October alone

In October 2020 alone, he said a total of 20 deaths were reported in road accidents and 11 of the victims died after being hit by water tankers.

He said that in a few accidents more than one member of a family died such as in July, two brothers were killed near Ayesha Manzil and in September three siblings — two brothers and their minor sister — were knocked down by a water tanker in Akhtar Colony.

DIG-Traffic Javed Mahar agreed that the movement of water tanker had increased recently due to acute water shortage in different parts of the city.

However, he also found negligence on the part of pedestrians, non-existence of pedestrian bridges on a few busy roads and serious violations of traffic rules, both by commercial transport and common drivers, as other main reasons behind deaths on roads.

"There are more than 8,000 water tankers operating in the city," he said. "But the recent surge in accidents has more than one reason. There is a serious lack of responsibility among both, drivers and pedestrians. We often find people irresponsibly ignoring rules and violating traffic laws. There are some 200 traffic intersections where the traffic police are constantly deputed but an accident can occur anywhere and mostly it happens when basic principles of driving and use of roads are ignored."

Secondly, he said, over-speeding by motorists and maneuverings by motorcyclists coupled with people's unawareness of traffic rules emerged as the second major cause of the fatal accidents.

"People should understand that the rules are for their own benefit and non-cooperation from their side will only put their own life in danger," said DIG Mahar.

"As we observe, over-speeding has been the major cause of fatal accidents and unfortunately, a majority of drivers of commercial vehicles is not ready to follow the defined rules on city roads. It's quite unfortunate that in our society violation of traffic rules is regarded as bravery and not a crime," he lamented.

(By Imran Ayub Dawn, 13, 30/11/2020)

Killer tankers

From January 1 to October 31 this year, as many as 154 lives have been lost in road accidents in Karachi with the culprits in most cases being water tankers and majority of the victims being motorcyclists and pillion riders, according to statistics collected by traffic officials and hospitals. In some accidents, several members of one family have died. This loss of many precious lives is largely the result of negligence. In most countries of the world, water is supplied through underground pipelines, but in the biggest city of Pakistan a major amount of water is supplied in tankers overland, and the trend has been on the upswing with the passage of time, bringing an ever-increasing number of water tankers onto roads. This is resulting in an ever-increasing number of deaths on the road. Now more than 8,000 water tankers are operating in the city.

Unlike other heavy vehicles that are allowed inside the city limits within certain hours, there are no such restrictions on the movement of water tankers and dumpers within the city. These heavy vehicles can ply the city roads all 24 hours, and most of them are recklessly driven. Daily experience bears it out that drivers of these vehicles enjoy complete freedom from official control. This unrestricted freedom is resulting in deaths and injuries to innocent people. Often their speed matches that of ambulances. The latter, though, have to be run fast as they have to save lives. But the former snuff out lives.

Officials are of the opinion that most accidents occur due to ignorance of traffic laws both on the part of tanker drivers and motorcyclists. They say some motorcyclists engage in over-speeding and some also in manoeuvring. This is true to some extent, but it is inconceivable that motorcyclists will engage in speeding while carrying family members. The whole thing points to a lack of strict and proper enforcement of traffic rules. It is the fear of losing livelihood that restrains workmen from frauds and corrects their negligence and behaviour.

(By Editorial The Express Tribune, 14, 01/12/2020)