

9 killed, 3 injured in Thoothukudi accident



GRUESOME SIGHT: The van which was involved in the accident at Thappathi in Thoothukudi district on Monday. — PHOTO: N. RAJESH

STAFF REPORTER

THOOTHUKUDI: Nine persons were killed and three others injured when a truck hit a stationary van near Thappathi refugees' camp on the Madurai by-pass road in the small hours of Monday.

Among the deceased were four men, four women and a child.

According to police, one of the tyres of the van in which they were travelling burst around 1.30 am.

Some passengers alighted and others were sleeping in the vehicle.

A coal-laden truck hit the stationary vehicle from behind. While eight passengers were killed on spot, one died on the way to hospital.

Police said the victims were returning to Irukkankudi after attending a function at Sevalkulam, Ottapidaram

taluk. The deceased were identified as B. Vetrivel (25); E. Mariselvam (20); Saravananakumari (22), wife of Balamurugan; M. Sappani alias Mari Selvam (40); Deepa (25), wife of Paulraj; P. Puthiyavaraja (1); Rajalakshmi (35), wife of Kuttiyan; R. Kamalammal (35) and R. Mahendran alias Kutty (20). The injured were S. Ramakrishnan (55); Petchiammal (30) wife of Viji and R. Balamurugan (20), the van driver.

They were admitted to Arupukottai Government Hospital initially and referred to Rajaji Government Hospital, Madurai.

Driver arrested

The Masarpatti police have arrested the truck driver, P. Mari Mahesh (29) of Pannaiyankurichi, Ambasamudram, and S. Ramesh (28), the cleaner.