

'BRAKE-LESS' ROAD PROVES FATAL

Removal of a road hump to ensure smooth drive for CM's convoy claims life of a goods auto driver, whose vehicle was hit by a speeding truck

M K ASHOKA

The removal of a speed-breaker from a junction to allow smooth passage of the chief minister's convoy cost a man his life on Wednesday. A speeding truck ran over a newly-wed milk distributor driving a goods autorickshaw at Kaadubisanahalli Circle, near Marathalli.

Such was the impact of the crash the auto had got stuck under the truck.

The deceased has been identified as Kiran Kumar, 27, a resident of K Agrahara. He was married for four months. P K Keshava Murthy Reddy (40), a mechanic in the 18th KSRTC depot in ITPL, Whitefield, sustained minor injuries.

SPEED CHECK

A speed-breaker had been laid on the road that connects Tumkur-Pune highway to regulate vehicles near Kaadubisanahalli Circle, on the Outer Ring Road, where Chief Minister B S Yeddyurappa had laid the foundation stone for constructing a subway-cum-grade



A traffic pile-up near Marathalli after a lorry (right) rammed into a goods tempo (extreme right). Inset: Kiran Kumar, the victim

separator a month ago.

The civic authorities had got these speed-breakers removed to avoid giving the CM a bumpy ride. After the ceremony, they 'forgot' to relay it.

Recounting the horrific inci-

dent, Keshava Murthy said he was heading towards the depot on his bike when he came near Kaadubisanahalli Circle around 6.15 am. "I saw a sand-laden truck hurtling from the direction of Silk Board Junction,



PICS: RAHUL K N

while the auto was coming from K Agrahara. As the truck rammed into the auto, the front portion of the truck hit me and I was tossed in the air. I was saved because I wore a helmet," he said.

The driver had ran away from the spot.

COPS SLOW TO REACT

N Jayaprakash, a local leader, said though the accident occurred around 6.15 am, the

HAL traffic police answered the call only after 8 am.

The people had to drag the body from under the lorry and shift it to Bowring Hospital. "By then, a huge crowd had gathered there. There was a petrol bunk at the circle and three petrol tankers were stranded on the road due to the traffic jam," he said.

"If the road humps are not relaid, we will launch a protest. Heavy vehicles, including 10-wheelers, ply on this road," said Jayaprakash.

As a result of the accident, hundreds of techies who travel on this road to reach the ITPL in Whitefield were stranded till noon. It took DCP (Traffic - East) B A Muthanna more than five hours to clear the jam.

The people who had gathered there said the HAL police did not bother to monitor the junction. People themselves volunteered to clear the jam.

The HAL police said they do not have adequate staff. They said they would get the road hump relaid at the junction. They said they had informed officers from CM's office about the importance of speed-breakers when they got it removed. But no one apparently bothered to look into it later.

Majestic stop for Namma Metro

Kempe Gowda Bus Stand gets ready for Metro work

SUCHITH KIDIYOOR

With 'Namma Metro' work set to enter Majestic area by this month-end, the Kempe Gowda Bus Stand (KBS) is all set for decentralisation. It will be a multifold operation for Tamil Nadu bound buses. While Chennai-bound buses including Rajahamsa buses to Salem will operate from Shantinagar bus stand, ordinary buses to Salem will travel from MCTC (Mysore road satellite bus stand). However, premier services like Volvo buses for all destinations will still operate from the Kempe Gowda Bus Stand.

KERALA-BOUND

Mysore and Kerala-bound buses have been operating from MCTC bus stand for sometime now. Buses to Chittoor and Tirupati (Andra

Pradesh) will move to NGEF grounds. Services to other sectors like Hubli, Gulbarga and Mangalore are from Kempe Gowda Bus Stand.

A KSRTC official said, "We are going to hand over 20.23 acres of land for the Metro project. After completion, Metro would retain 7.5 acres for operations and return the remaining land. We also plan to decentralise premier services gradually." KSRTC will shift depots to other areas. Arrangements have also been made to park KSRTC vehicles on Balekai Mandi (on Magadi road near Sirsi Circle).

The existing car parking facility has been cancelled and will make way to ensure easy movement of Hassan-bound buses.

Kempe Gowda bus station

Places - Hubli, Gulbarga sector, Mangalore and others, all the inter-state & inter-city premium services
Operates - 2,600 odd buses
Daily commuters - More than 1 lakh.

The existing car parking facility has been cancelled and will make way for the easy movement of Hassan-bound buses.

Arrangements have also been made to park KSRTC buses on Balekai Mandi (on Magadi Road near Sirsi Circle).

Balekai Mandi

Mysore Satellite bus station
Places - Mysore, Kerala and Salem (ordinary and express services) bound buses
Operates - 1,150 buses
Daily commuters - 40,000 to 45,000.

MCTC

Majestic

Shantinagar

NGEF grounds

NGEF (Byappanahalli bus stand)
Places - Kolar-bound buses
Operates - 150 odd buses
Daily commuters - 7,000 to 8,000.

Shantinagar bus stand

Places - Chennai-bound buses (except Volvo)
Operates - 46 KSRTC buses and 108 Tamil Nadu buses, Volvo buses operating from Majestic ply through Shantinagar bus stand.
Daily commuters - Approximately 10,000 to 15,000.



GRAPHIC: S PRAKASH