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MAHATHIR-ACCIDENTS R R R
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KUALA LUMPUR, MARCH 1 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SUGGESTED TODAY THAT DRIVERS OF HEAVY VEHICLES UNDERGO CERTAIN DRILLS TO PREPARE THEM FOR EMERGENCIES.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID SUCH TRAINING WAS IMPORTANT AS DRIVERS WOULD KNOW WHAT TO DO IN THE EVENT OF TECHNICAL FAULTS SUCH AS BRAKE FAILURE.

HE WAS SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AT THE GENERAL HOSPITAL HERE AFTER VISITING VICTIMS OF THE MASSIVE PILE-UP OF VEHICLES IN WHICH 15 PERSONS WERE KILLED AT THE 31 KM KUALA LUMPUR-KARAK HIGHWAY YESTERDAY.

THE ACCIDENT IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN CAUSED BY AN EXPRESS BUS WITH A FAULTY BRAKE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO WAS ACCOMPANIED BY HIS WIFE DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASMAH ALI AND HEALTH MINISTER NG CHENG KIAM SPENT TWO HOURS AT THE HOSPITAL AND MET TO THE INJURED AND THEIR FAMILIES.-- MORE
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HE ALSO SAID THE HIGHWAY WAS SAFE AND SHOULD NOT BE REGARDED AS THE MAIN REASON FOR THE ACCIDENT.

+ACCIDENTS INVOLVE DRIVERS AND VEHICLES...THERE ARE THOSE WHOSE PERSONALITY CHANGES WHEN THEY ARE AT THE WHEEL, DRIVING SO FAST AS IF THE WORLD WILL COME TO AN END IF THEY DO NOT REACH THE DESTINATION ON TIME,+ HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO SAID THE HOSPITAL STAFF DID THEIR BEST TO SAVE THE LIVES OF THOSE KILLED.

ACCORDING TO A HOSPITAL SPOKESMAN, THREE OF THE 15 INJURED ARE IN A CRITICAL CONDITION AND ARE BEING PUT ON A LIFE SUPPORT SYSTEM.

ELEVEN OF THOSE KILLED WERE MEMBERS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE UNIT (FRU) WHOSE COMMAND VEHICLE WAS RAMMED BY THE BUS. THE OTHER FOUR WERE THE BUS DRIVER, A BUS PASSENGER, A TAXI DRIVER AND HIS PASSENGER.-- BERNAMA
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