

Name: _____ Class: _____ ()

Tuesday English News Report:

Broadcast Date: Feb 13th, 2018

Hong Kong police said Sunday they were investigating a deadly bus accident that left 19 people dead and **scores** more injured, with the bus driver arrested for dangerous driving.

The double-decker bus overturned Saturday evening near Tai Po, flipping onto its side and appearing to smash into a lamppost. Nineteen people were killed and 65 people were injured, some **critically**, according to local police.

“The 30-year old male bus driver was arrested for dangerous driving causing death causing **grievous** bodily harm. He is still being **detained** for further enquiries,” police said in a statement early Sunday.

The driver was suspected of being over the speed limit as he went down a slope and lost control of the vehicle, senior traffic superintendent Lee Chi-wai told reporters. He was not in need of any medical treatment after the crash and was found to be **sober**, he added.

The accident has **reignited** a debate over working conditions for the city’s bus drivers. The vehicle was managed by the Kowloon Motor Bus Company.

Its “management is at fault, and it did not attach importance to traffic safety nor to the staffing structure, work and rest, and training of drivers,” Lai Siu-chung, a representative of the motor transport workers **union** branch at the company, told reporters Sunday. Lai said the company’s poor treatment of workers had led to labour shortages, adding that many drivers work under pressure and without adequate support.

“The industry wages of drivers have lagged behind inflation for many years... as a result the number of drivers working extra shifts and part-time have increased,” said lawmaker Luk Chung-hung.

The Kowloon Motor Bus Company said it would pay **compensation** to survivors and victims’ families, but has not specifically responded to these allegations.

Speaking to local media, passengers said the bus was going too fast before the crash.

City leader Carrie Lam, who visited survivors at the Prince of Wales Hospital late on Saturday, expressed “deep sorrow” and **pledged** there would be an independent investigation.

The southern Chinese city promotes its public transport system as one of the best in the world but **fatal** accidents do occasionally happen.

Hong Kong’s worst road traffic accident occurred in 2003 when a double-decker bus collided with a truck and plunged from a bridge, killing 21 people. In 2008, 18 people were killed in another bus crash.

Questions to think about:

- What do you think of what happened? What issues does it raise?
- What are the dangers of working long hours or overworking? Is it more dangerous in some jobs than in others?
- What do you think is the purpose of a union? Do you think a union performs an important function? / Are unions necessary? Can unions actually do harm?
- What would be the most important concerns for you in the workplace? Why? Would you ever consider going on strike?



I: Vocabulary and understanding meaning: Match the meaning and/or synonym (words with a similar or the same meaning) to the words which have been highlighted in bold in the article.

Column A: Word from text	Letter	Column B: Meaning or synonym
1. scores (n)		A: hurt in an extreme way which could possibly result in death
2. critically (adv)		B: an organization of workers formed to protect the rights and interests of its members.
3. grievous (adj)		C: large numbers of
4. detain(ed) (verb)		D: to promise, give someone your solemn word
5. sober (adj)		E: something, typically money, awarded to someone in recognition of loss, suffering, or injury
6. reignite(d) (v)		F: keep (someone) in official custody of the police, typically for questioning about a crime
7. union (n)		G: very bad or serious
8. compensation (n)		H: causing death
9. pledge(d) (v)		I: not affected by alcohol/not under the influence of alcohol, not drunk
10. fatal (adj)		J: re-open or start debate or argument on something, for example, an issue, again / to flare up or cause to flare up again

II: Usage of vocabulary: Choose the most appropriate word from the table above to fill in the missing words of the sentences below making sure your answers are grammatically correct.

- The police often set up what is known as random breath testing to see if drivers are _____ or not. They want to try and make sure drivers are not driving drunk.
- The (a) _____ threatened the workers of the company would go on strike unless their demands were met. They were demanding better working conditions and pay for the employees. The management (b) _____, in other words, ensured they would do their best to meet the demands.
- Not only did the accident result in many (a) _____, in other words, deaths, but also many were (b) _____ injured and had to be hospitalised. The police (c) _____ the driver for questioning. He has not been released yet.
- The tsunami in Japan resulted in _____ harm to the nuclear reactor of Fukushima. The damage was so bad it lead to all kinds of problems.
- The families of the victims of the airline crash demanded _____ as they believed the airline was at fault, and therefore, should pay out money because of the loss and suffering the families were experiencing.
- We should not mention the issue or it may _____ the debate yet again. We do not want to start it all over again.

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