Packed bus plunges into river

ST 6/9/05 25:1

52 UUM students injured in accident

BY EMBUN MAJID

SINTOK: Fifty-two Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM) undergraduates sustained injuries after the over-loaded bus they were travelling in plunged down a four-metre deep ravine, overturned and landed in a river.

Three of the injured students suffered fractured bones and were admitted to the Alor Star Hospital.

The other 49 students sustained minor injuries and received outpatient treatments at UUM clinic.

Eight other students escaped unhurt.

The students said the bus was travelling from the campus to the Bukit Kachi residential college which was about 4km away when the incident happened at about 4.20pm.

Kubang Pasu district acting OCPD Asst Supt Harison Othman said a student who was standing near the driver had lost her balance and fell on the driver.

"The driver then lost control of the vehicle causing it to skid and hit a lamp post.

"The bus then overturned before landing in the ravine," he said.

ASP Harison said the bus was over-loaded and the accident occurred just metres away from the residential college guardhouse. A guard who was on duty alerted the university.

He said the driver had "gone missing" and had yet to lodge a police report.

Final year account student Zuraini Atan, 23, who hurt her left foot when she stepped on broken glass, said she lost consciousness when the bus overturned.

She said the bus was packed with students who were on their way back after class.

UUM Student Affairs Department director Mohd Zaini Nasri said the students were brought to the UUM clinic where four doctors treated them.

He said UUM also provided four counsellors to help students who were traumatised by the experience.

"The university will conduct an in-house investigation and inform the students' respective families," he added.

OVERTURNED BUS: Fire and Rescue officers searching for passengers trapped in the bus. – STARpic by G.C. TAN

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