

## **Cabbie high on drugs goes on rampage**

A TAXI driver believed to have been under the influence of drugs went on a rampage, smashing into 10 cars while driving across Singapore before police finally arrested him in Boon Lay.

The Trans-Cab driver was nabbed at the junction of Boon Lay Drive and Boon Lay Avenue, after a hit-and-run spree that began in the eastern part of Singapore on Monday night.

The first incident took place at around 9.15pm in Tampines, while the final incident occurred nearly two hours later, at 11.05pm.

The accidents spanned the island from east to west in at least seven locations: Tampines Avenue 5, Sims Avenue East, Lornie Road, Bukit Timah Road, Jurong East Avenue 1, Jurong West Avenue 1 and Boon Lay Drive.

In most of the incidents, the taxi slammed into other moving cars from the side, denting their body panels. It is believed no one was injured.

Of the 10 cars that were hit, five were private cars and the rest were ComfortDelGro taxis.

Some of the cabbies discovered that all their vehicles had been hit by the same taxi when they met at the workshop and swapped notes on what had happened to them.

A ComfortDelGro spokesman said it was helping the affected drivers with accident claims.

In a statement, police said they received a call at 11.05pm on Monday, informing them of an accident in Jurong West Avenue 1.

Officers who arrived established that the cabby had been involved in several hit-and-run incidents.

He was arrested on suspicion of possessing and taking controlled drugs.

According to a *Shin Min Daily News* report, the cabby was extremely agitated and resisted arrest.

The newspaper said that he shouted loudly at police officers and struggled before he was handcuffed.

Trans-Cab general manager Jasmine Tan on Wednesday said that the police had suspended the 50-year-old cabby's driving licence. The company also terminated his contract.

She said the driver joined Trans-Cab only a month ago.

One of the victims, a ComfortDelGro taxi driver named only as Lim, told *Shin Min* that he was driving along Lornie Road at around 10pm on Monday when he noticed a taxi with its lights off swerving in and out of its lane.

As he drove past on the right of the taxi, it rammed into his cab without warning.

Lim said he flicked his lights and honked, but the Trans-Cab driver ignored him.

He said he chased after it, but the cabby jumped a red light while turning into the other side of the road to get away. Lim's passenger called the police, and the cabby lodged a report on Tuesday. —  
The Straits Times / Asia News Network