

## 'Accident forces the closure' of tunnel

THE Kowloon-bound tube of the Lion Rock Tunnel was temporarily closed yesterday morning due to a traffic accident in Waterloo Road near the Baptist College.

Bumper to bumper traffic snarled for hours along the major thoroughfare to Kowloon as the section of the Waterloo Road had to be closed for almost 30 minutes.

Yesterday's event again highlighted the strategic importance of the tunnel which can cause paralysing congestions in its vicinity given even minor road mishaps.

A gas main burst on the New Territories-bound Lion Rock Tunnel Road on April 30 — a Saturday and racing day — causing wide-spread congestion in the eastern part of Kowloon throughout the afternoon.

Yesterday's accident happened shortly before 10.30 am when three vehicles — a double-decker bus, a goods van and a towing vehicle — collided on the downhill portion of Waterloo Road near the Baptist College.

Traffic police had to cordon off the section until 11.10 am in order to tow away the vehicles. There were no injuries.

Kowloon-bound traffic had to be diverted onto Lung Cheung Road.

A transport official at the tunnel control told *The Sunday Standard* yesterday that the tunnel had to be closed down for about seven minutes after realising that the whole Kowloon-bound tube was jammed with immobilised vehicles.

The official, who preferred not to be named, said the tunnel was temporarily closed for seven minutes from 10.22 am.

"We don't want motorists to be stuck inside the tube filled with exhaust air," he said.

At one time, a *Sunday Standard* reader called to complain of vehicle queues stretching for miles from the tunnel up to the Sha Tin City One residential estates near the Prince of Wales Hospital.