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## 53 dead in Ghazni bus-truck collision

by Saifullah Maftoon  
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Fifty-four people were killed in a road tragedy in southern Ghazni province on Friday morning, local authorities said.

The head-on collision occurred in Aab Band district on the Kabul-Kandahar highway at 9am, the provincial police chief told Pajhwok Afghan News.

Col. Zarawar Zahid said 51 passengers on a bus died and five others were wounded when it crashed into a fuel tanker, who driver and cleaner were also killed.

The injured, evacuated to the Ghazni Civil Hospital, are in critical condition, according to the police chief.

Mohammadullah Ahmadi, a senior traffic officer, blamed the accident on the bus driver's recklessness. The ill-fated vehicle was owned by the Ahmad Shah Abdali Transport Service, he said.

Afghan army soldier Mohammad Rahim, giving a witness account, said that both vehicles were plying travelling at a fast clip. The collision happened when the bus turned to the tanker's lane, he added.