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Bride, 26 others perish in crash

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Accident Scene

Twenty seven people, including a bride to be, were killed when the two vehicles in which they were travelling collided along the Jega-Maiyama highway in Kebbi State at the weekend.

Witnesses at the scene told Daily Trust yesterday that the accident happened when a Peugeot 505 station wagon and a Toyota Urvan bus belonging to the Sokoto State Transport Authority ran into each other, killing all the passengers in both vehicles on the spot.

The witnesses said the station wagon with registration number Kebbi AA 329 KLG was conveying a bride-to-be with some members of her family from Minna in Niger State to Sokoto for a wedding when the vehicle veered off the road and ran into the Urvan bus with registration number Sokoto AA 401 GAD, which was heading towards Minna.

When our correspondent visited the scene of the accident, dismembered bodies of the passengers littered the road. People from nearby villages who rushed to the scene said none of the passengers could be helped because they were already cut to pieces in the nasty accident. They said the only thing they could do was to pick up their mangled bodies from the road and the nearby bush.

Magaji Ibrahim, who was part of the early rescuers, our correspondent that "I have never seen this kind of accident before. 27 people died instantly. Their bodies were cut to pieces. Even the engines and the roof of the Peugeot were cut to pieces."

The gory tales from Kebbi State were compounded at the weekend when two police officers attached to the Bagudo police division also died at when their Hilux Jeep ran into a ditch a few kilometres to Warah town in Ngaski Local Government Area of the state.

Bodies of the two police officers, Garba Jabo and Aliyu Abubakar, have been deposited at the Warah General Hospital mortuary. According to Dr. Aliyu Abdullahi, the doctor in charge of the hospital's accident victims' ward, one of the officers, Jabo, an Inspector, died on the spot while the second officer died minutes after he arrived at the hospital.

Five police officers and one civilian were returning from Borgu in Niger State, where they went for the turbaning of a prominent politician in Kebbi State, Alhaji Aliyu Ahmed Bagudo, by the Emir of Borgu Dr Haliru Dantoro, when the accident occurred.

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