

Death toll rises in Wunti FC accident

** 2 players die, upping death toll to 7*

** Bauchi Govt declares 10 days of mourning*

GRIF-STRICKEN indigenouses of Bauchi State trooped to their Specialist Hospital yesterday where they came face to face with the corpses of the five Wunti FC players who died in a ghastly motor accident on their way to honour a league match against Bank of the North in Kano.

While they wailed and tears streamed their faces, two other players who were on danger list gave up the ghost. The announcement of the two deaths increased the tempo of their wailing. The Director of Sports, Haruna Bako, who was battling to recover from the shock of the tragedy said yesterday that 11 others were still on danger list. He was emotional and his tone on our hotline gave him out as a devastated man.

"We're finished. These are the bright young boys who



By
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would have taken the football scene by storm. They are gone and gone in the most agonising way", he sobbed. Those who have been confirmed dead include Beбето Adamu, Jibril Abdul, Murtala Zakari, ex-international Manga Mohammed and Ubale Maidawa. Manga Mohammed, the most prominent of the players has played for Nigeria and would be remembered most during the Fanny Amun-led "wombbling and fumbling" saga of the African Youth Championship in 1993.

A very bright player who was in the frame of Nwankwo Kanu, Manga Mohammed did not allow the mess of the team in 1993 checkmate his rising

profile. He was to sign for USM Algiers of Algeria before coming back home. At different times, he played for Udoji United, BCC Lions of Gboko and Zamfara United before moving over to join Wunti FC where he met his untimely death. Executive Secretary of NFL, Mallam Salihu Abubakar, who was still stunned at the death of the ex-international said that he did not know when he crossed over to Wunti. "He was a very talented player who would have made it to the Super Eagles", he said.

Sports Vanguard gathered yesterday that all matches involving Bauchi teams in the League have been postponed due to the incident. Bauchi teams campaigning in the League include Wikki Tourists, Wunti FC and Zagbair FC. Chairman of Bauchi FA, Aminu Maigari, said that he was too shocked to talk when we called him.