

WEEKLY CRIME WATCH

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MONDAY

The dream of a 19-year-old house maid simply called Promise of making her parents reap the fruit of their labour crashed like a pack of cards early last week following the discovery of her remains dangling atop a tree in Dolphin Estate, Ikoyi, Lagos. The ugly incident which threw residents of Association Avenue into panic, occurred at about 9.30am that fateful day.

The cause of her action could not be immediately ascertained but *Crime guard* gathered that a scream from one of the tenants alerted others who ran to the scene only to behold the dangling remains of the house maid. Attempts to rescue her failed as she was said to have already given up the ghost when some concerned sympathizers tried to loose the rope tied to her neck. Her remains were later removed by policemen from nearby division while the case, according to the Lagos State Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Frank Mba, had been transferred to the State Criminal Investigation Department (SCID), Panty, Yaba, for further investigation.

Same day, the Police arrested a robbery suspect who specialised in snatching cars from Ogun State and selling same either in Lagos or across the border along Oshodi-Apapa expressway. Recovered from the suspect whose name was simply given as Ahmed, was a Toyota Corolla salon car said to have been stolen from a motorist in Shagamu area of Ogun State and was at the verge of taking it to an undisclosed receiver when he was intercepted by policemen attached to Aswani division who acted on-tip off. Time was 9.10pm.

The case and exhibit according to Mba, had been transferred to SCID, Panty, Yaba.

Earlier same day, a luxury bus that was conveying passengers from the eastern part of the country to Lagos State, was completely razed by fire ignited by a nine-man robbery gang at Ogbere in Ogun State.

Reports said the robbers trailed the luxury bus right from Onitsha to Ogbere where attempt to force the bus driver to stop the vehicle failed. Eye witnesses said the robbers thereafter, fired several shots at the luxury bus, aiming at the tyre. They reportedly succeeded by demobilizing the luxury bus and bringing it to an abrupt halt.

The fear stricken passengers scurried out of the bus through different exits and ran into the bush leaving their goods and other valuables at the mercy of the dare-devil robbers. Reports said the robbers set the luxury bus ablaze after carting away some money and property of the passengers.

In another development, property which monetary value is yet to be estimated was destroyed after a building in Anifowoshe area of Ikeja, Lagos, was engulfed by fire. The cause of the fire was unknown but the combined effort of fire servicemen and policemen that were immediately drafted to the scene succeeded in putting out the fire. Mba said no life was lost in the inferno which occurred at about 3pm.

TUESDAY

A mother and her one-year-old baby were Tuesday crushed to death by a moving vehicle at Agboju, along the Badagry expressway. Eye witness account has it that a commercial Volkswagen bus with registration number XF419 AGL, driven by one Chinedu Nzekwe, suddenly lost control. In the driver's bid to bring the vehicle to a halt, it reportedly rammed into commuters at Agboju bus-stop who were waiting for buses to their respective destinations. While six of the victims who were rushed to the hospital survived, a woman who was later identified as Saka Limota and her one-year-old baby Abdulai who was strapped at the back reportedly died moments after reaching the hospital.

Their remains, according to the Police, have been deposited in the public mortuary.

Same day at Ijesha-tedo area of Lagos, a 25-year-old man was burnt to death in a fire that engulfed a building on Duroyedoyin street. The cause of the fire which occurred at about 2.15pm was yet to be determined but the charred remains of the victim identified as Muri Lawal was discovered after the fire was eventually put out by fire servicemen who reportedly arrived the scene late.

WEDNESDAY

It was the end of the road for a suspected leader of a notorious robbery gang that has been terrorizing Maza-Maza, along the Badagry expressway, as he was killed during a shoot-out with the Police.

Crime guard gathered that a six-man-robbery gang on motorcycles stormed the area at about 11pm, leaving one of the motorcycles on the road with the pretext that it had developed a mechanical fault. While two members of the gang remained with the motorcycles which they have reportedly dismantled, others positioned themselves in readiness to attack any motorist who slowed down at that point. They were said to have dispossessed several motorists of cash, phones and other valuables and were on the verge of snatching a Toyota Camry car when policemen attached to the Rapid Response Squad swooped on them. The suspected leader of the gang was killed during the ensuing gun battle which forced the robbers to escape in different directions.

A locally made pistol and one live cartridge according to the Police, were recovered from the dead suspect.

Hours later, four members of a suspected robbery gang were arrested during an operation along Adeniji-Adele road, Lagos Island by men of the RRS. Preliminary investigations, according to the Police, revealed that the suspects who all confessed to be living around Lagos Island have been engaged in robbing people along Adeniji-Adele for a long time before luck ran against them that fateful day.

Their operational vehicle, a lazda bus which was carrying their loot was recovered at the end of the encounter with the police. The case has been transferred to SCID, Panty.

THURSDAY

A motorcyclist met his untimely death in a multiple auto crash that affected over eleven vehicles along Dorman long bridge in Surulere area of Lagos.

Reports said a Toyota Hiace bus which apparently had a break failure rammed into several vehicles during a bid by the unidentified driver to control the bus. In the process, one of the vehicles reportedly crushed a commercial motorcyclist who was standing by, waiting for passengers. Two other passengers in one of the affected vehicles sustained deep cuts in the head.