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Leke Adeseri, Albert Akpor & Taye Obateru

26 December 2008

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ROAD accidents, suspected murder and mystery death top list of causes of death recorded in the build-up and celebration of this year's Christmas to be rounded up after today's Boxing Day holiday. In Lagos, residents of Liverpool Estate popularly called Waterside Zone 2, Satellite Town, yesterday woke up to the gory sight of an eight-year-old boy exhumed from a shallow grave, allegedly killed by his 24-year old half brother.

The ugly incident marred Christmas celebrations for residents who, sources said, gathered to witness detectives from Agboju Division exhumed the almost decomposing remains of the boy simply identified as Joshua.

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The reason why Joshua was allegedly strangled by his half brother remains unknown and now a poser for the police to unravel. Though he has been arrested, the suspect's identity could not be ascertained at press time.



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However, preliminary investigation revealed that the policemen who stormed the house where the late Joshua and his brother lived before the incident found several objects including clothes with blood stains.

At the Agboju Division of the Lagos Police Command where the suspect is being detained, relations of the mother of the slain Joshua who do not want their names in print told Vanguard that Joshua was murdered by his half brother because of an unresolved family feud between the mothers of the two half brothers.

Attempt to get the state Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Frank Mba, to speak on the matter proved abortive. But a source at the Agboju Division told Vanguard on telephone that the suspect would be transferred to the State Criminal Investigation Department (SCID) Panti, Yaba for further investigation.

In Jos, a Sociology undergraduate of the University of Jos died mysteriously on Christmas day. He was found dead in his room.

Alhaji Bashir, as he was popularly called, used to live within the Bauchi Road Staff Quarters of the University of Jos.

Vanguard learnt that his neighbours and a visiting friend found him dead after breaking the door open to gain access into his room when they sensed he was in trouble.

According to an eyewitness, they became alarmed when a friend who had been trying to reach him unsuccessfully on his phone, found that unusual and decided to look him up.

The long list of tragedies started with the roasting to death of nine female footballers and two of their coaches along Mangu/Pankshin road Plateau State four days to Christmas.

An account said the athletes numbering 15 were returning from a football match with a local team in Pankshin Local government Area of the state when the Peugeot J5 in which they were travelling had a head-on collision with a commercial Volkswagen golf car.

Two days to Christmas, no fewer than 70 persons

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perished in a multiple road accident that occurred at Uromi Junction in Agbor along the ever busy Agbor/Asaba highway in Ika South Local Government Area of Delta State.

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One eyewitness account said the accident occurred around 10 am of that day when a fuel tanker that was trying to overtake another trailer that had broken down at Uromi junction of the highway lost control and fell, thus spilling its content on the road.

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