

Crime Alert

How 'adventurous' kids razed building

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THE shouts of fire, jolted residents of Jumber 6, Olalubi street, Iafoluku area of Oshodi, Lagos, Wednesday as occupants of the affected building rushed out, with some of them managing to salvage some of their belongings. Surprisingly, the inferno which razed the building comprising ten rooms with some apartments at the boys' quarter, was discovered to have been caused by three children born of the same parents. The children whose ages were between four and eight years respectively, reportedly confided in one of the tenants, that what they took for a small fire resulted in the destruction of property which monetary value could not be immediately ascertained.

According to them, their father, a commercial bus driver and their mother left their one-room apartment that fateful day before 5am, for their respective business places. Acting as if they were hypnotized, they reportedly began to strike sticks of matches and threw them on the floor. When all of a sudden, there was a loud explosive sound as one of the lit matches landed on a power generating set at a corner of the apartment. Rather than raising alarm, the adventurous children abandoned all they were doing and escaped, closing the door behind them. Another occupant of the building who noticed thick

smoke emanating from their apartment raised alarm which attracted sympathizers most of whom battled hard to put out the fire. Unfortunately for them, the inferno had spread to other apartments, completely razing the building down. The raging fire was however, prevented from spreading to other buildings with the joint help of fire fighters and youths in the area.

When Crime Alert arrived the scene, the affected tenants were lamenting their woes. Some of them who had left for work before the incident, rushed back after they were informed. They were too shocked to speak, as they watched the remains of all they have labored for with hands akimbo. The children who allegedly caused the fire were not seen.

◀ **The children whose ages were between four and eight years respectively, reportedly confided in one of the tenants** ▶



• Burnt building in Lagos.

Hotel owner shoots self

INVESTIGATION into the death of the owner of a popular hotel in the densely populated Mushin area of Lagos, three weeks ago, by detectives at the State Criminal Investigations Department (SCID), Panti, Yaba, have shown that the deceased shot himself, contrary to report that he was killed by robbers.

The deceased identified as Ganiyu Olatunji, said to have newly bought the

pistol, was reportedly driving in his car in the company of an unknown friend along Cemetery street in Ebute-Metta area of the state. He was said to

have been fiddling with the gun when he mistakenly pulled the trigger. In the process, one of the bullets, pierced through his chest. Unfortunately, he could not

live to narrate his ordeal as he died moments after being rushed to the Federal Medical Center, Ebute-Metta.

Teacher, pupils killed by lightning in Lagos

TRAGEDY struck recently at Taiyeen Primary School in Akodo

Ibeju Lekki area of Lagos State, after a teacher and two pupils were struck

dead by lightning. The pupils, as gathered, were taking their lesson notes from their teacher when it started raining.

The unexpected happened when, according to report, the teacher was first struck by lightning, followed by two of the pupils identified as Hafeez Mustapha and Muri. The incident caused an uproar as the confused pupils ran out in different directions, in the rain. It reportedly took the intervention of the teachers to calm the fear-stricken pupils, by preventing them from going out of the school premises.

Policemen from Akodo division who were contacted, reportedly arrived the scene, from where the bodies were released to the affected families for burial. Investigation into the incident, as gathered, was still ongoing.

Teenager burnt to death

TEARS flowed freely weekend, after a teenager was burnt to death along Seme boarder town, Lagos.

Eye witnesses told Crime Alert that the teenager, Maryam Wasiu met her untimely end, after a gallon filled with substance suspected to be petrol, fell from a fast moving vehicle at Farasinmej junction around Owode Apa, Seme and immediately went up in flames. Unfortunately, the content spilled on Maryam said to be walking along the road, consequent upon which it ignited fire.

Help, as gathered, was far from Maryam who desperately cried in excruciating pain for it, as people kept away from the scene in order to avoid being victims. She

reportedly succumbed to death after much struggle, before her remains was removed. Policemen from Seme division who arrived

the scene, were said to have been unable to arrest owner of the vehicle from which the gallon fell off, as he sped off.

Tragedy as horse kills okada rider

AT least, one person was confirmed dead and others injured in an incident that involved a commercial motorcyclist and horse in Victoria Island area of Lagos.

Report said the commercial motorcyclist identified simply as Sunday, was driving along covenant estate, when all of sudden, he collided with a horse which was crossing the road. The impact of the collision threw the 38-year-

old motorcyclist on the ground. He hit his head on the concrete and died on the spot.

The horse which owner could not be ascertained, reportedly remained at the spot after the incident, until policemen from Victoria Island arrived the scene and removed the corpse to the Ikoyi Military hospital mortuary.

The horse, as gathered, was thereafter, arrested and taken to the animal section of the command.



• CP Alkali