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Lightning kills boy at Jikwoyi

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A 14-year-old store assistant, Monday, was on Saturday morning struck dead by lightning at a football field at Phase 1, Transformer Area, Jikwoyi, in the Federal Capital Territory.

An eyewitness said the boy came to the field at 8.30am to throw away dirt and was carried away by a football match going on in the pitch, before it began to drizzle and the loud thunder sound that shook the place.

"At first we thought it was a transformer that exploded because we heard loud noise and saw huge sparks and the next thing was that Monday fell down dead on the field, burnt on one side of his body, from his head down to his feet," the witness said.

City News learnt that immediately after the incident, some of the footballers that know the late Monday's master ran to him to intimate him of the incident.

"The master did not believe that the boy was actually dead because he thought he was in the store and it was after must talk that he followed people to the field to see things for himself," disclosed a store owner in the area.

He said when the master got to the field and attempted to touch the corpse, he was prevented by onlookers, who told him that death by thunder is a serious taboo and needs the intervention of a native doctor to neutralise.

The store owner said that the boy's master then went to Jikwoyi Police Station to alert them of the incident and policemen were sent to accompany him to the spot to investigate, adding that when they got there and saw things for themselves, the policemen also did not touch the corpse.

"The dead boy's master later went to his Church to call members and his pastor, including a lawyer, who all came to the spot at around 4 pm to offer prayers and sing praises to God before the corpse was evacuated away for burial on the same day," he added.

When our reporter visited the scene of the incident, the field was deserted and a log of wood placed on the spot the boy died.

The deceased master's store, which is located opposite Jikwoyi Police Station, was locked up and owners of neighbouring stores said the master has not opened the place since the incident opened on Thursday.

At the police station, a policeman called the death unfortunate and odd. He said the policemen observed the corpse and do not suspect foul play.

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