



■ The referee

# Thunder kills referee during football match in Niger

By Adam Umar

A football referee, popularly known as Mustafa Coach 02, was on Tuesday stuck to death during a friendly football match in Madalla town in Niger State.

A witness, Muhammed Musa, explained that the match, between Suleja and Madalla

youths, was in half time break and set to enter its second half around 5pm when the incident happened.

He said, "It was rainy and all the footballers, along with their fans, took cover inside classrooms. The referee, along with his assistants, rushed back to the field and demanded the players to join them.

"They were the only ones in the field when the thunder struck them. Two of them were rushed to the hospital, but Mustafa Coach 02 was confirmed dead on arrival."

A family member of the deceased, who simply gave his name as Ibrahim, said the janazah prayers were held on Wednesday morning in Suleja town.