

Villagers flee as thunderstorm kills six

Jude Owuamanam
Jos

RESIDENTS of Nabo village at Shere Hills in Jos East Local Government Area of Plateau State have deserted the area following the killing of six of their kins by a thunderstorm.

The six persons, comprising three teachers and three pupils of Nabotona LEA School, were struck by lightning at the primary school in the area during

a heavy downpour on Tuesday afternoon.

Our correspondent gathered on Thursday that two teachers, a male and a female, along with two pupils died on the spot, while several others were wounded and were rushed to the Jos University Teaching Hospital. Two of them however later died at the hospital.

It was also gathered that eight cows grazing on a field nearby were not spared the wrath of the thunder.

When our correspondent visited the village on Thursday, none of the villagers was around to speak.

Even the head of the village was not available to speak on the matter.

Panic-stricken residents of the area were said to have taken refuge in nearby villages.

A passerby who claimed to have witnessed the incident told our correspondent that teachers and pupils of the school ran helter-skelter as the lightning struck their

school, pulling down a block and flooring several people.

It was when the rain subsided that it was discovered that the four were dead, while others were rushed to the hospital.

It was further gathered that two of the pupils whose relations were around were given a quick burial that same day.

When our correspondent visited the hospital on Thursday, the dead were said to have been deposited in the mortu-

ary, awaiting collection by their relations.

The Public Relations Manager of JUTH, Mrs. Ngozi Okpara, who confirmed the story to our correspondent in an interview in Jos on Thursday, said that two of the victims were brought into the hospital dead.

She said that one other victim, a 12-year-old boy, was admitted in Ward 5 of the hospital where he was receiving treatment.

Opara said that the young boy was in a coma for more than five hours before he came to, adding that the relations of other victims refused to bring them to the hospital.

When our correspondent visited the ward, the young boy was sleeping with a heavy bandage around his mouth.

Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Dominic Iomumbe, a deputy superintendent of police, said that the command was not aware of the incident.

NAFDAC arrests one, seals off three factories

John Ameh
Onitsha

THE Onitsha Special Zone of the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control on Thursday sealed off three sachet-water-producing factories in Anambra State.

It also arrested one Udejaja for allegedly specialising in the faking of beauty products.

The Deputy Director in

plained to NAFDAC that some businessmen were faking its products.

According to him, the faked brand of Nycil is imported from India, with the same NAFDAC registration number as the original.

He promised that the agency would continue to search for the importers of the fake brand and the children power.

When his reactions were

sought, the suspect said that he was not aware that the products were faked.

He claimed to have bought them from one Vincent, who allegedly distributed them at the Onitsha Bridgehead Market.

The suspect said that the original NAFDAC registration number on the cartons of the products convinced him that they were genuine.

On the water factories,

Asemota said that two of them based in Awka, produced "pure water" in contravention of the Good Manufacturing Practice directives.

He said that the third factory produced injection water, adding that the owner escaped after he was arrested.

"NAFDAC's Headquarters in Abuja is already aware of this development," he stated.

President Ezequiel resists pressure to declare