

Lightning kills 12 year old boy, building collapse kills another 7 year old in NBR

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A lightning strike during the Eid-I-Fitr (Koriteh) celebrations in the village of Kerr Pateh, Central Baddibu district of NBR has led to the death of a 12 year old boy, son of one Mr. Ebrima Jallow. The incident occurred at around 5.30 pm on the Koriteh day, and the victim was laid to rest the same day.

Speaking with TODAY Newspaper, the regional disaster coordinator, Mr. Poulo Joof confirmed the death, as he expressed shock over the demise of the twelve-year old boy. He also extended to the family on behalf of National Disaster Management Agency and the Regional Disaster Management Committee. He prayed for God's mercy on the deceased.

Mr. Joof also used the opportunity to advise parents to shield their children from walking about in the rain. He said that last year, Kerr Pateh witnessed a similar occurrence of lightning and thunder as a result of which a child and a horse were killed.

In a related development, a 7 year old boy of Kerr Sulay in Upper Baddibu District of North Bank Region has also been confirmed dead after he was trapped under a collapsed building. The incident happened at around 5.00am last Monday.

The victim was pronounced dead shortly after arriving at the AFPRC Hospital in Farafenni.

According to the regional disaster coordinator, Poulo Joof, his committee was concerned about disasters as these. He said his committee had paid a condolence visit to the affected family. He said they also took the opportunity to assess the level of damages, as well as advised the people on adopting safety measures.

He also launched an appeal, urging philanthropists to come on board and support the regional disaster committee to enable them lend a humanitarian support to the disaster victims in the region.

According to him, disaster management, mitigation and prevention calls for collective support as everybody is prone to disaster and therefore donations of any kind to the committee would contribute in making a difference on the lives of the affected families. Mr. Joof asserted that the committee will continue to monitor and assess all disaster issues in the region and urged all village and district authorities to continue to live up to expectation by providing up-to-date information to the committee.