

... Arrest 16 migrant bandits, kill scores in North Central

THE Defence Headquarters said troops of Operation Whirl Stroke operating in Benue, Nasarawa and Taraba states arrested 16 migrant bandits from Niger Republic.

It said the bandits were arrested in different operations across the North Central.

The Acting Director, Defence Media Operations, Brig.-Gen. Bernard Onyeuko, who made the disclosure, yesterday, in Abuja, said that troops

executed several operations at Tine-Nune village in Mbatin Council Ward and Tse Yorbee town in Ukum Local Government Area, Ojapo community and Edumoga forest in Okpokwu Local Government Area and along Makurdi-Kula road in Benue.

He added that other operations were executed at Ugya forest in Toto LGA of Nasarawa, at the period with commendable results.

He said that 12 criminals were neutralised, while 26 criminal elements, including 16 migrant bandits from Niger

Republic were arrested.

He added that 16 different types of arms and 61 different calibres of ammunition were recovered, while 13 kidnapped civilians were rescued during the operations.

Under Operation Safe Haven, Onyeuko disclosed that troops successfully repelled bandits' attacks and arrested child traffickers, cattle rustlers, kidnappers as well as

bandits and robbers in parts of Plateau, Bauchi and Kaduna States.

He said that 15 criminal elements were arrested, while 12 kidnapped civilians were rescued as well as recovery of 118 livestock, 18 assorted arms and 112 different calibres of ammunition.

He said some of the operations were executed at Maraban Foron village in Barkin

Ladi LGA, Ganawuri and Chiri Danto villages in Riyom local government area as well as Utan village in Jos North local government area, Plateau.

Under Operation Thunder Strike/Whirl Punch, troops neutralised four bandits, arrested six criminals as well as recovered assorted arms and ammunition in Niger at the period.

2 die, 4 injured in Lagos-Abeokuta Expressway

THE Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) in Ogun, yesterday, said that two persons lost their lives in an accident that involved seven vehicles at the Joju axis of the Lagos-Abeokuta Expressway.

The Sector Commander of FRSC, Mr Ahmed Umar, who confirmed the incident to the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Ota, Ogun, said that four other persons sustained various degrees of injuries in the accident.

Umar explained that 11 male adults were involved in the unfortunate accident which occurred at about 12.50pm.

He said that a Mack truck, with registration number,

AAA 552 XY, coming from Abeokuta to Lagos, lost control due to brake failure and over speeding and rammed into a vehicle which caused a pile-up of six vehicles.

The sector Commander said that five persons came out unhurt, while two persons died and four sustained various degrees of injuries in the accident.

"The corpses of the victims have been taken to Ifo General Hospital, while the survivors are receiving treatment at State Hospital, Ota," he said.

Umar blamed the accident on excessive speeding and brake failure and urged motorists against speeding to avoid accidents.

He advised motorists to always ensure that their vehicles are in good condition before putting them on the highways.

The FRSC boss commiser-

Couple arrested for abducting, From **Stanley Uzoaru**, Owerri

THE Imo state police command, yesterday, paraded a couple, Mr and Mrs Blessing and Onyekachi Alozie, for allegedly abducting and killing a 75-year-old artisan, Chief Precious Okoli.

Parading the suspects before newsmen in Owerri, yesterday, the state commissioner of police, Rabiuh Hussaini, said the couple were arrested following an intelligent report available to their