STRATEGIC INTELLIGENCE DAILY

Region: Somalia-Democratic Republic of the Congo-Nigeria-Burkina Faso-Niger
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Scope: Security |Diplomacy | Defence
Classification: Client Confidential

Executive Assessment

Security dynamics across the Sahel and Horn of Africa remain characterized by persistent insurgent activity, localized tactical gains by militant groups, and ongoing counter-operations by state forces with mixed outcomes.

In Burkina Faso and Niger, JNIM and ISSP continue to demonstrate operational capability through coordinated attacks, clashes, and equipment seizures, indicating sustained competition and fluid control in contested zones. In Nigeria, widespread banditry and insurgency persist across multiple states, with security forces achieving intermittent tactical successes, though abductions, civilian casualties, and contested narratives highlight ongoing gaps in security control and information credibility.

In Somalia, the federal government is prioritizing coordinated counterterrorism efforts against Al-Shabaab while simultaneously advancing institutional capacity-building through international partnerships, reflecting a dual-track approach of military pressure and governance strengthening.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, AFC/M23's continued reinforcement of positions and reported use of drone-enabled attacks signal an escalation in operational sophistication and intent to consolidate territorial influence, sustaining high-intensity conflict conditions in eastern regions.

BURKINA FASO

• JNIM claimed that it seized a mortar, motorcycles, and rifles during an attack on a military position in Kongaye.

• JNIM claimed that 4 ISSP militants were killed in a clash in Séno and that rifles and ammunition were seized.

SOMALIA

• President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud chaired a high-level security conference in Baidoa, South West State of Somalia, focusing on accelerating operations against Al-Shabaab, strengthening inter-agency coordination, and enhancing public trust.

• Auditor General Ahmed Gutale met with Türkiye's Ambassador to Mogadishu, Alper Aktaş, to advance the July 2025 memorandum of understanding with the Turkish Court of Accounts, strengthen audit capacity, support accountability, and continue cooperation with the support of TİKA and the Embassy of Türkiye.

NIGERIA

• Bandits reportedly killed 7 civilians during an attack on Sabon Garin Pali village in Alkaleri Local Government Area of Bauchi State.

• The Nigerian Army reportedly repelled a terrorist attack on its base in Kwara State.

• A Christian group in Nigeria disputed the army's claim that 31 abducted persons had been rescued in northern Kaduna State, stating that the victims remain in captivity.

• Security forces reportedly neutralized more than 30 bandits in Zamfara State.

• The Nigerian Army reportedly neutralized a suspected insurgent and recovered various logistics items during an ambush in Gwoza Local Government Area of Borno State.

• Bandits reportedly abducted 6 people during a raid on Gazau village in Isa Local Government Area of Sokoto State.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

• According to local sources, AFC/M23 reinforced its positions at several strategic points in the northern part of Walikale territory and in Masisi, North Kivu.

• AFC/M23 claimed that it conducted intense bombardments using combat drones targeting the densely populated Mikenke area and its surroundings in the Minembwe highlands.

NIGER

• ISSP claimed that it attacked the National Gendarmerie headquarters in Tebaram, Tahoua region, using various weapons, disabling two vehicles and seizing a third.