MINTEL WORLD

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STRATEGIC INTELLIGENCE DAILY

Region: Somalia-Democratic Republic of the Congo-Nigeria-Burkina Faso-Niger
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Executive Assessment

Recent developments across the Sahel and the Horn of Africa indicate a continued convergence of diplomatic engagement and persistent insurgent activity. The United States is seeking to maintain diplomatic channels with Burkina Faso and Niger despite the evolving political landscape, signaling an effort to preserve strategic dialogue on security and economic cooperation in the central Sahel.

Meanwhile, militant groups remain operationally active. JNIM continues localized attacks against military and auxiliary forces in Burkina Faso, while ISWAP-linked activity in northeastern Nigeria highlights ongoing logistical networks and attempts to target military positions. Nigerian authorities emphasize operational progress against insurgent and bandit groups, though the threat environment remains volatile.

In Somalia, government forces are maintaining pressure through clearance operations in Middle Shabelle, reflecting ongoing counter-insurgency efforts against Al-Shabaab. At the same time, Mogadishu is signaling geopolitical sensitivities over reported Israeli military basing plans in Somaliland.

In eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, renewed clashes between AFC/M23 and Wazalendo militias in North Kivu underscore the persistence of localized armed confrontations despite periods of relative frontline stagnation. Overall, the regional picture reflects sustained insurgent pressure, ongoing counter-terrorism operations, and parallel diplomatic maneuvering by external actors.

BURKINA FASO

• U.S. State Department Senior Bureau Official Nick Checker met with Minister of Foreign Affairs Karamoko Jean Marie Traoré in Ouagadougou, reaffirming the United States' respect for Burkina Faso's sovereignty and discussing the advancement of shared priorities.

• JNIM claimed that four soldiers were killed and rifles and ammunition were seized during an attack on a military position in Pensa.

• JNIM claimed that three VDP members were killed and equipment was seized during an attack on a VDP post in Kongaye.

NIGER

• It was announced that U.S. State Department Senior Bureau Official Nick Checker will travel to Niamey to meet with Nigerien officials to reaffirm the United States' respect for Niger's sovereignty and discuss enhancing security and economic cooperation.

• The Government of Niger reacted to a European Parliament resolution calling for the release of former President Mohamed Bazoum and his wife.

NIGERIA

• Nigerian President Bola Ahmed Tinubu held a security meeting in Abuja with the Minister of Defence, service chiefs, and intelligence officials.

• Following the meeting with President Tinubu in Abuja, Defence Minister and Chief of Defence Staff General Christopher Musa stated that terrorist and bandit groups are suffering heavy casualties and that their commanders are being killed daily.

• Nigerian Army troops arrested a suspected ISWAP member transporting motorcycle tyres and maintenance spare parts from the Timbuktu Triangle.

• Local sources claimed that Nigerian Army troops repelled an attempted ISWAP attack on a military base in Banki, Bama Local Government Area of Borno State.

SOMALIA

• Somalia's Foreign Minister Ali Omar told Al Jazeera that Israel's reported plans to establish a base in Somaliland could draw Somalia into external conflicts and further destabilize the region.

• Somali National Army forces were reported to be conducting operations south of the Masaale area in the Middle Shabelle region.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

• Clashes were reported between AFC/M23 and Wazalendo militias in the Walikale area of North Kivu.