MINTEL WORLD

Conflict and energy consultancy

STRATEGIC INTELLIGENCE DAILY

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Executive Assessment

Security dynamics across the Sahel and the Great Lakes region show simultaneous pressure on state control and rising operational tempo by non-state armed groups. In Mali and Burkina Faso, JNIM's continued attacks and claims of territorial gains—combined with targeting of Africa Corps elements—indicate sustained insurgent capability and growing confrontation with foreign-backed forces. The planned permanent deployment of Africa Corps assets suggests a deepening and longer-term external security footprint.

In Somalia, ongoing coordinated operations reflect sustained counterinsurgency pressure on Al-Shabaab, but the group remains resilient across multiple المناطق. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, AFC/M23's territorial advances and reinforcements, alongside continued clashes, point to escalating conflict dynamics with regional spillover risk.

In Nigeria, high-casualty suicide attacks in Maiduguri highlight persistent urban terror threats and gaps in deterrence. Overall, the operational environment indicates entrenched insurgencies, increasing external actor involvement, and a widening instability corridor from the Sahel to Central Africa.

NIGER

• U.S. State Department Africa Bureau Chief Nick Checker held a meeting with Foreign Minister Sangare in Niamey, the capital of Niger.

• According to local sources, the Benin army escorted a convoy traveling from the Port of Cotonou to Niger.

MALI

• JNIM claimed it targeted an army vehicle with an IED between Siribala and Mimana.

• JNIM claimed it seized control of a military post in the Yanfolila area of Mali; according to local sources, the group also set fire to a checkpoint during the clashes.

• The FLA claimed that an attack on an Africa Corps patrol in the Salo area near Kidal destroyed one armored vehicle and resulted in casualties among soldiers and mercenaries.

• JNIM claimed it targeted an Africa Corps vehicle with an IED between Anefis and Kidal.

• According to Africa Intelligence, Africa Corps, a Russian paramilitary group, is preparing to permanently deploy assets at the Diéma camp, located 350 km north of Bamako; the town lies on a major road junction in western Mali through which significant trade traffic to the capital passes.

BURKINA FASO

• JNIM claimed it seized control of a VDP position in Dedougou.

SOMALIA

• The Somali National Army and Galmudug forces conducted operations against Al-Shabaab in the Dabagalo area near Harardhere, reportedly destroying militant positions and inflicting heavy losses.

• The Somali National Army reportedly carried out a planned operation against Al-Shabaab in the Haji Ali area of the Middle Shabelle region.

• The Somali National Army, alongside Galmudug Darwish forces and Presidential Guards, conducted operations against Al-Shabaab in eastern Galgaduud, reportedly killing around 10 militants.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

• Representatives of Félix Tshisekedi and Paul Kagame are expected to travel to Washington to discuss regional tensions.

• According to AFC/M23 officials, an attack west of Goma killed 13 Wazalendo fighters and resulted in the capture of three militia members.

• Local sources reported that a village in the Masisi territory of North Kivu was retaken by AFC/M23 following the withdrawal of Wazalendo forces.

• Reinforcements belonging to AFC/M23 reportedly reached the southern part of the eastern shore of the Graben in North Kivu and the southwest of Lubero.

• Clashes were reported between the army and AFC/M23 in the Ruzizi Plain in Uvira, South Kivu.

• ISCAP reportedly killed at least 19 civilians in an attack in Ituri province.

NIGERIA

• Suspected Boko Haram suicide bombers carried out coordinated attacks at three locations in Maiduguri, Borno State—the Post Office area, the Monday Market axis, and the entrance of the University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital (UMTH)—resulting in at least 23 deaths and 108 injuries.