MINTEL WORLD

Conflict and energy consultancy

STRATEGIC INTELLIGENCE DAILY

Region: Somalia-Democratic Republic of the Congo-Nigeria-Mali-Burkina Faso-Niger
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Scope: Security |Diplomacy | Defence
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Executive Assessment

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The reporting points to a broad regional pattern of governments reinforcing coercive capacity while insurgent groups continue to demonstrate tactical resilience. In Mali, Burkina Faso, and Nigeria, armed actors remain capable of mounting or claiming attacks on security positions, but state forces are simultaneously projecting greater operational readiness through counterattacks, arrests, and new military deployments. Niger's move to formalize regional self-defense units reflects a wider Sahel trend toward force multiplication at the local level, which may improve territorial coverage but also raises the risk of fragmented command and localized abuse.

In Somalia, the overlap between troop movements, planned Southwest State elections, and President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud's insistence on one-person, one-vote elections in 2026 suggests a deliberate effort to align security operations with a politically transformative electoral agenda. In eastern DRC, AFC/M23's allegations of drone strikes on civilians and reports of withdrawal movements around Minova indicate that the battlefield remains fluid, with both information operations and tactical repositioning shaping the conflict environment. Overall, the security picture remains highly unstable, but governments across the region are increasingly pairing military pressure with political or institutional measures to consolidate authority.

MALI

• According to local sources, the Malian army repelled an attack on the Anderamboukane checkpoint in the Ménaka region; two Malian soldiers were killed, one soldier remains missing, one military vehicle was burned, and the attackers seized weapons.

• Local sources reported that civilians were killed or wounded by stray bullets during the fighting in Ménaka city, where clashes took place between IS-Sahel and the Malian army.

• Reports indicate that a large convoy carrying hundreds of new-generation armored vehicles and other military equipment arrived in Mali from Guinea; the shipment is said to be intended to strengthen the Malian army's capabilities.

BURKINA FASO

• JNIM claimed to have taken control of a VDP post in Bani.

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SOMALIA

• President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud stated that Somalia will proceed with a one-person, one-vote election in 2026; he said the era of indirect elections is over and that no other alternative will be accepted.

• It was reported that elections in Southwest State are expected to begin today; the process is said to be managed by the regional authorities.

• A Somali army convoy was reported to have reached the town of Buurhakaba in the Bay region; the deployment is considered to be for security and positioning purposes.

NIGER

• Niger's Council of Ministers approved a draft regulation for the establishment of regional self-defense units called "Domol Leydi," meaning "Protectors of the Homeland"; the government said these units will serve as auxiliary forces supporting the army and will consist of volunteers.

• The government announced that Domol Leydi personnel will be recruited from former soldiers or residents of the respective regions and that the units will operate under the hierarchical and operational authority of the commander of the Military Reserve Mobilization Commission.

• The government also stated that Domol Leydi units will be equipped with state-provided weapons and equipment and that their members will receive social and financial support.

NIGERIA

• The Nigerian army announced that it repelled an ISWAP attack on the Mandaragirau Forward Operating Base in Borno State and killed 38 militants.

• It was reported that the Nigerian army arrested 14 suspects during a cordon-and-search operation in Bama Local Government Area of Borno State.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

• AFC/M23 claimed that between 21:40 on Thursday, March 26, 2026, and 08:20 on Friday, March 27, 2026, the army carried out bombardments using suicide drones against civilians in and around Mikenke in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

• It was reported that AFC/M23 was in retreat in Minova, located in Kalehe territory of South Kivu Province in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.