MINTEL WORLD

Conflict and energy consultancy

STRATEGIC INTELLIGENCE DAILY

Region: Somalia-Democratic Republic of the Congo-Nigeria-Mali-Burkina Faso
Date: 31 March 2026
Scope: Security |Diplomacy | Defence
Classification: Client Confidential

Executive Assessment

Recent developments indicate simultaneous political consolidation and localized instability across multiple theaters. In Somalia, federal forces have reasserted control over Baidoa, forcing the resignation of the Southwest State leadership and signaling a decisive shift toward central authority consolidation, while parallel diplomatic engagement underscores an effort to legitimize governance gains internationally.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, intensified military operations against FDLR and continued clashes involving AFC/M23 and Wazalendo groups highlight persistent fragmentation of the security landscape despite ongoing diplomatic frameworks, with limited immediate prospects for de-escalation.

In Nigeria, the successful disruption of a large-scale mass abduction and continued counter-ISWAP actions demonstrate operational effectiveness in the northeast, though the scale and coordination of militant activity indicate sustained threat capacity.

In Mali and Burkina Faso, militant groups maintain offensive capabilities through IED attacks and targeted assaults on military positions, while state forces emphasize operational gains and force restructuring, pointing to an ongoing balance between tactical containment and insurgent resilience.

SOMALIA

• President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud received accredited ambassadors of diplomatic missions and representatives of international organizations at Villa Somalia in Mogadishu, highlighting progress in the government’s priority areas including security, democratization, and humanitarian response.

• Minister of Interior, Federal Affairs and Reconciliation Ali Yusuf Ali Hosh departed Mogadishu, Somalia for Baidoa to advance reconciliation and state-building efforts in Southwest State.

• Minister of Religious Affairs Mokhtar Robow arrived in Baidoa, for the first time in eight years.

• Southwest State President Abdiaziz Hassan Mohamed Laftagareen resigned after federal forces took control of Baidoa and appointed Ahmed Mohamed Hussein as interim leader.

• Somali National Army units, together with Southwest State Liberation forces, officially entered Baidoa, on Monday, while Bay region commander Sadiq Dodishe confirmed the "victory" and called on residents to remain calm, and the Federal Government stated that the deployment was conducted to restore control in response to public demands.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

• The Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo announced the launch of a disarmament operation against FDLR militias in the Democratic Republic of the Congo as part of an agreement reached with Rwanda under U.S. mediation.

• FARDC Deputy Chief of General Staff Ychaligonza Jacques stating that FDLR must lay down their arms voluntarily or by force and return to Rwanda.

• Heavy clashes were reported between AFC/M23 rebels and Wazalendo militias in the Lubero area of North Kivu, with AFC/M23 suspending its withdrawal from some areas.

• Clashes were also reported among Wazalendo groups in South Kivu, Democratic Republic of the Congo.

• The army of the Democratic Republic of the Congo rescued 100 civilians kidnapped by ISCAP along the Ituri–Haut-Uélé border.

NIGERIA

• The Nigerian Army foiled a mass abduction attempt by Boko Haram/ISWAP in northeastern Nigeria involving 17 vehicles, rescued over 150 civilians, and reported that five soldiers were injured due to an IED explosion during the operation.

• According to local sources, the Nigerian Army repelled a bandit attack in Maiwa village, Sokoto State, and rescued one kidnapped civilian.

• The Nigerian Army arrested a suspected ISWAP member in Maiduguri.

MALI

• The Armed Forces Information and Public Relations Directorate (DIRPA) stated during its monthly briefing in Mali that allegations of terrorists being released in exchange for fuel were false and manipulative, while emphasizing that operations led to the release of hostages,

neutralization of terrorist elements, destruction of their equipment, and strengthened capacity through the establishment of rapidly deployable motorized intervention brigades.

• JNIM claimed it targeted an army vehicle with an IED between Sikasso and Donsela.

• FLA carried out a mortar and kamikaze drone attack on an army barracks in Anefis, with released footage indicating the drone strike was successful.

BURKINA FASO

• JNIM claimed it took control of an army position in Boussouma.