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BY OUR REPORTER ON FEBRUARY 26, 2015

TRENDING

*...As food aid resumes for refugees in Niger*

Soldiers from Chad killed 207 Boko Haram militants in fighting on Tuesday near a Nigerian town close to the border with Cameroon, Chad's army announced in a statement.

One Chadian soldier was killed and another nine were wounded in the clashes near Gambaru, the scene of regular attacks by the militants in recent months.

There was no immediate independent verification of the Chadian army's announcement, according to Reuters. Chad's military also claimed to have seized large quantities of small arms and ammunition and two pick-up trucks.

Meanwhile, food aid has started flowing to thousands of refugees on the border between Niger and Nigeria, the World Food Programme (WFP) said yesterday, ending a suspension of deliveries by humanitarian groups because they feared attacks by Boko Haram.

Some 3,000 people were expected to receive food aid from the WFP yesterday. Humanitarian work was suspended earlier this month along some stretches of the border between the two west African nations. "In the camps, there is a lack of access to basic services, a lack of food and clean water," WFP official Adel Sarkozi told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

"We are very concerned about the status of the newly arrived women and children." Many of the refugees are scattered in remote areas. Niger was facing a hunger crisis even before the latest influx of refugees, with an acute malnutrition rate of 23.5 percent of its 17 million population, above the emergency threshold of 15 percent, according to a November assessment.

The WFP said it aims to provide food aid to 37,000 newly displaced people in Niger, a Sahel state, by the end of February. Across Cameroon, Niger and Chad: countries impacted by violence in neighboring Nigeria, the

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