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CENTRAL AFRICA;

Chad: MDD claims victory in clashes with army; CSNPD declares cease-fire

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(ME/1615 B/5 and ME/1618 ii - Text) Lagos, 21st February: The Movement for Democracy and Development (MDD, armed Chadian opposition) successfully repelled an attack by the national army in the Lake Chad area on 11th and 12th February, which reportedly resulted in the death of 300 government troops, one of the MDD spokesmen informed AFP here on 20th February. The attack was launched at a time when Maurice El Bongo Adoum, chairman of the national conference, was calling on opposition movements to observe a truce and to participate in the conference, the spokesman noted.

The MDD troops, who counted eight dead and five others wounded, seized 11 bazookas, two machine guns, and some light weapons during the fighting, the spokesman disclosed. The government soldiers, in their flight, burned down Fororo Island village, killing two Nigerian fishermen in the process, he added.

After these clashes, a detachment of the Chadian army carried out a raid on Niger territory, in the Bosso area, where MDD chairman Moussa Medella Mahamat Seid had stayed for one week, according to the spokesman. The Niger army repelled the Chadians, killing at least one of them, he added.

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