

10 - 16 May 2014 No. 20/14

Pirate kingpin amnesty - DENIED; Somali pirates sentenced in USA; Seychelles co-chair role, Migrant shipwreck; Kenya terror attacks -

Puntland's government offer of amnesty to pirate kingpin Isse Yusuf was denied following statement by the President's office which strongly rejects "false media reports". Somali pirates were handed sentences by US Federal court for 2010 attack on a US Navy dock landing ship; life sentences had originally been sought. The Seychelles, along with Japan and UAE, have been elected as co-chairs of WG3 in the UN Contact Group. Seychelles is expected to develop best practices for anti-piracy and mechanisms for vetting procedures for PCASP for maritime companies. IMO SecGen lauds the UN Contact Group's work. The EU, meanwhile is scaling up its financial support to East Africa to fight maritime crime in the IOR. Italian police have released a video depicting the harsh reality of the dangers when illegal migrants are trafficked; dead bodies of those trapped following a shipwreck of Lampedusa in the Mediterranean is a small part of the daily tragedy migrants face. Kenya has been gripped by the fear of terrorism since the Westgate Mall attack. Travel advisories by various nations resulted in a rush by tourists to depart the country, only for two explosions to rip through a packed Nairobi market. Somali political matters came to a head with a petition asking the President to resign or be impeached. With the recent security failings, the growing uncertainty of providing humanitarian aid to the country, fear of militants stepping up attacks, the international community has reason to fear that Somalia is sliding back on the progress made in the last few years.

Nigeria has also had government called into question in relation to the kidnapped Nigerian schoolgirls. International pressure to act and give support has grown as Pres Jonathan rejects swap for militant prisoners. Similar to Somalia, Nigeria suffers from militant attacks and maritime crime which highlights the precarious nature of governing such states. A pilot project, MTISC-GoG, has opened as a watchkeeping team came together to run an information sharing centre and voluntary reporting scheme for ships in the Gulf of Guinea, akin in some ways to UKMTO in Dubai. UKMTO, in the meantime, are actively looking to recruit naval Reservists to man the operation in Dubai. As the US hands over another cutter to the Nigerian Navy, the Turkish maritime Task Group has expressed the desire to work with NN personnel to tackle maritime crime in the region. 19 percent of world piracy attacks occurred off West Africa. Attacks on oil rigs, cargo ships and fishing boats have soared with livelihoods under threat. Fifteen tonnes of material used for explosives have been seized near the Suez Canal.

Tensions in Asia continues to stretch as Europe holds discussions, Philippines imprisons Chinese fishermen, Japan develops legislation to protect vessels, and riots in Vietnam over sea disputes, and Malaysia cracks down on foreign vessels off Sabah. India looks into the issue of maritime security and Pakistan talks of it's expansive maritime sector. A storm-hit river in Bangladesh results in a ferry capsizing with the death of at least 26 people.



Furthermore, the Puntland Government will not negotiate with pirates or criminals,”

-PUNTLAND PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

A convicted smuggler who rammed a boat into a US Coast Guard vessel, killing a crewman, is given a life sentence. Three Dutchmen were detained in Scotland after retrieving cocaine hidden in the rudder of a Colombian ship.

A 2,000-pound coloured sculpture of the cartoon icon, Popeye, was auctioned at Sotheby's. Five centuries after Christopher Columbus's flagship, Santa Maria, was wrecked in the Caribbean, archaeologists think they have discovered the vessel's long-lost remains north of Haiti.

Regional Activity

East Africa/Indian Ocean

THE NEWS that only the second pirate kingpin was to be offered amnesty in Somalia made big news and was eagerly tweeted and Facebooked earlier this month. Now, however, that offer of amnesty to the pirate kingpin, or linchpin, has been denied, or possibly viewed as being retracted, by the Puntland Government, according to a press statement first highlighted by Jay Bahadur, the successful author of the bestselling book, 'The Pirates of Somalia' - **OCEANUSLive**. Puntland Government in northern Somalia for the first time denied that it granted amnesty to pirate linchpin Isse Mohamoud Yusuf (Isse Yuluh), Garowe Online reported.

In a press statement carried by said to be pro-Puntland Government news site, Horseed Media, the government stated, "The Government of Puntland strongly rejects recent false media reports concerning offer of amnesty to pirate kingpin, Isse Mohamoud Yusuf (Isse Yuluh). There is no truth to the false reports published by Somali news websites".

"Furthermore, the Puntland Government will not negotiate with pirates or criminals," the government noted in response to an article posted on Garowe Online on 4th of May. [Read more...](#)

PRESS BRIEFING Geeska Afrika Online Managing Director, Nur Kafi, MIPIS talk to the Operation Commander of the EU Naval Force, Rear Admiral Bob Tarrant, and has issued a renewed warning that the Somali pirates are still determined to get out to sea (Both Red Sea and Indian Ocean) and, if presented with an easy target, will attack; that could be a serious

[serious] threat to the supply-lines and humanitarian operations.

Rear Admiral Bob Tarrant told

Geeska Afrika

Online Security Editor, "I am very concerned that seafarers and nations will lower their guard and



support for counter piracy operations in the belief that the piracy threat is over," Tarrant said in a statement. "It is not; it is merely contained."

Last Year, The Admiral's similar warning comes after EU Naval Force warship Rayo located a skiff 320 nautical miles off the Somali coast. Six men were in the boat, along with equipment commonly found among pirates. Although there was not enough evidence to prosecute the suspects, the Rayo's command returned the men to the coast — without their skiff.

While no ship has been hijacked since the chemical tanker Smyrni was seized off the Somali coast about a year ago, nine ships have been attacked. Two vessels and 54 hostages are still being held by pirates who, once again, are issuing death threats to hostages if ransoms are not paid. "It is clear that there is no room for complacency," Tarrant again told Geeska Afrika Online. [Read more...](#)

WHILE AID agencies warn of another catastrophic hunger crisis amid low Gu rains, Somalia's political cycle is in full swing - **Somalia Newsroom**.

Over 100 MPs have signed and presented a petition to President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud asking him to resign, citing 14 points of failure.



And by gaining a necessary 1/3 of votes from Somalia's 275 MPs, parliament has also succeeded in tabling a motion to debate whether the President should be impeached—depending on whether he submits to pressure over his resignation.

Importantly, MPs are seeking a resignation of the President rather than impeachment at this juncture.

This is because Article 92 of Somalia's provisional constitution covering impeachment proceedings appears to require the action of a constitutional court—which currently does not exist—in order to determine the legitimacy of the grounds for discharging the president. [Read More...](#)

A LETTER from almost half of all MPs calls on Hassan Sheikh to step down or be forced out President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud is fighting for his political life after more than 100 members of parliament petitioned him to resign over his failure to tackle security - ***Africa Confidential***. If he didn't go voluntarily, a letter they sent him on 8 May said, they would call for a vote of no confidence (AC Vol 55 No 9, Regime's grip weakens). Hassan Sheikh is also accused of shutting his eyes to corruption and tolerating incompetence. Two MPs have been killed by Harakat al Shabaab al Mujahideen in the last month alone and their colleagues are incensed by the government's inability to get a grip on security in Mogadishu. [Read More...](#)



THREE YEARS after a famine claimed 260,000 lives in Somalia, 2.9 million people there are still affected by a multifaceted but desperately underfunded humanitarian crisis, and communities are just “one shock away from disaster”, a host of aid agencies have warned in a joint campaign entitled “[Risk of relapse](#).” -

Geeska Afrika Online

“With a third of the population in need of aid, Somalia is clearly in severe crisis,” according to a statement signed by 22 NGOs*. Just 12 percent of Somalia’s humanitarian funding requirements for the year have been met, and there is a shortfall of US\$822 million.

The organisations also launched a social media campaign, saying “we can’t fail them again.” [Read More...](#)

West Africa

WEST AFRICA is home to the world’s most violent pirates—who are now capable of overwhelming armed guards. Last month pirates killed a crewmember during an attack on German-owned oil tanker. Instead of fighting off the pirates, the embarked security team retreated to the ship’s citadel safe room -

OCEANUSLive.

For the shipping and insurance worlds, the widespread adoption of armed guards aboard vessels essentially “solved” Somali piracy, as no vessel employing them has been hijacked by pirates. An attempt to transfer this panacea to the pirate-prone waters of West Africa, however, has proved inadequate and ill-suited to local conditions.



On the night of April 29 pirates attacked SP Brussels about 35 nautical miles off the coast of Nigeria. Local security forces guarding the vessel were unable to prevent the pirates from boarding and retreated to ship’s citadel along with the crew. The guards did not emerge until the following morning, only to find that the ship’s chief engineer had been killed and another crew member injured; they failed to reach the citadel.

That incident and others like it highlight three important issues that distinguish West African maritime crime from that in other parts of the world. [Read More...](#)

THE NIGERIAN Navy Forward Operating Base (FOB) in Port Harcourt has handed over 11 suspected oil thieves and a metal barge (Henry 2) loaded with about 230 tonnes of substance suspected to be stolen crude oil - ***News24 Nigeria***.

The suspects have been handed over to the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) for further investigation and prosecution. According to a statement from the anti-graft agency, the suspects identified are Daniel Ojokparoghene, Henry Mangibo, John Atobere, Ben Lawson, God’s Strength Samson, Jacob

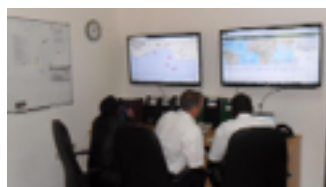
Abagidi Tamunoi Yawuna Genesis, David Ben, Frank James, Gabriel Lucky and Danlami Awuta were arrested at the Bonny water ways on April. [Read more...](#)

NO FEWER than 244 vessels have been intercepted by the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA) over their alleged involvement in piracy on Nigeria's territorial waters in the last two years - **This Day Live**. The vessels were alleged to have been involved in sea robbery, illegal bunkering and other criminal activities in Nigerian maritime domain.

This was disclosed by the Director-General, NIMASA, Mr. Patrick Akpobolokemi, in a speech he presented at the just concluded ground-breaking ceremony of the Maritime University (NMU), NIMASA Dockyard/Shipyard facility at Gbaeramatu Kingdom, Warri South, Delta State. The NIMASA helmsman maintained that the collaboration of the agency with the Nigerian Navy as well as other security agencies have helped it to maintain and sustain physical presence in all the remote areas of Nigeria's maritime domain. He argued that through the partnership, the powers of the agency to enforce compliance to the provisions of the Cabotage Act have increased.

He pointed out that as a result of the physical patrol of the waters, incidences of security breaches have continued to decline in both frequency and scale of success. [Read more...](#)

FOLLOWING THE successful short term trial in February 2013, the Pilot Project of the Maritime Trade Information Sharing Centre within the Gulf



of Guinea region (MTISC-GoG) began in March 2014. The Centre originally used for the trial (based in the grounds of the

Regional Maritime University in Accra, Ghana) has now been renovated and provided with a standby generator high speed internet connection - **OCIME**.

The first MTISC watchkeeping team came together and began a three week training course in mid-March. The team is formed of an Officer in Charge from the Ghana Navy, a Merchant Navy Liaison Officer seconded from Shell (with recent experience of UKMTO), a Second in Charge from the Sierra Leone Navy and a six person watchkeeping team made up of representatives from Liberia Maritime Authority, Togo Navy, Tullow Oil, Nigeria LNG and Ghana Navy. The MTISC GoG Centre is now open and is manned 24-hours a day.

To ensure that the watchkeeping team was given a gradual introduction and were not overwhelmed only a small number of OCIMF member companies were requested to begin using the voluntary reporting scheme. [Read more...](#)

ABOARD THE USNS Spearhead in the Gulf of Guinea — Team members wore different uniforms, spoke separate languages and relied on hand signals to communicate - **Stars & Stripes**.

Made up of forces from Cameroon and Nigeria — neighbouring countries that have historically shared little



beyond a border

— the special operations team inched forward together through the tight passages of this Navy catamaran during a recent vessel boarding exercise.

The drill, part of a larger Navy-hosted exercise held over several days in April, offered a glimpse of how local forces might work together to stop the kind of maritime crime that plagues this region.

It's one of several signs of change in the Gulf of Guinea, where nations that have struggled to police territorial waters are embracing new offers for help. Many are working with a U.N. agency to streamline chains of authority among their security forces. Others, like Gabon, have sought help from the Navy in assessing their maritime forces. And countries along the most vulnerable stretch of coastline are receiving aid from a new European Union project aimed at protecting mariners.

Meanwhile, participation in this annual exercise, called Obangame Express and hosted by the Navy, has continued to rise, with countries like Ivory Coast and Angola joining this year.

“New countries, countries who formerly didn’t even have a platform to bring, are showing up with a ship,” said Capt. Nancy Lacore, the exercise director.

Photo: Steven Beardsley/Stars & Stripes

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U.S. MARINES with Special-Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force Crisis Response visited with the Ghanaian Air Force in Accra, Ghana, May 7-8, 2014 - [DVIDSHub](#).

During the visit, the Marines and the GAF met together in an effort to learn more about one another’s capabilities and to promote cooperation and interoperability between the two military forces. This was the first time that SP-MAGTF Crisis Response had sent the Ospreys to Ghana. The 2,800 nautical mile flight to Accra provided the Marines with an opportunity to demonstrate their aviation element’s long-range response capabilities to their Ghanaian partners. SP-MAGTF Crisis Response relies on their aircraft to respond to a broad range of military operations in support of U.S. Africa Command, including U.S. Embassy reinforcement, non-combatant evacuation operations, theatre security cooperation and other missions as directed. [Read More...](#)

THE TURKISH Maritime Task Group has expressed desire to work with the Nigerian Navy personnel to tackle the criminal and unpatriotic activities and operations of pirates in Nigeria - [AllAfrica](#).

Captain Ihsan Bakar, Commander of the Turkish Maritime Group, dropped this hint in Lagos during the first circumnavigation of Africa by the Turkish Navy. The event took place aboard the Turkish ship at Apapa Port in Lagos.

According to Bakar, 18 countries in Africa, Nigeria inclusive, are expected to be visited by the Turkish Naval personnel between March 17 and June 27 this year.

Some of the countries penciled down for the visit include Cameroon, Togo, Ghana, Benin, Gabon,

Congo, Angola and The Gambia. Others are Canarias, Mauritania, Ivory Coast, Senegal and Kenya, among others.

The Turkish Naval commander further disclosed that the objectives of the visit were to support the on-going efforts of these African countries in tackling piracy, contribute to the safety of sea lines of communication, conduct presence operations in oceans around the African continent. Also, the visit will afford the Turkish Naval personnel the opportunity to contribute ideas and suggestions that could help in tackling piracy, maritime insecurity and other forms of criminalities in Nigeria's maritime sector. [Read More...](#)

DOZENS of fishing merchants lean patiently against a tin wall in Lagos’s Kirikiri harbour, waiting for sea-battered boats to bring in their haul. For years, women here have bought fish to sell on to local markets, but now their livelihood is under threat - [The Economist](#). Pirates are driving Nigerian trawlers out of business. “Today there is no fresh fish, only frozen,” says a saleswoman, standing over a few meagre bags of rock-hard fish. “It is no good for us”.

The problem lies offshore. Whereas piracy off Somalia’s lawless coast on the other side of Africa is dwindling, Nigeria’s sea-robbers are increasingly confident and sophisticated. Attacks on oil rigs, cargo ships and fishing boats have soared in the past decade. The London-based International Maritime Bureau says that piracy off the coast of west Africa made up 19% of the world’s attacks last year.

Kidnapped captains can be ransomed. Sluggish trawlers are easy prey for pirates’ speedboats. A local trawling company, ORC Fishing & Food Processing, recorded about 20 incidents involving its fleet last year, including two deaths. “We have been battered by sea-robbers,” says Akinsola Amire of the Nigerian Trawler Owners’ Association. “There was a time last year when the first thing we asked in the morning was, ‘I hope there is no bad news’.” [Read More...](#)

THERE WERE indications yesterday [10 May] that the 230 female students abducted by Boko Haram terrorists from the Government Girls’ Secondary School, GGSS, Chibok, Borno State,

have been sited at the Sambisa Forest in Borno State, by the Special Forces of the United States Marines - **Vanguard Nigeria**.

The girls who were abducted on April 14, were part of the 250 students boarded at the school for the West African School Certificate, WASC/ Senior Secondary School Certificate, SSSC, examinations, triggering world-wide condemnations.

This was even as more US military officials arrived Nigeria yesterday to join local officials in the search for nearly 300 school girls taken captives by the Islamist extremist group, Boko Haram, the US Secretary of State John Kerry, and the defence department, Pentagon, said. **Read More...**

Abubakar Shekau, the leader of Nigeria's Islamist Boko Haram militants, said on Monday he would release more than 200 schoolgirls abducted by his fighters in exchange for prisoners, according to a video seen by Agence France-Presse - **Reuters**. The French news agency said the 17-minute video showed about 100 girls wearing full veils praying in an undisclosed location. **Read More...**

NEW VIDEO claiming to show a number of the kidnapped Nigerian schoolgirls has been released by the Islamist militant group, Boko Haram - **BBC News Africa**.

The girls shown in the video are wearing full hijab. Boko Haram's leader, Abubakar Shekau, said the girls had converted to Islam and that would be held until all imprisoned militants had been freed. **Read More...**

THE UNITED States has deployed manned surveillance aircraft over Nigeria and is sharing satellite imagery with the Nigerian government to find more than 200 schoolgirls abducted by Islamist insurgents, a senior Obama administration official said on Monday - **Reuters**. Washington has sent military, law-enforcement and development experts to Nigeria to help search for the missing girls who were kidnapped by Boko Haram militants from a secondary school in Chibok in remote northeastern Nigeria on April 14.

"We have shared commercial satellite imagery with the Nigerians and are flying manned ISR

(intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance) assets over Nigeria with the government's permission," the U.S. official said. **Read More...**

RECENT EVENTS in Nigeria have shocked much of the world. Boko Haram is not only responsible for kidnapping more than 200 schoolgirls, but is also believed to have killed hundreds of innocent people just over the last couple of weeks - **MSNBC**.

It's only natural to look for ways to help, and Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) has decided to weigh in with the most McCain-esque response possible. Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., wants to see more than hashtag messages voicing displeasure over the abduction of nearly 300 Nigerian schoolgirls by the terrorist group Boko Haram. He wants to see U.S. troops go into Nigeria and rescue the girls, even if it means doing so without permission from the Nigerian government.

"If they knew where they were, I certainly would send in U.S. troops to rescue them, in a New York minute I would, without the permission of the host country," McCain said Tuesday. Referring to Nigeria's president, McCain added: "I wouldn't be waiting for some kind of permission from some guy named Goodluck Jonathan."

As a rule, it's not helpful for U.S. policymakers to mock foreign heads of state based on whether their names sound funny. Goodluck Jonathan isn't "some guy"; he's the democratically elected president of Nigeria. **Read More...**

NIGERIA'S PRESIDENT has rejected an offer from Islamist rebel group Boko Haram to exchange schoolgirls it abducted for imprisoned militants, but the government is open to broader talks with the rebels, a visiting British minister said - **Yahoo News**.

President Goodluck Jonathan is under pressure to crush the rebels who have killed thousands in their campaign for an Islamist state and to free the girls whose abduction a month ago has sparked global outrage.

Government officials initially said they were exploring all options with respect to the swap proposal and later said they were willing to negotiate with Boko Haram without specifying

whether any putative talks might include an exchange for the girls.

Jonathan further refined that position on Wednesday during talks with Britain's Minister for Africa Mark Simmonds. [Read More...](#)

Southeast Asia

OFFICIALS AND experts from Asia and Europe held extensive discussions here Monday on improving maritime security cooperation - [People Daily](#).

Organised by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and the Germany-based Konrad Adenauer Foundation, more than 30 participants, including navy, coastguard, police and maritime officials and scholars from a dozen Asian and European countries attended the policy conference on Euro-Asian cooperation in combating transnational organised crime by sea. The experts shared studies on and experience in counter piracy, arms trafficking, drug smuggling and human trafficking by sea, and exchanged views on promoting closer cooperation among Asian and European countries. [Read More...](#)

RAISING THE stakes in its confrontation with China, the Philippines said Saturday that it had imprisoned 11 Chinese fishermen who were caught with endangered sea turtles in a part of the South China Sea that is claimed by both nations - [The New York Times](#).

The fishermen were seized on Tuesday by the Philippine National Police, who found the 350 marine turtles after intercepting the fishing boat off Half Moan Shoal in the Spratly Islands, which the Philippines claims as part of its economic zone, despite claims of Chinese sovereignty over the area.

The territorial fight was one of two involving China over the last week, having been overshadowed by a clash between Chinese and Vietnamese ships 120 nautical miles off the coast of Vietnam, where China is setting up an oil rig in waters claimed by both nations. In that case, Chinese ships fired water cannons at Vietnamese Sea Guard ships

that had confronted the Chinese vessels. [Read More...](#)

THE [JAPANESE] GOVERNMENT has begun talks with the ruling coalition on developing legislation to enable the Self-Defence Forces to protect Japanese private-sector vessels if they are attacked by armed groups on the open sea, according to government sources - [The Japan Times](#).

The legislation enabling the dispatch of SDF vessels or planes for the protection of private-sector ships is aimed at strengthening anti-piracy measures in the Strait of Malacca and the Indian Ocean, the sources said Sunday.

The government is expected to call for examining such legislation in its basic policy to be announced sometime this week by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on whether Japan should exercise the right to collective self-defence and on expanded roles overseas of the SDF, according to the sources.

The government hopes to revise the SDF law at an extraordinary Diet session in the autumn to allow the SDF to protect private-sector ships on the open sea, as part of measures to deal with "gray zone" incidents that stop short of outright military attacks against Japan, the sources said. [Read More...](#)

FULL-SCALE large military drone operations will start shortly in Japan and its nearby airspace to monitor Chinese military activities and North Korea's nuclear and missile development - [The Japan News](#).

The U.S. Air Force plans to deploy two Global Hawk unmanned aerial vehicles to its Misawa Air Base in Aomori Prefecture late this month and the Air Self-Defense Force plans to procure three UAVs of the same type in fiscal 2015 and later. However, experts warn that regulations on their flights must be put in place because Japan's current aviation laws lack clear stipulations on large drones. [Read More...](#)

HUNDREDS OF people across Vietnam have protested against China's role in a sea dispute - the largest rallies of their kind recently in the communist country - **BBC News Asia**.



In the capital, Hanoi, demonstrators sang patriotic songs and held up placards opposite the Chinese embassy.

Tensions have been running high after Vietnamese ships clashed with Chinese vessels guarding an oil rig in a contested area of the South China Sea. The protests appear to have the Vietnamese government's approval. **Read More...**

STUNG BY the recent spate of kidnappings, Malaysia is cracking down on all foreign vessels entering and exiting the east coast of Sabah, insisting that they must now follow designated routes, especially in the Eastern Sabah Security Zone (Esszone), with immediate effect, local reports said - **Seatrade Global**.

Home Minister Zahid Hamidi was quoted as saying that all foreign vessels must follow the seven gazetted entry zones into Sabah or face action under Malaysian law.

A Chinese national fish farm manager was kidnapped by five armed men from Pulau Baik near Lahad Datu on the east coast near the border with the Philippines earlier this week and is believed to have been brought to the southern Philippines. **Read More...**

CONGRESS AND BJP on Sunday traded charges on the issue of maritime security after Congress raked up the issue of a multi-crore seizure of heroin off the Kenyan coast which is said to have been transported by a ship that originated from Gujarat - **The Times of India**.

While Congress sought to punch holes in Narendra Modi's claims of providing strong national security and said the seizure exposed

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"total laxity" of his government, BJP hit back charging the Congress of doing "sinister politics". It also alleged the Congress-led Centre of inaction on its part to secure the country's vast coastline despite the 2009 Mumbai attacks and said it was the job of the central agencies to take care of coastal security. It also charged the Centre with inaction in setting up immigration checkpoints at ports despite the Gujarat government's requests. Congress alleged that heroin worth Rs 1,600 crore seized by Australian maritime force off the Kenya coast last month originated from Gujarat and contested Modi's claims of providing strong national security. **Read More...**

PUNJAB CHIEF Minister Shahbaz Sharif on Wednesday appreciated the Pakistan Navy for introducing people of this region with the amazing potential of Pakistan's expansive maritime sector - **Daily Times Pakistan**.

In the past, development of important maritime sector has been grossly ignored and the country failed to extract the benefits that this wonderful gift of nature offers, he said while addressing first session of the international maritime symposium which is first ever of its kind in north region. "We kept relegating our seas to the degree of least significance in our list of priorities and consequently our maritime domain kept regressing," he said. "Our country's irrevocable

dependence on sea, without which day to day business and functioning of our industries would cease, makes it imperative to start giving due importance to our maritime domain,” he said.

The Pakistan Navy War College arranged a two-day symposium aiming to provide an academic forum for decision makers, academia and other stakeholders to engage in intellectual discourse on issues pertaining to Pakistan’s maritime interests, potential and its security imperatives.

[Read More...](#)

RESCUERS HAVE recovered at least 26 bodies after a ferry capsized during a storm in a river in central Bangladesh, officials said Friday - **AP News**.



Police estimated at least 100 people were still missing, but there was no clear picture about exactly how many people were on board because the ferry operators did not maintain a passenger list, said a local administrator, Saiful Hasan.

Sabuj, a passenger who jumped overboard when the ship began to sink, said he was among some 25 people who managed to swim to safety.

He said the captain of the double-decker ferry ignored the passengers' calls to stay close to the shore as the storm started brewing.

"But he continued to steer the ship" out into the water, said Sabuj, who uses one name.

AP Photo/Sony Ramany [Read More...](#)

Americas/South America/Caribbean

CELSO GAMBOA, Costa Rica’s recently appointed security minister, stressed the Central American country wants to continue joint maritime patrols with the United States - **Infosurhoy**.

“One of my principal recommendations to President Luis Guillermo Solís has been to maintain these patrols, because they have demonstrated that they are serious, they work and [the U.S.] has shown strict respect for Costa Rican sovereignty,” he told reporters on May 12. “Costa Rica decided to sign these agreements because they’ve been very valid and effective in shielding the country from the effects of [criminal] groups.”

Gamboa, who was the vice minister of public security in former President Laura Chinchilla’s administration, has been a longtime proponent of joint security patrols with the United States.

Former Public Security Minister Mario Zamora said Costa Rican and U.S. forces seized nearly 54 metric tons of cocaine while former President Laura Chinchilla was in office from May 8, 2010 to May 8, 2014.

The countries signed an agreement to conduct joint maritime patrols targeting narcotics, illegal fishing and search and rescue missions in 1999.

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A CONVICTED smuggler who rammed his boat into a Coast Guard vessel off the Southern California coast, killing a crewman, has been sentenced to life in federal prison - **Navy Times**.

Jose Meija-Leyva of Mexico was sentenced Monday for second-degree murder stemming from the 2012 confrontation. Another Mexican man, Manuel Beltran-Higuera, got 10 years on lesser charges.

Leyva rammed his 30-foot panga boat into a Coast Guard craft that was approaching during an anti-smuggling patrol off Santa Cruz Island in Southern California.

Chief Petty Officer Terrell Horne III, a 34-year-old Redondo Beach resident, was thrown into the water and struck by a propeller.

The panga was chased for hours before its engine died near Mexico and the men were captured.

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ARGENTINA SAYS it has foiled a plan to produce and ship liquid cocaine to the United States and Europe - **[BBC News Latin America & Caribbean](#)**.



At least eight people are suspected of having sent two tonnes of the drug,

mixed with insulating oil inside large transformers, to Mexico.

A Mexican chemist and several Argentine police officers are among the arrested, Argentine Security Minister Sergio Berni told reporters. It was the second seizure of liquid cocaine in Argentina this year.

Photo: The authorities say they have been investigating the gang since 2012. [Read More...](#)

Other

THE THREE Dutch nationals who were kidnapped by unknown gunmen at Letugbene in Ekeremor local government area of Bayelsa State have been released - **[Vanguard Nigeria](#)**.

The Dutch nationals; Erhard Leffers, Marianne Hendricks-Vos and Yandries Groenenedijk, were kidnapped alongside two Holland-based Nigerias; Sunny Ofehe and Femi Soewu, a week ago. They were reportedly on a facts-finding mission to the Dodo River communities and had visited Amatu cottage hospital built by Chevron and were returning to Warri in Delta State when they were seized by some armed men.

Though details about their release were hazy, it was learnt that they were released at Ekeni community in Southern Ijaw local government area of Bayelsa State. [Read More...](#)

The FCO has changed its travel advice to Kenya to advise against all but essential travel to Mombasa Island and the surrounding area following recent terrorist attacks and the continuing terrorist threat in the area - **[UK Gov](#)**.

The Travel Advice now reads:

The FCO advise against all but essential travel to Mombasa island and within 5km of the coast from Mtwapa creek in the north to Tiwi in the south. This area does not include Diani or Moi international airport.

If you are currently in an area to which we now advise against all but essential travel you should consider whether you have an essential reason to remain. If not, you should leave the area. You can still access the Moi International Airport but we advise against travelling through Mombasa Island. Full travel advice to Kenya can be found on the [FCO website](#). [Read More...](#)

KENYA REBUKED Britain, the United States, France and Australia on Thursday for issuing warnings about travel to the east African country, while hoteliers said at least 400 tourists had checked out of hotels along the Indian Ocean coast - **[Reuters](#)**.

Kenya called the alerts "unfriendly", saying they would increase panic and play into the hands of those behind the gun and grenade assaults that have hit the capital Nairobi and the coastal resort of Mombasa.

Explosions in both cities on the weekend of May 3-4, one of them at a luxury seaside hotel, killed seven people, although no one was hurt in the hotel attack. Kenya blames the blasts on the al Qaeda-linked Somali group al Shabaab. [Read More...](#)

Hundreds of British tourists are being evacuated from Kenya after the Foreign Office warned against all but essential travel to parts of the country - **[The Guardian](#)**.

Thomson and First Choice have cancelled all flights up to the end of October and



are flying back holidaymakers as a precautionary measure.

Thomson Airways said on its website: "The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) is now advising against all but essential travel to Mombasa island, Kenya.

Thomson and First Choice have been continuously monitoring the situation as it developed and have been working very closely with the FCO and follow its advice at all times. "As a result of the change in FCO advice, the decision has been taken to cancel all our outbound flights to Mombasa, Kenya up to and including 31 October." As a precautionary measure, we have also taken the decision to repatriate all customers currently on holiday in Kenya, including our Air Fare passengers back to the UK on Thursday and Friday this week" [Read More...](#)

BACK-TO-BACK explosions killed at least 10 people in a packed Nairobi market on Friday, extending a spate of attacks that have piled pressure on the government and spurred Britain and other Western nations to warn citizens about travelling to

Kenya - [Reuters](#).

Close to 70 people were wounded in the two blasts, Kenya's National Disaster



Operations Centre (NDOC) said, and the Kenya Red Cross appealed for blood donations to help the injured.

One explosion struck a minibus taxi, shattering the windows and flattening its tyres. It was near a market best known for selling second-hand clothes from wooden stalls with corrugated iron roofs. The second blast occurred near the same market.

Outside the blood-spattered minibus, clothes littered a street that had been bustling with shoppers earlier in the day.

REUTERS/Noor Khamis [Read More...](#)

FIFTEEN TONNES of a material used to make explosives have been seized in a town straddling the Suez Canal, the Egyptian army said on Wednesday, one of the biggest such hauls since the start of a campaign against Islamist militants in the nearby Sinai - [MarineLink](#).

Five tonnes of the material were seized in a truck in Al Qantara East on the eastern bank of the canal, leading to a second seizure of 10 tonnes of the same material held in storage at an undisclosed location in Al Qantara West, on the opposite bank.

In a short statement, the army said the truck was being driven by two men from the town of El-Arish, which borders the Palestinian Gaza Strip at the eastern edge of the Sinai Peninsula. The army gave no further details. [Read More...](#)

DRIVERS IN Syria call her the "Iron Lady," and President Bashar al-Assad's officials say she's "more man than any man" they know -

[Bloomberg](#).

In the U.S. and elsewhere, that would be considered sexist. In Syria, it's the opposite:



admiration for the woman who's leading the multinational effort to destroy the country's 1,300 metric tons of chemical weapons by the end of next month. The Iron Lady is Sigríð Kaag, the former Dutch diplomat who heads the joint Syria mission of the United Nations and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. Kaag's appointment in October by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon added to a growing roster of women taking on senior roles in international peace and security.

Photographer: Stringer/AFP via Getty Images
Sigríð Kaag, a former Dutch diplomat and head of the joint Syria mission [Read More...](#)

The United Nations peace envoy for Syria threw in the towel on Tuesday after failing to start a meaningful dialogue, as France accused Damascus of continuing to use chemical weapons - [The West Australian](#).

In a double blow to the already frozen peace process, Lakhdar Brahimi announced his resignation at UN headquarters as French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius spoke in Washington. Fabius accused Bashar al-Assad's regime of resorting to banned chemical weapons 14 times in recent months, despite having agreed to hand-over its deadly stockpile to international monitors. "How much more destruction is there going to be before Syria becomes again the Syria we have known?" Brahimi asked he confirmed weeks of rumours that he was stepping down. [Read More...](#)

LIBYA'S El Feel oilfield has restarted production, National Oil Corp (NOC) said on Wednesday, as it moves slowly to restore some output following protests that closed fields and ports - [Reuters](#). The government said on Monday it had reached an agreement with protesters to reopen the western El Sharara, El Feel and Wafa oilfields and the pipelines connecting them to the Zawiya port. Expectations and doubts about the return of the oilfields have driven global oil prices this week. The El Sharara oilfield, the largest at 340,000 barrels per day (bpd), was still closed on Wednesday, because protesters had not yet opened the pipeline valve to the port, field manager Hassan Sadiq said. [Read More...](#)

THE PENTAGON said on Wednesday it has temporarily moved nearly 200 Marines to Sicily from their base in Spain as a precaution due to concerns about unrest in North Africa, bolstering the U.S. ability to respond to any crisis - [Reuters](#). The Pentagon declined to single out any countries but two U.S. officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said American concerns were centred squarely on Libya, where armed groups and Islamists refused to disarm after the 2011 ouster of Muammar Gaddafi.

The Marines are part of a crisis response unit focused on embassy security created after the attack on the U.S. diplomatic compound in Benghazi, Libya, on September 11, 2012, which killed U.S. Ambassador Christopher Stevens and three other Americans.

That force is meant to speed U.S. response times in north and West Africa. [Read More...](#)

South Korean Ferry

South Korea on Monday recognised three people who died saving others in last month's ferry capsized as national "martyrs" - lending a heroic chapter to a disaster narrative dominated by accusations of cowardice, corruption and incompetence - [The Straits Times](#).

All three were part-time crew members, including an engaged couple - Kim Ki Woong and Jung Hyun Seon - who could have escaped the sinking vessel but stayed to help trapped passengers. The third was Park Ji Young, 21, the youngest crew member, who became a public hero after it emerged that she had given her lifejacket to a passenger as she sought to guide people to safety.

Being designated martyrs entitles them to burial at a national cemetery, and their families will be eligible for financial compensation, medical assistance and other incentives. [Read More...](#)

THE CAPTAIN of the South Korean ferry that capsized killing more than 280 passengers has been charged with manslaughter - [Sky News](#).

Two navigators and a chief engineer have been charged with the same offence - and if convicted all four could face the death penalty.

"The captain, a first officer and second officer and the chief engineer escaped before the passengers, leading to grave casualties," prosecutor Ahn Sang-don, who is leading the investigation, said.

They are accused of leaving the ship as it was sinking while telling passengers, mostly high school students, to stay where they were. Prosecutors have also charged 11 other surviving crew members of the Sewol with negligence and abandoning passengers in need.

Mr Ahn said the Sewol's stability had been compromised after it had been altered to increase

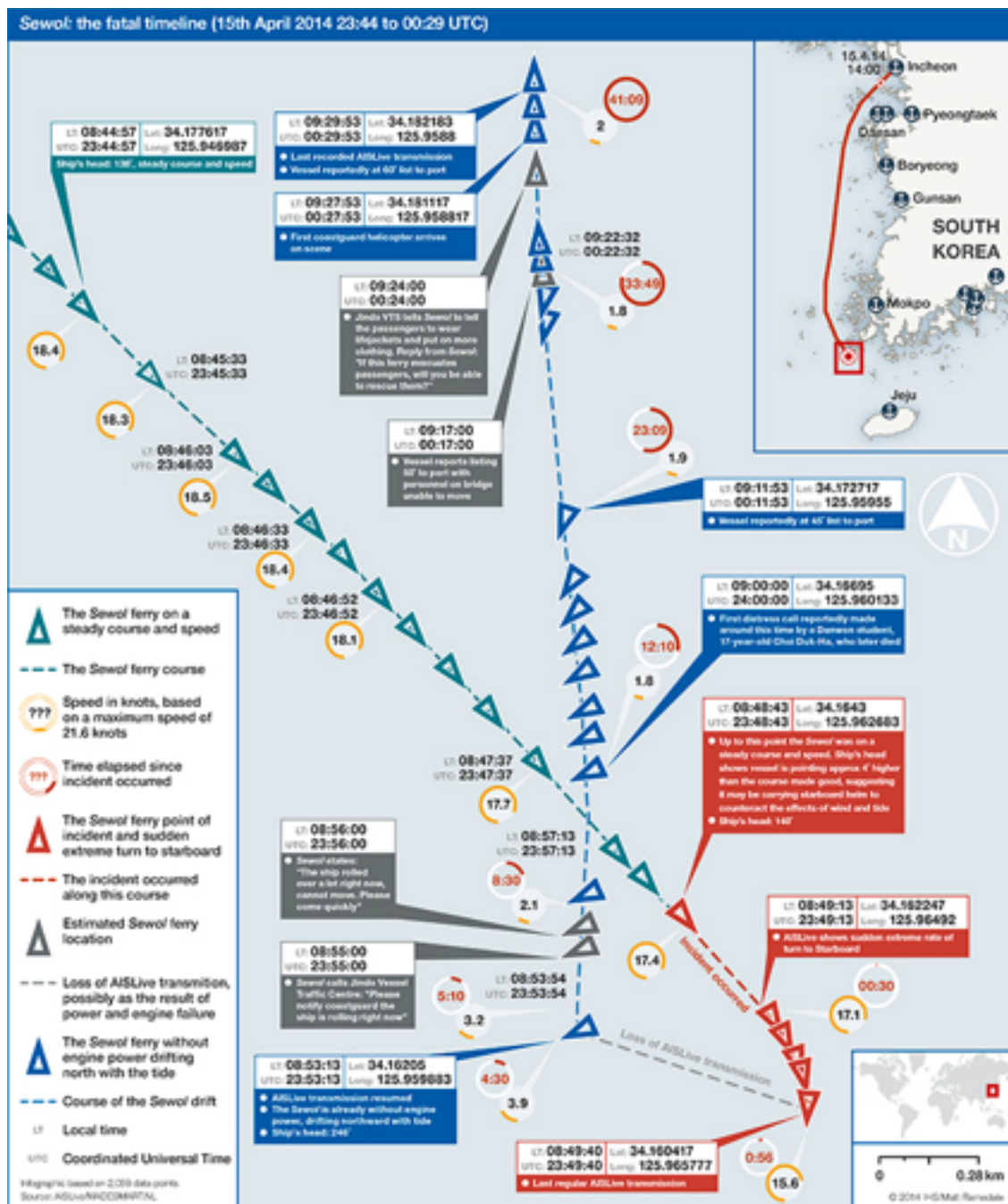


capacity and it had been overloaded before it set sail on April 16.

It also had insufficient water in the ballast tanks used to keep it steady.

Photo: Ferry captain Lee Joon-seok could face the death penalty [Read More...](#)

Sewol: the fatal timeline (15 April 2014) IHS Maritime



Missing Malaysian Aircraft

THERE will be no let-up in the efforts to find the missing Malaysian Airlines jet Najib Razak, Malaysia's prime minister, vowed on May 5th - ***The Economist***. Despite his promise, however, there is growing acceptance that it will take months even years to find any trace of flight MH370, which disappeared on March 8th. Hopes that any of its passengers might still be alive must also be cast aside. The new search area in the Indian Ocean will alone cover 60,000 square kilometres (23,000 square miles)—and that is on top of the 4,600,000 square kilometres already scoured. Because the focus of the search-and-rescue mission has now moved to the west coast of Australia, Malaysians have some breathing space to reflect on a traumatic two months in the glare of the world's attention. The country has taken a battering, but the longer-term damage is another matter. The saga has emphasised how much Malaysia matters in the geopolitics of the region: the two Pacific superpowers, America and China, have both come to play big roles in the search for the missing plane, if in very different ways.

In any reckoning, Malaysia's handling of the loss of MH370 has been a public-relations disaster. The tone was set during the first week by the authorities' confusion, stonewalling and contradictory messages. One of the gravest flaws has been a deep reluctance to release information, however innocuous. This antagonised the victims' families. And the problem persists. On May 1st the Malaysian government published a much-heralded report on the disappearance of the plane. This turned out to consist of just five pages, containing little new information. But, as one government adviser admitted: "If we had got this out there in the first week, there wouldn't have been a nine-week drumbeat of everyone calling us lying bastards." [Read More...](#)

THE AUSTRALIAN government has dedicated \$89.9 million in the 2014 budget to continue the search for MH370 in the southern Indian Ocean - ***Daily Mail***.

The money follows government fears the mammoth search effort could continue for another two years, with the current exhaustive operation failing to uncover any sign of the doomed plane.

The government also announced that \$27.9 million would be given to the Defence Department to pay for its activities up to June 30 2014 in searching for the lost aircraft.

Another \$2 million will be spent on the Joint Agency Coordination Centre, which was established on March 30 to oversee the hunt.

'The government will provide up to \$89.9 million over two years from 2013-14 as part of Australia's commitment to the search for Malaysia Airlines flight MH370,' budget papers stated.

'Further funding of up to \$60 million over two years from 2013-14 will be provided to the Australian Transport Safety Bureau for Australia's contribution to the next phase of the search.' The announcement follows news MH370 searchers have said electronic 'pings' initially thought to have come from missing Malaysian Airlines flight may not have emanated from the plane at all. [Read More...](#)



MALAYSIA AIRLINES have reported their biggest quarterly net loss in two years of £82 million, as passengers shunned the company after flight MH370 disappeared earlier this year with 239 people on board - ***The Independent***.

In a statement, the operator said: "The tragic MH370 incident had a dramatic impact on the traditionally weak first quarter performance."

The jetliner vanished from radar screens on 8 March as it was travelling from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing.

The carrier has since seen a spike in the number of flight cancellations and a slump in passengers purchasing long haul flights, with sales in China declining sharply by almost 60 per cent in March. [Read More...](#)

Released by Pirates

NSTR

Pirates in Court

A FEDERAL judge today sentenced a convicted Somali pirate to 41 1/2 years in prison after rejecting a prosecutor's call for a mandatory life prison term - [***Pilot Online***](#).

Mohamed Ali Said, 30, was convicted along with five other Somali men of piracy and related charges in the April 2010 attack on the dock landing ship Ashland.

Attorneys for Said and the five others argued that the mandatory life prison term violates the Constitution's ban on cruel and unusual punishment. Jackson agreed and is sentencing all five today and Thursday.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Ben Hatch argued that life in prison was appropriate, calling the attack extremely harsh and heinous and adding that Said has shown no remorse or acceptance of responsibility. [Read More...](#)

A FEDERAL prosecutor said a Somali man convicted of piracy stood ready to launch a rocket-propelled grenade at a Navy ship four years ago - [***Pilot Online***](#).

The man, Mohamed Abdi Jama, was sentenced Thursday to 41-1/2 years in federal prison for his role in the April 2010 pirating attempt on the dock landing ship Ashland. Another Somali, Abdicasiis Cabaase, was sentenced to 42-1/2 years in prison for his role in the attack.

They were the last two of five Somalis convicted and sentenced this week for trying to hijack the Ashland.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Ben Hatch said Jama held an RPG that day, but that it was broken and incapable of firing. Still, the sailors didn't know that. The captain may well have believed that the pirates were capable of blowing up the bridge, he said.

"It's a very threatening weapon. I do believe he stood ready to perform," Hatch said.

The U.S. Attorney's Office had sought life prison terms for each of the five Somalis, but the judge ruled that would violate the Constitution's ban on cruel and unusual punishment. He equated the case to attempted hostage taking. [Read More...](#)

Private Security

THE PAST decade has seen countless studies carried out on the 'destabilizing consequences' of private military security companies (PMSCs), also known as private security companies (PSCs), writes Riddhi Shah - Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses) - [***OCEANUSLive***](#).

Reports on misconduct by these security companies in several impoverished countries, which more often than not are theatres of protracted conflicts, have often found their way to leading newspapers. Notwithstanding the continuous negative press and intense misgivings in sections of the security community, the private security industry has been growing at a phenomenal rate over the past few decades.

The resurrection of private security in the last few decades has raised several questions for the security community. Much has been written about the impact of the private security industry on the states' monopoly on force; the possible unwanted effects of employing this industry; and the normative conditions that have led to the resurrection of this industry. However, the scope for making original inquiries must not end here. Studies have been few and far between on the present-day dynamics between the PMSCs and the traditional security providers in theatres where the two work alongside each other.

The dynamics between these two actors, either on land or in the maritime domain, is an issue that requires serious consideration. As such, this article makes an attempt to study the dynamics between the modern-day navies and the private security industry involved in the anti-piracy operations in the IOR.

Download the [***Study Paper***](#)

THERE HAS been a lot of talk about regulating the private maritime security industry. So far, however, nobody has asked ship-owners or captains about the performance of armed guards onboard and the effect their presence has on the crew. With our groundbreaking survey, we want to find out more about the bigger picture - ***OCEANUSLive***.

Armed guards on merchant vessels were unthinkable only a few years ago. Most flag states and ship operators opposed the idea of privately contracted security personnel on their ships as a deterrent against pirate attacks off the Somali coast.

Rising numbers of attacks, however, brought about a sea change. It did not take long for ship operators to realise that neither the US nor European nations had the capacity to provide naval protection for every single ship. Moreover, most vessels are registered in open registries around the world rather than in countries considered to be maritime powers.

Many ship operators were in desperate need to find an effective protection for their ships, their crews and their cargoes. They quickly realised that, in many cases, a combination of physical measures and armed guards was the best solution to a complex problem. While that was acknowledged by most of the important flag states, there were almost no rules in place to regulate privately contracted armed security personnel.

Within just a few years, the picture has drastically changed. An industry that did not even exist four years earlier made an estimated turnover of more than a billion US dollars in 2012 and provided some interesting headlines in the process. Flag states and port states were trying to regulate operations while the shipping industry was looking for an

international standard, trying to avoid different laws in almost every jurisdiction.

Currently, the situation remains in flux. Some flag states are rather liberal when it comes to embarking private security personnel, other countries have introduced strict regulations. Furthermore, an ISO standard has been introduced in 2014 that could go a long way to securing high-quality security services at sea. At the same time, the actual performance of armed guards on merchant vessels has not been a topic in the discussion about new rules and regulations. With our survey, we want to add another point of view. We are looking at performance indicators as well as other data such as the nationalities of armed guards or the number of days they actually spend onboard. [Read More...](#)



Key facts

- Percentage of armed transits through High-Risk Area in Indian Ocean currently not dropping
- Increasing number of armed guards from non-Nato countries, e.g. Ukraine and the Philippines
- Average performance of PMSCs in 2013 significantly above 4 (on a scale of 1 to 5)
- About 35 to 40% of all voyages through the Indian Ocean High-Risk Area with armed guards
- Share of armed guards from the UK has dropped from more than 50% in Q1 to about 35% in Q4
- Only six of the largest 12 PMSCs performed consistently above average in 2013

International Response

SEYCHELLES, JAPAN and the UAE have been elected as co-chairs of Working Group 3 on Maritime Operations and Coordination of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS), taking over from the Republic of Korea this week, together with \$600 thousand pledged towards maritime law enforcement in the Seychelles islands. - [**OCEANUSLive**](#)



As co-chair, Seychelles is expected to develop best management practices to protect vessels from piracy in the region and create mechanisms for vetting procedures for the recruitment of private armed guards for maritime companies. According to a joint statement from the Seychelles Ministry of Home Affairs and Transport and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the 16th Plenary meeting of CGPCS and its Trust Fund board meeting were held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York between May 12 and 15, currently under the European Union's chairmanship.

"The unanimous election to co-chair Working Group 3 demonstrates the faith that the international community has placed in Seychelles' ability to secure the Indian Ocean and the vital role it has played in ensuring the end of impunity for Somalia based piracy," reads the statement. [**Read More...**](#)

A GROUP of 22 AFM (Armed Forces Malta) soldiers, including three officers, this morning left Grand Harbour for Somalia on the Dutch naval vessel HMLMS De Zeven Provinciën. Before leaving they shared lunch with their families on board the ship - [**Times of Malta**](#).



AFM Commander Jeffrey Curmi and Dutch Ambassador Rita Dulci Rahman spoke to the soldiers individually and wished them luck on their mission.

Brig. Curmi thanked the soldiers for volunteering to take part in such an important mission and expressed his belief they would honour not only themselves but also their country. He also thanked their families for their sacrifice. [**Read More...**](#)

TWO NATO counter-piracy task force (CTF-508) warships, ITS Mimbelli and TCG GÖKÇEADA, recently engaged in training regional partners in counter-piracy operations to enhance their respective abilities in improving maritime security in the waters off their coasts - [**NATO**](#).

Last week, the Italian frigate ITS Mimbelli, currently deployed with NATO's counter-piracy Operation OCEAN SHIELD, provided training to two Yemeni Officers of the Yemeni Navy and Coast Guard respectively. Yemen officers training The two Yemeni officers followed a fully integrated programme supported by ITS Mimbelli's operational and boarding teams, receiving training, both theoretical and practical, on merchant traffic control and counter-piracy operations.



After their integration with the boarding team, the Yemeni officers actively



participated, acting as interpreters, for maritime situational awareness visits to Yemeni vessels during counter-piracy operations and safety of life related tasks. [Read More...](#)

FOUR COUNTRIES have announced their willingness to host the Maritime Information Fusion Centre that will soon be established in South-West Indian Ocean by the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), PANA learnt from the IOC in Mauritius Sunday - [African Manager](#).

The countries include three IOC members - Madagascar, Seychelles and Mauritius - as well as Kenya

According to IOC's Secretary-General Jean-Claude de L'Estrac, the centre constitutes an indispensable cooperation tool for the success of maritime security operations through its function of exchange and sharing of maritime information collected by each of the states in this part of the world.

"It is important to have such information that allows us to analyse the maritime traffic before engaging in coordinated operations at sea," he said.

De L'Estrac said while technological progress had facilitated access to the immense natural wealth in the ocean, "insecurity is today an obstacle that prevents us from reaping such opportunities." Quoting from a recent report by the World Bank, the IOC Scribe said the whole economic circuits of the littoral and landlocked states of the region were affected by the increasing costs in maritime transport.

"In fact, piracy off the Somali coasts, which is the most known threat to our region, has provoked a general increase in the cost of maritime transport. This affects the cost of living of our populations. It has also produced traffic diversion as well as a decline in tourism and caused human trauma in

several of our countries," he declared. [Read More...](#)

THE UK Maritime Trade Operation relies on a small team of RNR personnel to help merchant ships east of Suez avoid piracy and other criminal activity - and to come to their aid if required -

Royal Navy.

Reservists are being sought to work in one of the Royal Navy's smallest - but most important - front-line operations,



safeguarding the sea lanes east of Suez.

The UK Maritime Trade Operation in Dubai is calling on members of the 140-strong specialist branch to volunteer for six-month stints working side-by-side with merchant navies to help them avoid piracy and other criminal activity - and to come to their aid if required.

Run from the grounds of the British Embassy in the emirate, the six-strong organisation - one Full-Time Reserve Service lieutenant commander, a Merchant Navy liaison officer and four reservists (a lieutenant, chief and two able seamen) - monitors the activities of around 3,000 merchant ships every day moving through the Red Sea, Gulf and Indian Ocean almost as far south as Madagascar. [Read More...](#)

THE EUROPEAN Union is scaling up its financial support to the EAC to fight maritime crime in the Indian Ocean - [AllAfrica](#).

In a deal signed in Arusha last week, the EU is providing euro 2.3 million (about \$3 million) to improve maritime security and create a favourable environment for economic development in the region.

The EU is supporting EAC efforts to fight piracy, drugs and human trafficking, arms smuggling, illegal fishing and maritime pollution. These are considered serious threats that can undermine peace and stability, deplete the natural resources, and increase the cost of doing business in the EAC region.

The EU Ambassador to Tanzania and EAC, Filiberto Sebregondi, said, "Improving maritime security is key to create favourable conditions for economic growth and social development. The Maritime Security (MASE) Programme will support the EAC in taking part in global and regional efforts towards a safer Eastern Africa." [Read More...](#)

Piracy Costs

ACCORDING TO a recent **World Bank report**, "Pirate Trails", between US\$339-314M was paid out to pirates from 2005-2012. Given the low end estimate over an 8 year span, that's over U\$42M/year - [Synthesist](#).

According to [UN statistics](#), the GDP of Somalia from 2010-2011 ranged from U\$1067-1071M, with a GDP growth estimate of 2.6%. That works out to under U\$28M/year. An obvious implication is that without piracy, the Somali economy would shrink.

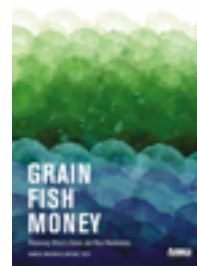
Smuggling/Pirate Fishing

AFRICA IS a rich continent. Some of those riches – especially oil, gas and minerals – have driven rapid economic growth over the past decade. The ultimate measure of progress, however, is the

wellbeing of people – and Africa's recent growth has not done nearly as much as it should to reduce poverty and hunger, or improve health and education - **[Africa Progress Panel](#)**.

To sustain growth that improves the lives of all Africans, the continent needs an economic transformation that taps into Africa's other riches: its fertile land, its extensive fisheries and forests, and the energy and ingenuity of its people. The Africa Progress Report 2014 describes what such a transformation would look like, and how Africa can get there.

Download **[Report](#)** [Read More...](#)



THE UNITED Nations today voiced deep concern at the rising death toll from boat accidents in the Mediterranean Sea this year as increasing numbers of asylum-seekers and refugees make the journey on unsafe vessels, often at the hands of ruthless smugglers - **[UN](#)** Adrian Edwards, spokesperson for the UN High

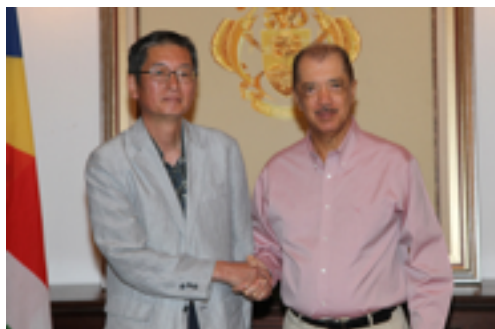


Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), told reporters in Geneva that at least 17 people drowned yesterday after a boat sank in international waters between Lampedusa, Italy, and Tripoli, Libya. Two merchant ships from France and Vanuatu rescued 226 people who later received medical checks by Italian doctors. Yesterday's tragedy follows several shipwrecks off the Libyan coast over the past fortnight, in which 121 people are believed to have died in three separate boat accidents. The Libyan coast guard has rescued 134 people. "Shipwreck victims and survivors include people fleeing violence or persecution in their homelands

and the risks they take on these perilous sea journeys reflect the limited safe options available in Libya and other contexts," said Mr. Edwards.

Photo: Syrian refugees are rescued in the Mediterranean Sea by the Italian navy. UNHCR is concerned about the number of vessels sinking in the attempt to reach Europe. Credit: UNHCR/A. d'Amato [Read More...](#)

SEYCHELLES CAN in the near future look forward to more bilateral assistance from Japan in fisheries, renewable energy and coastal management. This is according to the new Japanese Ambassador to Seychelles, Tatushi Terada, who presented his credentials to President James Michel at State House this morning - [Seychelles News Agency](#).



"My specialty is the environment, so I look forward to cooperate in this area, as well as continuing the support of Japan in fisheries," Ambassador Terada told the local press following the accreditation ceremony.

Ambassador Terada also announced the decision of Japan to assist with the installation of a micro-grid system to assess the feasibility of combining solar photovoltaic energy and diesel generation in Seychelles. [Read More...](#)

AN AUSTRALIAN Navy ship has seized a drug smuggling boat off the coast of Somalia, carrying more than 449 kilograms of heroin - [The Satellite Australia](#).

Defence Minister David Johnston congratulated the crew of HMAS Darwin who performed the seizure, which had an



estimated street value of \$132 million.

HMAS Darwin is on patrol in the Indian Ocean as part of Operation SLIPPER with the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) and the UK led Combined Task Force (CTF) 150.

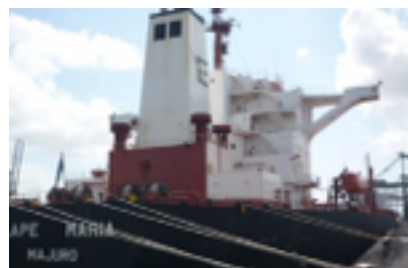
"Our naval personnel are operating with a multinational naval partnership in a campaign to defeat terrorism, prevent piracy, reduce illegal trafficking of people and drugs, and promote the maritime environment as a safe place for mariners with legitimate business," Senator Johnston said. Senator Johnston said the seizure, which occurred 40 nautical miles off the east coast of Somalia in the Indian Ocean, was the seventh significant seizure this year.

HMAS Darwin has a highly trained company of 232 and they have been on patrol in this region since February.

Other drug seizures include intercepting and seizing over 1 tonne of heroin with an estimated street value of \$289 million. [Read More...](#)

A 108kg haul of cocaine worth £30 million has been discovered hidden in the rudder of a Colombian ship bound for Scotland - [The Scotsman](#).

And three frogmen were apprehended by police as they allegedly prepared to embark on an elaborate



plan to remove the drugs from the ship. Colombian drug ship

The ship, named the Cape Maria, had anchored off Hunterston, in Ayrshire, after setting sail from Puerto Nuevo on April 15th, loaded with a legitimate cargo of coal.

But the captain and crew were met by Border Force agents, who instructed them to weigh anchor and prepare for the boat to be searched.

A team of police divers were on standby as officials prepared to search the ship.

At the same time, officers from the National Crime Agency, supported by police officers and Border Agency officials, arrived at the Seamill Hydro, a few miles away from the port.

It is claimed that the three men had planned to dive beneath the 87,400-tonne vessel under cover of darkness before retrieving the stash of cocaine. They are said to have been preparing to use a high-speed inflatable boat to get to the Cape Maria, which is registered in Majuro in the Marshall Islands.

Three Dutchmen were detained at the Seamill hydro, after which the drugs were eventually located and seized during the on-board search. It is believed Police Scotland and Dutch authorities were involved in the sting.

The suspects had arrived in Ayrshire posing as tourists, but were allegedly in possession of diving equipment as well as an underwater scooter and an inflatable speed boat.

Photo: The Cape Maria was delivering coal to Hunterston. Picture: Alma Maritime. [Read More...](#)

LOOKING OUT across the sea from the town of Vilanculos on the Mozambican coast, the silhouette of a large vessel, sitting on the edge of the blue-tinted horizon, is just about visible to the naked eye - ***Think Africa Press***. The group of local fisherman frantically hauling a net full of the morning's catch into their modest dhows ignore it, but a splinter group of two or three of these small sailing boats set off towards it through the cobalt shaded waters. The likelihood is that it one of the many passing cargo or container ships has travelled across the vast Indian Ocean from Asia. Both the convoy of small fishing boats and their larger counterpart are here to do business, but not to exchange a few Malaysian bananas for some freshly caught crabs. The locals are expecting to acquire several kilograms of cocaine, which will be taken back to shore to be sold for recreational use in the town's streets, bars, backpacking lodges and private residences. The drug is cheap, but potentially lethal. Strychnine, which is used in rat poison, is sometimes found mixed in with the cocaine.

Drug use inevitably adds another dimension to the town's social problems, which are usually defined in terms of poverty. But local consumption is largely a by-product – albeit an increasingly serious one – of a bigger issue, namely Mozambique's growing role as a hub in the global drugs trade. [Read More...](#)

HERE IS part of the videos taken by divers from the Italian police, during the operations for the recovery of the victims of the sinking of October 3, 2013 in Lampedusa, the greatest tragedy of immigration in the Mediterranean (Edited by Giusy Spica) - ***Repubblica TV***.

These harsh images showing the wreck full of dead bodies trapped at the bottom of the sea, offers only a part, the value is that of a historical document, a daily tragedy that Europe pretends not to see.

The boat, carrying migrants from Eritrea, Somalia and Ghana turned over a few meters from the island of Lampedusa. The total was 366 dead (41 children), 20 missing and 155 survivors. Each of them had paid three thousand U.S. dollars for the passage to the traffickers.

THE EUROPEAN Union said a new agreement with Senegal that limits the amount of tuna and black hake that EU vessels can catch there was a good deal for the country, in the face of criticism from local fishermen who said their rights were being ignored - ***Reuters***.

Senegal is seeking to crack down on illegal fishing in its waters while preserving government earnings from the sector which accounts for more than 10 percent of exports.

The deal between the European Union and the West African nation, agreed last month, caps the amount of tuna that EU vessels can catch in Senegalese waters at 14,000 tonnes a year and black hake at 2,000 tonnes.

In exchange, the bloc will pay Senegal 2.8 million euros (2.25 million pounds) in annual compensation. [Read More...](#)

Seafarers' Plight

NSTR

Aid Workers Plight

NSTR

And Finally...

WATCH AS Alexander Rotter, Co-Head, Contemporary Art Worldwide, explores the enduring power and appeal of Popeye as a subject for artists such as Andy Warhol, Roy Lichtenstein and Jeff Koons, whose 2,000-pound, exquisitely coloured sculpture presents the cartoon icon as the ultimate American hero - **Sotheby's**. Popeye will be on offer during our Contemporary Art Evening Auction on 14 May.

MORE THAN five centuries after Christopher Columbus's flagship, the Santa Maria, was wrecked in the Caribbean, archaeological investigators think they may have discovered the vessel's long-lost remains – lying at the bottom of the sea off the north coast of Haiti - **Independent UK**. It's likely to be one of the world's most important underwater archaeological discoveries.

"All the geographical, underwater topography and archaeological evidence strongly suggests that this wreck is Columbus' famous flagship, the Santa Maria," said the leader of a recent reconnaissance expedition to the site, one of America's top underwater archaeological investigators, Barry Clifford. [Read More...](#)



Piracy Incidents

Hijacks:

- Nil.

Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies (All regions):

- **SE Asia** - Two robbers tried to board an anchored product tanker at 0440 LT in position 01:04.8N – 103:28.6E, Karimun Anchorage, Indonesia. Duty lookout noticed the robbers and informed the OOW. Alarm raised and all crew mustered. Seeing the crew alertness, the robbers moved away. Reported (IMB) 14 May
- **Gulf of Guinea** - Two robbers boarded an anchored tanker at 0430 LT, Port Harcourt Anchorage, Nigeria. Robbers took hostage two crew members and threatened them with knives. The robbers released the crew after stealing mooring ropes. Upon release the crew raised the alarm and all crew mustered on the bridge. While mustered on the bridge the Master and crew smelt cargo gas and noticed a small craft alongside and forward of the vessel stealing cargo. Nigerian Navy contacted, ships in the vicinity warned on VHF Ch 16. The Navy responded by sending a small speed boat, which circled the vessel and then left. All crew safe. Reported 13 May.
- **SE Asia** - 3/Eng on board an anchored tanker spotted three to four robbers in the steering gear room at 0515 LT in position 01:35.6N - 104:32.2E, approx 6nm North of Pulau Aur, Malaysia. He immediately informed the bridge, raised the alarm and the crew were alerted. Seeing the alerted crew the robbers escaped without stealing anything. Reported (IMB) 12 May.
- **SE Asia** - 15 robbers in a wooden boat approached an anchored product tanker at 2310 LT in position 22:13.4N – 091:45.9E, Chittagong Anchorage, Bangladesh. One robber attempted to board the tanker using a portable ladder but the duty watchman managed to deter the boarding. Alarm raised and crew mustered. The robbers aborted the attempted attack and moved away. Coast Guard informed. Reported (IMB) 10 May.

Other Incidents:

- NSTR.

Suspicious Activity:

- **Red Sea** - MV reported two suspicious skiffs at 0420 UTC in position 12:44.8N - 043:21.6E, BAM. Both skiffs came within 2nm. Embarked AST stood to and displayed weapons resulting in the skiffs moving away. The master reported a larger vessel in the vicinity, approx 6nm, suspected of being a mother ship. Reported 14 May.

IMB - Vessels held: 0;

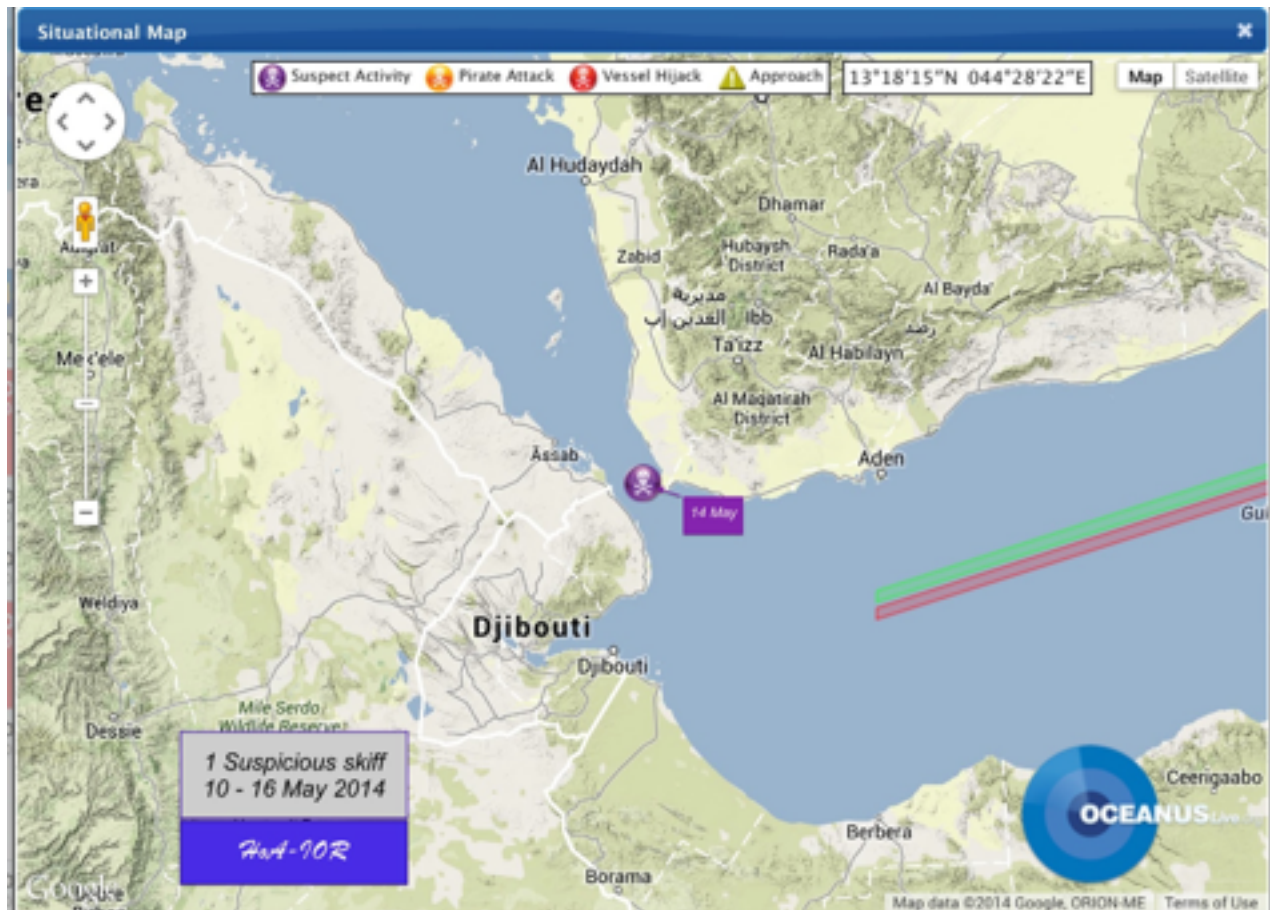
Worldwide Incidents 2014: 78 reported incidents

Somalia - NATO, EUNAVFOR & UKMTO state Vessels: 0; Hostages: 50; CGPCS - 49 hostages.

Situational Map

An interactive version of this situational map is available through registration of verified access to [OCEANUSLive](#)

Reported incidents in the HoA/IOR HRA.



OCEANUSLive.org *permits the reproduction of this image providing source and link are published (Map ToU)*

Any suspicious activity in HoA HRA should be reported to UKMTO in Dubai in the first instance (Email [UKMTO](#) or Telephone +971 50 552 3215) and on entering the UKMTO Voluntary Reporting Area (VRA) bound by Suez, 78E and 10S.

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