

21 - 27 June 2014 No. 26/14**Somali Piracy is Over; US Office - Counter piracy not assessed; EU Council endorsement of strategy; Kidnap, torture, release, book then film -**

A French General commanding French forces in the Southern Indian Ocean said that piracy in the seas around Somalia no longer poses a threat to merchant shipping, but cautions that the causes have not yet been eradicated. Similar sentiment made by US Government Accountability Office but emphasises that US agencies have not assessed their counter piracy efforts as previously recommended. Systematic assessment of the costs and benefits of counter piracy efforts has not been conducted, despite changing conditions.

The Council of EU has endorsed the EU maritime security strategy with the objective to secure interests against risks and threats including organised crime, freedom of navigation, environmental and cross-border risks. In 2008, Amanda Lindhout was kidnapped by Somali 'ransom-seekers', held and tortured for 460 days. For survival, she converted to Islam, made one escape attempt and was repeatedly raped. Her harrowing ordeal was turned into a bestselling book, "A House in the Sky", now, following a bidding war, the book will be adapted for the big screen with Oscar-nominated personalities involved.

The Iranian navy has, once more, reported the successful protection of a tanker against attack by pirates in 8 boats in the Red Sea with a fire fight taking place before the pirates retreated. An agreement for the East African Standby Force has been signed by 10 nations including Somalia. EASF mandate consists of enhancing peace and security in the East Africa region., whilst the issue of ports in EA causes frustration and cautious optimism in equal measure.

In Nigeria, the JTF claimed 3 suspected pirates died during crossfire following an attack on JTF patrols boats by 30 suspected pirates. The NN Chief of Naval Staff has linked the recent spate of piracy in the waterways to the ceding of Bakassi Peninsula to Cameroon. Meanwhile, thousands of Nigerian fishermen have rejected \$50 million offer from Royal Dutch Shell for oil spills after a landmark ruling. In the north of Nigeria, the CNS says NN is recording successes against Boko Haram, which along with its leader, have been sanctioned by the UN Security Council.

Recent weeks has seen SE Asia piracy highlighted through the hijacking of tankers, however, another area is affected by piracy with 411 fishermen killed by pirates in the last 5 years, and a further 1,000 wounded. Where? Bangladesh. Over 3,000 fishermen abducted for ransom between late 2011-2012 alone.

Japan and Philippines meet to affirm closer ties in maritime security amid China's increasing assertiveness in the region as Australia announces a \$2 billion Pacific Patrol Boat programme. A number of Chinese fishermen are missing after a trawler sank in waters of disputed islands in the East China Sea.

The last consignment of declared chemical weapons has been handed over by the Syrian government.

More prosecutions announced in the Sewol ferry disaster; the wife of the most wanted man in South Korea has been arrested along with the younger brother; the major shareholder of the ferry operator has applied for receivership, and another victim of the disaster has been recovered with eleven still unaccounted. Surviving teenagers have returned to school for the first time, and surviving passengers are to give evidence in the trial of the crew. Tragically, the daughter of a crew member committed suicide, say police.



... piracy in the seas around Somalia no longer poses a threat to merchant shipping."

- GENERAL JEAN FRANÇOIS HOGARD, COMMANDER OF THE FRENCH FORCES IN THE SOUTHERN ZONE OF THE INDIAN OCEAN (FAZSOI)

The Malaysia Airline, MH370, search could take decades as the new search area is announced. The change of leadership in the Malaysian Transport Ministry should have no affect, however, the pilot of the aircraft is said to have plotted a flight path to a remote island in the southern Indian Ocean on his home flight simulator. A Bengal tiger snatched a man off a fishing boat in eastern India, dragging him away into a mangrove swamp as his children looked on in horror.

Regional Activity

East Africa/Indian Ocean

THE UNODC Maritime Crime Programme has produced a March 2014 bulletin which focuses on the UNODC's existing work in addressing maritime crime in East Africa and also launches a new programme in West Africa - **OCEANUSLive**.

The bulletin reports that work continues in East Africa to ensure that Somali nationals apprehended at sea and charged with piracy receive a fair and efficient trial.

With the support of the European Union's MASE programme, how the transfer of suspected pirates from warships to regional prosecuting states is done in practice and ensuring those states are supported through the investigation and trial process.

The programme coordinator, Alan Cole, says the UNODC's obligations do not end there: the bulletin also explains how those Somalis who choose to serve their prison sentences back home are transferred and how those who have completed their sentence or who are not prosecuted are repatriated back to their families in Somalia.

UNODC has a mandate to support the victims of crime and in context of piracy in East Africa, they focus their work on the hostages.

The Hostage Support Programme shares details in the bulletin of its sensitive and harrowing work in support of more than 700 men who have been held hostage in Somalia.

Cole continues, that just as piracy in East Africa is on the decline, and UNODC along with the rest of the international community, starts to look at the suppression of wider maritime crime in the Indian Ocean, so in West Africa, the increased instances of piracy and armed robbery at sea, it looks at how UNODC is taking forward its programming in West Africa and supporting regional states to address a criminal activity which will be no less destructive than piracy off Somalia has been if it is not addressed promptly and effectively.

Editor's note: the figures stated in the number of hostages held in Somalia are those prior to the freeing of 11 crew from MV Albedo.

The figures include the number of hostages from 6 dhows/fishing vessels at sea used as motherships between Oct 2010 and Apr 2013 totalling 41, and other kidnap victims from Kenya, USA and UK (2 Kenyan aid workers recently released) held by Al Shabaab and Pirate Groups

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THE ISLAMIC Republic of Iran's naval forces have successfully foiled a pirate attack on an Iranian oil tanker in the Red Sea, off the coast of Somalia -

Press TV Iran.

The Iranian tanker came under attack on Thursday morning after several armed people on board eight boats approached the ship.

The 30th Fleet of the Iranian Navy, which is comprised of the Alvand frigate and Bushehr light replenishment ship and was patrolling the area, rushed to assist the vessel upon its distress call.

Iranian Navy marines managed to foil the pirate attack on the oil tanker after getting engaged in a fire fight, and forced the pirates to retreat. No injuries were reported among the crews of the Iranian ships. [Read more...](#)

SOMALI PRIME Minister Abdiweli Sheikh Ahmed, Prime Minister of Somalia who is in Malabo for the African Union Summit welcomed the East African Standby Force; this agreement has been signed by 10 nations including Somalia - **RBC Radio**.

The East African Standby Force (EASF) is a regional organisation whose mandate consists of enhancing peace and security in the East Africa region. This organisation includes five regional multidimensional Forces of the African Standby Force including Military, Police and Civilian components.

This organisation was created in order to fully commit to the vows African Union has made in regards to peacekeeping. It will ensure rapid intervention, peace and support which will make certain African Union implements preventive deployment within the region.

The main objective for this organisation is to create fundamental bonds of friendship throughout the continent and to ensure that Africans control their own lands; and to ensure continuation of peace, stability and preemptive

strategies to withstand future obstacles. Ten African nations have unanimously agreed upon this mandate and have vowed to uphold their commitment to strengthen security and preserve peace throughout the region. [Read more...](#)

THE ISSUE of ports in East Africa has long been an issue that has exercised policy makers, providers and clients alike. The three ports of Mombassa, Dar es Salaam and Berbera amply illustrate the current situation, one that is in some cases a cause for considerable frustration and in others reason for cautious optimism. Whilst some commentators may continue to ignore or overlook this part of Africa, the dynamics are such that when it comes to ports and all that goes with them East Africa and the Horn provides some fascinating insights into what is taking place - mareeg.com.

The Kenya Ports Authority claims that it has a vision to provide 'World class seaports of choice', a noble and seemingly lofty ambition. On the strength of wealth of anecdotal evidence from clients using the Port of Mombasa it would appear that in the case of Kenya's premier port it is evident that the KPA has a lot more work to do. Complaints are legion, with the three most common words used to describe the response to poor service and delays being; "arrogance", "complacency" and "indifference". Makhtar Diop, the World Bank Vice-President for Africa on a visit to Mombasa voiced his concerns over inefficiencies, so it is clear that the problem is a serious one. The parlous situation at the Port of Mombasa mirrors that of its great rival the Port of Dar es Salaam, with both of these Kenyan and Tanzanian strategic gateway ports have become synonymous with poor management, inexplicable delays, high port charges, theft and corruption. Landlocked countries such as Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda are also beginning to express their dissatisfaction, with Ugandan MPs claiming that the port's inefficiencies are forcing up their country's business costs. Matters have not been helped by the fact that the National Government has viewed the Port of Mombasa as little more than a milch cow. Years of underinvestment and the sticky fingers of politicians have meant that a port with enormous potential has consistently

fallen short of expectations. Growing international interest in East Africa and adjacent regions has begun to encourage serious exploration of alternatives and this has acted as something of a wake-up call. [Read More...](#)

This Weeks' Newsletter



Email: team@oceanuslive.org

THE SOMALI consul in Yemen last week visited four Somali ships stranded in the Yemeni port of Aden - ***IHS Maritime 360***.

The visit was prompted by concerns over the condition of 1982-built Cusmaan Geedi Raage, which is taking on water and in danger of sinking. All four vessels are reported to be in the custody of the Yemen government.

The ships belong to Shifco, a joint Italian-Somali enterprise set up by the government of President Siad Barre.

After the civil war that followed Barre's overthrow in 1991, Shifco moved its operations to Aden. Several pirate attacks on the ships in Somali waters led to them being moved to Yemen's EEZ. Shifco has been subject to legal claims from Yemeni businesses since 2007, according to Somalia's Dalsan Radio.

In May 2009, the French UN mission accused Shifco chairman and CEO Omar Said Munye of providing ships to pirates, terrorising fishermen and breaking the UN arms embargo.

Munye, a drainage engineer, denies using the ships for gun-running and defrauding the Somali government.

[Read More...](#)

CHIEFS OF Arab border, airport and harbor agencies met here on Wednesday, with a Kuwaiti Interior Ministry delegation participating - [KUNA](#). In a keynote speech, Secretary-General of the Council of Arab Interior Ministers Mohammed Al-Kuman stressed the necessity of achieving integration among all Arab security bodies and agencies in the fight against smuggling, illegal immigration, human trafficking and transfer of terrorists and ammunitions.

He called on Arab interior ministers to seek to broaden the scope of coordination among Arab security and military forces in anti-terrorism efforts.

Since the 2011 events in the Arab world, border, airport and harbor security organs have increasing tasks and responsibilities to shoulder for border control, Al-Kuman said.

Terrorist and criminal organizations, smugglers and human traffickers are trying hard to wreak havoc on Arab countries, he pointed out. [Read More...](#)

SEYCHELLES HAS engaged itself further to cooperate with its East African partners in relation to the establishment of an East African Standby Force that is able to act decisively and effectively to address threats to peace and security in the region.



Representing President James Michel at the Extraordinary Summit of the East African Standby Force Coordinating Mechanism (EAFSCOM) held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, was Minister of Foreign Affairs, Jean-Paul Adam. The Summit

was chaired by the President of Rwanda, H.E. Mr. Paul Kagame - [Seychelles MFA](#).

The Minister joined regional leaders in signing the Agreement establishing the standby force and the policy framework for the establishment of the Eastern Africa Standby Force.

"While Seychelles is a small country- we have already shown that we can make a meaningful contribution towards regional peace and security through our efforts in fighting piracy, and also by facilitating the sharing of intelligence in the region. We are also a country committed to the concept of collective security, and it is essential that we strengthen our region's capacity through such initiatives", the Minister remarked after having signed the agreements. [Read More...](#)

THE DJIBOUTI Air Force (FAD) has taken delivery of a new Modern Ark (MA) 60 twin turboprop transport aircraft from Chinese aircraft manufacturer Xian Aircraft Corporation (XAC) as the country beefs up aerial defence capabilities against regional militant groups and maritime piracy in the Indian Ocean - [DefenceWeb](#).

The aircraft was supplied in terms of an agreement signed



between the Djiboutian government and XAC in September 2013. The MA-60, which is the first of its type in the country, was commissioned into service by President Ismail Omar Guelleh on June 18 in a ceremony attended by members of government, the Djibouti Armed Forces (DAF), the Chinese embassy and representatives from CATIC (China National Aero-Technology Import and Export Corporation).

"The acquisition of this equipment is timely at the time when the DAF is experiencing difficulties in transporting logistics for the benefit of our contingent deployed in Somalia in line with the AU's peace mission," said Lieutenant Colonel Wahib Moussa Kalinleh, commander of the Djibouti Air Force. He added that the MA60 consumes less fuel than other aircraft in the Air

Force's fleet, according to state news agency ADI. [Read More...](#)

ON 24 May, two Ethiopian-Somali suicide bombers, a man and a woman, entered a popular Djibouti restaurant and blew themselves up. Dozens of Western military personnel were wounded, and one Turkish national later died of his injuries - Blog by the **author of 'The Pirates of Somalia', Jay Bahadur.**

Al-Shabaab claimed the attack three days later, announcing in a statement that the target had been "French crusaders" responsible for the "persecution" of Muslims in the Central African Republic (CAR).

Two days prior to the attack, the two bombers -- later identified as Musa Roble Hiran and Hodan Mohamed Isse -- entered Djibouti via Loyada, the only land border crossing with Somaliland, assisted by a Djiboutian border officer. They had spent at least 20 days in the capital Hargeisa, according to Muse Bihi, the chairman of Somaliland's ruling Kulmiye party, where they likely received local assistance.

There are strong indications that the attack was planned and financed in Somaliland, possibly even with the assistance of government officials. The Somaliland connection will certainly worry the Ethiopians, as the autonomous region has long been the eastern flank of Ethiopia's regional security strategy of isolating itself from Somalia's instability. [Read More...](#)

KENYAN FIGHTER jets have attacked two bases belonging to Islamist al Shabaab insurgents in Somalia and killed at least 80 militants, African Union peacekeepers there said on Monday - **Reuters Africa.**

The African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), whose soldiers launched a new offensive against al Shabaab this year, said Kenyan planes carried out the raids on Anole and Kuday in the southern Lower Jubba region. It did not say when they took place.

"The air strikes in Anole left more than 30 al Shabaab fighters dead, three technical vehicles and one Land Cruiser loaded with ammunition destroyed," AMISOM said. More than 50 rebels

were killed in the Kuday raid, it added. [Read More...](#)

ISLAMIST MILITANTS hurled grenades at the gate of a hotel in central Somalia on Thursday then opened fire as they burst into the building used by Somali soldiers and Djiboutian African Union peacekeepers, residents said - **Reuters Africa.** Al Qaeda-linked group al Shabaab said it killed several guards and soldiers in the attack in town of Bulobarde, the movement's second assault on the hotel since March. The deaths could not be confirmed independently.

Shopkeeper Farah Nur told Reuters al Shabaab fighters started shooting once they burst inside. Other residents said they heard explosions and gunfire.

"We don't know of any casualties. The place is now surrounded by many AMISOM (the African Union peacekeeping force in Somalia) and Somali forces," Nur said. [Read More...](#)

AL-QAEDA-linked Shebab [Shabaab] commandos on Thursday attacked an African Union military base in central Somalia dressed in stolen government army uniforms, killing at least two soldiers from Djibouti, the AU force said - **Vanguard Nigeria.**

The Shebab said their gunmen stormed the compound of a hotel where Djiboutian troops with the AU force were based in the town of Bulla Burde, some 200 kilometres (125 miles) north of the capital Mogadishu, their spokesman Abdulaziz Abu Musab told AFP.

"The area command headquarters (of the AU force) was attacked, these attacks will continue," Musab said, boasting to have killed six AU troops. [Read More...](#)

West Africa

THE JOINT Task Force (JTF) in the Niger Delta (Operation Pulo Shield) on Tuesday said three suspected pirates died during a cross-fire with the group at Robot creeks in Nembe local government area of Bayelsa - ***Sweet Crude Reports***.

Lt. Col. Mustapha Anka, the JTF Media Coordinator, told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Yenagoa that some 30 pirates, armed with AK-47 rifles in two speedboats, attacked the JTF patrol troop.

Anka said that in repelling the attack, a soldier in the patrol and two boat operators were injured. He said the troops also raided and destroyed illegal oil bunkering site at Okpoko Creek in Warri South local government area of Delta, seizing nine Cotonou boats loaded with stolen crude oil. Also impounded were seven speed boats loaded with 75 jerrycans containing illegally refined Automated Gas Oil (AGO) and five pumping machines.

The spokesmen said that five suspects were arrested and in custody of the command for preliminary investigation before handing over to the prosecuting agency. [Read more...](#)

NIGERIA HAS now recovered over \$2 billion, of a total \$9.6 billion owed by oil and gas companies operating in the country in unpaid taxes, royalties and signature bonuses over 2009-2011, the country's oil and gas industry auditor said Thursday - ***Platts***.

In its audit report for 2007-2011, the Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative also said that Nigeria earned Naira 30 trillion (\$188 billion) in revenue from oil and gas sales over the five year period. The agency said that following a fresh tax recovery drive that began last December, companies including Chevron, ExxonMobil and Total, paid Naira 64.4 billion (\$403 million) in taxes. This adds to the \$1.8 billion in unpaid dues recovered from companies at the end of 2013. "Through the work of the Inter Ministerial Task Team set up last December by the Federal Government, NEITI ... has made recoveries from the 2009-2011 audit report a total of N64.4 billion from some companies," NEITI said.

In 2012, NEITI, in its audit report covering 2009-2011, stated that oil and gas companies operating in the West African country owed \$9.6 billion in unpaid taxes, royalties and signature bonuses. [Read more...](#)

THE FEDERAL Government of Nigeria will help the European Union (EU) attain long term gas supply security - ***Business Daily Online***.

This intent, according to a statement from the NNPC, emerged following discussions at the eleventh EU-OPEC Energy Ministerial Dialogue in Brussels, Belgium where Minister of Petroleum Resources and Alternate President of the OPEC Conference, Diezani Alison-Madueke noted Nigeria 'is prime to explore its gas potentials to the fullest'.

This pledge is particularly crucial as Europe struggles to free itself from over dependence on Russia's natural gas. Russia currently supplies around 30 per cent of all gas consumed within Europe and has been accused of using it as "a weapon." Moscow cut gas supplies to Kiev last week after Ukraine failed to meet a deadline to pay a \$1.95 billion gas debt, despite extensive negotiations leading up to the deadline. Meanwhile, the EU has stressed the need to diversify its energy consumption away from Russian gas.

Nigeria's gas production has increased to over eight billion cubic feet per day and the country is the eighth largest gas producer in the world, and sixth largest gas supplier to Europe. Meanwhile, the country has over 180 trillion cubic feet (tcf) of discovered reserves and up to 600 tcf of undiscovered gas reserves.

Alison-Madueke revealed that significant investments was being planned to support expansion of the sector in the coming years. [Read more...](#)

THE CHIEF of Naval Staff, Vice Admiral Usman Jubrin, has linked the recent spate of sea piracy in the country's waterways to ceding of Bakassi Peninsula to Cameroon.

He however, said that Nigeria and Cameroon are to collaborate to combat the menace of sea piracy in the Nigeria's waterways as the country

now records a reduction in crude oil theft - ***The Guardian News Nigeria***.

Meanwhile, the Laureates of the Right Livelihood Award, have petitioned President Goodluck Jonathan urging him to implement the recommendations of a 2011 United Nations(UN) report on Ogoniland.

Jubrin stated this in Port Harcourt yesterday while addressing men of the Nigerian Navy at the NNS Pathfinder, stressing that the Federal Government has mapped out strategic plan with Cameroon on how to curb the menace of sea piracy.

He further added that the disaffection caused by the ceding of the territory had given rise to sea piracy in the area.

He noted that despite the challenges faced in policing the waterways, the navy has been able to reduce crude oil theft from 4.2 million barrels to barely one million barrels monthly. He acknowledged that irrespective of the success recorded, oil theft, illegal fishing and sea piracy still remains a serious challenge within the country's maritime environment. [Read More...](#)

THOUSANDS OF Nigerian fishermen have rejected an offer of \$50 million from Royal Dutch Shell for "some of the largest oil spills in history," their British lawyers said Friday after winning a landmark court ruling - ***Huffington Post***. Shell already accepts responsibility for paying compensation and cleaning up spills caused by its own failures. But the London High Court decided that Shell can be held legally liable for spills caused by oil thefts, if it fails to provide reasonable protection for its pipeline infrastructure.

The court case involves one of Nigeria's worst environmental disasters. Amnesty International called it "a shot across the bows for Shell" and said the ruling "paves the way for Shell to finally be held accountable for devastating oil pollution in the Niger Delta."

Shell played down the judgment, saying in a statement that it was favorable in limiting litigation to "an assessment of actual damages sustained" in spills.

The oil company, Nigeria's biggest petroleum producer, claimed that the court found Nigerian

law "does not hold pipeline operators responsible for damage caused by oil theft."

But Judge Robert Akenhead of the London Technological and Construction Court ruled Shell is responsible for taking reasonable steps to protect its infrastructure, including installing leak detection systems, surveillance equipment and anti-tamper equipment. Shell does not have such equipment in its Nigerian fields, though they are considered mandatory in oilfields in the developed world.

It is the first time Shell has had its environmental record in Nigeria on trial by a British court. The thousands of compensation cases in often corrupt Nigerian courts drag on for years and often end with victims being paid a pittance. Until now, Shell has paid compensation only for spills caused by equipment failure. [Read More...](#)

THE EQUATORIAL Guinea Navy has commissioned a new 107-metre long frigate which was partially built at the navy's floating dry dock in the port of Malabo, as the island nation continues with a steady build-up of naval power -

DefenceWeb.

The frigate (F073), which has since been named 'Wele Nzas' was commissioned into service on June 3 by President Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo who declared it the 'flagship' of the Equatorial Guinea Navy and stated that the country has plans to build more vessels to ensure national security.

"This warship is the flagship of the Equatorial Guinea Navy and it will [help] to ensure security in the Gulf of Guinea. This is not our last project. The fact we [built] this warship means we can build more."

IHS Janes reports that although the ship was modified locally, it was designed by the Ship Research and Design Center in Nikolaev, Ukraine and built by MTG Dolphin at a shipyard in the Bulgarian port of Varna as a 'salvage and rescue vessel'. The keel was laid in May 2012 and it was launched in Varna in February 2013.

The nation faces maritime security threats which include piracy in the Gulf of Guinea and a need to secure its massive offshore oil and gas wealth. It also faces massive problems of international

human and drug trafficking operations. [Read More...](#)

Boko Haram

THE CHIEF of Naval Staff, Vice Adm. Usman Jubrin, during an operational tour of navy formations in Port Harcourt on Thursday said the Nigerian Navy is recording successes with its gaining of new territories previously occupied by Boko Haram insurgents in the north - ***Nigerian Bulletin***.

The navy chief said that security forces had pushed the insurgents further away to border towns, adding that it was a matter of time before the sect and their supporters were defeated. According to him, the military will not show any sympathy in the hunt for Boko Haram members in view of the threat the sect pose to citizens and the nation's territorial integrity. [Read More...](#)

POLICE SAY an explosion at a medical school in Nigeria's northern city of Kano has killed at least eight people and wounded 12 - ***AP News***.

Kano state police Commissioner Aderenle Shinaba said one suspect was detained after the blast Monday and his vehicle seized for investigation. He said Boko Haram Islamic extremists are suspected.

One student said people ran out of the School of Hygiene yelling "Get out! It's a bomb." It was the third bomb blast in four months in Nigeria's second largest city.

Boko Haram did not immediately claim responsibility but the school matches two of its targets — schools and Western medicine. [Read More...](#)

ISLAMIC EXTREMISTS have abducted 60 more girls and women and 31 boys from villages in northeast Nigeria, witnesses said Tuesday - ***Navy Times***.

Security forces denied the kidnappings. Nigeria's government and military have been widely criticized for their slow response to the abductions of more than 200 schoolgirls kidnapped April 15. There was no way to safely and independently confirm the report from Kummabza, 150

kilometers (95 miles) from Maiduguri, capital of Borno state and headquarters of a military state of emergency that has failed to curtail near-daily attacks by Boko Haram fighters.

Kummabza resident Aji Khalil said Tuesday the abductions took place Saturday in an attack in which four villagers were killed. Khalil is a member of one of the vigilante groups that have had some success in repelling Boko Haram attacks with primitive weapons.

A senior local councillor from the village's Damboa local government told The Associated Press that abductions had occurred but insisted on anonymity because he was not authorised to give information to reporters. He said elderly survivors of the attack had walked some 25 kilometres (15 miles) to the relative safety of other villages. [Read More...](#)

AN EXPLOSION has hit a busy shopping plaza in Nigeria's capital, Abuja, killing at least 12 people - ***BBC News Africa***.

The explosion was in the capital's Wuse district, near the popular Banex plaza shopping complex, and could be heard from miles away. It is not yet clear what was



behind the explosion. The military, and emergency services, have been sent to the area.

Islamist militant group Boko Haram has bombed targets across northern Nigeria in recent years. A BBC reporter at one hospital counted at least 12 dead bodies. Many others were injured. Authorities say they cannot confirm the total number of casualties as they are trying to secure the area. [Read More...](#)

THE UNITED Nations Security Council sanctioned the leader of Nigeria's Boko Haram and a splinter group on Wednesday, the first individual and entity to be designated by the world body since the

Islamist militant group was blacklisted, diplomats said - [**Reuters**](#).

Leader Abubakar Shekau and Boko Haram faction Ansaru will be banned from international travel and their assets frozen under the U.N. al Qaeda sanctions list.

Russia placed a "technical hold" on the designations two weeks ago because it needed more time to review the listings, but diplomats said they lifted the hold on Wednesday, allowing the sanctions to come into force.

Last month, the Security Council al Qaeda sanctions committee blacklisted Boko Haram at the request of Nigeria, following global outrage when the group kidnapped more than 250 girls from a school in remote northeastern Nigeria on April 14. [Read More...](#)

CAMEROON SECURITY forces have killed at least 10 suspected Boko Haram militants in three clashes in the north of the country near its border with Nigeria, a senior military official said on Thursday - [**Reuters**](#).

Cameroon has deployed over 1,000 troops along the long and porous border after it came under pressure from its neighbour for not doing enough to counter the Islamist insurgents, who are suspected of using Cameroon as a base. [Read More...](#)

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Southeast Asia

DOES PIRACY off the coast of Bangladesh pose a threat? The answer is yes. Is the threat external or internal? The answer is both. While Bangladesh has long-running conflicts with its neighbours over maritime boundaries which are being solved amicably, the latest threat is now emerging from maritime piracy. How is maritime piracy threatening Bangladesh and to what extent?

International Policy Digest

Recently, several dozen fishermen were abducted from the Sundarbans. A total of 11 piracy events took place off the coast of Bangladesh in 2012. What are the factors behind maritime piracy in Bangladesh? Maritime piracy in Bangladesh is the result of a set of interrelated factors. Factors associated with the failure of law-enforcing agencies, a culture of impunity and poverty induced criminality.

The first set of factors basically stems from inefficiency and corruption of law-enforcement agencies. Most significantly, inefficiency within Bangladesh's Coast Guard (BCG) which is charged with maintaining security for the maritime zone around Bangladesh, is overstretched, the result of a shortage of manpower and equipment. Founding Director General of BCG has suggested that the BCG is comprised of only 2,000 persons who need better equipment and more than its current fleet of 11 vessels. Eight vessels are 30 years old and cannot operate during the monsoon season. Importantly, it will be interesting to watch how Bangladesh's Coast Guard utilises a decommissioned U.S. Coast Guard Cutter that was transferred to their custody in 2013.

The second set of factors is associated with the failure of crime prevention and reduction. As reported by Bangladeshi media last month, police take bribes from drug dealers and criminals in Cox's Bazar. Criminals commit crimes more and more because they know police will not arrest them. The third set of factors has been identified as poverty related.

In the last five years, pirates have killed at least 411 fishermen and wounded at least 1,000 more, suggested Mujibur Rahman, Chairman of Cox's Bazar District Fishing Trawler Owners Association

(DFTOA). According to the DFTOA, pirates attacked more than 1,000 fishing boats, abducting more than 3,000 fishermen, killed over 45 and collected more than 1.28 million USD in ransoms from fishery owners of two coastal towns – Chakaria and Maheshkhali, alone from late 2011 to late 2012. [Read More...](#)

THE LONG-standing fishermen issue with Sri Lanka came to a head on Tuesday with chief minister J Jayalalithaa stating that India should not recognise the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) with the island nation as a settled question, as the constitutionality of the 1974 and 1976 agreements had been challenged - ***The Times of India***.

In a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in which she sought his help for the release of a fresh batch of TN fishermen by the Sri Lankan navy, Jayalalithaa said, "I have pointed out in my previous letters, a permanent solution to the fishermen issue lies only in retrieval of the Katchatheevu island, to which India has a strong legal and historical claim."

The unconstitutional Indo-Sri Lankan Agreements of 1974 and 1976 should be nullified and the traditional rights of Tamil Nadu fishermen to fish in the Palk Bay should be restored, Jayalalithaa said. "The Union government should not treat the IMBL with Sri Lanka as a settled question as the constitutionality of the 1974 and 1976 agreements have been challenged on extremely valid and legal grounds by me in my personal capacity and also by the Government of Tamil Nadu in the Supreme Court of India," the chief minister said.

In all, 64 Indian fishermen from TN are in Sri Lankan custody. [Read More...](#)

IN RECENT interviews with Xinhua, both Malaysian Minister of International Trade and Industry Mustapa Mohamed and former Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi spoke highly of the Maritime Silk Road proposal delivered by Chinese President Xi Jinping - ***Xinhuanet***.

Xi suggests to construct the Maritime Silk Road and the Silk Road Economic Belt in the 21st century.

Mustapa said the Malaysian side is supportive on the incentive of building the Maritime Silk Road and the Silk Road Economic Belt, and have been keeping an open mind on it.

"Malaysia is a trading nation, and we have a number of sea ports, which doing well, Kuantan, for example, Port Klang. They have already a kind of two-way arrangement between Kuantan Port and Qingzhou Port," he said.

Mustapa said he visited Qingzhou Port of China two years ago, which gave a deep impression on him.

"Kuantan of course is small, but government is spending a lot of money at Kuantan Port for such development. So, Kuantan, Port Klang, Pinang and Johor Port, this is very important links of Maritime Silk Road," he said. [Read More...](#)

A NEW \$2 billion Pacific Patrol Boat (PPB) Program unveiled by Foreign Minister Julie Bishop and Defence Minister David Johnston aims to significantly strengthen security in our region - ***Australia Defence***.

"The Pacific Patrol Boat Program is an important pillar of the Australian Government's commitment to working with our regional partners to enable cohesive security cooperation on maritime surveillance, including in fisheries protection and transnational crime," Minister Bishop said.

"Defence will replace the current fleet of patrol boats for all current PPB members with the addition of a new member, Timor-Leste (East Timor), which has been invited to join the program, evidence of Australia's growing defence cooperation program with that country," said Senator Johnston.

"The current fleet of 22 patrol boats gifted to 12 Pacific Island countries from 1987 to 1997 are now approaching their end of service life.

"This new program will involve the construction of more than 20 steel, all purpose patrol vessels that will considerably enhance the maritime security of our Pacific and regional partners," he said, adding: "Australia has a fundamental strategic interest in the security and stability of Pacific island nations."

Senator Johnston said the rugged Australian-made patrol boats are worth \$594 million with

through life sustainment and personnel costs estimated at \$1.38 billion over 30 years. In the coming months discussions will be held with PPB states on the individual allocation of patrol vessels. [Read More...](#)

A NUMBER of Chinese fishermen are missing after a trawler sank in waters to the north of a group of islands disputed with Japan in the East China Sea, state media said on Friday, though it was unclear what had caused the sinking in highly sensitive waters - ***World Bulletin***.

The incident happened on Friday morning, the official Xinhua news agency said, citing naval sources, near the islands which China calls the Diaoyus and Japan the Senkakus.

"The cause of the accident is yet to be known.

Two Chinese naval rescue vessels are heading to the scene," it said in a brief dispatch.

Japan's Coast Guard said they had sent an aircraft and a patrol boat to the area, about 120 km (75 miles) to the north of the uninhabited islands.

The dispute over the Japanese-held islets, where Chinese and Japanese ships regularly engage in a cat-and-mouse game, has raised fears of a clash between Asia's biggest powers that could even drag in the United States. [Read More...](#)

Americas/South America/Caribbean

A GROUP of Cuban migrants anchored in an open wooden boat off the Cayman Islands for nearly two weeks have been told by the government to leave or face detention and repatriation -

Business Insider.

The makeshift vessel carrying about 30 people arrived on June 14 off the south coast of the island of Grand Cayman, and is drifting about a quarter of a mile offshore near South Sound, a fashionable strip of wealthy oceanfront homes. The Cubans were given an ultimatum on Wednesday to depart or be taken into custody, according to Acting Chief Immigration Officer Bruce Smith.

Some local residents have assisted the Cubans with food and water while they shelter from rough seas before likely heading west to the coast of Honduras.

Officials in the Caymans say more Cuban boats are being spotted in their territorial waters, usually headed for Honduras, from where migrants make the long journey overland to reach the U.S. border with Mexico. [Read More...](#)

Other

CHIEF OF the Naval Staff, Admiral Mohammad Asif Sandila on Monday emphasised that despite host of internal and external challenges being faced by the nation, Pakistan Navy is well equipped, highly motivated and fully capable to defend the Maritime Frontiers of Pakistan - ***Business Recorder***.

Addressing the officers of 43rd PN Staff Course at Pakistan Navy War College in Lahore on National Security Challenges to Pakistan, he reiterated that Pakistan could not remain oblivious of evolving regional maritime environment.

"We are a peace loving nation and our maritime interests have to be safeguarded. We continue to collaborate with Global and regional navies to counter piracy and terrorism and this is evident from our participation in CTF-150 and 151," he added.

He said holding of multi-national Exercises such as the AMAN series is another testimony to our commitment towards peace and stability in this region. In view of the emerging developments, we are consolidating our maritime force potential across the conflict spectrum. [Read More...](#)

THE HEALTH of the global ocean is in decline and an integrated rescue package needs to be applied over the next five years, according to The Global Ocean Commission, made up of former Heads of State, Government, ministers and prominent business leaders - ***MarineLink***.

The Commission has spent 18 months investigating the decline of the global ocean and developed a rescue package of eight proposals to

restore and protect its natural capital and services.

"Unless we turn the tide on ocean decline within five years, the international community should consider turning the high seas into an off-



limits regeneration zone until its condition is restored," said José María Figueres, Co-chair of the Commission.

"Without proper governance, a minority will continue to abuse the freedom of the high seas, plunder the riches that lie beneath the waves, take more than a fair share, and benefit at the expense of the rest of us, especially the poorest", said Trevor Manuel, Co-chair of the Commission. It requires political will and bold leadership but the costs of inaction are clear."

"The high seas are like a failed state. Poor governance and the absence of policing and management mean valuable resources are unprotected or being squandered," said David Miliband, Co-chair of the Commission. "The high seas belong to us all. We know what needs to be done but we can't do it alone." [Read More...](#)

LAMU GOVERNOR [KENYA] Issa Timamy is being investigated for murder, forcible transfer of population and terrorism-related offences, prosecutors told a Mombasa court on Thursday - ***Daily Nation***.

They at the same time asked the High Court to remand him in custody to pave the way for further investigations into the killing of 65 people in the county.

Mr Justice Martin Muya said Mr Timamy would spend the weekend in remand while awaiting a court ruling on an application by the State to have him detained for 14 days.

The judge will rule on the application on Monday. The governor was remanded at the Port Police station in Mombasa for three days. [Read More...](#)

AN EGYPTIAN court on Monday convicted three Al-Jazeera journalists and sentenced them to

seven years in prison on terrorism-related charges after a trial dismissed by rights groups as a politically motivated sham. The verdict brought a landslide of international condemnation and calls for the newly elected president to intervene - ***ABC***.

The ruling stunned the defendants and their families, many of whom had hoped their loved ones would be released because of international pressure on the case. U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, who a day earlier had discussed the case in a meeting with President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, denounced the verdict as "chilling and draconian."

The unprecedented trial of journalists on terror charges was tied up in the government's fierce crackdown on Islamists and the Muslim Brotherhood since the ouster last year of Islamist President Mohammed Morsi by el-Sissi, then the army chief. Further fueling accusations that the trial was politically motivated is the Egyptian government's deep enmity with the Gulf nation Qatar, which was a close ally of Morsi and which owns the Al-Jazeera network. [Read More...](#)

EGYPT'S PRESIDENT said authorities will not interfere in the judiciary, as protests were staged worldwide in solidarity with Al-Jazeera journalists, including an Australian, whose jailing has sparked outrage - ***The West Australian***.

The United States is leading calls for President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi to pardon the journalists convicted of aiding the blacklisted Muslim Brotherhood movement and "spreading false news".

A Cairo court sentenced award-winning Australian journalist Peter Greste and Egyptian-Canadian Mohamed Fadel Fahmy to seven years in jail on Monday, while producer Baher Mohamed was handed 10 years.

Eleven of 20 defendants who stood trial were given 10-year sentences in absentia, including one Dutch journalist and two British journalists. Those sentenced can appeal. [Read More...](#)

EGYPT DEFENDED its judicial system at the United Nations on Wednesday amid a global outcry over the jailing of al Jazeera journalists, telling diplomats and reporters that it respects the

role of the media and does not consider journalism a crime - [**Reuters**](#).

Diplomats from more than 17 countries, including eight members of the U.N. Security Council, attended the meeting organized by the U.N. Correspondents Association to show solidarity with the three imprisoned Al Jazeera journalists. Australian Peter Greste; Canadian-Egyptian national Mohamed Fahmy, Cairo bureau chief of Al Jazeera English; and Egyptian producer Baher Mohamed were jailed on Monday for seven years. All three denied the charge of working with the now banned Muslim Brotherhood.

The cases sparked global outrage. The United States called for the "chilling, draconian sentences" to be reversed. [**Read More...**](#)

THE LAST consignment of declared chemical weapons has been handed over by the Syrian government on Monday, according to Ahmet Üzümcü, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons' (OPCW) director-general - [**Defense News**](#).

"A major landmark in this mission has been reached today. The last of the remaining chemicals identified for removal from Syria were loaded this afternoon aboard the Danish ship Ark Futura. The ship made its last call at the port of Latakia in what has been a long and patient campaign in support of this international endeavor," he said.

The OPCW has been mandated since September to inspect, remove and dispose of Syria's arsenal of chemical weapons and chemical weapons production facilities after a deal was brokered by the United States and Russia to avert military action against Bashar Al Assad's regime for the illegal use of the weapons. [**Read More...**](#)

PRESIDENT OBAMA asked Congress Thursday for \$500 million to train and arm vetted members of the Syrian opposition, as the U.S. struggles for a way to stem a civil war that has also fueled the al-Qaida inspired insurgency in neighbouring Iraq - [**Navy Times**](#).

The military training program would deepen the Obama administration's involvement in the more than four-year conflict between rebels and forces loyal to Syrian President Bashar Assad. If

approved by Congress, the program would supplement a covert train-and-assistance program run by U.S. intelligence agencies. The Syria program is part of a broader \$65.8 billion overseas operations request that the administration sent to Capitol Hill Thursday. The package includes \$1 billion to help stabilise nations bordering Syria that are struggling with the effects of the civil war. It also formalises a request for a previously announced \$1 billion to strengthen the U.S. military presence in Central and Eastern Europe amid Russia's threatening moves in Ukraine. [**Read More...**](#)

A SUBSTANTIAL drugs bust yesterday morning in Benghazi port appears to have triggered a major fire fight leaving at least four dead and 17 injured - [**Gulfship News**](#).

Police and customs discovered and immediately burnt on the dockside a large consignment of hashish. The officials then came under attack in a protracted and lethal fire fight.

According to the head of port security, Ali Elumami, the refrigerated containers in which the drugs were concealed were aboard the Liberian-flagged container ship Jaguar. It had arrived in Benghazi from Malta at 7pm on Thursday. [**Read More...**](#)

LIBYA HAS become a "magnet" for terrorists since the U.S.-led ouster of Moammar Gadhafi in 2011, a Pentagon official said in testimony Wednesday - [**The Hill**](#).

"Clearly Libya has become a magnet...for extremists, terrorists to go there," said Derek Chollet, assistant secretary of Defense for international security affairs. "It's a vacant lot in many places in Libya."

Administration officials who testified before the House Foreign Relations Committee said the U.S. is spending more than \$100 million on aid to Libya, but are having difficulty rebuilding the country due to a lack of security for American personnel.

Lawmakers said the White House has taken its eye off the ball in the country.

"Today, terrorists are using Libya as a training ground," said Rep. Ed Royce (R-Calif.), chairman

of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. [Read More...](#)

South Korean Ferry

THE WIFE of South Korea's most wanted man, a businessman linked to a ferry disaster in which hundreds of school children drowned, was arrested on Saturday, prosecutors said, as the net tightens around the fugitive's family - [Yahoo Singapore](#).

Police and prosecutors arrested Kwon Yoon-ja, 72, on suspicion of embezzlement after chasing her for more than 20 days, an official said. Prosecutors and police are seeking Yoo Byung-un, 73, who has eluded one of the country's biggest manhunts for more than a month. The husband of Yoo's younger sister, a former ambassador to the Czech Republic, was arrested on Friday on suspicion of helping Yoo escape arrest.

Yoo is wanted on charges of embezzlement, negligence and tax evasion stemming from a web of business holdings centred on I-One-I, an investment vehicle owned by his sons that ran the shipping company, Chonghaejin Marine. [Read More...](#)

PROSECUTORS SAY the head of the company that operated a South Korean ferry that capsized in April caused the accident by overloading the ship - [BBC News](#).

Chonghaejin Marine's chief Kim Han-sik and four employees have been charged with negligence. Includes Video report [Read More...](#)

SOUTH KOREAN police arrested a younger brother of the country's most wanted man, a businessman linked to a ferry disaster in which hundreds of school children drowned, on Sunday as authorities cast a wide net for the fugitive's family - [GMA News](#).

Yoo Byung-ho was arrested on suspicion of embezzlement, a prosecution official said. Prosecutors and police are seeking Yoo Byung-un, 73, who has eluded one of the country's biggest manhunts for more than a month. They

have arrested his wife, younger sister and her husband, a former ambassador to the Czech Republic.

His younger sister and her husband, arrested on suspicion of helping Yoo evade arrest, were allowed to go home on Saturday. [Read More...](#)

THE MAJOR shareholder of the South Korean operator of the ferry on which hundreds of high school students drowned in April has applied for receivership, a court said on Monday -

[MarineLink](#).

Chonhaiji Co Ltd, a ship block maker and the major shareholder of ferry operator Chonghaejin Marine Company, lodged its application at the Changwon District Court last week, a court official said.

Chonhaiji had 34.8 billion won (\$34.19 million) in outstanding debt to main creditor Korea Development Bank as of last week, the bank's spokesman said.

The company, which owned 39.4 percent of the ferry operator as of end-2013, reported a net profit of 1.01 billion won last year. But it missed some debt repayments due last month as its business suffered in the aftermath of the disaster. [Read More...](#)

ANOTHER VICTIM has been recovered from the sunken Sewol-ho ferry... bringing the confirmed death toll from the disaster to 293 - Arirang News. Eleven others remain unaccounted for... 70 days after the ferry sank in waters off southwestern Korea.

Officials say the body is that of a female student and she was recovered from the fourth floor of the sunken vessel.

The body has been moved to a temporary chapel located in Paengmok-hang harbour.

DNA testing will be used for identification as her body has badly decomposed.

Divers will resume their search of the ferry once tidal conditions improve. [Click for Video](#)

DOZENS OF teenagers who survived South Korea's ferry disaster returned to school Wednesday for the first time since the deadly accident in April - [NPR News](#).

As the 73 second-year students walked from a bus to Danwon High School in the city of Ansan, some "bowed their heads as they cried and ... some stopped to hug the parents of their friends, who caressed their hair and face," The Associated Press reports.



A banner at the entrance to school declared, "We pray the dead will rest in peace."

Officials say two of the survivors had already returned to school; the rest had been attending classes and therapy sessions at a facility in Ansan.

Shin Young-jin, one of the survivors, gave an emotional address in which he called for a thorough investigation of the ferry accident, according to the AP. He also said that while many people have offered condolences, others have accused the students of betraying their dead classmates by surviving.

"Whenever we heard such things, our hearts tore apart and ached and we shed tears because we felt guilty and sorry for our friends," Shin said.

[Read More...](#)

THE TRIAL of the captain and crew of the Sewol ferry continued Tuesday, with prosecutors saying they will show how passengers were not properly evacuated from the vessel as it began to sink, a tragedy that resulted in the loss of about 300 lives in South Korea in April - [LA Times](#).

The captain and three senior crew members face negligent homicide charges, which could carry a possible death sentence. Other crew members are accused of the lesser charge of negligent manslaughter.

Prosecutors laid out their case at Tuesday's hearing, saying they will introduce a video demonstrating how a captain and crew are meant to safely evacuate a ship in distress. The video is

intended to contrast with the actions of the Sewol crew, which have been the subject of virulent criticism since the April 16 sinking. [Read More...](#)

SURVIVING PASSENGERS of a South Korean ferry which sunk in April, killing 304 people, are due to give evidence in the trial of its captain and 14 crew members - [The Independent](#). Students from the Danwon High School in Ansan, 18 miles south of Seoul, will testify with other passengers in a smaller court nearer to their home, rather than the one where the defendants are being seen in Gwangju, in the south of the country.

Captain Lee Joon-seok, 68, was caught on rescue footage being one of the first to leave the ship, while many passengers, obeying orders, remained in the cabins. It is thought a delayed evacuation order from the captain did not get through to all remaining on board.

"The examination of witnesses will be held at the Ansan branch since the students are minors, most of them live in Ansan, and that it is difficult for them to be on a long-distance trip due to the side effects of the accident," Judge Yim Jeong-yeob said in his ruling, the Korea Herald reported. [Read More...](#)

[Video](#)

THE DAUGHTER of a crew member of a South Korean ferry which sank killing hundreds of school children committed suicide on Thursday, police and prosecutors said, in a tragic twist to a disaster that prompted a nationwide outpouring of grief - [CBC Canada](#).

The crew member, facing a charge of negligence in the April 16 sinking, was granted temporary release from detention so that he could help arrange the funeral, a prosecution official said. The daughter had been preparing for years for a government exam, said a police officer in the southern city of Busan, where she was found dead.

"To become a public servant was my last hope, but I don't think that is my way. Thank you for supporting me and I am sorry," she said in a note left for her husband, the police officer said. [Read More...](#)

Missing Malaysian Aircraft



THE PILOT of the missing Malaysia Airlines plane which disappeared in March with 239 people on board had plotted a flight path to a remote island far into the southern Indian Ocean where the search is now focused, investigators have discovered - **The Telegraph**.

The route, which was deleted before MH370 disappeared on March 8, was made on a home flight simulator machine used for practice by its captain, Zaharie Shah. Its discovery has intensified suspicion that he deliberately hijacked his own plane and diverted it from its approved flight path to Beijing.

More than three months have now passed since the flight disappeared in what has become one of the great mysteries of modern aviation. And despite a lack of any hard evidence, suspicion of Capt Zaharie's involvement has grown as investigators have gradually eliminated other potential suspects and causes of its disappearance.

Detectives and investigators, including experts from Britain's Air Incident Branch, have so far found no evidence of a technical fault or malfunction which could explain its disappearance. Inquiries into the backgrounds of the flight's passengers and crew have similarly failed to yield any evidence of, or motive for, anyone hijacking the plane or sabotaging it. [Read More...](#)

THE HUNT for missing Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 could take "decades", the company's British commercial chief has admitted - **The Telegraph**.

Hugh Dunleavy, a former Ministry of Defence employee who became the airline's director of commercial operations in 2012, said he believed something "untoward" had happened to the Boeing 777, which disappeared on March 8 as it

flew from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing with 239 people on board.

"Something untoward happened to that plane. I think it made a turn to come back, then a sequence of events overtook it, and it was unable to return to base," Mr Dunleavy told the Evening Standard.

"I believe it's somewhere in the south Indian Ocean. But when [a plane] hits the ocean it's like hitting concrete. The wreckage could be spread over a big area. And there are mountains and canyons in that ocean. I think it could take a really long time to find. We're talking decades," he added.

In the days immediately after the plane went missing, a senior Malaysian minister told The Telegraph he feared the search mission would take weeks or months. [Read More...](#)

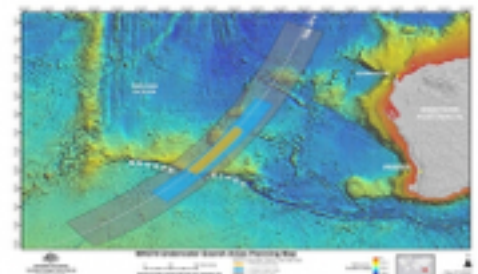
THE SEARCH for missing Malaysia Airlines flight MH370 will not be affected with the change in leadership at the Transport Ministry, Defence Minister Hishammuddin Hussein said - **The Straits Times**.

Malaysian Chinese Association (MCA) president Liow Tiong Lai was appointed Transport Minister on Wednesday to take over the portfolio which had been temporarily under the care of Mr Hishammuddin.

"The appointment of Liow does not raise any problems in Malaysia's efforts as long as the transition is done smoothly.

"They will be no problems," he told reporters. [Read More...](#)

THE NEW search area for the missing Malaysia Airlines Boeing 777-200ER that vanished in March has been announced and Australian officials have said the aircraft was "highly likely" to have been on autopilot before it crashed in the southern Indian Ocean - **ATW Online**.



A 64-page report on the search for flight MH370 was published Thursday by the Australian Transport Safety Bureau. Australia has been coordinating search efforts since satellite information indicated the aircraft, which vanished from radar during a routine flight from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing March 8, diverted a long way from its flight path and likely ended up on the ocean floor off the coast of Perth. [Read More...](#)

Released by Pirates

NSTR

Pirates in Court

SINCE 2005, there has been growing consensus and frequently recurring calls in the international community for the leaders, financiers, and land-based facilitators of modern maritime piracy to be prosecuted - ***OCEANUSLive***. There is broad recognition (at least in concept and rhetoric) that successfully prosecuting the low-level skiff pirates, while part of the equation, will ultimately have limited impact on ending or substantially reducing piracy, at least in terms of the law enforcement and prosecution components of national and international counter-piracy efforts. Indeed, one of the four priorities of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia for 2013 and beyond is “[t]o strengthen and focus law enforcement efforts to disrupt pirate networks ashore, including by establishing effective information exchanges among prosecutors, investigators and private industry” Yet to date, with the exception of the conviction of two pirate negotiators (which might be considered mid-level management) and the recent arrest of pirate leader Mohamed Abdi Hassan (better known as “Afweyne”) in Belgium, there have been no prosecutions of higher- or top-level pirate leaders, financiers, or facilitators. While approximately 1,200 pirates have been, or are being prosecuted in various parts of the world (primarily in Somalia, 402; Kenya, 164; Yemen, 129; and Seychelles, 124),² almost none of them can be considered

anything more than low-level skiff pirates. Why is that the case, and what lessons can the international community and national authorities learn from our experience fighting East African piracy, in fighting piracy elsewhere, or indeed dealing with other international and transnational crime? [Read More...](#)

Download the [Full Report](#)

Italian Marines

NSTR

Seaman Guard Ohio

THE MADURAI bench of the Madras high court on Tuesday reserved its orders on a petition filed by 35 crew members of the US anti-piracy ship 'Seaman Guard Ohio' seeking to quash an FIR filed by Tamil Nadu Q Branch Police charging them with entering Indian waters illegally last year - ***The Times of India***.

Justice P N Prakash reserved the orders without mentioning any date on conclusion of arguments which touched various aspects including the jurisdictional power of the Q Branch police to file such a case against the crew members.

The petitioners contended they were only providing security to ships from the pirates and they had valid authorisation and permission to have arms.

The police argued that they had entered the Indian territory with arms without proper authorisation.

[Read More...](#)

FOR THE 33 crew members of US ship MV Seaman Guard Ohio, arrested off Tuticorin in October last year for carrying weapons without permission in Indian waters, it has been a captive holiday in the city - ***The Times of India***. Since March, when they were released on bail the crew, including British, Estonian, Ukrainian and a few Indians, have been 'living it up' at a Mylapore hotel – working out in the gym, sightseeing. Having run up a bill of Rs 8.10 lakh, they cannot leave until their company, US-based AdvanFort, coughs up the cash.

A couple of sailors, who didn't wish to be named, told TOI they were "stuck in this country for no fault of ours". For the crew members, put up in 11 rooms at Hotel Shelter, the day begins with breakfast – both continental and south Indian.

"They prefer south Indian food to continental fare on most occasions," said M Thavarajah, assistant front office manager at the hotel. After breakfast, they proceed to the Mylapore police station to sign in the register as mandated and return to their rooms to watch TV or read papers. Lunch and a long siesta follow before some head to the gym and others into the town. Later, they again sign in the police register before an early dinner and bed.

The hotel bills were yet to be cleared but the crew were taken care of well, said Thavarajah

"AdvanFort was supposed to clear the bills on Thursday but hasn't. We are apprehensive as the case is coming up for hearing in the Madurai bench of the Madras high court on June 24. [Read More...](#)

Private Security

NSTR.

International Response

GENERAL JEAN François Hogard, commander of the French forces in the southern zone of the Indian Ocean (FAZSOI), said last week that piracy in the seas around Somalia no longer poses a threat to merchant shipping - [IHS Maritime 360](#).

The general, who has just completed his three-year term as head of Réunion-based FAZSOI, nevertheless warned President James Michel of Seychelles that the causes of piracy have not yet been eradicated.

He emphasised the need to remain vigilant, echoing comments made to IHS Maritime late last year by Seychelles' foreign minister Jean Paul Adam. Gen Hogard noted that during his term of office FAZSOI trained 600 members of the

Seychelles Peoples Defence Force, and French naval vessels made 34 visits to Seychelles waters. The general will be taking up a new post as security consultant at the French Ministry of Defence. [Read More...](#)

PIRACY INCIDENTS off the Horn of Africa's east coast near Somalia have declined sharply since 2010, but U.S. agencies have not assessed their counter piracy efforts as GAO recommended in 2010 - [US Govt Accountability Office](#). Since 2010, the International Maritime Bureau (IMB) reports piracy incidents declined from 219 to 15 in 2013. Similarly, from 2010 to 2013 hostages taken by pirates declined from 1,016 to 34. Also, a World Bank report stated that total ransoms declined by 2012. Officials participating in counterpiracy activities from the Departments of Defense and State, among others, as well as shipping industry officials and international partners, attribute the decline to a combination of prevention, disruption, and prosecution activities. However, officials cautioned that this progress is tenuous, and discontinuing these efforts could allow piracy to resurge. Despite changing conditions, U.S. agencies have not systematically assessed the costs and benefits of their counterpiracy efforts. Agency officials stated that their decisions and actions are guided by discussions rather than formal assessments. GAO has previously noted that assessments of risk and effectiveness in an interagency environment can strengthen strategies and resource usage. As such, GAO's prior recommendations remain valid and could help U.S. agencies identify the most cost effective mix of efforts and prioritize activities as they respond to changing conditions and fiscal pressures while avoiding a resurgence in piracy. Read the full Report to Congressional Requesters. [Read More...](#)

THE COUNCIL of European Union (EU) on Tuesday endorsed an EU maritime security strategy as a framework for effectively and comprehensively addressing the EU's maritime security challenges - [Global Post](#).

In a statement following a meeting of foreign ministers from the EU's 28 member states in Luxemburg, the bloc said the objective of the

strategy is to secure the EU's maritime security interests against risks and threats in the global maritime domain, such as cross-border and organised crime, threats to freedom of navigation, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction or environmental risks.

According to the strategy, maritime awareness and surveillance will be worked through the development of a common information sharing environment. And with common risk analysis, the EU will enhance its risk management and crisis response. Meanwhile, the EU will also strengthen maritime security research and training.

"Today's threats call for a coordinated response," said Maria Damanaki, European Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries. "This strategy is lean, smart and comprehensive; it allows our nations to pool resources, be cost efficient and work hand in hand." [Read More...](#)

EUROPEAN SHIPOWNERS are calling for the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers to endorse a joint European Commission/ European External Action Service (EC/EEAS) Communication, which outlines global actions to safeguard maritime security - **Maritime Connector**.

"We commend the European Commission as well as the European External Action Service for taking into account the specificities of the shipping industry in this first-of-its-kind holistic strategy paper on maritime security" said Patrick Verhoeven, ECSA Secretary-General.

Commenting on what has become the biggest scourge of maritime transport, Mr Verhoeven added: "In the fight against Somali piracy, the EU has provided invaluable assistance through its naval mission Atalanta. Despite the fact that pirate attacks off the coast of Somalia have considerably decreased, the situation remains easily reversible. We therefore urge the EU to maintain its naval presence in the area and continue the excellent work it has done so far".

A very different type of pirate activity and armed robbery, which has recently been on the rise in the Gulf of Guinea, calls for swift and immediate EU action. "We hope that the extent of the problem will be fully understood by Member States. Geopolitical realities of East and West Africa are

worlds apart. This in turn means that the EU's approach needs to be tailored to regional specificities." [Read More...](#)

A FOUR week seamanship training course developed by EUCAP Nestor for the newly created Marine Police Investigation Unit (MPIU) kicked off on 23 June - **DefenceWeb**.

The course is part of a tailor-made Basic Training programme for the MPIU, specifically made to ensure that



the MPIU officers receive the necessary skills and knowledge to carry out their tasks, EUCAP Nestor said.

The MPIU will be a core unit within the National Crime Service Division of the Police Force focused on law enforcement and the detection of illegal activities along the shoreline of the Seychelles.

The Unit will also assist the Seychelles Maritime Safety Administration in enforcing the law around the coastlines. This includes policing reckless and dangerous activities on the near shore areas, a practice which is becoming increasingly of concern.

The Unit will work closely with other maritime agencies, notably the Seychelles Coast Guard, for example in the search for drowned persons or for persons in vehicles that have fallen into the sea and that the circumstances require a criminal investigation. [Read More...](#)

Piracy Costs

NSTR

Smuggling/Pirate Fishing

AROUND A ton of heroin has been discovered in a warehouse near Athens and 14 people, most of them members of tanker crew, have been arrested, Greek port police said Sunday -

Ekathimerini.

It was the second seizure of a major haul of heroin hidden in Greek warehouses in just over a week. According to the initial information, the latest haul of 986.6 kilograms of heroin had been brought into Greece on a tanker, which has also been seized, the Greek port police statement said. The tanker Noorl is a Togo-flagged ship belonging to a Greek shipping company whose name police have not yet released.

Those arrested included 10 tanker crew members, all foreigners, and the Greek head of the

company that owns the ship as well as three others implicated in the affair, police said. The heroin was found in Koropi, about 40 kilometers (25 miles) from Athens, where a week ago just over half a ton of heroin was uncovered in another warehouse, along with another half-ton at a separate location in the city. Eleven people were arrested including a shipowner. [Read More...](#)



EIGHT MONTHS after a boat carrying hundreds of migrants sank off the coast of Lampedusa, killing more than 360 people and spurring an international outcry, the flow of migrants risking the perilous sea journey to Europe shows no signs of letting up - **Time**.

Already this year, the number of migrants arriving by boat on Italy's shores has surpassed 40,000, the total number of migrants that arrived in 2013. Earlier this month, Italy said it rescued some 5,200 people in the span of just four days. Officials there warn that many more will die without broader support from across Europe.

Tens of thousands of refugees and migrants make the journey to Europe annually, departing from dozens of countries in Africa and the Middle East, according to the European Parliament. In recent years, Syrians fleeing the civil war in their country have joined the ranks of Eritreans, Sudanese and Somalis looking for a better life, the UN said in April. [Read More...](#)

ON TUESDAY, the White House announced a new initiative to crack down on "seafood fraud" and illegal fish sold in the United States - **Vox**.

So what's this all about? In recent years, various studies have found that a surprisingly large amount of seafood sold in the US is either



Photo: Photographer Massimo Sestini accompanied the Italian navy on its rescue missions earlier this month, offering a rare up-close glimpse of the men, women and children who make the dangerous trip to start a new life.

THE US State department downgraded Colombia in its annual human trafficking report on Friday, claiming the country's government is not complying with the minimum standards aimed at preventing and prosecuting forced recruitment, child labor and sex trafficking - **Colombia Reports**.

The country has long been recognised as a source and destination country for sex and labor trafficking, while rebel groups like the FARC and urban militias have long been forcibly recruiting both adults and minors. Some children are subjected to forced labor.

Additionally, "authorities reported high rates of child prostitution in areas with tourism and large

extractive industries, and NGOs reported that sex trafficking in mining areas sometimes involves organised criminal groups.”

Until last year, Washington consistently considers Colombia among the top-tiers of nations that impose the adequate measures to combat human trafficking, but demoted the country to the second of three levels in its latest report. [Read More...](#)

ILLEGAL WILDLIFE trade worth up to \$213 billion dollars a year is funding organised crime, including global terror groups and militias, according to a report by the United Nations and Interpol - ***The Guardian***.

Aside from the well-documented ivory trade of up to around \$400m a year that trickles to some militias in East, Central and West Africa, the annual trade of up to \$100bn in illegal logging is helping line the pockets of mafia, Islamist extremists and rebel movements, including Somalia's Al-Qaeda linked terror group al-Shabaab that now rely on charcoal as its primary finance.

Christian Hellemann, who led the UN Environment Programme assessment, said the scale of the illegal timber trade "has been totally underestimated and is now being regarded as very significant", beyond concerns over deforestation, destruction of animal habitats and the threats to precious woods such as rosewood, sandalwood and mahogany.

In Africa alone, governments are losing at least \$1.9bn a year from charcoal, to the benefit of criminals earning up to \$9bn – three times the value of drug trade on the continent. "This number is likely to triple in the coming decades and we believe that the scale of logging in Africa alone would be equivalent in a few decades from now to what has been logged in the Amazon, just to sustain charcoal trade," said Hellemann. [Read More...](#)

TOBACCO WORTH an estimated €14m has been seized by Customs officers at Drogheda Port. Customs officers backed by gardaí boarded a ship in the early hours of this morning and recovered 32 million cigarettes and 4,000kg of water pipe tobacco ***RTE***.

It is the biggest seizure of cigarettes in Europe this year.

This

morning's

operation targeted an international crime gang led by Irish and UK nationals based in Europe.

The MV Shingle was loaded in Slovenia and arrived into Drogheda Port early this morning having sailed via Lisbon in Portugal.

The ship

and its

cargo

were

seized

and a

number

of follow-

up

searches are under way both in Ireland and in mainland Europe. [Read More...](#)



FOR A long time, most authorities have had to rely on guesswork and luck to find the clandestine illegal fishing vessels that ply the world's waters. But with a new partnership between The Pew Charitable Trusts and a satellite technology organization in the United Kingdom, coast guard and other fishing enforcement officers will soon have modern tools to fight a serious problem - ***PEW Trusts***.

Pew is joining with Oxford-based Satellite Application Catapult, which specializes in developing satellite-based solutions to real-world problems, to create a vessel-tracking system. It will merge information from satellite sources with other data to pinpoint the location of suspect vessels, and show vessel name, identification number, fishing license details, history, and more.

That information can be made available to coast guard officers, port officials, and fisheries managers to help narrow their search for pirate fishing activity, enabling authorities to find, stop, and prosecute criminal fishers far more effectively than now. [Read More...](#)

Seafarers' Plight

NSTR.

Aid Workers Plight

NSTR.

And Finally...

IN 2008, adventurer Amanda Lindhout was kidnapped by Somali ransom-seekers and held and tortured for 460 days. During that time, she converted to Islam for survival, received "wife lessons," was repeatedly raped, and managed one failed escape. With Sara Corbett, Lindhout wrote about her harrowing fifteen months in captivity in the 2013 bestseller *A House in the Sky* - [Indiewire](#).

After a bidding war, Rooney Mara in partnership with Megan Ellison's Annapurna snagged the book and will adapt Lindhout's it for the big screen. Mara will star and also produce the film. The Oscar-nominated actress and the multiple-Oscar-nominated producer last worked together on 2013's *Her*.

A BENGAL tiger snatched a man off a fishing boat in eastern India, dragging him away into a mangrove swamp as his children looked on in horror, the man's son said Friday - [National Post](#). The attack happened Thursday as Sushil Manjhi and his son and daughter were crab fishing in a stream in the Sunderbans National Park. The tiger leaped aboard the boat and clamped its jaws on Manjhi's neck, said Sushil's son, Jyotish. The tiger "quickly flung my father on his back and gave a giant leap before disappearing into the forest," Jyotish said by telephone from his village of Lahiripur in West Bengal state. He said he and his sister tried to beat the animal with sticks and a knife, but the thrashing had no effect. His father was dragged away and was presumed dead. [Read More...](#)



Piracy Incidents

Hijacks:

- NSTR.

Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies (All regions):

- **SE Asia** - Alert crew on board an anchored container ship noticed a small boat with ropes and hooks approaching the from the stern at 0200 LT in position 01:24.1N – 104:40E: 13nm NE of Horsburgh Lighthouse, Malaysia. Alarm was raised. Seeing crew alertness the robbers aborted the boarding attempt. Reported (IMB) 26 Jun.
- **S America** - While at anchor, robbers boarded a chemical tanker unnoticed at 0230 LT in position 10:19.2N – 075:31.1W, Cartagena Inner anchorage 'A', Columbia. The roving patrol on duty noticed the robbers on the forecastle and informed the duty officer who raised alarm and alerted all crew. Search lights were directed on the forecastle. Seeing crew alertness the robbers escaped with stolen ship stores. Reported (IMB) 25 Jun.
- **SE Asia** - Five robbers armed with long knives boarded a Saudi Arabia-flagged chemical tanker (**Name Withheld**) underway at 0610 LT in position 01:11N – 103:52E, Singapore Straits. They entered into the engine room, took hostage the 3/E and tied him up. The other crew noticed the 3/E, rescued him and raised the alarm. Upon hearing the alarm, the robbers escaped with the stolen ship properties. Reported (IMB) 25 Jun.
- **SE Asia** - Robbers boarded an anchored Marshall Islands-flagged product tanker, **Torm Helene**, entered into the engine room, stole engine spares and escaped at 0428 LT in position 01:25.2N – 104:34.5E, around 11nm North of Bintan Island. The robbery was noticed by the duty A/B on routine rounds. Alarm raised, crew mustered and a search was carried out. Reported (IMB) 25 Jun.
- **SE Asia** - The D/O and an A/B on board an anchored Isle of Man UK-flagged crude tanker, **British Gannet**, noticed some movement on the forecastle at 0115 LT in position Batangas Anchorage, Philippines. Upon checking they found two robbers lowering ship stores into their boat. The D/O immediately raised the alarm, sounded ship's whistle and informed VTMS Batangas. The robbers escaped with the stolen items in their boat. Reported (IMB) 25 Jun.
- **Gulf of Guinea** - Around 30 pirates, armed with AK-47 in two speed boats, attacked JTF Patrol boats at unknown time in position 04:30N – 006:22E, Robot Creeks, Nembe River, Bayelsa State, Nigeria. Three suspected pirates died during cross-fire shooting which resulted in one soldier and two crew boat operators being injured. Reported 24 Jun.
- **SE Asia** - UPDATE: Barge, **Hub 18**, with 11 crew onboard has been located and rescued by fishing boat at 0812 UTC in position 08:12N - 115:46E, about 100nm NW of Kota Kinabalu on 22 Jun. The barge was adrift, and the company is making arrangements to recover the barge. The authorities will interview the crew to determine what had happened since 9 Jun and the whereabouts of the tug boat which is still missing.
- **SE Asia** - A speed boat with three unidentified persons approached and fired upon a Philippines-registered fishing boat, **Ronald**, with two fishermen at 1930 LT Off Margosatubig, Zamboanga Del Sur, Philippines. One fisherman managed to jump overboard and swim away to save himself. When he returned the boat and the other fisherman were missing. A search was launched by the coast guard and the boat found off the coast of Igat Island, Margosatubig. The body of the missing fisherman was located off the coast of Purok Gumamela, Barangay Igat Island, Margosatubig, Zamboanga. Local authorities are carrying out investigations. Reported (IMB) 10 Jun

Other Incidents:

- **NSTR.**

Suspicious Activity:

- NSTR.

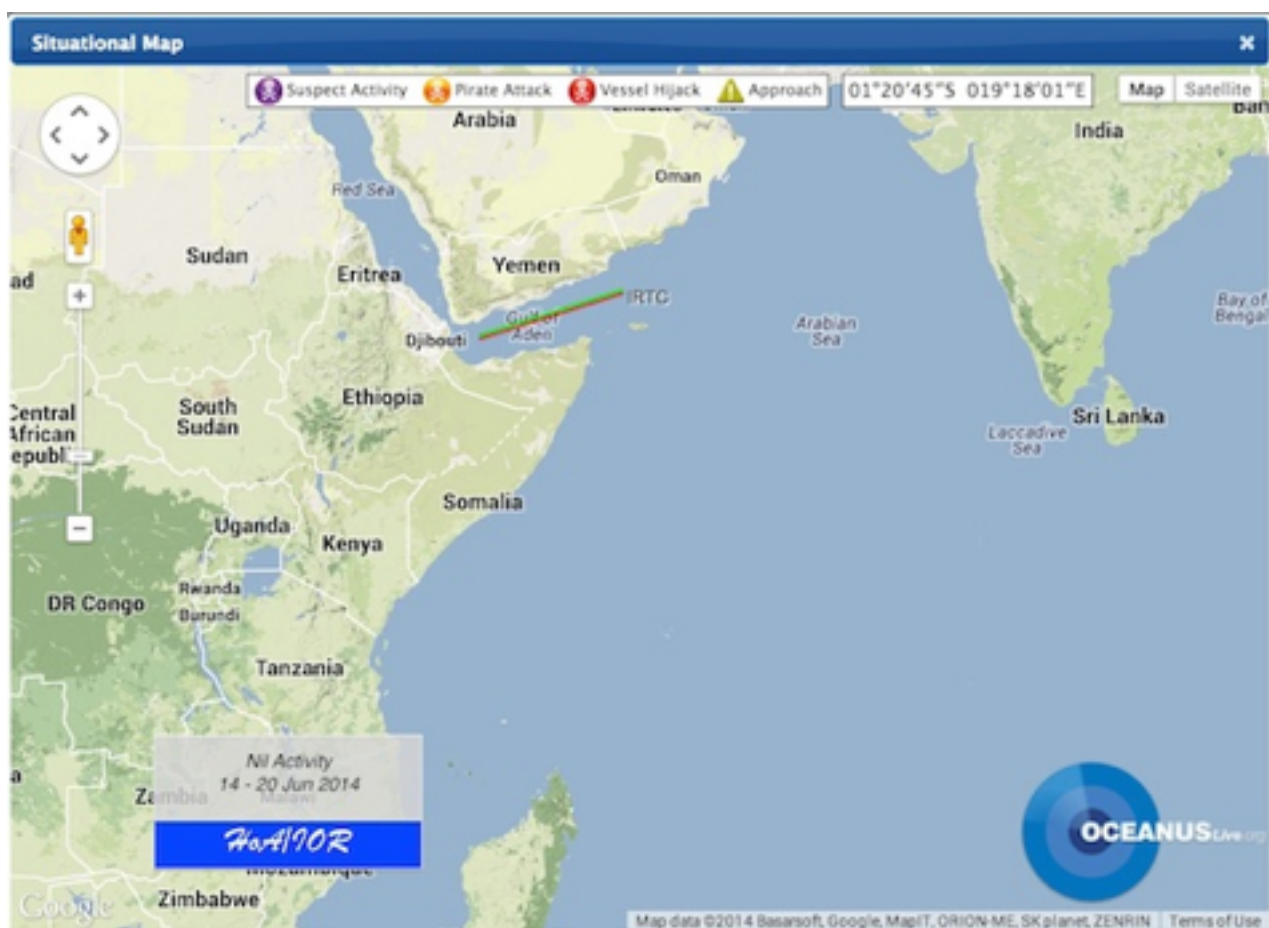
IMB - Vessels held: 0;

Worldwide Incidents 2014: 101 reported incidents

Somalia - NATO, EUNAVFOR & UKMTO state Vessels: 0; Hostages: 39; CGPCS - 38 hostages.

Situational Map

An interactive version of this situational map is available through registration of verified access to [OCEANUSLive](http://OCEANUSLive.org)



Reported incidents in the HoA/IOH 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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