

5 - 11 Jul 2014 No. 28/14**Militants abscond with ship crew; SE Asia tanker hijack confirmed ; Road building to combat piracy; Suspect pirates handed to Interpol -**

Somali militant group, Al-Shabaab, have reportedly absconded with the crew of a Kenyan-owned ship that became stranded off the Somali coast following technical difficulties after calling in at the port of Mogadishu. Witnesses claim that well-armed fighters arrived with several vehicles and demanded the crew surrender before driving off with them on board.

Another tanker was confirmed to have been hijacked in the South China Sea following loss of contact with owners. Nine armed pirates boarded MT Moresby 9, which had also suffered a pirate attack in August 2013, however, this time, the pirates were able to steal part of the fuel cargo after tying up the crew. Malaysian authorities are investigating the matter. The recent spate of tanker hijacks in SE Asia has raised concerns of increased organised crime gang activity or the possible links to financing political or terrorist activities. The deep-rooted factors behind regional piracy remains and the matter of "petro-pirates" is unlikely to be quickly addressed.

According to a study released this week, Somali pirates are protected by communities when they have no better source of income. The study suggests a more sustainable way to tackle piracy would be to build new roads and harbours to boost the local economy. It continues that policy makers have concentrated on the motives of the pirates instead of how local politics determine the intensity of pirate activity - the study, in our opinion, overlooks the problems encountered in capacity building and oversimplifies the way to address piracy, omitting the myriad security, environmental and terrorism issues.

The Nigerian Navy has handed over three suspects from MT Gare, allegedly involved in the hijack of MT Kerala off Angola in January, to Interpol. The lack of security off the coast of Nigeria not only threatens seafarers but also the UK economy according to the UK Chamber of Shipping in a new study.

Indian High Court has quashed the criminal case against the 35 crew members of Seaman Guard Ohio. After nine months, Justice Prakash declared the ship entered territorial waters through necessity under the principle of 'innocent passage' and could not be tried under the Arms Act. Will there be a ruling on the Italian marines? India said that it respects the verdict of the UN tribunal in the dispute over territorial waters in the Bay of Bengal belonging to Bangladesh.

Nicaragua has approved the waterways route for a new canal to link the Atlantic and the Pacific in a \$40bn project to challenge the Panama Canal.

A European Union court annulled sanctions placed on the Iranian tanker company, NITC, due to alleged involvement in nuclear programme, although the lifting of sanctions may not see the tankers permitted to trade in Europe. A German cruise ship was hit by debris from a Hamas rocket intercepted by Israeli missile defence system.

Relatives of the victims of the South Korean ferry disaster wept amid angry scenes in court as video footage of the sinking vessel was shown during the murder trial of the Captain and crew. The first hearing for maritime affairs officials on charges of bribery took place. Investigations claim the ferry was licensed based on falsified documents.

“... COMMUNITIES IN Somalia protect pirates when they have no better source of income, sometimes switching back to taxing legitimate trade when economic conditions improve”

- UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD AND KING'S COLLEGE LONDON STUDY

Malaysia is deploying more assets in the search for the missing jet MH370, however, people are being warned of a survey scam that preys on interest behind the mystery surrounding the plane via a video on Facebook.

Academic discourse is slowly catching up with the developments in the concept of maritime security as a new umbrella term related to the significant challenges of terrorism as well as piracy. Italy is in talks with other EU states about sharing the burden of rescuing migrants crossing the Mediterranean in crowded boats as 73,686 people, so far this year, are plucked from the sea costing the Italians €8m a month. The lure of flotsam and the use of FADS, a video by PEW Trust.

Regional Activity

East Africa/Indian Ocean

A KENYAN-owned ship which dropped off goods at Mogadishu's seaport and was headed towards Mombasa stranded at a small Somali seaside village in the Middle Shabelle province, according to local villagers - [**Harar24**](#).

After experiencing what seems like technical difficulties the ship stranded at the village of Meyraley, situated around 120 KM North-east from Mogadishu. According to witnesses the ship was subjected to being looted by locals who mainly consist of fishermen after they attacked the ship.

According to one of the investors into the ship who spoke to Harar24, it stranded at the village this morning due to some technical difficulties. "After the ship stranded some locals aboard boats attacked the ship and began looting, they took different kind of equipments." said the investor. "We are trying to contact elders from the area to intervene and guarantee the safety of the crew members" he added.

However shortly after Al-Shabaab fighters arrived at the scene with several vehicles, including pick-up trucks from their stronghold 'Adale town, around 30 KM away. Eyewitnesses said that the militants who were well-armed and had their faces covered demanded the crew members to surrender, and thereafter drove off with them in their vehicles.

There has been no official comment on the incident from the Al-Shabaab movement so far.

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

KENYAN POLICE are questioning the Iranian captain and nine Pakistani and Indian crew members from general cargo ship Amin Darya who were arrested last week on suspicion of drugs smuggling - [**IHS Maritime 360**](#).

The Kenyan Navy arrested the ship off Lamu on Wednesday. It was brought to the Mtongwe military base within Mombasa port, where the bagged cargo of cement was unloaded and the ship searched using sniffer dogs.

Speaking at a press conference on Thursday, Mombasa Acting Police Commander Sevelino Kubai said that the crew claimed the ship was carrying 300 tonnes of cement.

Kubai said that the vessel was one of two that had sailed from Pakistan and called in to Mogadishu, Somalia, apparently en route for Zanzibar.

Paperwork found on board stated that the cargo had been loaded in Mombasa. Early reports suggested the ship was called Al Noor (or Alnoor), but the vessel is now accepted to be the Amin Darya (IMO 8630784), homeported in Bandar Bushehr, Iran.

Australian frigate HMAS Darwin, serving with Combined Task Force 150, has been particularly active in intercepting drug shipments.

On 25 April it took more than a tonne of heroin, valued at \$290M from a dhow 27nm east of Mombasa, 786kg of hashish (cannabis resin) from another dhow in the Arabian Sea on 19 May and a record 6.2 tonnes of hashish, worth \$250M, on 28 June off the east coast of Africa.

In an echo of the controversial 'catch and release' policy employed in the early years of counter-piracy operations in the region, most of the smugglers escape prosecution.

Combined Maritime Force spokesperson Lt Cdr Sally Armstrong of the UK Royal Navy said after April's intervention: "No arrests were made. After the heroin seizure was made and the drugs destroyed at sea, the crew of the dhow was allowed to continue on its way. For operational reasons, it is normal practice for the people on the smuggling vessels to be allowed to continue on their way once all the illegal narcotics carried aboard have been removed and destroyed." [**Read more...**](#)

FOR THE purpose of exercising the sovereign rights of the Federal republic of Somalia (the "Republic of Somalia") with regard to the exploration and conservation of the natural resources, whether living or non-living, of the sea, it is hereby deemed appropriate to proclaim the Exclusive Economic Zone of the republic of Somalia as follows - [**UN.org**](#):

The Exclusive Economic Zone of the Republic of Somalia extends to a distance of two hundred (200) nautical miles from

the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial waters of the Somali Republic is measured.

Read the remainder of the declaration [here](#)...

[Read more](#)...

SOMALIA FEDERAL Government will take over its air space management following continued talks with the United Nations to end the caretaker authority that currently manages the air space operation, the Minister of Air Transportation and Civil Aviation Said Jama Qorshel announced on Saturday - **[RBC Radio](#)**.

The minister noted that the decision to handover the management of the country's air space has now come to be finalised after he has met the officials from the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) under the United Nations mandate which controlled the air space since 1996 following the collapse of Somalia's late central government.

"It has been an issue of great importance to us to get our air space management back after we missed for more than twenty years but we have come the time to take back our national property," the minister said during a press conference at Mogadishu's Aden Abdulle International Airport on Saturday as he returned back from his trip to Montreal and Kenya.

The minister explained the roadmap to handover the management of the country's air space and the necessary equipment and technology to be relocated to Mogadishu as the seat of the new Air Space Management Centre. [Read More](#)...

WAR_TORN Somalia is sliding back into an acute hunger crisis with parts of the capital facing emergency levels just short of famine, the United Nations warned on Monday - **[Hiraan](#)**.

"Somalia's food security crisis is expected to worsen over the next several months following poor performance of the major rainy season, shrinking humanitarian assistance and access, increasing malnutrition, conflict and surging food prices," the UN's Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU) said on Monday.

The warning comes three years since over 250,000 people, half of them children, died in a devastating famine.

In Mogadishu, the UN said the crisis is expected to spiral into "emergency" phase, just one step short of famine on its classification scale of hunger.

Thousands displaced by war live in basic makeshift shelters in Mogadishu, where Al-Qaeda-linked Shabaab insurgents continue to launch regular attacks against the fragile internationally-backed government. [Read More](#)...

A SUICIDE car bomb has killed at least four people near Somalia's parliament, police and Somali media say - **[BBC News](#)**.

Reports say the bomb went off outside the main gate of parliament after guards shot at the bomber.



One report quoted al-Shabaab militants praising the "sacrificial attack". An attack by the rebels on the building in May left at least 10 people dead. The Islamist militant group lost control of Mogadishu in 2011 and has since carried out several bombings.

Al-Shabaab, which is linked to al-Qaeda, has vowed to step up attacks during the Islamic holy month of Ramadan. [Read More](#)...

This Weeks' Newsletter



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SOMALIA'S PRESIDENT sacked his police and intelligence chiefs Wednesday after Islamist Al Shabaab fighters launched a major assault against his palace for the second time this year -

Standard Digital.

"Both the police and intelligence chiefs were replaced, and the minister for the national security was named," Information Minister Mustafa Duhulow said. Recent Al Shabaab attacks have targeted key areas of Somalia's government or the security forces, apparently to discredit claims the authorities are winning the war against the Islamists. Al Shabaab spokesman confirmed that the group was behind the attack late on Tuesday, and claimed their commandos had managed to seize President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud's office inside the compound known as Villa Somalia. However, government dismissed their claims, saying the Al-Qaeda-linked gunmen had been killed near the entrance of the compound. **Read More...**

CONSIDERING THE violent political unrest in various parts of the world, many accept the claim that the 21st century will go down in history as a period of global reorder, perpetual insecurity and bloodshed. If the grim headlines of the first decade could be taken as forecasts of the storms ahead, many nation states are likely to morph into something radically different than they currently are - **Aljazeera**.

While most are fixated on the domestic factors influencing the unfolding political madness in some parts of the world, few recognise that it is too naive to ignore the foreign ones. Especially, since the latter, with their interests, resources, and strategic plans, present more threats.

One would be hard-pressed to find a single troubled country in Africa or the Middle East in which foreign elements don't play overt or covert roles to tip the balance of power in favour of one outcome or another.

On July 8, Al-Shabaab carried out a deadly attack inside Villa Somalia, the presidential compound which is the seat of the government, and where its top officials live. Ironically, the heavily armed militants focused their attack on the prime minister's residence and totally forgot about the

Ethiopian Embassy across from it within the same compound.

These two concepts are merely two sides of the same coin. Stable nations get globalisation whereas "failed" or "fragile" ones get "junglification" - a bloody game of survival of the fittest. While the former is a widely recognised and studied phenomenon, the latter isn't. **Read More...**

PIRACY OFF Somalia's coast would fall sharply if the country's economy was more developed, a study says - **BBC News**.

Local elites and communities protect pirates because they lack an income, says the study by two UK universities.

Foreign navies have a strong presence around Somalia in order to keep shipping lanes safe. This has led to a decline in attacks off the Somali coast, with the UN estimating that about 40 people are still being held by pirates.

The study, by the University of Oxford and King's College London, says Somalia witnessed a surge in pirate attacks when territory was contested or elections took place.

This suggested the behaviour of clan leaders in Somalia was similar to that of politicians in Italy and Taiwan, who extended protection to criminals when they needed extra funds to further political ambitions, the study adds.

"Local communities support pirates when there isn't a better alternative income stream," said Federico Varese, a co-author of the report based at the University Oxford. **Read More...**

CAPACITY AND congestion issues will be addressed as the kingdom looks to finally take advantage of its geographical position on the world's main container shipping artery between Colombo and Suez, reports IHS Maritime's Peter Shaw-Smith **IHS Maritime 360**

Saudi Arabia is finally waking up to global container lines' interest in its west coast, which is ideally situated along the world's main shipping artery between Colombo and Suez. Three major ports are already operational – two of which will gain capacity – and another is under construction. While Saudi Arabia's planners might have failed in the past to think big enough, they are now seeking

to address the lack of capacity and port options that limit access to the region's largest country. Congestion has prompted expansion programmes, mirroring onshore progress on at least four 'economic cities' to provide opportunities for a youthful population. Facilities at Rabigh, Yanbu, and Jizan are all likely to grow in size over the next decade.

However, shipping lines still complain of excessive red tape. Dwell times, particularly at Jeddah Islamic Port (JIP), are exacerbated by rigorous inspection procedures, under which each box in a consignment can be examined.

The organisers of the Saudi Maritime Congress, debuting in Dammam in November, say current five-year-plan funding includes \$30Bn for land and sea infrastructure. The government has also undertaken to fund the vital Jeddah-Riyadh rail 'Landbridge' to facilitate overland box traffic through to Dammam Port on the east coast via an existing line from the capital (an attempt to raise public private partnership financing in the last five years failed due to lack of bankability)... [Read More...](#)

West Africa

THE COMMANDER of NNS Delta, Musa Gemu, on Thursday handed over MT Gare ship with three suspects to the Interpol - ***Premium Times Nigeria***.

Mr. Gemu, while handing over the suspects to the team leader, Soji Idowu, said they were apprehended in March 2014.

He explained that the suspects allegedly used MT Gare to hijack another vessel, MT Kerala, off the coast of Angola on January 18.

He said they used the hijacked MT Kerala vessel to siphon over 75,000 metric tons of Automated Gasoline Oil, AGO, off the coast of Angola.

The commander said that the cargo was hijacked 200 nautical miles off the Angola coast with over \$10 million worth of product on board.

"...MT Gare was used to hijack MT Kerala at 200 nautical miles off the coast of Angola while carrying products worth \$10 million. [Read more...](#)

A LACK of security off the coast of Nigeria threatens seafarers as well as the UK economy, according to a UK Chamber of Shipping study - ***Seatrade Global***.

Due to be published 10 July, the report shows that maritime crime in the Gulf of Guinea exposes almost all of the UK's GBP £6.3bn (\$10.7bn) annual trade with the region to risks, including 12% of oil imported into the UK.

The study also states that ships in the region are attacked at least once per week, with a significant proportion of the attacks unreported. Over the past 10 years 45 seafarers have been killed and 459 held hostage in the region and, for 2013, 60% of attacks were within Nigerian territorial waters, where foreigners are forbidden from carrying weapons, complicating the operations of security companies.

"Most people are aware of pirate activity off Somalia, but lawlessness in the Gulf of Guinea is a major threat to our seafarers, the UK's energy and trade security, and to the economic development of the region," said Guy Platten, chief executive of the UK Chamber of Shipping

"Nigeria and other states in the region have known for 30 years that piracy was a problem, but too little has been done and enough is enough.

"The lack of security in the region costs Nigeria GBP £7.2bn a year in oil theft alone, which shows criminal activity is severely hampering the region's potential for prosperity. Put simply, these countries will remain poor until their maritime security issues are tackled.

Download the Full Report [HERE](#). [Read more...](#)

THE CHIEF of Naval Staff, Vice Admiral Usman Jibrin says the Nigerian Navy is in the process of acquiring a hydrographic survey vessel and also upgrading the Nigerian Navy Hydrographic school in line with global best practices - ***NTA News***. He stated this at the 2014 World Hydrography Day held in Warri, Delta State. [Read more...](#)

Boko Haram

NIGERIA'S MILITARY claimed Saturday that its forces killed over 50 attackers who'd tried to storm bases and police stations in the African nation's violence-ravaged state of Borno - [**CNN**](#). Most of the troops were out patrolling nearby villages when the fighters, which the military described as "terrorists," launched their attack Friday night in Damboa, according to a defence ministry statement.

The assault was successfully repelled, the military claimed. Five soldiers and a senior officer died defending their posts, while a number of others were wounded.

The Defense Ministry did not specify who they believe was behind the attack. Local media reports, though, said they belonged to Boko Haram. [**Read More...**](#)

TROOPS HAVE cleared and taken over Balmo forest in a military operation that lasted throughout the weekend. Prior to the operation, Balmo forest stretching from Bauchi through Jigawa States with links to the fringes of Sambisa forest was used by terrorists as bases and hideouts for launching attacks - [**Defence Info**](#).

Terrorists and armed gangs operating in the forests were completely rooted out while some were captured during the operation. Among those captured were two foreigners who are suspected to be mercenaries. Also captured are several weapons and equipment

including power generating sets, communication equipment, vehicles, motorcycles, foodstuff and kitchen utensils.

In another development, over 44 terrorists have died in Kerenoa and adjoining communities, following an encounter with troops who repelled their attack on the communities. Armed with IEDs and other high caliber weapons, a large number of terrorists had carried out a predawn attack on the

communities but met with stiff resistance of the troops. During the operation, several of them were captured as well as weapons and ammunitions of various calibre. [**Read More...**](#)

MORE THAN 60 women and girls abducted by the Boko Haram Islamist militant group in Nigeria have managed to escape, according to reports - [**The Independent**](#).

An official with a Borno state vigilante group said the group took a chance to flee when the insurgents went to attack soldiers and police officers in Bamboa on Friday night and Saturday morning.

"I have just received an alert from my colleagues in Damboa area that about 63 of the abducted women and girls had made it back home. They took the bold step when their abductors moved out to carry out an operation", the official, Abbas Gava, said according to Nigeria's Premium Times. "We don't have the details of their escape yet, but we believe God gave them the opportunity at the time the insurgents came in their large numbers to attack Damboa where about 12 soldiers, five policemen, over 50 Boko Haram members and unspecified number of civilians were killed yesterday (Saturday)"

He added that it was thought five women and two girls were still being held by the group.

A security officer told the Nigerian Bulletin that there was "no doubt" about the report. [**Read More...**](#)

ISLAMIST MILITANT group Boko Haram is blamed for at least 18 attacks on civilians in northern Nigeria in the past two weeks and the escalating violence of the insurgency threatens the security of West Africa, a senior U.N. official said on Tuesday - [**Reuters Africa**](#).

The U.N. special envoy for West Africa, Said Djinnit, told the U.N. Security Council that insecurity in northeastern Nigeria, coupled with growing political tensions ahead of planned general elections in 2015, had left the country at a crossroads.

"The level of violence against civilians in Nigeria continues to escalate," he said. "It is disheartening to note that within the last two weeks at least 18 attacks attributed to Boko



Haram have been conducted, resulting in the tragic death of innocent civilians and displacement of peoples."

"The Boko Haram crisis is now affecting security in the sub region," said Djinnit. [Read More...](#)

Southeast Asia

RECENT MONTHS have seen the resurgence of piracy in the region, leading one United Nations agency to call Southeast Asia a "piracy hotspot". In fact, there were about eight armed piracy-related attacks at the start of 2014 in the Strait of Malacca, according to a report by the Nautilus Institute for Security and Sustainability - **The Establishment Post**.

Piracy in Southeast Asia is not a new phenomenon. From the 14th to 19th centuries, pirates plundered trading ships loaded with goods from the lucrative spice trade, seeking to boost their own coffers as well as signal their resistance to European colonialists.

Up until 2004, over a third of all pirate attacks in the world took place in Southeast Asian waters. However, strong government and military intervention on land and sea helped to stave off the problem, at least on the surface. Countries like Singapore and Malaysia collectively coordinated sea patrols, increased the number of surveyor airplanes, and collected information on pirates. This transnational effort increased the costs of continuing operations for pirates and halted their involvement in the region.

Unfortunately, these earlier fixes have crumbled while deep-rooted factors remain. The Nautilus Institute for Security and Sustainability attributes piracy in Southeast Asia to a multitude of reasons, including "over-fishing, lax maritime regulations, the existence of organised crime syndicates, the presence of radical politically motivated groups in the region, and widespread poverty".

To complicate matters, the rise in trade in Southeast Asian waters adds further incentive for pirates seeking bounties. [Read More...](#)

ADD ANOTHER problem to the rising tensions in the South China Sea this year: a mysterious spate

of tanker hijackings since late April, as armed bands of men have boarded and commandeered the ships, siphoned their cargos of diesel and gasoline onto barges or other tankers, and fled into the night - **The New York Times**.

Complicating matters is the fact that two of the hijackings took place near the heart of Malaysia's offshore oil and gas production, in waters where China is making an increasingly forceful claim to sovereignty.

Interpol, intelligence agencies and military forces in the region are investigating the eight attacks — the most recent of which was last Friday — and are trying to figure out how to stop further ones, said Noel Choong, the head of the Asia office here of the International Maritime Bureau's Piracy Reporting Center.

One goal of the investigation is to determine whether the diesel fuel and gasoline are being sold for profit by criminals or are being used to finance political activities, possibly even terrorism. In one incident in late May, "they were wearing ninja-type clothes, black, so they looked professional," Mr. Choong said.

In contrast to the military assault rifles sometimes carried by pirates off Somalia and Nigeria, the pirates in the South China Sea have tended to be armed with handguns or even machetes. No one is known to have been killed in any of the hijackings, but three tanker crew members were abducted in one of the episodes and have not been seen since.

The hijackings raise geopolitical issues. [Read More...](#)

HONDURAS-FLAGGED, Singapore-operated product tanker, Moresby 9, was boarded and hijacked by nine armed pirates at about 2015 LT, 4 July, approximately 34nm WNW of Anambas Islands, South China Sea. The second boarding of the vessel in less than a year - **OCEANUSLive**.

At or about 2015 hrs, while the tanker was underway in position 03:45.93N - 105:10.24E, approximately 48.6nm Northwest of Pulau Anambas, an unmarked vessel, approximately 7 meters in length and described as a small fishing boat, came alongside Moresby 9.

The crew reportedly heard a gunshot and suddenly nine robbers armed with machetes and

three pistols were sighted on the deck of Moresby 9. Two more shots were fired. The robbers wore headscarves, spoke Bahasa and were estimated to be between 35 to 50 years old. The crew were not injured.

The pirates gathered the crew on the starboard bridge wing, tied them up and locked them in the engine control room, except for the Chief Officer, who was detained at the bridge for navigation purposes. A total of six robbers went to the engine room while three others remained on the bridge. At about 2140 hrs, the tanker was forced to anchor in position 03:35.81N - 105:12.53E about 39.4nm Northwest of Pulau Anambas and the engines were turned off. At this point, the Chief Officer, who was on the bridge, allegedly noticed an orange motor tanker, approximately 3000 GT, come alongside Moresby 9.

The pirates forced the Chief Engineer and Bosun to restart the engines and pump; and open the cargo valves. After doing so, both were again tied up and locked in the engine control room with the remaining crew. Subsequently, they heard sounds leading them to believe that the siphoning process was carried out - between 2200 hrs on 4 July until 0400 hrs on 5 July, some six hours.

[Read More...](#)

SIX VIETNAMESE fishermen have been detained by the crew of a Chinese vessel in the South China Sea, officials of both countries said on Friday, the latest in a two-month fracas between the Communist neighbours over maritime sovereignty - [MarineLink](#).

Authorities from the two countries disagreed on where the boat was detained Thursday morning. Vietnamese officials said it was in disputed waters 56 km (35 miles) off the coast of China's Hainan Island and 290 km off Vietnam.

The arrests risk escalating the biggest breakdown in ties between Vietnam and China in three decades. China's top diplomat met Vietnam's leadership last month to try to defuse tensions, but talks ended in stalemate.

China's Foreign Ministry said the fishermen had "broken the law" by working in Chinese territorial waters 7 nautical miles south of the city of Sanya on Hainan. [Read More...](#)

INDIA TUESDAY said that it respected the verdict of UN tribunal that has ruled that most of the disputed 25,602 sq km exclusive economic zone and territorial waters in the Bay of Bengal belong to Bangladesh - [Zee News](#).

External affairs ministry spokesperson Syed Akbaruddin said the Arbitration Tribunal for Delimitation of Maritime Boundary between Bangladesh and India, established under Annex VII of the UN Convention of Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), has given its award July 7.

"We respect the verdict of the tribunal and are in the process of studying the award and its full implications," he said.

"We believe that the settlement of the maritime boundary will further enhance mutual understanding and goodwill between India and Bangladesh by bringing to closure a long pending issue. This paves the way for the economic development of this part of the Bay of Bengal, which will be beneficial to both countries," the spokesperson added. [Read More...](#)

JAPAN PLANS to use drones to boost its maritime surveillance capabilities to better respond to natural disasters and improve security around remote islands - [Arirang](#).

According to Nikkei Shimbun Tuesday, the Japanese government is looking to deploy two high-altitude, long-range drones to be used with an existing satellite-based monitoring system.

The drones will cruise over designated areas above waters at an altitude greater than 15 kilometres -- a height where they will be unaffected by weather -- for up to 72 hours.

The plan comes amid China's aggressive expansion of maritime presence and follows a series of intrusions of Chinese vessels into Japanese waters. [Read More...](#)

Americas/South America/ Caribbean

A NEW canal that would link the Atlantic and the Pacific is one step closer to becoming a reality

after a group in Nicaragua approved the waterway's route - [**BBC News**](#)

The \$40bn (£23bn) project aims to challenge the Panama Canal.

It still has to undergo a series of impact studies, but there are hopes that work on it will begin this year.

Shipping Australia's Chief Executive, Rod Nairn, told the BBC's Rico Hizon the new canal will bring "real benefits" to trade in Asia. [**Read More...**](#)

THREE MIAMI men are back on dry land after their plane crashed in the Bahamas early Monday morning - [**CBS Miami**](#).

The pilot, 70-year-old Ernie Martin managed to bring his Cessna down in the ocean within a mile of a Seacor Island Lines' cargo ship.

The crew saw the plane crash and picked up the survivors.

They arrived at Port Everglades Monday afternoon.

"It was frightening," said passenger Javier Avino. He and friend Daniel Puig had just finished a vacation in Great Harbor Key.

The pilot says inexplicably both engines lost fuel and he knew he had to ditch the plane.

Seacor CEO Michael Lafleur said he is proud of his crew.

"They followed safety procedures in identifying a plane that crashed and was able to pull them from the water." [**Read More...**](#)

Other

A EUROPEAN Union court on Thursday annulled sanctions placed by the 28-nation bloc on

National Iranian Tanker Company (NITC), because of its alleged involvement in the country's nuclear program - [**Tehran Times**](#).

The European Union has provided insufficient evidence to justify sanctions imposed against the

NITC, the General Court said.

The court annulled in its judgment the European Council decision of 15 October 2012 "concerning restrictive measures against National Iranian Tanker Company", according to the statement which was published on its official website (<http://curia.europa.eu>).

The Luxembourg-based court in the case number of T-565/12, orders "the Council of the European Union to bear its own costs and to pay the costs of National Iranian Tanker Company."

The EU had imposed sanctions against the NITC in October 2012.

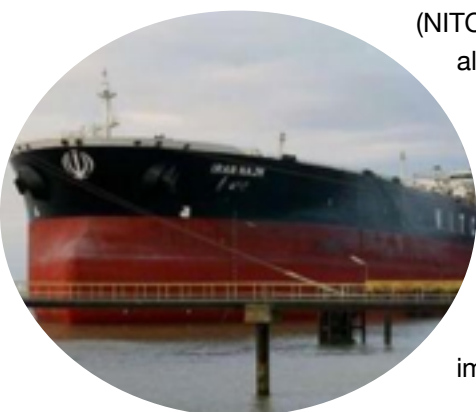
Justifying the decision, EU governments claimed that the NITC provided financial support to Iran's government. [**Read More...**](#)

ON 7 July, the German 69,000GT cruise ship AIDAdiva was hit by debris from a Hamas rocket which was intercepted by an Israeli 'Iron Dome' missile defence battery as it left the port of Ashdod, a mere 29km from the Gaza strip. The debris did not cause any damage and was removed by the crew shortly afterwards, however explosions onshore caused concern amongst the passengers - [**IHS Maritime 360**](#). It was not known if the debris was from the Hamas rocket or a Tamir interceptor missile fired by the Iron Dome battery.

Hamas militants are currently striking Israel with an assortment of rockets fired from within Gaza in retaliation to what they call 'Zionist aggression', itself a retaliation for the kidnapping and killing of three Israeli teenagers.

The AIDAdiva was on a Mediterranean cruise when it called at Ashdod. It was heading out to its next destination of Iraklion when the missile intercept occurred over the port. It is not currently believed that the liner was targeted specifically by Hamas. [**Read More...**](#)

RICHARD CLAYTON, Chief Maritime Analyst, discusses the reporting of near misses at sea, but also includes mention of pirate and robbery at sea activity, as important aspects for shipping to be aware of failure and bad practice so they can avoid risks in the future - [**IHS Maritime 360**](#). It is not about reputation, it is not about finance; this is about safety, says Clayton.



Fear for jobs if any admission of poor practice is made, a great disincentive for reporting incidents, or even the time-consuming paperwork involved, failing to report boardings by pirates or robbers can leave other ships and seafarers in danger. Intercargo, amongst others, calls on members to report accidents and almost-accidents so they can be shared between members.

With greater detailed analysis of incidents for insurance purposes now required, it is also about trying set standards for the way accidents are prorated.

See the video interview at the link above. [Read More...](#)

PASSENGERS USING airports that offer direct flights to the US may be forced to switch on their mobile phones and other electronic devices to prove to security officials that they do not contain explosives, it was announced on Sunday - ***The Guardian***.

"During the security examination, officers may also ask that owners power up some devices, including cell phones," the US Transportation Security Administration (TSA) said in a post on its website. It warned: "Powerless devices will not be permitted onboard the aircraft. The traveller may also undergo additional screening."

The TSA did not disclose which airports would be conducting the additional screening. It was reported last week that passengers at British airports travelling to the US were facing extra checks on phones. Belgian officials said passengers there would also have devices checked.

Britain's Department for Transport (DfT) advised that the new restriction meant any electronic device with a flat battery would not be allowed on flights, the Press Association reported. [Read More...](#)

DEPUTY PRESIDENT William Ruto has visited the scene of Saturday night attacks in Lamu and Tana River counties where 21 people were killed - ***Capital FM Kenya***.

Ruto who walked in bushy paths to the homes of the victims in Mareranda village witnessed the gory scene which was littered with bodies of the

victims most of whose hands had been tied behind before being killed.

The Deputy President had earlier in the morning visited

Gamba police

station in the Tana Delta which was also attacked on Saturday night and a suspected ring leader of the recent Mpeketoni killings released by the raiders.

He condoled with the bereaved families and assured them that the government will beef up security in the area to protect their lives and property.

Ruto expressed dismay at the senseless loss of human lives and instructed the Inspector General of police David Kimaiyo to ensure that the perpetrators of the killings are quickly arrested and charged.

He said: "We must arrest the attackers. The IG, county commander, the OCPD must arrest the attackers dead or alive. We cannot condone this act." [Read More...](#)

ARMED ASSAILANTS have attacked a camp of police reservists and burned down nearby homes and businesses, a regional official said on Tuesday, as violence escalates on Kenya's northern coast. But there were no reported deaths this time - ***Reuters Africa***.

In the nearby coastal town of Lamu, residents also reported finding leaflets strewn about, apparently from a Somali Islamist group, threatening Christians and the government.

The government has promised to track down those behind attacks on coastal towns and villages, most of which have been deadly, but worried locals say the repeated assaults show the state is not doing enough or is powerless to stop them.

Hundreds of families have fled homes in Lamu County, where the worst attacks have occurred, sheltering in camps near police posts or fleeing the region altogether. [Read More...](#)



IKENYA MAY face a full-blown insurgency on its coast unless President Uhuru Kenyatta can douse a combustible mix of ethnic rivalries, land rows and Islamist militancy - ***Reuters Africa***.

Gunmen have killed about 100 people since mid-June, exposing festering problems that could test Kenyatta's ability to reassure a nation fretting about wider security a little more than a year into his first term. Despite dozens of arrests, the government has yet to identify the culprits.

"We have a serious radicalisation threat," said Rashid Abdi, a specialist on Kenya and the Horn of Africa, who sees the "beginning of a coastal insurgency" supported by regional Islamists and other groups playing on local grievances. Investors have so far been unperturbed, piling into Kenya's debut Eurobond last month even as bodies were counted on the coast. But if the government fails to stop those driving the attacks and address local grievances, Kenyatta's promise to lift already stuttering growth may start to look empty. [Read More...](#)

THE EGYPTIAN government sharply raised fuel prices early on Saturday, apparently signalling the resolve of the country's new president, Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, to forge ahead with a series of austerity measures despite official concerns about a public backlash - ***The New York Times***.

Fuel, bread and other goods are heavily subsidised in Egypt, where nearly 50 percent of the population lives under or near the poverty line. As Egypt has weathered years of economic crisis since the 2011 uprising against President Hosni Mubarak, talk of overhauling the subsidy program, which eats up more than a quarter of the state budget, has taken on added urgency.

In a sign of worry at the public reaction, the increase was announced just hours before it took effect, at midnight on Friday, and raised the prices of one type of fuel by up to 78 percent. On Saturday, taxi drivers protested the move by holding strikes in several neighbourhoods in the capital. Passengers reported drivers refusing to turn on their meters, because the fare rates had not been adjusted to reflect the new fuel prices.

[Read More...](#)

MINISTER OF Petroleum and Mineral Resources Sherif Ismail does not mind allowing British BG Group to import gas from Israel, he told Daily News Egypt Wednesday. Import is necessary to prevent gas companies working in Egypt from resorting to international arbitration to sue the government, he said - ***Daily News Egypt***.

"As the Minister of Petroleum, I remain of the opinion that there is no problem in letting BG Group import Israeli gas to protect Egypt from international fines and arbitration," Ismail added. The company has not yet requested the government to begin the process of importing gas, he said, and it will only be allowed to import after approval and the signing of an agreement with the Egyptian government.

"There is no embarrassment in Egypt using the gas the BG Group imports from Israel given our economic issues," the minister went on. He stated that politically speaking, the president and the government working indirectly with Israel "is no longer taboo".

"Whatever is in Egypt's interest must be implemented immediately as we are dealing with an energy crisis," the minister said. [Read More...](#)

GERMANY MAY lift its travel warning on Sharm El-Sheikh in Egypt's South Sinai governorate in the next few hours, the German ambassador to Cairo, Hansjorg Haber, told Egypt's tourism minister in a phone call on Monday - ***Ahram Online***.

Tourism Minister Hisham Zaazou has been trying to remove all travel bans on Egypt imposed by European countries since February, when a bomb blast on a tour bus in South Sinai killed three South Koreans and their Egyptian driver and raised concerns about safety in Red Sea resorts. The incident caused Germany's foreign ministry to issue a warning against travel to all regions of the Sinai Peninsula – a staple of Egypt's travel industry and package holidays.

In the first four months of this year, 2.8 million visitors came to Egypt, a 2.75 percent decline from the same period last year, according to official figures. [Read More...](#)

EGYPTIAN AUTHORITIES on Thursday opened the Rafah border crossing to Gaza to receive injured Palestinians, *Al Arabiya's* correspondent reported - ***Al Arabiya News***.

Hospitals in north Sinai, which borders Gaza and Israel, have been placed on standby to receive the Palestinians, Egypt's official MENA news agency reported.

The crossing is usually closed, with Egyptian officials citing the tense security situation in Sinai, where the army is battling an Islamist insurgency. Rafah is Gaza's only border crossing that bypasses Israel, which has hammered the coastal strip in response to Palestinian rocket fire. [Read More...](#)

TEAMS ABOARD the MV Cape Ray have begun neutralising Syrian chemical materials, a Pentagon spokesman said here today - ***US Dept of Defense***.

U.S. military and civilian specialists aboard the ship are neutralising the chemical materials in international waters, Army Col. Steve Warren told reporters.

The ship left Gioia Tauro, Italy, with 600 tons of chemicals.

"The Cape Ray is tasked with neutralisation of specific chemical material from Syria," Warren said, noting that the teams are following United Nations and Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons guidelines.

If all goes well, he said, neutralisation will take about 60 days. Weather could affect the process, he added.

The U.S. ship has two field-deployable hydrolysis systems in its holds. The systems mix the chemicals in a titanium reactor to render them inert. [Read More...](#)

THE FRENCH government has proposed six-month travel bans to stop citizens travelling to Syria and Iraq to fight alongside Islamist militants - ***BBC News***.

A new offence of creating an "individual terrorist enterprise", designed to counter the threat of "lone wolves", would also be established.

Government officials say that two or three young Muslims leave France every day to join Islamist groups abroad.

There are fears they will eventually pose a threat to France itself.

A French citizen arrested for the killing of four people at the Brussels Jewish Museum in May, Mehdi Nemmouche, had returned from Syria, after being radicalised in prison. [Read More...](#)

OIL PRICES declined again as Libya said it is poised to resume crude exports after a deal struck last week between a local rebels and Tripoli. The country has millions of barrels cooped up in storage awaiting shipment, but to prevent a freefall of prices, Libya will only let out the oil gingerly - ***Defense One***.

Libyan officials give widely varying estimates of how much oil is stored in Es Sider and Ras Lanuf, the two ports from which the oil will be shipped. Some officials say it is 3 to 4 million barrels (paywall), while others put the number at around 7.5 million, and still others estimate as much as 10 million (paywall).

Whatever the case, there is a lot of oil—enough to trigger a serious price collapse if traders see signs of a fast release. That's why it will be released slowly, said a spokesman for the state-owned National Oil Company, Mohamed el-Harari. [Read More...](#)

THE MAJOR Sharara oil field in the southwest of Libya restarted production late Tuesday, but output is not expected to ramp up quickly given how long the field was shut in, an industry source said Wednesday - ***Platts***.

Sharara has a capacity of 340,000 b/d, so even a slow increase in output would give Libya's crisis-hit oil sector a major boost.

"But it won't be a quick ramp-up this one," the source said, adding: "It was down for a long time."

"It will not be at full capacity for weeks, or even months," the source said. [Read More...](#)

THE UNITED Nations Support Mission in Libya said Thursday it was temporarily reducing its staffing by the dozens because of unspecified security concerns - ***Al Arabiya News***.

In making the announcement, UNSMIL spokesman Samir Ghattas said the decision had

been under study for months and not linked to any specific threat.

Ghattas did not say how many people work for the organization or exactly how many were affected by the reduction.

He said UNSMIL's work would "definitely be affected" but that the agency "will do our best... to continue our mission." [Read More...](#)



South Korean Ferry

RELATIVES OF the victims of South Korea's ferry disaster wept amid angry scenes in court Tuesday as prosecutors played video footage of the sinking vessel during the murder trial of the captain and crew - [NDTV](#).

The video, taken from coastguard boats and

helicopters, showed the last moments of the 6,825-tonne Sewol ferry as it listed and then capsized on April 16 with the loss of around 300 lives.

Dozens of family members were in the courtroom in the southern city of Gwangju and many wept openly at the scenes of passengers desperately trying to escape the ship.

They also jeered and shouted in anger at the 15 defendants when the video showed close-up shots of

the captain and some crew members jumping from the sinking ferry into a rescue boat.

Captain Lee Joon-Seok and three senior crew members are accused of "homicide through wilful negligence" - a charge that can carry the death penalty.

The 11 other crew are being tried on lesser violations of maritime law.

Before the video footage was shown, the prosecutors had used a model of the Sewol to illustrate where the majority of the passengers were when the ship ran into trouble.

In particular they noted the location of many student victims who, on the order of the crew, had remained in their cabins on the fourth level.

"With timely evacuation efforts, these students could have fled through these exits," one prosecutor said, pointing to the model.

"But almost all of them waited in their cabins and died. We will make it clear that this result was caused by the behaviour of the defendants," he said.

Image credit: Jung Yeon-Je, AFP [Read More...](#)

THE SEWOL ferry that sunk in April leading to the death of at least 292 South Koreans was licensed based on falsified documents, South Korean investigators have revealed - **The Independent**. The initial inquiry looking into the reasons behind the disaster also stated that the tragedy was "man-made" and had occurred because operators had prioritised profit over safety. According to the report published on Tuesday by the South Korean government's Audit and Inspection Board, the ship had received its license from the Korean Register of Shipping on the back of fake documents; however, they were unable to elaborate further. [Read More...](#)

A COURT in Gwangju, South Korea on Monday held the first hearing in the trial for maritime affairs officials indicted on charges of taking bribes in return for approving the Sewol ferry operator's cabin-extension proposal despite risks of heavy pressure on the vessel - **The Straits Times**. The defendants included several officials from the Korea Coast Guard, the Korea Maritime and Port Administration and the Korean Maritime Safety Tribunal, according to the Mokpo unit of the Gwangju District Court. According to the prosecution, a commander of the East Sea Coast Guard has been under suspicion of taking gifts worth millions of won from a group of vessel owners when he was working as the chief of the Incheon Coast Guard's maritime safety division last year. The official was found to have neglected his duty to properly supervise the ship operators belonging to the maritime association. [Read More...](#)

WHEN STEEL worker Huh Hong Hwan heard his teenaged daughter might be trapped in a sinking ferry, he didn't hesitate. He jumped in his car and drove, sick with anxiety and panic, for five hours down to the southern island of Jindo where the rescue operation for South Korea's worst peacetime disaster was gearing up - **The Straits Times**. Nearly three months later, he's still there. "I never thought I would be waiting for her this long," the 50-year-old said at a gymnasium that has been his home since the 6,825-tonne Sewol ferry capsized on April 16 with 476 passengers

and crew. "I'm totally exhausted, but parents can't give up on their children even if the whole world does," Huh told AFP. [Read More...](#)

Missing Malaysian Aircraft

MALAYSIA IS deploying more assets for the pursuant deep-sea search for its missing jetliner MH370 in the new location in the Southern Indian Ocean, said Defence Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein - [Bernama](#).

Hishammuddin said the Royal Malaysian Navy vessel, KD Mutiara, which has the capability of the multi beam echo sounder would join the search efforts to assist in the current bathymetric survey process.



"The ship will set sail on Aug 4," he told reporters after launching the MH370 Photo Exhibition here today. Also present were Transport Minister Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai, Department of Civil Aviation director-general Datuk Azharuddin Abdul Rahman and Malaysia Airlines (MAS) chief executive officer Ahmad Jauhari Yahaya.

On commercial assets, Hishammuddin said that Petronas together with DEFTech and Phoenix International would immediately deploy a Prosas Side Scan Sonar (Towed Synthetic Aperture Sonar), which would be mounted on a mother vessel which was soon to be identified. [Read More...](#)

THE ONGOING search for MH370 quietly marked a milestone on July 8, 2014: Four months have elapsed since the Beijing-bound Malaysian plane went missing. As the days pass and little progress in the search is made, the passengers's loved ones are struggling to keep momentum in efforts to find the plane - [International Business Times](#). "We have had a slower start than we expected, but the response has been steady so that is a good sign," Sarah Bajc, the partner of passenger

Philip Wood, said via email. Still, she said, "I think compassion fatigue is a good way to put it."

The mysterious saga of the missing Malaysian Airlines flight has been an enormous story in media everywhere. CNN was heavily criticized for saturation coverage of the missing airliner, exhausting all angles and continuing to focus on it even as other important international news events took place. To its credit, the network was able to double viewership in the crucial 25-54 age demographic for the month of March, when the aircraft went missing.

But as months passed, even CNN has moved on from the coverage, and so has public interest in the story. MH370 headlines are no longer dominating news media, even though more theories and narratives continue to be introduced, and that slowing interest is reflected in Bajc's fundraising efforts. [Read More...](#)



READERS ARE being warned against a survey scam that preys on people's interest behind the mystery surrounding the missing Malaysian Airlines flight MH370 - [International Business Times](#).

The survey scam comes in a video titled: Malaysian Air Flight MH-370 Found By Sailor; with the subtitle Mystery is solved - Sailor Rewarded \$5 Million on spot.

The scam is masked as 'news' article that uses an image of an aircraft submerged in water. The image used is actually a photo of the US Airways Flight 1549 that crashed in Hudson River in January 2009. The photo was evidently filched from legit news articles.

Once a victim click on the link that comes with the video, the victim will be routed to a bogus Facebook account. An instruction saying that the page must be shared first to Facebook friends in order to watch the video will pop-up.

"But, even if you did share as instructed, you would still not get to see the video. [Read More...](#)

Released by Pirates

NSTR

Pirates in Court

NSTR

Italian Marines

NSTR

Seaman Guard Ohio

ABOUT NINE months after an US ship, dubbed 'floating armoury', was detained off Tuticorin port with a huge cache of arms and ammunition, the Madras high court has trashed the conspiracy theory and quashed the criminal case against 35 crew members, including five Britons - ***The Times of India***.

Justice P N Prakash, making it clear the crew could not be tried under the Arms Act, said on Thursday: "I hold that the anchoring of MV Seaman Guard Ohio within our territorial sea was out of necessity and their action is saved by the principle of 'innocent passage'."

The vessel, flying a Sierra Leone flag, was taken into Tuticorin port on October, 12, 2013. After finding the crew heavily armed, various investigating agencies were alerted and a joint interrogation team was constituted for questioning the captain and crew.

On October 16, 2013, Q Branch sleuths seized 35 firearms, 5,682 rounds of ammunition and 102 magazines kept in the vessel without any document for such possession. On October 18, 2013, 35 crew members were arrested, while the ship's captain and another person were allowed to be in the vessel for its maintenance. The next day, the two were arrested.

Justice Prakash said: "The ship had made a distress entry into our waters for food and fuel. It anchored at the outer limit of Tuticorin Port and was waiting for supplies. When the Coast Guard questioned them, they admitted that there were arms and ammunitions on board. After bringing them to our port for investigation, they cannot be

prosecuted for violation of the notification." [Read More...](#)

Private Security

SHIPS TRANSITING high risk areas involves a series of drills, additional watchkeeping procedures and loads of stress. Though the number of piracy attacks have gone down, ships are still being attacked in and around high risk areas - ***Marine Insight***. Considering the importance of drills and armed guards on board ships today,

master mariner Venkataraman Ra

jagopal has

made an educational

video showing

the procedure for preparing the ship and its crew for passing through high risk areas.

Venkataraman Rajagopal was a master mariner in command of VLCC's before stepping ashore. His hobbies includes composing music and making educational training videos in tune with the demand of present day shipping standards. [Read](#)

[More...](#)

[Video](#)



MARINE THREATS from human or natural agents such as terrorist, environmental destruction, illegal seaborne immigration, and international criminal and piracy threats have created more demand for regulated and standard maritime security systems - ***SF Gate***. Therefore, the worldwide revenue of maritime market has crossed \$12.55 billion in 2013, and expected to reach \$20.87 billion in 2018. The worldwide market of maritime security is expected to grow at a CAGR of 8.4%.

Browse through the market data tables, figures and detailed ToC on the "[Global Maritime Security Market](#)."

United States government have increased their security measures after the 9/11 attack. The country also improved its maritime security since then, in order to develop the security at sea. Companies like Maersk, EADS, Safran,

Finmeccanica SpA are helping countries to have secure international trade by water. Thus, the [maritime security market](#) is worth \$3.6 billion in North America, and expected to be \$4.7 billion in 2019. The calculated CAGR for period 2013-2019 is 4.4%.

Many rules and regulations are implemented by the European government in order to improve the ship and port security facilities. Almost 90% of the European external freight trade is seaborne. The top companies like Finmeccanica SpA, EADS, Honeywell, Safran, and many other guarantees secure maritime transportation for these regions. Thus, the [maritime security market](#) is worth \$3.24 billion in Europe, and expected to be \$4.41 billion in 2019. The market is calculated to grow with a CAGR of 4.9%, for period 2013-2019. In spite of the economic slowdown, the Asia-Pacific region has registered a market of worth \$2.8 billion in 2013, and is expected to continue its growth at a CAGR of 11.6% to hit \$5.57 billion by 2019. There has been a massive growth in exports, which has led to the growth of the [Asia-Pacific Maritime security market](#). Companies like EADS, Raytheon, Safran, Elbit Systems Ltd. are helping the region to grow by minimising piracy and maritime terrorism. [Read More...](#)

International Response

THE EUROPEAN Commission today took a further step towards more effective and cost-efficient surveillance of European Seas. By bringing together surveillance data from civil and military authorities like coast guards, navies, traffic monitoring, environmental and pollution monitoring, fisheries and border control, duplication of work can be avoided and savings of up to €400 million per year can be made - **EU Commission**. Increased cooperation and sharing of data would help cope more efficiently with real time events at sea such as accidents, pollution incidents, crime or security threats. CISE, the Common Information Sharing Environment for the maritime domain, aims at making all the relevant actors come together and share data. CISE is one

of the building blocks of the recently adopted European Maritime Security Strategy.

Maria Damanaki, Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, said: "Sustainable economic growth within the maritime sector can only be ensured if our seas and oceans are safe and secure. CISE aims to make sure that all involved maritime surveillance actors have a complete picture of all events at sea. Sharing such information is key to avoid duplication in collection of data and for the use of patrol ships, planes, helicopters or satellites in the same sea areas. Today, about 40% of information is collected several times and 40% to 80% of information is not shared amongst the interested users. We cannot afford such a waste of efforts and money".

Today's Communication by the Commission presents the good progress made at EU and national level since the CISE roadmap was elaborated in 2010 and the strong commitment of all actors in this field. It also proposes guidance and priorities for further action both at national and EU levels. Main focus should be to further enhance information exchange – in particular between civil and military authorities, to better interconnect existing maritime surveillance systems and make them inter-operational. [Read More...](#)

THE CONCEPT of maritime security is one of the most recent additions to the vocabulary of international security. If security at sea used to be discussed in the frame of concepts such as seapower, maritime safety, or less frequently maritime terrorism, maritime security offers a new umbrella term, which to some degree replaces or subordinates the older terms and discussions - **Piracy Studies**. The salience of maritime security is related to the significant challenges that issues such as maritime terrorism, and, perhaps most prominently, maritime piracy pose. Piracy off the coast of Somalia was one of the determining concerns that lifted maritime security on the agendas of the major security organisations, including NATO, the European Union, but also the African Union or the Southern African Development Community. The rise of the concept of maritime security and the increasing

importance that security actors grant to the maritime has so far been hardly reflected in the academic literature on the subject. While piracy in Somalia, West Africa and East Asia, illegal trafficking by sea, or the rise of new naval powers such as China have received more extensive treatment in the literature, the academic discourse is only slowly catching up with the empirical developments. Compared to the attention land based security questions receive, the maritime domain remains a blind spot of security studies and international relations. [Read More...](#)

Piracy Costs

COMMUNITIES IN Somalia protect pirates when they have no better source of income, sometimes switching back to taxing legitimate trade when economic conditions improve, argues a new report - [University of Oxford](#).

The international community currently relies on a costly, heavy military presence around Somalia in order to keep shipping lanes safe. However, a new academic study suggests a more sustainable way to tackle piracy would be to build new roads and harbours so clans in the remoter areas of Somalia do not miss out on legitimate trading opportunities. Put simply, a new paper, published in the British Journal of Criminology, argues that local communities are usually protecting pirates when they have no comparable alternative source of income.

The study by the University of Oxford and King's College London argues that policy makers have focused too much on the motives of the pirates without looking at why they are receiving protection from the local elites (clan leaders). Somali clans protect legitimate interests, such as trade flows through their territory and ports, by issuing licenses to traders and charging 'taxes' at road-blocks and harbours. This can provide them with a steady flow of income, but the paper argues that they can switch the taxation of legitimate business to taxing the criminal activities of pirates (thus providing them with protection) if and when it provides them with a better source of revenue.

The researchers mapped the locations of pirates' moorings of hijacked ships across the whole of Somalia, using World Bank data of moorings for hijacked ships between 2005 and 2012 based on local interviews of which coastal villages sheltered the pirates. They found that the pirate anchorages were in areas cut off from regional trading routes and harbours - chiefly in areas of disputed territory on the coast of Puntland and Central Somalia. Within these areas the researchers found that the changing face of local politics determined the intensity of piracy activity. [Read More...](#)

[Ed Note: In our opinion, the study simplifies the situation in Somalia and concentrates only on piracy, despite the drastic reduction. However, the capacity building efforts supported by international bodies are hampered more than by pirate strongholds with a myriad of security, environmental and organised crime, humanitarian aid, militancy and territory disputes creating greater difficulties in improving economic conditions.]

Smuggling/Pirate Fishing

MORE THAN 66,000 migrants and refugees have arrived on Italy's shores this year. But many don't survive the journey - and when the Italian navy went to help migrants crammed on to a boat near Sicily, they were shocked by what they found - **BBC News**.

The first images were tranquil enough. A fishing boat sat on a bay in Sicily in the summer sunshine.



As gusts of wind ruffled the water around her, she swung a little on her mooring. There was nothing in that television picture to suggest that there was

anything wrong.

But down in her blue hull, the boat carried a dreadful cargo. A hold packed with bodies. A great tangle of corpses.

As the camera pulled back you saw figures gathering on the quay, police and forensic experts, all dressed in white overalls, and with masks over their faces.

When the fishing boat came alongside, they would go to work.

The first time we'd seen that blue hull it appeared in footage shot far out at sea by the Italian navy. The boat was loaded with migrants making the journey from North Africa, desperate to reach Italy and all the promise of Europe.

Around 600 passengers covered every inch of the deck. And they sat all around the sides of the boat, crammed tight, shoulders pressed against shoulders.

Eventually 45 corpses were brought out onto the quayside. **Read More...**

SAILING IN a straight line on a calm day, it would take a well-equipped boat about 10 hours to get from the Libyan coast to Lampedusa, the remote Italian island which has become a beacon for tens of thousands of desperate people seeking refuge from war or poverty - **The Independent**.

Few of these migrant boats actually make it in that time, however. With just a magnetic compass to guide them, the people packed on rubber dinghies often make dangerous diversions into choppy waters.

For much of those perilous journeys, the men, women and children travel unseen among the merchant ships and fishing fleets which criss-cross the Mediterranean. Eventually they are spotted, perhaps by a fishing boat, radar system, commercial vessel or Italian naval ship. That is when their boat finally appears as a yellow dot on the screens of the Mare Nostrum control centre just outside Rome, and every minute counts as air and sea craft are dispatched to prevent another tragedy.

The Italian navy launched the Mare Nostrum operation in October 2013 after 366 people died in a shipwreck off Lampedusa, in one of the worst migrant boat disasters. So far, 73,686 people have been plucked from the sea in an operation costing the Italian navy up to €8m (£6m) a month. **Read More...**



ITALY IS in talks with other European Union states about sharing the burden of rescuing migrants crossing the Mediterranean in crowded boats from North Africa, senior officials meeting in Milan said on Tuesday - **Reuters**.

So far this year, more than 63,000 migrants have arrived in Italy by sea, according to the UN refugee agency (UNHCR), surpassing the previous record of around 62,000 set in the whole of 2011, the year of the "Arab Spring" uprisings. But more than 500 have died trying to make the perilous sea crossing, including 12 on Sunday

when their boat capsized off the coast of the Libyan Tripoli, the UNHCR said on Tuesday. On Tuesday, Italian Interior Minister Angelino Alfano repeated a call for Europe's border control agency Frontex to take over Italy's mission, known as Mare Nostrum or "Our Sea" and costing the navy 9 million euros (\$12.28 million) a month.

[Read More...](#)

A RECENT estimate by the United Kingdom's Office for National Statistics that the market for illegal drugs adds £4.4 billion (\$7.6 billion) annually to the country's economy gives a sense of the astonishing scale of the illicit narcotics trade. For regions such as West Africa, with economies that are neither as large nor as developed as the UK's, the impact of such activity can be even more corrosive - ***Project Syndicate***. West Africa finds itself increasingly enmeshed in the global drug trade. Its location makes it vulnerable to being exploited as a transit point between the Latin American and Asian production centres and consumer markets in Europe and the United States.

But, as the experience of Central America shows, transit countries do not serve only as a corridor for drugs. Illegal drugs and the money that surround them invade and destabilise their societies. This disturbing development – a byproduct of the failed "global war on drugs" – threatens to reverse recent economic and social gains in our region. So far, West Africa has avoided the worst of the endemic and routine violence that accompanies the passage of drugs through Central America. But, with the stakes so high, there is no room for complacency. The scale of the cocaine trade alone in West Africa dwarfs the combined government budgets of several countries in the region. [Read More...](#)

FORMER LIBERAL Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser has characterised Australia's interdiction and detention of more than 150 Sri Lankan asylum-seekers at sea as "piracy on the high seas." -

Sydney Morning Herald

He said the apprehension of the vessel on which they were travelling in international waters and their transfer to an Australian customs vessel was "in breach of international law", and he was

unsure how else to describe it, other than as an act of piracy.

Speaking at the Lowy Institute for International



Policy in Sydney, he cited wire reports that a Sri Lankan police chief had said another 41 passengers recently picked up by Australia and returned to Sri Lanka would be prosecuted for leaving the country illegally.

"The other thing [the police chief] said was that they would all be subject to enhanced imprisonment," Mr Fraser said. "What is enhanced imprisonment? Is that a new name for torture? Sounded very like it."

On Monday, a Sri Lankan police spokesman was quoted by Reuters as saying that those found guilty of leaving the country illegally would be subject to "two years of rigorous imprisonment and a fine."

The Abbott government has not disclosed the whereabouts of the group of 153 Sri Lankans picked up at sea and is awaiting the results of a High Court challenge as to their fate. [Read More...](#)

TWO MIGRANTS were found dead and 11 rescued late on Thursday after the boat they were sailing in from Turkey sank off Samos in the eastern Aegea. Another 22 were thought to be missing - ***Ekathimerini***.



Merchant Marine Minister Miltiadis Varvitsiotis expressed “deep regret” at the loss of the immigrants’ lives as coast guard patrol boats and Super Puma helicopters continued searching the sea for survivors.

The rescued irregular migrants told coast guard officers that another 22 people apart from the two who drowned had been with them in the rubber dinghy that sank.

“The frequent rescues and loss of life at sea confirms the fears that have been expressed by the Merchant Marine Ministry within Greece and abroad regarding the increase in such incidents, which make it urgent that immigration policy within Europe be reviewed,” said Varvitsiotis. The dinghy sank some 10 nautical miles off Samos at around lunchtime. [Read More...](#)

Seafarers’ Plight

IN THE dead of night, as his fuel tanker sailed through the narrowest section of one of the world's busiest waterways, captain Thiwa Saman was wrenched from sleep and pitched into a waking nightmare.

Three men with guns and swords were banging on his cabin door - [Independent](#).

Other pirates had already stormed the bridge, seized the duty officer and smashed up the radio and GPS equipment.

Over the next 10 hours the pirates held Mr Thiwa and his 13 crew captive while siphoning off four million litres of diesel, worth around \$2m on the black market, to their own vessel. Then they vanished.

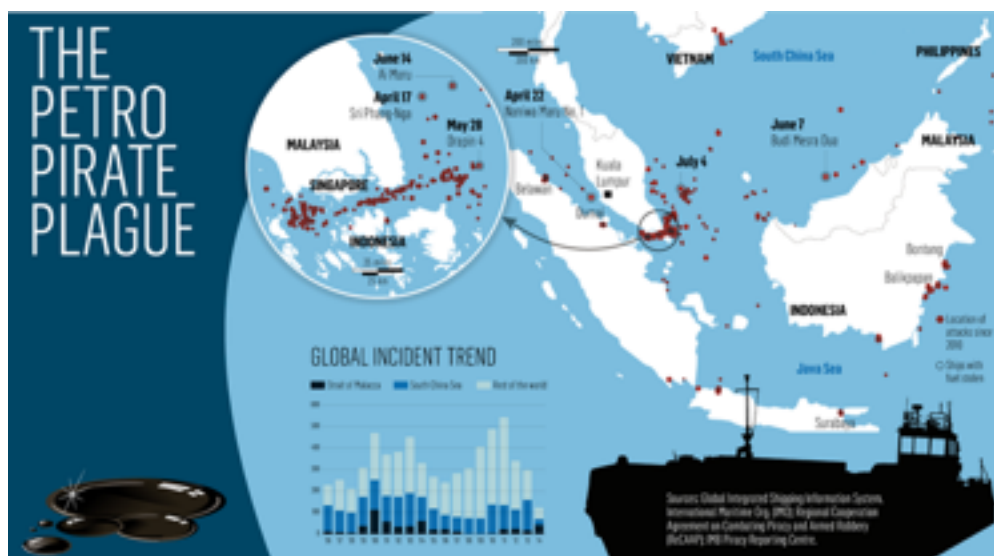
The May 27 attack on the Orapin 4 was one of a spate of well-organised fuel heists that are reviving Southeast Asia's reputation as a global piracy hotspot.

Since April, at least six fuel tankers have been

hijacked and drained in the Malacca Strait or nearby waters off the South China Sea, according to the International Maritime Bureau (IMB), which in mid-June warned small tankers to maintain strict anti-piracy measures in the area. None of the perpetrators has been caught.

Mr Thiwa (66), a Thai national and seafarer for 30 years, said he and his crew were so shaken by the attack that nobody felt ready to return to work. The Orapin 4 was carrying diesel between Singapore and Pontianak in Indonesian Borneo.

[Read More...](#)



Aid Workers Plight

NSTR.

And Finally...

The Lure of Flotsam by Rick Rosenthal & PEW
Charitable Trust

[VIDEO](#)

Piracy Incidents

Hijacks:

- **SE Asia** - HONDURAS-FLAGGED, Singapore-operated product tanker, **Moresby 9**, was boarded and hijacked by nine armed pirates at about 2015 LT, 4 July, approximately 34nm WNW of Anambas Islands, South China Sea. At or about 2015 hrs, while the tanker was underway in position 03:45.93N - 105:10.24E, approximately 48.6nm Northwest of Pulau Anambas, an unmarked vessel, approximately 7 meters in length and described as a small fishing boat, came alongside Moresby 9. The crew reportedly heard a gunshot and suddenly nine robbers armed with machetes and three pistols were sighted on the deck of Moresby 9. Two more shots were fired. The robbers wore headscarves. The pirates took all crew members hostage, damaged the communication equipment and hijacked the tanker. Owners reported the incident to the authorities and a search was carried out. On 5 Jul, the owners informed the authorities that they had established communication with the tanker and that the pirates had stolen part of the cargo before escaping. Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) are investigating the incident. Reported (ReCAAP) 4 Jul.

Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies (All regions):

- **SE Asia** - Five robbers boarded an anchored Marshall Islands-flagged tanker, **Concept**, at 0010 LT in position 22:47N - 070:03E, Kandla anchorage, India. Alert duty A/B on routine rounds noticed the robbers and raised the alarm, mustered crew. Upon hearing the alarm the robbers jumped overboard and escaped in their boat. A search was carried out. The padlock to the forward stores was found broken and ship's properties missing. Reported 7 Jul.
- **SE Asia** - Two robbers in a fishing boat approached and boarded an anchored Denmark-flagged product tanker, **Nord Gainer**, at 2300 LT in position 22:48N - 070:01E, Kandla Anchorage, India. Duty crew on routine rounds noticed the robbers and raised the alarm resulting in the robbers jumping overboard and escaping in their boat. Upon investigation, it was found that three padlocks were broken and ship's properties were stolen. Reported (IMB) 6 Jul.
- **SE Asia** - Armed persons in a motor banca approached and fired upon a Philippines-flagged fishing boat, **Glenn Mar-B** engaged in fishing activities at 2200 LT in position vicinity of Mapun de Tawi-Tawi, Philippines. The fishermen jumped into the water to save their life and were able to swim back to their boat after the armed persons left the area. It was reported that the Captain of the fishing boat was found dead and one fisherman went missing. The incident reported to Philippines Coast Guard. Reported (IMB) 5 Jul.

Other Incidents:

- UKMTO reports a vigilant master reported the sighting of a 'dozen or so' skiffs sailing south in position 13:11N - 043:05E, 9 Jul. Whilst not impeding the MV's passage, this is the second sighting in 9 days (previous incident 30 Jun) of large numbers of small 'white' coloured boats with up to 5-6 POB operating in the same region.

Suspicious Activity:

- **Red Sea** - Merchant vessel reported being approached by 2 suspicious boats at 1642 UTC in position 13:49N - 042:30E, Red Sea. Both boats w/ 5-6 POB. The boats approached at 16-17kts to within

1.1nm, the vessel's embarked AST reported sighting of AK style weapons. AST fired a flare and the boats dispersed. No other tripwires were seen. Vessel and crew are safe. Reported (UKMTO) 10 Jul.

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/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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