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Complexity of Nigeria's counter-piracy efforts; Tanker hijack; Shot in the neck; Pirate victims washed ashore; Ferry survivors give evidence; PMSC dramatic collapse -

NIMASA announced the establishment of a satellite surveillance centre to detect vessels transits, however the latest tanker hijack off Ghana, arrests of person and vessels, admission that winning the war against oil theft and illegal refining was difficult for the security outfit JTF, the Navy allegedly hoodwinked by sea pirates to release personnel to escort a vessel involved in piracy scandal to blaming foreigners for illegal bunkering and other sea crimes in the nation's waters, all demonstrate the immense task in countering piracy in and around Nigerian waters.

An Indonesian sailor was shot in the neck during a pirate attack in SE Asia. The Mongolian-flagged vessel was boarded but the pirates fled, leaving some weapons behind, when chased by a patrol boat; the crew man was not seriously hurt. Since 2010, there is a steadily increasing trend of piracy attacks in SE Asia, according to a report released by UNITAR, with Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia the epicentre.

A week after armed pirates allegedly attacked and killed five fishermen while at sea., two bodies of fishermen washed ashore in Guyana.

Students who survived the South Korean Sewol ferry disaster gave evidence at a district court in the case against the crew charged with negligence and abandoning ship. They stated how they improvised means of escape when abandoned by the crew. The driver of the South Korean businessman wanted over the sinking of the ferry turned himself in, potentially providing an insight into the final days of the ferry owner.

The former Somali pirate chief, Afweyne, is facing a piracy charge in Belgium which carries a sentence of 20 years.

One of the world's biggest maritime security companies has ceased trading and said to be owing millions in unpaid salaries to deployed armed guards. The dramatic collapse could raise risks for shipping should further PMSCs go to the wall.

Holding a British passport a "death certificate" in you are kidnapped?

“

Most of criminality in our waters are carried out by foreigners and not Nigerians.”

**- FLAG OFFICER COMMANDING
(FOC), WESTERN NAVAL
COMMAND (WNC) REAR ADMIRAL
SANMI ALADE**

China's newest celeb, a large inflatable toad - a good luck sign - has disappeared from some Chinese news and media. Why?



Regional Activity

East Africa/Indian Ocean

A SOMALI MP has been assassinated in Somalia's capital, Mogadishu - the fifth parliamentarian to be killed this year - ***BBC News***. Aden Madeer was shot when he left a mosque in the city after Friday prayers, witnesses said. The Islamist militant group al-Shabaab told the BBC it carried out the assassination. The al-Qaeda aligned militants said they would continue to target MPs who supported the UN-backed government.

Mr Madeer was the chairman of the parliamentary finance committee.

"The murder of MPs is an attempt to intimidate and undermine those working to build a better Somalia. Their killers will not achieve that objective," UN envoy Nicholas Kay said in a statement. [Read More...](#)

THE SEYCHELLES Coast Guard will be short of one of the archipelago's main patrol vessels engaged in the protection of the island nations' exclusive economic zone of 1.3 million square kilometres, as 'Andromache' undergoes a major refit in Colombo, Sri Lanka - ***OCEANUSLive***.



According to a press statement issued by the Seychelles People's Defence Forces (SPDF) Andromache and its 21 men crew which left Seychelles yesterday, will be spending one month at the Colombo Dock Yard and is expected back early September.

"In Colombo, major engineering works have been planned on the ship's hull as well as machinery and other auxiliary equipment. The refit is part of the ship's normal maintenance cycle," reads the statement.

Built in Italy in 1982, Andromache which is a 42 metres patrol ship has over the last few years been actively involved in the fight against maritime piracy in the region.

Seychelles has been at the forefront of the fight against Somali piracy in the Indian Ocean, having undertaken three naval rescue operations at sea where hostages were released alive.

The island country prosecuted the largest number of Somali pirates between 2009-2013. To date 124 pirates have been convicted. Most of them have been repatriated to Somalia to serve their sentences. 23 remain in Seychelles' Montagne Posée prison awaiting trial. [Read more...](#)

THE UNITED Nations has reported alarming rates of malnutrition in the Somali capital where aid agencies cannot meet the needs of 350,000 people due to insufficient funds, drought and conflict.

The U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said the Somali government had compared the situation to the run-up to a 2011 famine that killed 260,000 people - ***Reuters Africa***.

The United Nations has sought to improve its early warning mechanisms after its failure to spot indications of crisis in 2010 was blamed for the scale of the famine that followed in a nation torn apart by years of conflict.

"Alarming rates of malnutrition have been observed among displaced communities in Mogadishu," OCHA said in a report released at the weekend, citing a study by a unit of the U.N. Food and Agricultural Organisation.

It said aid agencies were unable to meet the needs of 350,000 people who had fled to Mogadishu, saying the aid organisations faced a shortage of funds and violence in the capital that could restrict deliveries. [Read more...](#)

AN AL-Shabaab Al-Mujahideen spokesman delivered a sermon in a Barawa mosque in Somalia on Sunday calling upon Muslims to attack Jewish targets everywhere, according to a report by the Middle East Media Research Institute - ***Voz Iz Neias***.

Speaking about the conflict in Gaza, Al-Shabaab spokesman Ali Dhere said all of the "nations of

unbelief” participated in the “aggression against Gaza,” mentioning specifically “the Americans who stood by the Jews in their aggression against the Muslims in Gaza.”

Al-Shabaab’s news agency Al-Shahada reported the sermon in which Dhere blamed Egypt for locking its borders with Gaza.

He also blamed the United Nations for “protecting global unbelief” and for making do with “standing by as witnesses and condemning the crimes committed by the Jews in Gaza.”

Dhere called upon Muslims to stand up and take revenge for their Muslim brothers in Gaza, saying: “The Jews are spread out throughout the world, and the Jews’ properties are spread everywhere. In light of this, the Muslims must attack the Jews and their properties in every place, and they must pray for their brothers in Gaza.”

He concluded by saying the Muslims in Somalia must take a lesson from the events in Gaza, since the Jews stand behind the enemies who are invading Somalia. [Read More...](#)

MARKING THE Eid celebration at the end of Ramadan, al-Shabaab organized games for youth in the town of Jilib in Middle Juba region - **Somalia Newsroom**.

Similar to other fun days the group has organized, the events involved egg-and-spoon races, sack racing, and tug-of-war exclusively among young men. Women remained spectators on the sidelines.

Notably, Kenya airstrikes have targeted al-Shabaab areas near Jilib in recent weeks, and the group has tried to counter reports that these strikes ever hit their intended targets by releasing pictures of nearby residents standing in open craters in empty fields or displaying allegedly injured children.

These photos are also intended to argue that life under al-Shabaab is “fun” and that Kenya and other forces are out to disrupt this “peaceful” existence. [Read More...](#)

This Weeks' Newsletter



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West Africa

A SINGAPOREAN man on board an oil tanker is missing after the Kiribati-flagged vessel was hijacked by 10 heavily armed pirates off the coast of Ghana early Saturday morning - **The Straits Times**.



The whereabouts of the 3,232-tonne tanker MT Hai Soon 6 and its 21-man crew are unknown after the vessel disappeared from maritime radars. Besides cargo officer Yeo Eu Loone, 38, there were 12 Chinese, six Myanmar nationals and two Koreans in the crew.

The vessel, which was supplying oil to barges and ships off the coast of West Africa, is owned by Singapore shipping firm Hai Soon International. It was said to be sailing in the Gulf of Guinea when it was hijacked about 46 nautical miles south of Anloga, Ghana. [Read more...](#)

AS PART of efforts to tackle the menace of pirate attacks in Nigeria’s territorial waters, the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency, NIMASA, has established a satellite surveillance centre - **Sweet Crude**.

Disclosing this in Lagos, NIMASA's Director of Shipping Development, Capt Waredi Enisuor said that the surveillance centre can track every vessels entering or leaving the country.

Enisuor also disclosed that the centre can also detect vessels under attack and respond accordingly to either ward off such attacks or rescue distressed ships.

He explained that the surveillance is satellite based and so does not need power to sustain itself.

Explaining further, the Ship and aircraft captain said the centre has the ability to print out particulars and details of vessels on both the nation's territorial and coastal waters on a daily basis.

He further disclosed that the satellite centre has made it possible to effect the arrest of about five vessels involved in illegal activities.

He said "By the establishment of the satellite surveillance centre, Nigeria can record zero tolerance before the end of 2015. [Read more...](#)

TWENTY FIVE persons and two ocean going vessels involved in illegal bunkering activities have been arrested by the men of the Nigerian Navy along the waterways of the Niger Delta in Brass local government area of Bayelsa State - [This Day Live](#).

The two seized vessels identified as MV Hanan, which has nine crew men and MV Alezza Lilah with 14 Nigerians, a Ghanaian and a Cameroonian crew members, were arrested with over 300,000 metric tonnes of stolen and illegally refined Automotive Gas Oil (Diesel) on board the vessels. According to the Commanding Officer of the Naval Forward Operating Base (FOB) NNS Formoso on Brass Island whose men made the arrest, Navy Capt. Noel Madugu, "the MV HANAN L was intercepted by NNS Obula at 23 nautical miles, South West of Pennington when her actions became suspicious. The vessel with her crew of nine persons was arrested owing to the presence of Automotive Gas Oil on board." [Read More...](#)

COMMANDER OF the Joint Task Force (JTF) in the Niger Delta code-named 'Operation Pulo Shield', Maj. Gen. Emmanuel Atewe, has explained why winning the war against oil theft

and illegal refining was difficult for the security outfit in the region - [AllAfrica](#).

He said oil bunkers had devised the means of offering huge sums of money to JTF personnel to subvert them from carrying out their lawful duties. Atewe cited a case when an officer of the JTF was offered N25 million by a group of illegal bunkerers to bribe their way through.

He, however, quickly added that the officer rejected the offer and got the culprits arrested.

Atewe revealed this on Saturday when the Nigerian Army Officers' Wives Association led by its National President, Felly Minimah, paid a courtesy visit to the headquarters of the JTF in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State.

He lamented that inadequate gunboats, essential kits, operational vehicles and manpower were some of the challenges of the security outfit. [Read More...](#)

INDICATIONS HAVE emerged that the Ondo State Command of the Nigerian Navy was allegedly hoodwinked by sea pirates to release 11 naval personnel in March to purportedly escort MV-GARE allegedly arrested in a messy piracy scandal in Escravos, Warri South West Local Government Area of Delta State - [The Will Nigeria](#).

The revelation, THE WILL gathered, is contrary to claims that the Naval personnel were allegedly involved in the alleged piracy incident which happened in January on an international ship, MT KERALA , allegedly hijacked by sea pirates in Angola.

Investigations by our correspondent revealed that MV-GARE had allegedly 'committed the crime' in January when it apparently applied for the Naval personnel in March to ferry the tug-boat back to Warri before it was arrested by men of the Nigerian Navy Ship (NNS) Delta in Escravos following intelligence report.

The Commanding Officer, NNS Delta, Captain Musa Gemu, who dismissed allegations that naval



personnel from the Warri naval-base were allegedly fingered in the MV-GARE scandal, told our correspondent that the navy personnel onboard the vessel when it was arrested in Escravos by his men were only 'deceived' in Ondo State where the tug-boat was operating after the January incident.

He said his men were deceived into escorting the vessel back to Warri under the pretext of avoiding pirates attack unknowing to them (Naval personnel) that the vessel was already allegedly involved in a sea piracy incident in January.

THE WILL learnt that the clarification followed the controversy which trailed the detention and subsequent transfer of the crew members of the vessel, including the ship engineer and captain who were arrested in Escravos, to the Interpol.

A human right lawyer, Oghenejabor Ikimi, had few months ago, after taking brief from the father of the engineer/captain of the vessel, petitioned the Chief of Naval Staff, Rear Admiral Usman Jibrin, over the continuous detention of the suspects without transfer to the police.

He alleged that the vessel which was arrested on the suspicion that it was involved in sea piracy, reportedly had armed Naval personnel from the Nigerian Navy, NNS Delta, Warri on board when the incident in which it was arrested happened. But reacting to the allegations that naval personnel were purportedly involved in the voyage which led to the arrest of the vessel, the naval boss said the naval personnel were not onboard the ship when the vessel sailed near Angola in January where it was allegedly involved in the some scandalous piracy activities. [Read More...](#)

THE NIGERIAN Navy (NN) on Wednesday blamed foreigners for responsible for most of piracy, illegal bunkering and other sea crimes committed in the nation's maritime domain - **WorldStage group**. Flag Officer Commanding (FOC), Western Naval Command (WNC) Rear Admiral Sanmi Alade said at the command's headquarters in Lagos, while receiving crew members of visiting British ship, HMS Iron Duke that the NN was poised to take full control of the nation's waterways and rid it of private security and criminals, noted that "the country's waterway was not a private affair.

"Giving the occurrences at our waters, the NN is now set to take complete ownership. A Lot of people and nations have interest in our waters for obvious reasons," he said.

"With the decline of piracy in the Gulf of Eden, it would not be wrong to say that most of the elements have left that area and found their way in the Gulf of Guinea, including our waters.

"Some foreigners have been arrested in our waters for perpetrating illegalities.

"Most of criminality in our waters are carried out by foreigners and not Nigerians. The era when the navy had challenges of platforms will soon be over because we will take delivery of some ships before the end of the year and command our waterways.

"We will take full command once again and there will be no need for private security here and there because our water is not private.

"We have some private security companies registered with the NN, they have a memorandum of understanding with us like the Ocean Marine Company, we allow them operate with their vessels but normally attach our personnel to such vessels."

On allegations that multi-national oil companies engage in illegal oil bunkering, Alade said illegal bunkering was not being treated with kid gloves, adding that anyone arrested is being appropriately dealt with.

"Piracy and illegality at sea are not beyond us. The responsibility of ensuring the security of the Nigerian maritime domain is that of the Nigerian Navy and we are poised to take total control of the Nigerian waters and rid it of any form of illegalities," he said. [Read More...](#)

IT WAS not immediately clear where the ship and its crew were heading when the incident occurred - **Bunker Ports News**.

Four persons, in an oil bunkering ship, were Tuesday arrested by Benin Republic authorities after a failed attempt to illegally export about 35,000 metric tons of crude oil believed smuggled from Nigeria.

Luck ran out on the quartet suspected to be Nigerian representatives of an oil-bunkering ring in the West African sub-region.

The ship, laden with crude oil presumed stolen from the Niger Delta, was said to have broken down on the high seas midway into its ill-fated journey.

It was not immediately clear where the ship and its crew were heading when the incident occurred. But Benin coastal guards arrested the suspects at Zone de Ambasad/Leobelle located off the coast line of Cotonou, according to Canal 3, the Benin state television station.

A Nigerian resident of the area, Adam Mohammad, told PREMIUM TIMES Wednesday that the ship attracted attention when it lost engine on the high seas for about a week. Following reports by residents to security operatives that the ship was an endangered, naval gendarme on routine surveillance in the area reportedly moved into the ship to rescue it and its crew.

Once on board the ship, the naval guards arrested the four suspects, and on interrogation, they reportedly failed to provide satisfactory explanations concerning the crude oil consignment they were carrying and the destination they were heading.

Following the arrest of the four suspects, the Benin Republic authorities has since mobilised the deployment of about 26 trucks to transfer the crude oil from the stranded ship, which has been floating on the seas for days. [Read More...](#)

THE BRITISH High Commissioner to Nigeria, Dr Andrew Pocock, on Wednesday said his government was ready to support Nigeria in providing security in the Gulf of Guinea - **Guardian News Nigeria.**

Pocock made this known in Lagos at a news conference on board "HMS IRON DUKE", a visiting British War Ship.

"Britain is a friend to Nigeria and is ready to support Nigeria in ensuring that activities of piracy and other illegal activities in the Gulf of Guinea are tackled.

"The security of Nigeria in the Gulf of Guinea matters profoundly to the British Government.

"We are, therefore, going to be working closely with the Nigerian Navy in ensuring that challenges of insecurity in the Gulf of Guinea are checked.

"We are ready to support Nigeria in the fight against illegal fishing, poaching, piracy and huge revenue losses along its coast," he said.

Pocock also restated his government's commitment to building capacity of the Nigerian Navy, adding that the visit of some British companies to Nigeria was to showcase technological solutions to the nation's security challenges. [Read More...](#)

THE LEADERSHIPS of the Civil Liberties Organisation (CLO) and the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) in Bayelsa State yesterday expressed concern over the rising attacks by suspected sea pirates and kidnappers in the state, saying the situation has created shortage of sea foods and led to the killing of innocent people in the state - **Leadership Nigeria.**

The CLO and the NUJ, led by Chief Nengi James and Comrade Tariyon Akono respectively, called on the state governor, Hon Seriake Dickson to give priority attention to security and development of agriculture in rural communities. [Read More...](#)

Boko Haram

THE LEADER of Nigeria's minority Shi'ite Muslims accused the military on Saturday of killing three of his sons and 30 of his supporters when they opened fire on a protest the previous day - **Reuters Africa.**

The military said they were fired upon first by someone in the crowd and that they killed nine people.

The Shi'ites were protesting Israeli attacks on Gaza and also marching to observe of a religious holiday, in the northern city of Zaria, where Ibrahim Zakzaky's Islamic Movement of Nigeria is based, when a troop convoy tried to pass.

"Soldiers opened fire on our people at Kuban bridge killing 30 of our people, among which were three of my sons," Zakzaky said in a statement. He accused the government of ordering the attack and said two of his supporters were executed after being arrested.

"I however appeal to our people to remain calm," he said.

Defence spokesman Major-General Chris Olukolade said: "the convoy of soldiers who were held up in the traffic created by the procession were fired at from within the procession."

They returned fire, killing nine of the marchers and two soldiers were wounded, he said by telephone.

[Read More...](#)

BOKO HARAM militants attacked Kolofata, a town in Cameroon's Far North Region near Nigeria, on Sunday and seized several people including the wife of Cameroon's Vice Prime Minister Amadou Ali, a military commander in the region said -

[Reuters Africa](#).

"The situation is very critical here now, and as I am talking to you the Boko Haram elements are still in Kolofata town in a clash with our soldiers," said Colonel Felix Nji Formekong, the second commander of Cameroon's third inter-army military region (RMIA3) based in the regional headquarters Maroua.

"Some of them have already taken away the wife of Vice Prime Minister Ahmadou Ali and her house help while the bodyguards of the Vice Prime Minister have succeeded in taking him out of the town to Mora," Formekong said, adding that there could be more casualties. [Read More...](#)

TWO FEMALE suicide bombers blew themselves up at a trade show and a petrol station in northern Nigeria's biggest city of Kano on Monday, killing one other person and injuring at least six others, police and a military source said - **[Reuters](#).**

"A show was going on at the trade fair complex. A young lady wearing a veil came and sought to enter. At the point when she was being searched by security at the gate, she detonated an explosion, which killed her and injured six others," Kano police command spokesman Magaji Majiya said.

The other suicide bomber at the petrol station killed herself and another person, the military source said, without giving further details of that blast. [Read More...](#)

NIGERIAN FORCES have arrested two Boko Haram suspects who were travelling with a 10-year-old girl with explosives strapped to her, the government said on Wednesday - **[Reuters Africa](#).**

Government spokesman Mike Omeri said the suspects had been intercepted in a Honda CRV car travelling along a road in the north's Katsina state.

"Ten-year old Hadiza was discovered to have been strapped with an explosive belt and, immediately, Iliya and Zainab made attempt to escape with the car, but were later blocked by other concerned Nigerians and subsequently arrested," he said. [Read More...](#)

Southeast Asia

AN INDONESIAN sailor was shot in the neck during a pirate attack on a ship at 2.5nm northwest of Teluk Ramunia, near Pengerang, Kota Tinggi last night - **[The Malay Mail Online](#).** Tanjung Sedili Maritime enforcement chief Captain Amran Daud said in the 10.40pm incident, a group of pirates boarded MT Jix lang, which was registered in Ulan Bator, Mongolia. However, they took flight towards Pulau Lima when they got wind of the presence of the maritime authorities, he said in a statement here today.

"A maritime patrol boat gave chase but lost them in the waters off a neighbouring country," he said, adding that initial investigations revealed there were seven Indonesian pirates.

Amran said the injured sailor was warded at the Kota Tinggi Hospital.

In their haste to escape, the pirates left two pistols and a machete in the MT Jix lang which was carrying 14 crew comprising seven Malaysians, a China national and six Indonesians. [Read More...](#)

SINCE 2010, there has been a steadily increasing trend of piracy attacks in Southeast Asia, according to a report released by UNITAR (UN Institute for Training and Research), with 150 separate incidents just from last year alone ([Channel NewsAsia](#)) - **[PR Web](#).** After significant strides in reducing the number of hijackings near war-torn Somalia over the past few years, the United Nations declared last month that the epicentre of piracy activity is now in waters off Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia.

Considering that only two weeks ago the MT Oriental Glory, a Malaysian tanker carrying oil gas cargo, was hijacked in the South China Sea, it is an apparent and alarming verification that this report is already coming to fruition. The valuable cargo on board the MT Oriental Glory was stolen and the communication equipment and engine damaged before the pirates set the tanker adrift, luckily the crew remained unharmed. This incident follows another similar from last month, where a Singapore-managed tanker was also targeted and left damaged in the same waters. As Noel Choong, head of the International Maritime Bureau's Kuala Lumpur Piracy Reporting Center told the AFP, "This is the ninth attack in these waters recently... It's a big concern," adding ships should be vigilant in the area so that pirates could not surprise them.

To combat against the threat of these vital shipping lanes in Southeast Asia once again becoming a piracy hub - an intelligent and proactive surveillance approach should be explored. [Read More...](#)

RESCUE TEAMS were searching for six missing people in Indonesia's Kapuas river Wednesday after a ferry sank, killing at least 12 people in Central Kalimantan province - [World Bulletin](#). National Search and Rescue Agency (Basarnas) public relations officer Amrizuna - many Indonesians use only one name - said that of the 70 people believed to have been aboard the vessel, 52 had survived while 12 lost their lives. He added that additional rescuers and search ships had been dispatched to help with the search and handling of victims.

The ferry had been sailing Tuesday from Kapuas Panamas village with passengers headed to visit relatives for the Muslim holiday of Eid when it sank in Indonesia's longest river. [Read More...](#)

AT FIRST glimpse, it looks like a ghost ship anchored in the middle of the ocean, but this rusting, rat-infested former U.S. Navy warship is actually at the frontlines of an increasingly tense dispute between the Philippines and China - [CNN](#). Deliberately grounded on a tiny reef in the South China Sea, part of an island chain claimed by the two Asian countries, the Sierra Madre is now the

unlikely base for a detachment of Filipino marines who stand guard over the atoll, scanning the turquoise waters for Chinese ships.

Just reaching this



unusual landmark, located 105 nautical miles (194 kilometers) from Palawan province in the western Philippines, is a nerve-jangling experience.

We approached the submerged reef in our aging wooden fishing boat at top speed - 11 knots per hour. From the north, a modern Chinese coast guard ship was closing in at least twice as fast with the intention of blocking our path. A second Chinese vessel quickly approached from the south with the same idea. [Read More...](#)

ONE PERSON has died and rescuers are still searching for seven more people missing after a ferry sank in South Sulawesi, the fourth maritime accident across the archipelago in a week - [Jakarta Globe](#).

The ship sank on Wednesday, but reports from the Selayar Islands in South Sulawesi did not reach the media until Friday.

Adj. Sr. Comr. Moh Hidayat, Selayar Islands Police chief, said that 44 people had been found alive, while seven passengers were still unaccounted for. He was quoted by Indonesian news portal Kompas.com.

Hidayat said the boat capsized and sank near Panjang island, part of the Selayar islands chain. It was on the way from Lambego island to Kayuadi island.

"I was informed that the anchor became stuck in the reef," Hidayat said.

The incident was the fourth boat accident in less than a week. [Read More...](#)

Americas/South America/Caribbean

THE BODIES of two fishermen reportedly killed by pirates washed ashore on Monday prompting their colleagues to urge the authorities to provide more protection for those engaged in the trade -

Jamaica Observer.

Police said the decomposing bodies of Omesh Derhup, 36, and 22-year-old Naresh Persaud, 22, were discovered late Monday a week after armed pirates allegedly attacked and killed five fishermen while at sea. Media reports said that a third body had also been found but the police have not confirmed the reports.

The men were due to have remained out at sea for 12 days on the vessel "Miss Seema" which was later found abandoned on July 25.

A post mortem examination indicated that Persaud's death was due to multiple injuries. The results of the examination on Derhup have not yet been released.

The owner of the vessel, Beeram Persaud, believes that the crew members were victims of piracy. [Read More...](#)

Other

THE UN Security Council has blacklisted the operator of a North Korean ship seized in July 2013 near the Panama Canal with Cuban weapons on board - **BBC News.**



The move means Pyongyang-based Ocean Maritime Management is now subject to an international asset freeze and travel ban.

The company operated the Chong Chon Gang, found with Soviet-era weapons and fighter jets hidden under sugar sacks.

United Nations sanctions ban most arms shipments to North Korea. [Read More...](#)

PART OF a Kurdish oil cargo has been offloaded from a Greek-managed tanker into another tanker in the South China Sea, but mystery surrounds the identity of the buyer and where the two tankers are headed

- Reuters.

The United Emblem, which is carrying more than 1 million



barrels of oil, is one of three tankers loaded with oil from the autonomous Kurdish region, which is trying to sell oil independently.

Iraqi Kurdistan is locked in a bitter legal and diplomatic struggle with Baghdad over international oil sales.

A U.S. judge on Tuesday refused a request by Baghdad, citing a lack of jurisdiction, to seize 1 million barrels of oil aboard the United Kalavrvta tanker, which has been anchored off the port of Galveston since the weekend. [Read More...](#)

LAWMAKERS FROM German Chancellor Angela Merkel's party are pressuring the government to prevent France from delivering two warships to Russia - **Bloomberg Businessweek.**

European Union sanctions that took effect yesterday don't stop France from selling the Mistral helicopter carriers to Russia under a 2011 contract. French President Francois Hollande last week held out the prospect of cancelling the sale of the second carrier. The first is due for delivery in two months.

"The French are about to provide Russia with valuable support for military operations with the planned delivery of the two warships and against the backdrop of the war in Ukraine, that's completely unthinkable," said Karl Lamers, the deputy defence committee chairman from Merkel's Christian Democratic Union. [Read More...](#)

THE KENYAN Defence Forces has been accused of colluding with Al-Shabaab terrorists in Somalia's illegal multi-billion-shilling charcoal trade - **Daily Nation**.

A damning new report by a US government-funded organisation, which echoes earlier findings by the United Nations, alleges that the KDF mission to Somalia under the African Union appears to include the charcoal trade in one of the most stinging criticisms of Kenya's presence in the neighbouring country.

"Kenya, although formally a participant in Amisom, which operates in support of the Somali national government, is also complicit in support of trade that provides income to Al-Shabaab, its military opponent both inside Somalia and, increasingly, at home in Kenya," says the Institute of Defence Analyses (IDA) report by Mr George Ward, formerly Washington's ambassador to Namibia.

According to the report, there are about 70 businessmen — located in the Somali port city of Kismayu that is controlled by KDF, and in Garissa and Nairobi in Kenya — who are brokers in the charcoal trade. The report does not name any individuals.

Kenya's military chiefs have previously denied allegations of involvement in any illicit activity in Somalia and have maintained that since October 2011, they have only engaged in military action aimed at stabilising the war-torn country. But the accusations, which first surfaced last year, have refused to go away. [Read More...](#)

POLICE IN Tanzania have confirmed the arrest of three Tanzanian nationals by Kenyan security forces in connection with terror attacks - **The Citizen**.

The suspects, believed to have been involved in a string of deadly attacks in the coastal towns of Lamu and Mombasa, were arrested by the Kenya Defence Forces. However, unconfirmed reports last night put the number of Tanzanians who had been arrested at six.

The Director of Criminal Investigation (DCI), Mr Issaya Mngulu, confirmed to The Citizen yesterday that the suspects were being interrogated and were due to appear in court to be charged with illegal stay. [Read More...](#)

KENYAN PRESIDENT Uhuru Kenyatta said Thursday a vast coastal zone nearly the size of Luxembourg around a proposed multi-billion dollar port area had been stolen, fuelling a wave of massacres - **Yahoo News**.

The land, stretching over 2,000 square kilometres (800 square miles) was taken "under dubious and corrupt circumstances" by 22 companies between 2011 and 2012, Kenyatta said, ordering the land to be repossessed, after evidence released in a report by the land ministry.

Last month over 100 people were slaughtered in a wave of attacks, largely claimed by Somalia's Al-Qaeda-linked Shebab militants, although Kenyatta has previously said those killings were the work of "local political networks."

"This criminal conspiracy has dispossessed individuals and families living in this region of their land and opportunities for improving their well being," Kenyatta said Thursday.

"It has also helped fuel the current insecurity being experienced in the region, and frustrated our efforts in building cohesion in the country."

[Read More...](#)

EGYPT SAW on Saturday a record high in the tonnage of cargo passed through its vital Suez Canal waterway, Al-Ahram daily newspaper reported on Sunday - **Al-Ahram Online**.

The artificial canal witnessed a passing of 50 ships carrying 3.8 million tonnes on the same day it celebrated its 58 anniversary of nationalisation, added Al-Ahram citing canal authority head Mohab Memish.

On 26 July 1956, then Egyptian President Gamal Abdel-Nasser announced in Alexandria that the International Suez Canal Company would become Societe Anonyme Egyptienne (SAE), thus ending the colonialist hegemony over Egypt's main tap of foreign currencies. [Read More...](#)

A NEW branch in the Suez Canal will be dug within the coming few days, in order to raise its revenues to \$13.5 billion by 2023, well-informed sources inside the Suez Canal Authority told Al-Ahram Friday - **The Cairo Post**.

"The new branch would be at length of 34 kilometers. Such a project would be a landmark in

the navigational history of the Suez Canal,” added the sources.

According to the sources, the project is aimed at shortening the waiting period for vessels in the lakes’ area.

This announcement follows a Suez Canal Authority (SCA) statement Thursday that revenues from the waterway surged 5.5 percent during the first half of 2014, totalling \$2.57 billion, compared to 2.43 in the same period last year. [Read More...](#)

The **FCO** now advise against all but essential travel to within 50km of the Libya border and the desert areas in south-west Egypt including the oases at Farafra, Dakhla and Bawati.



The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) advise against all travel to:

- the Governorate of North Sinai due to the significant increase in criminal activity and recent terrorist attacks on police and security forces that have resulted in deaths

The FCO advise against all but essential travel to:

- the Governorates of Beni Suef, Minya, Asyut and Sohag
- the Governorate of South Sinai, with the exception of the area within the Sharm el Sheikh perimeter barrier, which includes the airport and the areas of Sharm el Maya, Hadaba, Naama Bay, Sharks Bay and Nabq
- within 50km of the border with Libya (excluding the town of Siwa)

- the desert areas in south-west Egypt, including the oases at Farafra, Dakhla and Bawati

The Overseas Business Risk service offers information and advice for British companies operating overseas on how to manage political, economic, and business security-related risks.

[Read More...](#)

‘FLAGRANT’ VIOLATIONS of international law continue in Syria, Top UN relief official warns With the United Nations and its partners in Syria begin to ramp up aid deliveries across battle lines, the Organization’s Emergency Relief Coordinator warned today that attacks on civilians by all parties to the conflict and human rights abuses continue “in flagrant violation of the most basic principles of...international law.” - [UN.org](#) Valerie Amos, who is also the UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, delivered that warning and reiterated her appeal for action in a briefing to the Security Council on the situation of the millions of Syrians in desperate need of aid and protection, and on progress in implementing resolutions 2139 and 2165 on humanitarian access in Syria. [Read More...](#)

AT LEAST 150 refugees were believed drowned when their boat sank off the coast of Libya, according to the news portal Libya Herald on Wednesday - [News24](#).

The Libyan coast guard discovered the bodies and parts of the wreck of a ship about 4km off the city of al-Khums on the Mediterranean. Bodies were already found on the shore on Tuesday, the report said.

The victims included women and children who had probably left one of the African countries south of the Sahara. [Read More...](#)

GREECE DISPATCHED a navy frigate to Tripoli on Wednesday after the Foreign Ministry decided to evacuate all personnel from its embassy in the Libyan capital as fighting between rival militias escalated - [Ekathimerini](#).

The ministry decided to send the ship as Tripoli airport is the scene of gun battles and driving to Tunisia is deemed too dangerous. It is expected that the embassy staff will board the frigate on Thursday. Some 80 Greeks who also live in Libya

have been informed that they can board the vessel as well.

Other countries, such as China, have also requested that the Greek vessel help its citizens leave Libya. Hundreds of Chinese workers have already been evacuated from the war-torn country.

[Read More...](#)

THE US says it has temporarily evacuated its staff from the Libyan capital Tripoli over security concerns - **[BBC News](#)**.

Staff, including marine guards providing security to the embassy, have been transferred to Tunisia "due to the ongoing violence resulting from clashes between Libyan militias," it adds. Secretary of State John Kerry said there was a "real risk" to staff.

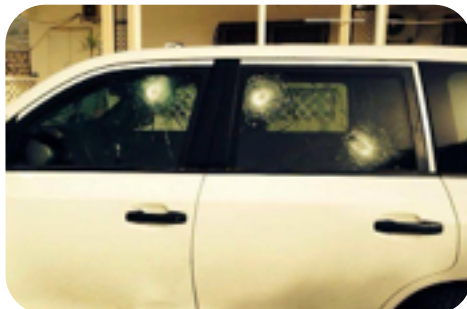
It comes amid fierce clashes between rival militias in the capital, with intense fighting at Tripoli airport. [Read More...](#)

BRITONS SHOULD leave Libya immediately because of growing instability in the country, the Foreign Office has said - **[BBC News](#)**.

It is advising against all travel to Libya because of the "greater intensity of fighting" and the likelihood of attacks on foreigners.

There are believed to be between 100 and 300 Britons in Libya at present.

The warning follows reports at least 36 people have been killed in clashes in the city of Benghazi - and an attempted car-jack on a British embassy convoy. [Read More...](#)



South Korean Ferry

STUDENTS WHO survived South Korea's ferry disaster have begun testifying at the trial of the ship's crew - **[BBC News](#)**.

The students are giving evidence at a district court near their homes, rather than at the actual trial in the southern city of Gwangju.

The Sewol ferry sank on 16 April, killing 304 people - mostly teenagers.

The crew are charged with negligence and abandoning ship. The captain and three officers are also charged with "homicide through wilful negligence".

Investigators say the ferry had been illegally modified to carry more passengers and cargo, and was overloaded.

But prosecutors say the actions of the captain and crew - including instructing passengers to stay in their cabins as the ship listed - led to more deaths. [Read More...](#)

THE DRIVER of a South Korean businessman wanted over the sinking of a ferry that killed 304 people turned himself in on Tuesday, potentially unlocking the mystery of the businessman's final days after the country's worst maritime disaster in 44 years - **[Reuters](#)**.

Prosecutors in the port city of Incheon said the driver, Yang Hoe-jung, turned himself in at their office, which is leading the investigation into the role of businessman Yoo Byung-un in the sinking of the ferry Sewol.

Yoo's body was found by a farmer in an orchard on June 12.

The structurally defective and heavily overloaded ferry capsized and sank on a routine journey on April 16, killing 304 people, 250 of them teenagers from the same school on a class field trip. Twelve of their teachers were also killed.

The driver was the last among a group of people close to Yoo who had been wanted for allegedly helping him elude South Korea's biggest manhunt. [Read More...](#)

STUDENT SURVIVORS of South Korea's ferry disaster have testified about how passengers, abandoned by the crew, improvised means of escape, using fire hoses to pull people to safety as the vessel sank - **[3News NZ](#)**.

On a second day of student testimony in the trial of the Sewol ferry's captain and 14 crew, more than a dozen high school teenagers recalled the

trauma of the April 16 tragedy that killed 250 of their classmates.

One spoke of how she was saved by the actions of an adult passenger as sea water flooded into the heavily listing ferry.

"At first, someone lowered a strip of window curtain that I grabbed on to, but then I slipped back down," the student said.

"Then a passenger threw me a fire hose and I tied it around my hips and he pulled me up," she added.

The charges against the Sewol crew arise from their decision to abandon ship while hundreds of people were still trapped inside. [Read More...](#)

Missing Malaysian Aircraft MH370



CHINESE POLICE "punched and beat" the grieving relatives of Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 victims after they petitioned the company for information about what had happened - **The Telegraph**.

The women, who were not named, told Hong Kong's South China Morning Post they had been set upon by six police officers at a police station in Beijing.

They claimed they were "dragged and punched" by police – an attack that resulted in one woman spending three days in hospital and both covered in bruises. [Read More...](#)

MALAYSIA AIRLINES is likely to change its name as part of a radical overhaul in the wake of the death of 298 passengers in a missile attack on a flight over Ukraine - **The Telegraph**.

The Malaysian flag carrier, majority-owned by the government, will also seek new investors to rebuild its business after two major tragedies within six months.

Work has begun on a strategic review that will restructure the airline's routes and expand outsourcing to increase profitability.

Sources said additional private investment for the airline could come from rival aviation groups.

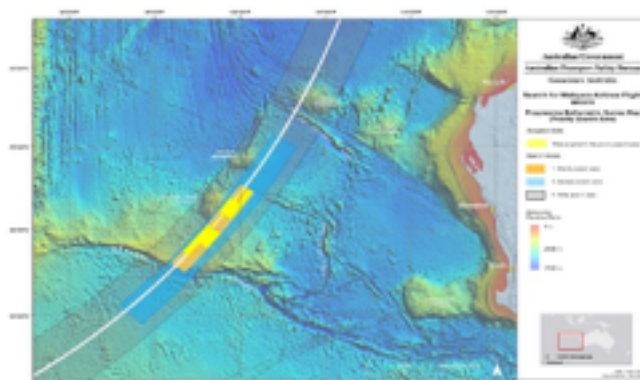
At the same time, Malaysia Airlines is also calling for a single global body to monitor threats and decide where civilian aircraft are allowed to fly.

[Read More...](#)

AUSTRALIA TODAY released an updated map of the seabed survey area in the southern Indian Ocean where the missing Malaysian Airlines MH370 is suspected to have crashed - **IHS Maritime 360**.

Two vessels - the Chinese PLA Navy vessel Zhu Kezhen and the Australian contracted Dutch specialised survey vessel Fugro Equator are to be joined by KD Mutiara, a Malaysian hydrographic survey vessel in August.

Fugro Equator has sounded more than 43,000 km2 as of yesterday, 30 July, Australia's Joint Agency Coordination Centre (JACC) said in today's statement. [Read More...](#)



Downed Malaysian Aircraft MH17

THE DOWNING of Malaysia Airlines jet MH17 in eastern Ukraine may constitute a "war crime", the UN human rights chief Navi Pillay says - **BBC News**.



Ukraine and Western governments believe pro-Russian rebels shot down MH17, using a missile system supplied by Russia. All 298 people on board - most of them Dutch - died on 17 July. Moscow and the rebels have blamed Ukrainian forces for the plane crash.

Dutch and Australian police are now heading for the crash site.

Heavy fighting in the area prevented the police going there earlier. They want to help secure the huge crash site - in rebel-held territory - so that plane wreckage and human remains can be examined by international crash experts.

Most of the bodies have been removed, many of them repatriated to the Netherlands.

"This violation of international law, given the prevailing circumstances, may amount to a war crime," Ms Pillay, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, said in Geneva. [Read More...](#)

THE UNITED Nations' civil aviation body said on Tuesday it would quickly form a task force on airline safety, noting that while this was complex and politically sensitive, urgent action had to be taken after the recent downing of a Malaysian airliner over Ukraine - [Reuters](#).

The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the airline industry and other aviation groups said they would look at how safety information could be collected and distributed properly.

Western states, which believe that pro-Russia rebels brought down Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 using a missile supplied by Russia, agreed on Tuesday to impose wider sanctions on the Russian economy. [Read More...](#)

THE ROAD isn't easy -- past shelling and eerie separatist checkpoints. But where it leads is harder still - [CNN](#).

Twelve days after MH17 was blown out of the sky, pieces of the plane remain here, but for days investigators haven't been able to reach the site. On Wednesday, efforts to get to the bottom of the deadly crash hit another roadblock, as Ukrainian officials warned of possible landmines near the site.

The wreckage sits in tomb-like silence -- a monument to cruelty, to how 298 souls -- some shipped in parts, away on a separatist train -- have yet to find complete rest.

There are flowers and a teddy bear on the ground, where strangers have tried to mourn. The crash site still reeks of jet fuel and the stench of decay. Shrapnel holes are visible in the cockpit's remains.

In the hour a CNN team spent at the crash site Wednesday, there were no separatists, inspectors or Ukrainian soldiers there.

Just distant smoke that explains why the inspectors' large convoy has not, for the fourth day running, arrived. [Read More...](#)

AN INTERNATIONAL team of experts has reached the crash site of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 in eastern Ukraine for the first time, after days of attempts foiled by violence in the separatist-controlled area - [Voice of America](#).

The Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe announced the development Thursday, saying a small team of its monitors, accompanied by four Dutch and Australian experts, had reached the site using a new route.

Reaching the crash site means the team can begin collecting key evidence from the crash and gain access to the human remains that have not yet been moved for identification. [Read More...](#)

A TEAM of 70 Dutch and Australian forensic experts has found human remains at the site of the flight MH17 crash in east Ukraine - [BBC News](#).

They made their discovery on their first full day of searching at the site,



an area of some 35 sq km (13.5 sq miles) inside the conflict zone.

Local search parties found 227 of the 298 victims earlier and they were flown to the Netherlands for identification.

Fighting still rages, with 10 Ukrainian soldiers killed nearby on Thursday.

The fighting between government troops and pro-Russian separatist rebels had previously prevented the investigators reaching the area.

[Read More...](#)

Released by Pirates

NSTR

Pirates in Court

A FORMER Somali Pirate chief Mohamed Abdi Hassan, aka 'Afweyne' or 'Big Mouth', has been charged with piracy for the first time, a charge which carries a 20 year prison sentence, a reliable source told [Waagacusub Media](#).

Afweyne is said to be behind a kidnapped vessel which a ransom was paid, according to the statement of the charges.

The leader of the Somali pirate group, Afweyne, held a January press conference to declare his retirement from terrorising the Indian Ocean as one of the Somalia's most notorious pirates. A year after, the court adjourned to his long-term sentence in late September or in early October, 2014.

The important evidence filed against 'Big Mouth' during his trial and judgment are among recorded phone calls and surveillance cameras conducted by people that met him from different record numbers.

Mr. 'Big Mouth' established a big business of his own from millions of dollars that he made from ransom payments and helped many teens to quit pursuing piracy as a carrier as well as founded an anti-piracy company.

Another man that was detained with him is Mohamed Adam Tiiceey, a former governor of the Somali region of Himan and Heeb, who is suspected in aiding Afweyne's pirate organization that was not until now displayed any evidence against him, according to reliable sources.

Tiiceey, who is a Somali-born American citizen is accused of receiving a share, about 3 %, the ransom from the pirates in Galgadud and Mudug taken from the hijacked vessels crossing the East African coast.



Belgium is striving to stop commercial flight known as Central Airlines that carries Khat and other items to Adado town which is engaged by Afweyne and run by his own son, Abdulkader Afweyne.

According to Belgium law, Afweyne will serve a 10 year sentence in prison; however, Hawiye diaspora neither protested nor advocated for these two men to help, yet nobody is asking what he/she can do to help.

Reporting By Dahir Alasow from Netherlands
[Read More...](#)

Italian Marines

NSTR

Private Security

AROUND 100 armed security staff hired to protect ships and tankers from pirates have been left scattered at sea after one of the world's biggest maritime security firms ceased trading while allegedly owing millions in unpaid salaries - [The Independent](#).

More than a dozen Britons are among those left high and dry in treacherous waters, including off the coast of Somalia, when Lymington-based Gulf of Aden Group Transits (GoAGT) collapsed last week. Employees were woken in the early hours on Friday to find an email from the firm's chief executive Nick Davis stating that "current and planned operations" would now be carried out on their behalf by Sea Marshals, another Private Management Security Company (PMSC). Former soldier Mark Mullins, 37, from Dymchurch in Kent, spoke to The Independent via satellite phone from his ship "in the middle of the ocean". He said: "There are around 45 of us on this ship with 15 Brits. I was woken up by the vessel manager at two in the morning on Friday, along with 10 others, to be given a piece of paper with Nick's email. The reaction was not good – we just started wondering how we're going to get home. That's my main concern. [Read More...](#)

A FALL in private security rates could raise risks for commercial shipping in the Gulf of Aden, a

security analyst has warned following the collapse of Gulf of Aden Group Transits (GoAGT) - [**IHS Maritime 360**](#).

The analyst, who declined to be identified, confirmed that the UK-based security company had closed and said other firms are poised to follow.

An article in the UK's Independent newspaper on Tuesday alleged that GoAGT went under owing millions in unpaid salaries. "This is the first of several security companies in the region that are likely to fold," the analyst told IHS Maritime. "The armed guard market has been under a lot of commercial pressure with prices falling dramatically, by 30% this year. Clients are not aware of the pressures that that has put on security companies."

Some security companies without a strong understanding of their cost base are providing services too cheaply, he said. Collateral damage could result from the collapse of companies like GoAGT, he added. "Having a lot of disgruntled former soldiers hanging around with weapons that are not well controlled is a recipe for a mess," he said. [Read More...](#)

THE THREAT to global shipping in the future may not be pirates or terrorists, but hackers – people accessing shipboard systems via computers, either on the ship or thousands of miles away on dry land - [**Security News Desk**](#).

That was the message that came out of an afternoon seminar aboard the HQS Wellington, a former convoy escort moored on the banks of the Thames which now serves as the headquarters ship of the Honourable Company of Master Mariners.

Organised by the Security Association for the Maritime Industry (SAMI), the event was entitled "Seaworthiness and cyber security – the hidden threat to shipping". It featured six speakers from the world of shipping, insurance and cyber security and was attended by about 100 delegates from the shipping and insurance industries.

There were many questions from the audience at the conclusion of the presentations, several of which focused on gap insurance for cyber claims. It would appear that SAMI has hit a nerve with this

seminar topic and has promised to carry on the work that it has begun, to help ensure that our bits and bytes remain secure on the high seas. [Read More...](#)

International Response

THE MARINE Corps began preparing its Special Operations component in earnest for life after Afghanistan last year, joining a war game overseen by U.S. Special Operations Command designed to assess how its elite troops could better fit into U.S. maritime operations - [**West Hawaii Today**](#).

A year later, that picture is starting to emerge. Navy SEALs and commandos with Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command are among a cadre of troops working from the Navy's new ship, the USS Independence, this month as part of the 2014 Rim of the Pacific military exercise off the coast of Hawaii. The mission began with U.S. helicopters delivering Special Operations troops to the flight deck of the Independence, and then lowering an 11-meter inflatable boat into the Pacific Ocean to conduct a simulated raid known as a visit, board, search and seizure, or VBSS, military officials said.

Navy SEALs, MARSOC Marines and Special Operations troops with South Korea and Peru are all involved, U.S. officials said. Combined, they're testing how the Independence will work as an "afloat forward staging base," a concept in which the U.S. military can launch everything from humanitarian assistance missions to counter-piracy raids from a ship resourced to help. [Read More...](#)

AS THEY seek ways to deter criminal activities and ways to be better equipped to fight terrorism, organised transnational crime such as drug trafficking, cyber-crime, counterfeit medicines and environmental crimes, police chiefs from across the African continent are working on the setting up of a police organisation for all of Africa.

Police chiefs from some 40 African countries including Seychelles, meeting in Algiers in February this year agreed on the establishment of the African Police Cooperation Organisation – AFRIPOL – ***Seychelles News Agency***.



In an interview with SNA, the Seychelles Police Chief Commissioner Ernest Quatre said that while Interpol remains the world's largest police organisation, AFRIPOL which will be similar to other continental bodies like Europe's Europol for example, will allow better networking and faster flow of information when dealing with criminality in Africa.

"It will not be only EAPCCO, SARPCCO, WAPCO or other regional bodies. AFRIPOL will help us to come together to share information faster and know each other better. Each country has its own jurisdiction, the laws may not necessarily be the same but when it comes to addressing criminality we have the same goals the same objective," said Quatre.

It is expected that AFRIPOL will be operational next year, though no precise date has been set yet and Algeria will be the first to head the regional body which will be headquartered in Algiers. [Read More...](#)

Piracy Costs

THE RECENT drop of successful acts of piracy in the Gulf of Aden have led some experts to believe that we are witnessing the decline of piracy in this particular part of the world. They would believe this tendency to be a normal turn of fate since piracy is historically "a crime of the past", which only occurs nowadays at this scale because of the specific political situation of Somalia – ***UN Nippon Foundation Fellowship Alumni***.

However piracy off the Somali coast has far from given its last breath as its recent decline is only due to exceptional preventive measures implemented by the international community. Piracy off the coast of Somalia continues to pose a threat to the international community as the circumstances and conditions that have led to its upsurge and growth remain more than ever. Factors that have led to the emergence of piracy Piracy off the Somali coast is often described, as relatively "exceptional" compared to the nature of piracy occurring in other parts of the globe mainly because of the disastrous political context of Somalia. The geographical area in which the pirates operate, the scale of hostage taking and the substantive amount of ransoms received pose a real threat to international trade. An analysis of factors contributing to the emergence of piracy in the Gulf of Aden, and their relevance, will allow us to better understand the potential risk of resurgence. [Read More...](#)

FROM THE Somali coast to boardrooms of the City of London, maritime piracy is now a global industry ***Acuerdo***.

At its high point in 2010, piracy in the Indian Ocean was so widespread that it threatened the passage of oil through the Suez Canal. The kidnapping and ransoming of fishing vessels and cargo ships made headline news, and insurance premiums for companies operating in the area skyrocketed. But while the media focused on the pirates, the real money was being made in the shadows. In this infographic based report, Acuerdo looks at the lucrative trade that sprung up around the bloodshed... and the networks of investors, intermediaries and lawyers that stood to gain the most.

[Infographic link](#)

[Video Read More...](#)

IS HOLDING a British passport a "death certificate" if you fall into the hands of terrorist kidnappers? That is the view of Hans Dyer, whose brother Edwin was killed by al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb in 2009 after Britain declined the group's ransom demands. Mr Dyer was speaking to Wednesday's New York Times, which had a report comparing HMG's stance on ransoms to

that of our European counterparts, who are more likely to cough up - [*The Telegraph*](#).

Normally, the only glimpse we ever get of this difference in national policies is in the suspicious ease with which countries like France and Italy get their citizens freed from kidnappers' clutches in the likes of Syria or Iraq. TV footage will show a French or Italian minister triumphantly greeting the bedraggled captives as they get off a plane, and there will be rumours – neither confirmed nor denied – that several million dollars changed hands.

In Edwin Dyer's case, however, the difference in national policies played out in the starkest possible way. A Swiss couple and a German pensioner that he was kidnapped alongside were released after their respective governments paid out an estimated £6.3 million to the kidnappers. More to the point, though, Britain's public stance against ransom paying is not quite what it seems. For while the Foreign Office may tut about the £60m paid to al-Qaeda in ransoms, it is rather quieter about the much larger sums paid out to Somali bandits by the London-based insurers working for shipping industry during the piracy epidemic of the last five years.

The technical difference is that since the pirates are merely common criminals, rather than terrorists, such ransoms are not illegal. The moral difference, however, is rather less clear, and anyone who thinks that the millions of dollars in ransom drops that have landed in Somalia in recent years has not indirectly benefited groups like al-Shabaab is deluded.

However, were the maritime industry not able to buy its way out of trouble in this fashion, most global shipping in the Indian Ocean would probably have stopped years ago, and the world's economy would have nosedived.

In other words, had Mr Dyer been kidnapped by pirates, not al-Qaeda, the question of whether his British passport was a death sentence would probably never have arisen. [Read More...](#)

WHAT DO child slavery in Ghana, Somali piracy and the illegal global ivory trade have in common? Their root causes can all be traced back to declining wildlife populations.

At least that's the theory of a group of researchers at the University of California, Berkeley, who looked at how wildlife loss impacts conflict in places where people depend on wildlife to survive. Justin Brashares and his colleagues say that the way governments and international organisations respond to crimes like poaching often do not address the full "ecological, social and economic complexity of wildlife-related conflict." - [*EE News*](#). "We thought it was critical to connect the dots" among disciplines, said Brashares, the lead author of a paper published recently in the journal *Science*.

The connection between the loss of wildlife and human populations has also been underemphasised in academia, said co-author Douglas McCauley, an ecologist currently at University of California, Santa Barbara, who took part in the study as a postdoctoral student at UC Berkeley.

While conservationists like McCauley focus most of their research on how to preserve species for their own sake, species preservation is also a vital consideration for human populations, he said. Wildlife is an important economic driver around the world. The global harvest of marine and land animals is valued at \$400 billion each year. About 15 percent of the world's population depends on wildlife to survive. Among the poorest people on the planet, meat from these animals is the main source of protein.

When disruptions to those populations happen, they can have devastating impacts on the stability of the people relying on wildlife for sustenance. In Somalia, piracy off the country's coastline can be traced back to 1991, the year the country's government collapsed and international vessels began fishing there illegally. Because the country no longer had a coast guard to patrol its shores, Somali fishermen began attacking the international vessels.

Brashares said few of the academics and journalists he'd spoken to had known about the conflict's origins.

"We've really glorified [piracy] in a different way," Brashares said. "It really started as a battle for fish." [Read More...](#)

Smuggling/Pirate Fishing

COSTA RICA is the leading exporter of pineapples in the world, according to the country's Foreign Trade Promoter (PROCOMER). In 2013, pineapple exports generated US\$834.2 million, which is 1.7% of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) - **InfoSur hoy**.

However, the international trade in fruits and other products is being affected by the use of containers for drug trafficking, mainly to Europe, according to the Chamber of Exporters of Costa Rica (CADEXCO).

"The issue of export security is very important. The infiltration of unwanted goods seriously affects the country's image in the foreign markets," Betsabé Álvarez, the International Trade manager at CADEXCO, said.

Exporting companies have been forced to incorporate security mechanisms into their products and their distribution routes to prevent their cargo from being penetrated by the drug trade, thus increasing the cost of shipping goods to international markets, Álvarez added.

"The country has made major efforts to grow exports and this is being affected by the lack of security, which has now moved to the export sector," Álvarez added.

From January to July, the Drug Control Police (PCD) seized 538 kg of cocaine in four containers with export products destined for Europe. [Read More...](#)

FISHERIES CRIME is a major and increasingly significant threat not only to the security of the maritime environment but also to the sustainability of marine living resources - **CIMSEC**. In a study conducted by the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC) on transnational criminal activities in the fishing industry, it was highlighted that:

Fishers trafficked for the purpose of forced labour on board fishing vessels are severely abused; There is frequency of child trafficking in the fishing industry;

Transnational organised criminal groups are engaged in marine living resource crimes in relation to high value, low volume species such as abalone;

Some transnational fishing operators launder illegally caught fish through transshipments at sea and fraudulent catch documentation;

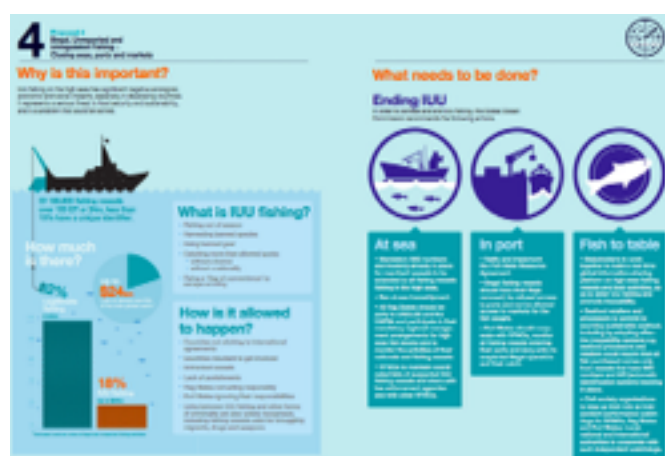
Fishing licensing and control system is vulnerable to corruption;

Fishing vessels are used for the purpose of smuggling of migrants, illicit traffic in drugs (primarily cocaine), illicit traffic in weapons, and acts of terrorism; and

Fishers are often recruited by organised criminal groups due to their skills and knowledge of the sea and are seldom masterminds behind organised criminal activities involving the fishing industry or fishing vessels.

Some of the specific incidents of transnational crime in fisheries include the hijacking of the MV Kuber for the purpose of transporting terrorists and arms into Mumbai; hijacking of fishing vessels and involvement of fishers in piracy attacks in the western Indian ocean; smuggling of weapons into off the coast of the Red Sea; human trafficking for the purpose of forced labour in Thailand fishing industry; and the illegal capture and trade of high value species by criminal syndicates in Australia and South Africa.

Factors that make the fishing industry susceptible to transnational organised crime include the global reach of fishing vessels, ineffective monitoring of fishing vessels, lack of transparency on the identity of beneficial owners of vessels, continuous decline of global stocks, poor socio-economic conditions of fishers and fishing communities, lack of effective flag and port State



jurisdiction, corruption, and inadequate international regulation on the safety of fishing vessels and working conditions of fishers. Although fisheries crime is a burgeoning problem globally, its extent is difficult to determine with accuracy due to the elusive nature of illicit activities. [Read More...](#)

NINE FOREIGN nationals were charged in a Kenyan court on Thursday with trafficking the biggest ever single seizure of drugs at the Indian Ocean port of Mombasa - ***Reuters Africa***. There has been a surge in the volume of heroin trafficked through east Africa in recent years, the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime says, with east Africa's biggest port of Mombasa cited as a transit point for narcotics and other contraband. The suspects, who included six Pakistanis, two Indians and an Iranian, denied trafficking the heroin and were detained until November when their trial will begin.

Prosecutors told the court on Thursday that the 377.2 kg drug haul had a market value of 1.1 billion shillings (\$12.54 million). Police also found 33,200 litres of liquid heroin whose value is yet to be established.

If convicted, the suspects face life imprisonment or a fine worth three times the value of the heroin, or both, a Mombasa-based lawyer told Reuters. The drug is typically transported from Pakistan and Iran to east Africa, known for its porous borders and weak maritime surveillance, and onwards to Europe.

They accused were arrested in Kenyan territorial waters in early July on board MV Bushehr Amin Darya, a stateless vessel, which was towed into the port of Mombasa, and police found the heroin hidden in the ship's diesel tank. [Read More...](#)

Seafarers' Plight

SEYCHELLES has become the second island nation in the Western Indian Ocean to have a Navtex (navigational telex) broadcasting station - ***OCEANUSLive***.

Navtex is an international automated medium frequency direct-printing service for delivery of navigational and meteorological warnings and forecasts, as well as urgent marine safety information to ships.



The facility is a donation from the government of Japan through the implementation of the Djibouti Code of Conduct of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO).

It was the Minister for Home Affairs and Transport Joel Morgan who accepted the donation yesterday from the special advisor to the secretary general of IMO, Yoshiaki Ito. [Read More...](#)

Aid Workers Plight

NSTR.

And Finally...

CHINA'S NEWEST celebrity is a large inflatable toad floating in the middle of a Beijing pond, but mentions of the giant frog have disappeared from some of China's news and social media sites after



some netizens pointed out similarities to Jiang Zemin, China's retired leader - **ABC News**. The 72-foot-tall inflatable golden toad has been the center of attention at Beijing's Yuyuantan Park this summer. Children clustered around the lake, waiting to take photos with it. A toad is a good luck sign in China, with tales of them being able to spit out gold coins. "Wealth-beckoning toad" statues have long been popular in Chinese homes and businesses.



But reports of the yellow toad on China's official Xinhua News Agency and Sina, a popular Internet portal, have disappeared. [Read More...](#)

Piracy Incidents

Hijacks:

- **Gulf of Guinea** - Kiribati-flagged product tanker, **MT Hai Soon 6**, reported boarded and hijacked by 10 heavily armed pirates at 2340 UTC in last known position 05:00N - 000:49E, approx 46nm south of Anloga, Ghana. The tanker, fully laden with gas oil, was conducting STS ops when reported hijacked and to have been sailed in a SE direction. Vessel reported proceeding through Togo waters possibly heading towards Cotonou, Benin. Benin and Nigerian patrol vessels search for the tanker. Reported (MTISC) 25 Jul.

Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies (All regions):

- **SE Asia** - Seven armed robbers in a fishing vessel approached and boarded an anchored Cyprus-flagged container ship, **Amur River**, via the poop deck at 2130 LT at Chittagong Anchorage, Bangladesh. Duty crew spotted the robbers stealing ship's property and raised the alarm. As the crew mustered and approached the robbers they escaped. Incident reported to the Coast Guard who advised the Master to be vigilant and report any suspicious movement. Reported (IMB) 31 Jul.
- **SE Asia** - Ten robbers armed with guns and knives boarded an anchored Mongolia-flagged product tanker, **Ji Xiang**. They stole crew personnel belongings and cash before escaping at 2030 LT in position 01:19.54N – 104:15.46E, around 2nm South of Teluk Ramunia, Johor, Malaysia. Incident reported to MMEA who are investigating the incident. During the robbery, one Indonesian crew member was shot and received minor injuries to his neck. Reported 25 Jul.
- **SE Asia** - Three robbers boarded an anchored tanker, **Golden Adventure**, at 0030 LT in position 22:10N – 091:46E, Chittagong Anchorage, Bangladesh. Ship's alarm raised, all crew mustered and Port Control notified. Seeing the crew alertness, the robbers escaped with stolen ship's properties. Reported (IMB) 25 Jul.
- **SE Asia** - Single boat approached an anchored product tanker, **JBU Opal**, at 1035 LT in position 03:55.1N – 098:45.1E, Belawan anchorage, Indonesia. Duty Bosun noticed a robber attempting to climb on to the vessel and raised the alarm. Seeing the alerted crew the robber moved away. Later the duty officer noticed another robber on board the vessel and raised the alarm and crew mustered. Seeing crew alertness, the robber escaped. Upon investigation it was discovered that the padlock to the paint store was broken. Reported (IMB) 25 Jul.
- **SE Asia** - Three armed robbers in a wooden boat approached and boarded an anchored bulk carrier, **Sea Dias**, at 0315 LT in position 00:15.4S – 117:34.7E, Muara Berau anchorage, Indonesia. They took hostage duty AB and tied him up. The duty AB managed to escape and informed the OOW who raised the alarm. Sensing the alerted crew the robbers escaped with stolen ships properties. Reported (IMB) 25 Jul.

Other Incidents:

- **SE Asia** - [Confirmation] While at anchor, five intruders armed with long knife boarded Panama-flagged bulk carrier, **Kmarin Mugunghwa**, at poop deck using hook attached with rope at 0130 LT in position 01:26.60N - 104:36.79E, N of Pulau Bintan. The duty A/B and OOW on routine rounds noticed the intruders at poop deck and informed the duty officer who in turn immediately raised the ship's alarm. The crew was mustered. All five intruders jumped into the sea and escaped empty-handed in their small boat. No crew was injured and no ship's property were stolen. Reported to Singapore VTIS West. 9 Jul.

- All ships transiting north of Curacao and Aruba are advised that the seismic survey ship POLAR DUKE will be conducting surveys in the area until 15 September 2014. The towed array is very large - 12 streamers 9000 meters long, and 900 meters wide. It is advised to give a wide berth of 8 NM astern, 2 NM ahead and 3 NM abeam as manoeuvrability of this ship is limited.

Suspicious Activity:

- **Red Sea** - Merchant vessel reported being approached by three skiffs at 2045 UTC in position 15:50.4N - 041:30.08E, Red Sea. Visibility extremely limited and no piracy tripwires seen. Skiffs closed to 0.1 nm. Warning shots were fired by embarked AST, resulting in skiffs dispersing; two further approaches were made before the skiffs withdrew. Vessel and crew are safe. Reported (UKMTO) 31 Jul.
- **Gulf of Guinea** - While at anchor, crew on board an anchored general cargo vessel observed a suspicious boat with 8 POB approaching the vessel at 0010 LT in position 06:05N – 001:16E, Lome anchorage, Togo. Master raised the alarm, alerted crew and authorities and sounded the ship's horn. Seeing the alert crew the boat moved away. Later a naval vessel arrived to investigate. Reported (IMB) 25 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/IOE 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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