

2 - 8 Aug 2014 No. 32/14

Hijacked tanker released; SE Asia navies intensify patrols; W Africa Ebola Int'l threat; 400-year old piracy law built on house of cards; US support for Africa -

HIJACKED Singaporean oil tanker, Hai Soon 6, with 21 crew released a week after capture off Ghana; crew unhurt as part of fuel cargo is stolen. The outbreak of Ebola in West Africa declared an international public health emergency by WHO; ICS, IMEC and ITF issue joint advice to seafaring members on vessels calling at countries affected by the outbreak.

"Africa's Security and the United States: Converging Interests and Expanding Partnerships", the title of a seminar held during US-Africa Summit in Washington DC discussed maritime security as an integral part of economic performance; an officer from the Gabon Navy boldly claimed that many cases of piracy could have been "...instrumentalised' for the benefit of maritime security and insurance companies."

Indonesian, Singaporean and Malaysian counterparts are expected to intensify sea patrols in the Malacca Straits to combat escalating pirate activities. In Bangladesh, following the sinking of a ferry with nearly 250 people on board, murder charges have been lodged against the owner and five others, including the Captain. An unprecedented step in a country where such disasters are all too common.

A pirate attack on an Italian tanker was reported in the Gulf of Aden this week, however, authorities are yet to confirm the incident. Embarked armed guards deterred the attack. As the President of Somalia announced that the US will provide support on security and other sectors in some countries in Africa, but the country's militants say they will step up their attacks in Puntland.

Egypt plans to add an extra lane to the Suez Canal to increase the number of ships using it each day. The new 48-mile channel will be built at a cost of \$4bn. More nations are providing ships to evacuate their nationals from strife-torn Libya.

In South Korea, a further 43 officials have been charged with corruption in connection with the Sewol ferry disaster; an agreement on a new Sewol-related bill has been reached with rival political parties. ReCAAP ISC launches an app to share the latest piracy & armed robbery at sea incident alerts and reports.

An international law used for 400 years to combat piracy on the high seas is seriously flawed, according to new research by a legal scholar at University of Portsmouth. Law-makers have unwittingly been blind-sided by a law built on little more than a myth it is contended. The Italian marines held in India facing trial for the killing of two fishermen have been granted permission to extend their bail bond.

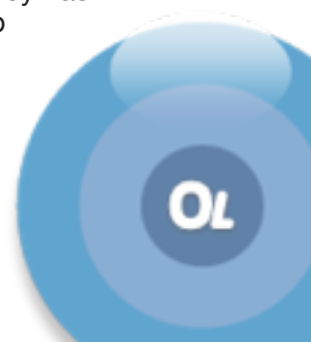
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There has been a sharp increase in piracy activities in waters off West Africa, but in most cases, (they) abandon the ships after taking oil, money, or valuables”

- SENIOR SEOUL OFFICIAL

Spanish police seized 127kg of cocaine from a Spanish navy training ship. Three sailors were arrested on its return to Spain.

An Indian woman in the last phase of her pregnancy has swum across a turbulent river to get to hospital to ensure her baby was born safely.

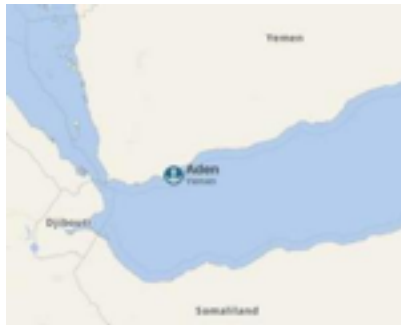


Regional Activity

East Africa/Indian Ocean

A PIRATE attack against the Italian tanker Giacinta has been foiled by armed guards onboard the vessel. The incident happened on August 6 at around 11 a.m. LT in the Gulf of Aden - **Vessel Finder**.

The Giacinta was en route to Fujairah (United Arab Emirates) when it became surrounded by eight suspicious boats. The



armed security guards and the crew members onboard Giacinta followed the procedures against piracy. According to ASSIV, they fired a rocket but the pirates were pushed back after the guards fired warning shots. The incident was immediately reported to the Maritime Security Centre – Horn of Africa (MSCHOA) and to Mimbelli, an Italian military vessel patrolling in the area (deployed with NATO's counter-piracy Operation Ocean Shield). The Italian tanker continued towards its destination in safe conditions. **Read More...**

ASK Major-General Wayne W. Grigsby Jr., the top U.S. military officer in Africa, how he thinks U.S. and European-backed African troops are faring in their war on Islamist militants in Somalia, and his answer comes back smartly: "Pretty darn good!" - **Reuters Africa**.

But when "son of Africa" U.S. President Barack Obama hosts 50 African leaders in Washington this week, the admiration may be less than mutual. Many Africans feel America is lagging behind China and others in its engagement with their continent.

The Aug. 4-6 U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit, billed by U.S. officials as a first-of-its-kind event, looks like a belated imitation of Africa gatherings hosted in recent years by China, India, Japan and the continent's former colonial master Europe.

The world's richest nation has been slow coming to the party of an economically rising Africa, long dismissed as a hopeless morass of poverty and war, but now offering investors a huge market for everything from banking and retail to mobile phones.

"The United States has fallen perhaps a little bit behind in the race to win African hearts and minds. So I think this is an attempt to compete with the likes of China and the European Union," said Christopher Wood, an analyst in economic diplomacy at the South African Institute of International Affairs. **Read more...**

IT MAY be reasonable to assume that piracy has existed for as long as the oceans were plied for commerce. For some decades, the trend in piracy has been observed to be cyclic in nature with its peak occurring when there is global economic recession in which the perpetrators of this heinous crime enter the sea to steal - **Business Day**. It is on land pirates plan, thereafter undertake acts of piracy and armed robbery at sea. Accordingly, when there is economic recession and political instability on land, pirates turn to the sea for survival. This situation is reversed when the nation's economy is booming. This viewpoint is arguable but, reports on maritime piracy as they occur in various parts of the world and its deadly effect on shipping and ultimately national economies have been of grave concern to ship owners and governments. It has been observed that a number of geographic and economic characteristics of the classical world produced an environment practically necessitating piracy. However, piracy has become a threat to maritime security and global economy and this has compelled me to contribute to existing debates on piracy.

Since Information Technology enables platforms to be close together in an electronic sense, the weak technological base of most African nations has made it impossible to detect targets at sea. In the medium term, it is vital for African navies to build and sustain partnership with each other in order to have a network-based approach to maritime security and also to develop a collective naval security arrangement for Africa. Additionally, African governments can contribute to continental

security by strengthening their maritime defence capabilities in order to combat threats in internal waters before they spill over to the high seas. At the regional and international levels, the establishment of an African Force of Armed Naval Guards that can be deployed in small numbers on board merchant ships may be an important element towards solving the piracy problem in the long term. This is likely to be an innovative force in terms of African Peacekeeping activity. This is to restrict the growth of unregulated privately contracted armed guards and to allow African Union members and indeed those in the areas most immediately affected including those states lacking maritime forces in the region to contribute meaningfully to piracy countermeasures. [Read more...](#)

THE PRESIDENT of the federal government of Somalia Hassan Shiekh Mohamud has uncovered a excellent achievements in the 3 day US-African leaders summit which hosted by the first African United States president Barack Obama in Washington - [RBC Radio](#).

President Mohamud speaking to BBC-Somali said they had went there with several agendas and succeeded to discuss most of them with the government of the United States of America. Within the summit, Mohamud said that more cooperation between counties in the region are encouraged where United States government promised to commence their support on security and other sectors in some countries in the continent.

"We have discussed with the U.S government to start immense support to build our national army" added president Mohamud saying that Somali is not like other African countries who are seeking to only enhance ties with the United States. [Read More...](#)

SOMALI ISLAMIST militants say they will step up their attacks in Puntland, Somalia's north eastern state region. Senior officer from the militants speaking to the Pro-Alshabab radio station of Andulus stated that they will augment their efforts of plotting terror attacks in the Puntland regions, which has been relatively stable since the ouster

of the Somalia's former central government - [RBC Radio](#).

Shiekh Abdulkadir Mumin who is senior Al-shabab member in Gal-gala raised this statement, vowing to target Puntland government and its leaders. There is increased awareness in Puntlan's regions and we know people of Bari region support us but what we are vowing is to increase our attacks against the government in the region. [Read More...](#)

NEARLY HALF of the people on the U.S. government's widely shared database

of terrorist suspects are not connected

to any known terrorist group, according to

[classified government documents](#) obtained by

[The Intercept](#).

Of the 680,000

people caught up in the government's Terrorist Screening Database—a watchlist of "known or suspected terrorists" that is shared with local law enforcement agencies, private contractors, and foreign governments—more than 40 percent are



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described by the government as having “no recognised terrorist group affiliation.” That category—280,000 people—dwarfs the number of watch-listed people suspected of ties to al Qaeda, Hamas, and Hezbollah combined.

The documents, obtained from a source in the intelligence community, also reveal that the Obama Administration has presided over an unprecedented expansion of the terrorist screening system. [Read More...](#)



[Click to enlarge image](#)

West Africa

A HIJACKED Singaporean oil tanker carrying 21 sailors was released on Sunday a week after being seized by pirates in waters off Ghana in west Africa, Seoul's foreign ministry said.

The 3,200-tonnes tanker, carrying a South Korean captain and chief engineer, was hijacked on July 26 off the southern coast of Ghana, the ministry said - [AsiaOne](#)

The vessel, which had loaded in the Pacific island nation of Kiribati, was also carrying 12 Chinese, one Singaporean and six Burmese, it said.

"All sailors are unhurt and it appears that some of their fuel has been stolen," it said, adding the ship was released in waters off Nigeria.

It did not say whether a ransom has been paid, but Yonhap news agency said the hijacking appeared to have been aimed at stealing fuel.

"There has been a sharp increase in piracy activities in waters off West Africa, but in most cases, (they) abandon the ships after taking oil, money, or valuables," said a senior Seoul official quoted by Yonhap.

"This case appears to be of a similar kind." [Read more...](#)

FOUR MEMBERS of a private security outfit operating in the coastal area of Ese-Odo council in Ondo State have been shot dead while four others were seriously injured during a shoot-out with suspected sea pirates - [AllAfrica](#).

During the shoot-out, three members of the suspected sea pirates were also gunned down by members of the outfit. Corpses of two of the three have been recovered while the third was still missing.

The security personnel were engaged to curtail the activities of oil thieves in the oil rich communities in the state.

Vanguard learnt that the suspected pirates killed members of the security outfit who have been challenging their operations in recent times. Report had it that the suspects, while returning from one of their operations, sighted men of the security personnel at Bolowo junction and opened fire on them thereby killing four on the spot while others were seriously injured.

Speaking on the incident, head of the security outfit, Osaghale Aklugbemen, said the suspects escaped through Oroto-Ajapa road. [**Read more...**](#)

A MILITARY vessel formerly belonging to a European country navy has been arrested along the Lagos waterways by naval personnel - [**Beegeagle**](#).



The 65 metre 1,020 ton ex-Irish Naval Force Offshore Patrol Vessel formerly known as "L.E Emer" and now

rechristened M.V. Emer was sold to a Nigerian maritime security contractor.

The vessel now known as MV EMER, according to Alade (Rear Admiral, Flag Officer Commanding Western Naval Command) was arrested because the owners did not get the navy's approval before bringing in a decommissioned military ship. He said, "We arrested the vessel last week because it was formerly a naval ship belonging to one of the European countries." Given that it is was military vessel, the owners should have sought military approval before bringing it into our waters but they did not." [**Read More...**](#)

THE NIGERIAN Navy has called for more funding to enhance its operational performance and acquire more platforms - [**Silverbird TV**](#). The acquisition of more platforms will also improve the Navy's sea going capability and policing of the nation's maritime environment and aid trade.

The Flag Officer Commanding Western Naval Command, Rear Admiral Ilesanmi Alade said that since the main stay of Nigeria's economy is at sea, there is need for the Navy which protects the country's economic mainstay to be properly funded to be able to perform its role.

Rear Admiral Ilesanmi Alade made this call after a Naval manoeuvre between the Nigerian Navy and the Royal Navy at the Bight of Benin.

"The funds will enable the force to effectively protect Nigeria's oil facilities offshore and also acquire more platforms that will position us as

both brown water and blue sea navy". Rear Admiral Ilesanmi Alade said. [**Read More...**](#)

"MARITIME SECURITY is an integral part of a nation's overall economic performance," maritime security expert Loïc Moudouma said in a seminar held at the Africa Centre for Strategic Studies (ACSS). He was speaking to a gathering of senior U.S. officials, academics and researchers and members of the African diplomatic corps - [**Africa Centre**](#). The seminar, titled "Africa's Security and the United States: Converging Interests and Expanding Partnerships," took place July, 29, 2014 at National Defense University (NDU) in Washington, D.C. Commander Moudouma is the Lead Maritime Security Expert at the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and an officer in the Gabon Navy.

He raised two key issues: first, in the past decade piracy in the West African maritime domain has increased causing a substantial loss of oil revenues. The International Maritime Bureau (IMB) estimates that the amount of oil pilfered in 2012 was between 34 and 100 million barrels. Such colossal losses in vital revenues undermine development in several coastal states, according to the Commander. Second, the maritime domain has become an increasingly important environment for trafficking of persons, drugs, weapons and illegal immigration. The problem is exacerbated by the lack of effective control over this domain. "The African state is absent at sea" Commander Moudouma told participants.

The discussion went on to explore several themes and implications for U.S. policy. "African security professionals value and rely on the United States to raise the profile of security initiatives with African Heads of State and Ministers," Commander Moudouma noted.

He told participants that analysis and recommendations from government or civil society actors within Africa are often ignored but if the same issues are picked up by official diplomatic channels or released in partnership with U.S. organizations the attention generated in Africa is magnified. [**Read More...**](#)

See [**Video**](#)- [Note: At minute 18:21, the speaker states, "African countries believe that many cases of piracy could have been 'instrumentalised' for the benefit of maritime security and insurance companies"]

AFRICA'S MARITIME spaces host a growing number of threats that challenge both Africa and the global community. Narcotraffickers now move an estimated 50–60 tons of cocaine every year through West Africa to Europe. More than 1,000 hostages were seized in 218 piracy attacks off of East Africa in 2010—double the number of incidents in 2008 - [***Africa Centre***](#). Armed robberies of local and international vessels in Nigerian waters continue to be a challenge and analysts expect increasing numbers of kidnappings at sea in 2011. Illegal, unregulated, and unreported (IUU) fishing is estimated to cost sub-Saharan Africa about \$1 billion annually, the catch from which floods international markets, depresses prices, and discourages legal and environmentally sustainable practices around the world. Attacks on the oil sector in Nigeria have cost billions of dollars in lost revenue and repairs, helped destabilise prices globally, and contributed to an environmental disaster along Nigeria's coast caused by 546 million gallons of spilled oil. There are a number of major reasons why Africa struggles to meet these maritime security challenges.

Experience has shown that technological investment in Africa can be successful. To fuse science with technology and enhance maritime security, African governments must tap an under-utilised resource: African universities and research centres. The[se] recommendations build on the goal of enhancing maritime security through deployment of cost-effective sensor networks and collaborative use of data. [***Read More...***](#)

AS THE Obama administration this week encourages U.S. companies to boost investment and trade in Africa, one small business already was embracing the challenge with gusto - [***USA Today***](#).

Hann Powerboats, of Sarasota Fla., recently shifted from making fishing and patrol boats to also churning out high-powered gunboats that are



fending off oil pirates off the coast of Nigeria. Not only does owner Russell Hann find himself embroiled in a James Bond-style drama many days, he's also negotiating the hurdles of ramping up exports of highly sensitive products to Nigeria, a developing nation notorious for its corruption and often-chaotic bureaucracy. "It's the Wild West," he says. Image... A Hann 40 Peacemaker patrols the waters off Lagos, Nigeria [***Read More...***](#)

THE NEED of reinforcing the international cooperation in fighting piracy, aimed to guarantee the security in maritime navigation in the Gulf of Guinea, was defended on Wednesday in Washington by the Angolan delegation that attended the US/Africa summit - [***AllAfrica***](#). This opinion was stated by the Vice-president of the Republic, Manuel Domingos Vicente, on the panel "Peace and Regional Stability", of the forum on behalf of the Head of State, José Eduardo dos Santos. According to minister of Foreign Affairs, Georges Chikoti, who disclosed this fact, President José Eduardo dos Santos is very concerned with security of Gulf of Guinea. [***Read More...***](#)

NIGERIA'S PRESIDENT Goodluck Jonathan has replaced the top four executives at Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation, his office said on Saturday, intervening in one of the country's most powerful institutions and the source of 80 percent of government revenues.

Reuben Abati, a spokesman for Goodluck Jonathan's office, said the change was routine, declining to give further details - [***Reuters Africa***](#). Jonathan has come under intense pressure to clean up Africa's biggest energy sector after a public outcry over corruption and waste of the country's vast energy wealth.

There was similar pressure at the time of the previous NNPC management change in June 2012, however, and critics say little has changed since.

Appointments to powerful positions in a Nigerian election cycle - presidential polls are six months away - are also often linked to shoring up patronage networks.

Joseph Thlama Dawha replaces Andrew Yakubu as NNPC group managing director. He is a Christian from Biu, an area in the largely Muslim northeastern Borno state which is currently being ravaged by an Islamist Boko Haram insurgency that has heavily targeted Christians.

Dawha previously held another executive role within the company.

Jonathan, a Christian from the south, is keen to boost allies in the north, where he is least popular and faces a tough opposition alliance in February's vote. [Read More...](#)

Boko Haram

NIGERIA'S MILITANT Islamist group Boko Haram is accused of unleashing a new weapon of war - the female suicide bomber, fuelling concern that its insurgency has entered a more ruthless phase - [BBC News](#).

Four of them - all teenage girls - carried out attacks in the biggest northern city, Kano, last week, leading to social media sites going viral with speculation - dismissed as unfounded by the government - that Boko Haram had turned some of the more than 200 schoolgirls abducted in April into human bombs.

At the same time, government spokesman Mike Omeri said the security forces had arrested three people in neighbouring Katsina state - including two girls aged 10 and 18 - with explosive belts strapped around them [Read More...](#)

THE NIGERIAN Military says it is updating tactics against the Boko Haram Sect, with the addition of 260 Aerospace Engineers that graduated from the Nigerian Air Force Institute of Technology (AFIT) in Kaduna State to the Air Force - [Channels TV](#).

At the passing out ceremony of the officials, the Chief of Air Staff, Air Marshal Adeshola Amosun, told reporters that the Nigerian Air-force is changing and updating its tactics in the fight against Boko Haram insurgents in the North- East by reviewing its operations and re-training its personnel.

The Air Marshal said that the military was making significant progress in the war against the Boko Haram terrorist group.

He assured Nigerians that in no distant time, the Nigerian military would dislodge the insurgents. On his part, the commandant of the institute, Air Vice Marshal Toni Adokwe, reeled out the achievements recorded so far, but said that the major challenge the school was facing was inadequate funding. [Read More...](#)

BOKO HARAM has recruited and trained hundreds of young Cameroonians to carry out attacks in their own country, according to the police and civilians. As the militant group seeks to gain a foothold in the poor, rural north of Cameroon, experts warn that violence may spread beyond border areas to other parts of the central African country - [Today Nigeria](#). "Boko Haram has recruited many young people" from Cameroon's Far North region, a police officer from the area told reporters on condition of anonymity. The



hardline movement, whose loosely translated name means "Western education is forbidden", has for years sown terror throughout Nigeria's northeast, then trained youths "to attack Cameroon", the officer said. "They are now asking them to prove themselves on home ground," he said. On Wednesday, the Islamists murdered nine passengers on a bus and a soldier in a separate vehicle in a remote northern town, according to Cameroon's state radio and local paramilitary police. [Read More...](#)

Southeast Asia

RIVER PIRATES are running rampant on moored boats in Mandalay but ship owners and workers are too afraid to report cases to police or the media, sources in the area say - [Myanmar Times](#). Two weeks ago, a group of women sleeping on board a ship docked on the Ayeyarwady River in Mandalay's Chan Aye Thar San township was targeted by the pirates.

"There are many ships docking at this time of year so robbers are particularly active," said a ship

owner, who asked not to be named for fear of retribution.

One of the women shouted for help and was attacked by the group, suffering injuries to her head and chest after being hit by an object fired with a slingshot.

The attack has had a chilling effect on river workers, who are now too afraid to inform the authorities when a robbery occurs. [**Read More...**](#)

THE INDONESIAN authorities, along with their Singaporean and Malaysian counterparts, are highly expected to intensify sea patrols in Malacca Strait due to escalating piracy activities lately that cost international and national shipping business, an international transport workers organisation said on Friday - [**Shanghai Daily**](#).

International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) said that escalation of sea piracy activities in one of the world's busiest waters has entered an alarming situation with some oil and gas tankers reportedly hijacked last month.

Head of ITF Asia Pacific Hanafi Rustandi said that the pirates were moving very fast, taking ship crew as hostages, seizing valuable goods, damaging communication instruments as well as ship engines before they fled from the scene.

"Those sea piracy acts were very worrisome and endanger (the) world's shipping business. They must be stopped," Hanafi said in a statement.

Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore have engaged their police and troops to carry out joint patrols to address the issue in the strait, which is located in between their territories. [**Read More...**](#)

ASEAN COUNTRIES will expound on how best to ensure peace and stability in the region at the 47th ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting (AMM-47) in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar from August 8-10 - [**Vietnam Net**](#).

This year the AMM-47, and ancillary meetings, take on an added dimension of importance with ASEAN key partners according to Head of SOM Vietnam, Pham Quang Vinh.

The focus of the meetings will be on building the ASEAN Community in 2015 and the ASEAN Vision after 2015 given the context of the current situation and developments over the past year.

The past year saw complicated events unfold with

large countries putting forward their own demands and strategic adjustments in cooperation with the regional grouping.

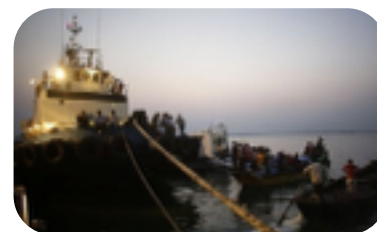
In that context, it is imperative for ASEAN to maintain solidarity and demonstrate its central role in bolstering regional cooperation.

The region is currently facing numerous non-traditional challenges in security, climate change, natural disasters and maritime disputes which require ASEAN to enhance its active role in insuring regional peace, stability and maritime security and safety. [**Read More...**](#)

A FERRY carrying about 200 passengers has capsized south-west of Bangladesh's capital, Dhaka, officials say

- [**BBC News**](#).

Emergency workers and army teams are at the scene in Munshiganj district where the accident



happened on the River Padma, 30km (20 miles) from Dhaka.

Reports say some 50 people have been rescued from the vessel, the Pinak-6.

Accidents are common on Bangladesh's river network and scores of people are killed every year, with overcrowding and poor boat quality often to blame.

Boats are the main form of travel in some rural parts of the country.

It was not immediately clear what caused Monday's accident. [**Read More...**](#)

MORE THAN 100 people remain missing a day after a ferry capsized near the Bangladeshi capital, Dhaka - [**BBC News**](#).

Rescuers have still not located the boat, which sank in Munshiganj district, 30km (20 miles) from Dhaka.

Officials say navy teams are using sonar to try to locate the vessel.

Accidents are common on Bangladesh's river network and scores of people are killed every year, with overcrowding and poor boat quality often to blame.

Emergency teams rescued about 100 people from the ferry, the Pinak-6, on Monday. [**Read More...**](#)

AUTHORITIES IN Bangladesh investigating the sinking of a ferry with nearly 250 people on board have lodged murder charges against the owner and five others, including the captain, taking an unprecedented step in a country where such disasters are all too common - [**Reuters**](#).

The ferry, the MV Pinak-6, went down on Monday in a river swelled by monsoon rains about 30 km (18 miles) southwest of the capital, Dhaka, on Monday.

By early Wednesday, rescuers battling strong currents and choppy waves on the Padma river had given up hope of finding alive many of the 133 people still missing, officials in Munshiganj district said.

There were 110 survivors, and seven bodies had been found. [**Read More...**](#)

JAPAN SAYS it will give Vietnam six naval ships for patrols in the South China Sea, amid regional tension over competing maritime claims with China - [**BBC News**](#).

The offer, worth 500 million yen (£2.9 million, \$5 million), was announced during a visit by Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida to

Hanoi.

China angered Vietnam when it moved an oil rig to disputed waters in May, sparking deadly protests in Vietnam.

Japan and China both

claim a string of islands known as Diaoyu or Senkaku.

The six boats are used vessels and will be accompanied by training and equipment to help coastguard and fisheries surveillance, Mr Kishida told reporters.

He also said that both Vietnam and Japan agree on "maintaining peace and stability" in regional waters, and disputes must be settled "in accordance with international law". [**Read More...**](#)



OVERLOOKING CHINA'S past objections, India, Japan and the United States are conducting joint naval war games this month in the Pacific Ocean, adjacent to the East China Sea - [**Foreign Policy**](#).

India's decision to proceed with the trilateral exercise after five years of keeping Japan out, so as not to provoke China,



indicates a new brand of maritime assertiveness.

At the same time, both Indian and Chinese navies are actively building 'blue water' capabilities – an ability to carry out operations much farther than their territorial boundaries, across the deep oceans. As India juggles the dual imperative to simultaneously befriend and hedge against an economically and militarily rising China, the outcome of its blue water quest will influence the balance of power in Asia for years to come.

Almost unnoticed by the rest of the world, India has built one of the largest and most powerful navies in the world. However, there exist a number of drivers for further expanding its influence at sea. [**Read More...**](#)

12 CHINESE fishermen were sentenced to between six and 12 years in jail and fined \$100,000 each for illegal fishing by a Philippine court on Tuesday, according to Xinhua News Agency (Xinhua) - [**IHS Maritime 360**](#).

The fishermen were accused of running into and severely damaging Tubbataha Reef, a World Heritage-listed coral reef, last April, an act that violates the anti-poaching legislation.

The captain, Liu Wenjie, was given the maximum punishment of 12 years in prison. His 11 crew members were sentenced to between six and 10 years imprisonment.

Their boat was confiscated. The boat lost its way en route to China from Malaysia and ran aground on the reef, according to Xinhua.

"It was a provocative act for the Philippines to detain and sentence Chinese fishermen," commented Zhuang Guotu, head of the Center of Southeast Asian Studies in Xiamen University, Fujian Province.

He insisted that damaging the reef does not constitute a violation of the anti-poaching law.

Read More...

A GROUP of 107 Sri Lankan adults and 50 children were detained on a customs boat before being told they could have a lifeboat to find their way back to India - **Australian Times**.



Executive director of the Human Rights Law Centre, Hugh de Kretser told the ABC: "The clients we spoke to were absolutely terrified at what lay ahead for them."

"They were terrified of

the prospect of being dumped in the ocean on lifeboats, without experience in navigating or operating a boat and having to take responsibility for the families that were on the boat."

The group of 157 Tamils, including 50 children, were spotted and taken into custody by Australian officials in June after leaving a refugee camp in India after having fled persecution in Sri Lanka. The group had allegedly been locked in windowless rooms aboard a customs boat for almost a month before being taken to Australia on about 25 July.

Immigration Minister Scott Morrison said that, under an agreement with New Delhi, the group could be sent back to India even though they are not Indian citizens. But the group chose to refuse the arrangement and have now instead been transferred to the Nauru detention camps. **Read More...**

AMID HIGH drama, Visakhapatnam port authorities rescued the master of a bulk carrier after its officers and crew attacked him on Monday - **The Hindu**.

The reason for the 'attack' was not immediately known. Sources in the port and shipping industry said the incident occurred when Jala Vahini came close to the turning circle.

"For sometime we had anxious moments as there was danger to the life of the master of Jala Vahini. Later we intervened and gave temporary permission to berth the ship in OB-1. The vessel

had come here from Colombo to load steel," a port official said on condition of anonymity. He denied detaining the ship or arresting anyone. According to sources in the police and Visakhapatnam Port Trust, the master of the ship was said to be suffering from some mental disorder. It was said that he forcibly entered the harbour from the breakwater region and wanted to ram the ship at the turning circle. The port authorities, who were alerted, intervened in time and used tugs to tow the vessel to OB 1 berth and secure it. The master of the vessel was taken into safe custody by the CISF and both Navy and CISF personnel boarded the vessel. **Read More...**

IN recognition of the advances in information technology, and the importance of timely dissemination of reports, sharing of updated information, and reaching out to a wider shipping community, the ReCAAP ISC has created a Mobile Application ('App' in short), ReCAAP App QR Code making the prevailing use of mobile smartphones by many.

The 'App' enables the ReCAAP ISC to share the latest Incident Alert and reports promulgated by the ReCAAP ISC with a wider readership from

the shipping community and facilitate quick access to updated information of the ReCAAP Focal Points/Contact Point (phone number, fax number, email address). This provides the shipping community timely and better situation awareness, and enables them to make timely reporting of an incident to the nearest ReCAAP Focal Points/Contact Point and submission of an incident report via the App.

The Mobile App is available for download in the App Store (iPhone users) and Google Play Store (Android-based smartphone users). Just simply key in "ReCAAP Focal Points" in your search for mobile app and install the app instantly. The ReCAAP ISC would appreciate you to share and



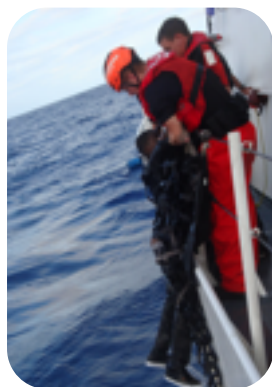
promote the App to the members of the shipping community you come in contact with.

One can also download the Mobile App from the QR code (above)

Americas/South America/Caribbean

APPREHENSION OF illegal migrants attempting to reach the United States from Haiti and Cuba by sea has hit a five-year high, in part because of aggressive smugglers in Haiti and relaxed travel policies introduced under Cuban President Raul Castro, Coast Guard officials tell **NBC News**.

The surge has occurred while most public attention on illegal



immigration has been fixed on the surge of unaccompanied minors from Central America detained along the southwestern U.S. border.

One Coast Guard crew saw the desperate cruelty of the smuggling trade in early July, when a

cutter approached a boat loaded with Haitians being ferried from the Dominican Republic to Puerto Rico.

To evade capture, the smugglers threw two people, including a 12-year-old boy, overboard into the treacherous waters of the Mona Passage. Neither victim was wearing a life preserver. **Read More...**

Other

THE WORLD Health Organisation on Friday declared the Ebola outbreak in West Africa to be an international public health emergency that requires an extraordinary response to stop its spread - **ABC News**.

The WHO announced the Ebola outbreak — the largest and longest in history — is worrying enough to merit being declared an international health emergency. WHO declared similar emergencies for the swine flu pandemic in 2009 and for polio in May.

The WHO chief, Dr. Margaret Chan, said the announcement is "a clear call for international solidarity" but acknowledged that many countries would probably not have any Ebola cases.

"Countries affected to date simply do not have the capacity to manage an outbreak of this size and complexity on their own," Chan said at a news conference in Geneva. "I urge the international community to provide this support on the most urgent basis possible."

The agency had convened an expert committee this week to assess the severity of the ongoing epidemic. **Read More...**

THE SAPIENZA University of Rome has found itself at the centre of controversy after it emerged Francesco Schettino, the captain of the doomed Costa Concordia, was invited to speak at an event organised by a university professor on 'managing panic' - **The Independent**.

Italian newspaper La Nazione

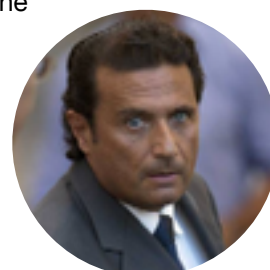
reports that Schettino, currently on trial for charges of manslaughter and abandoning ship, described himself an "expert" on panic

management in times of

crisis as he spoke at the end of a

limited access session held off the campus and organised by professor Vincenzo Mastronardi who teaches at the University's Faculty of Medicine. Schettino, who allegedly refused repeated orders to get back on the Concordia while as many as 300 passengers remained trapped on board, spoke after a 3D reconstruction of the sinking of the ship was shown.

He allegedly told the newspaper: "I was invited as an expert - I know how you behave in these situations. Besides, I have travelled in all the seas of the world, I know how you are supposed to react." **Read More...**



ITALIAN AUTHORITIES searching the Costa Concordia for the body of the last missing victim of the 2012 shipwreck said they have found a human skull - [***International Business Times***](#). Fire-fighters in the port town of Genoa, where the cruise liner was towed for scrapping in July, said they informed the local prosecutor office of the discovery. A DNA test has been ordered. Italian media reported the remains might belong to Russel Rebello, a 33-year-old victim of the shipwreck whose body was never found. [***Read More...***](#)

THE ICELANDIC Coast Guard is among those who are examining the legal status of crew members of cruise ships using the vessels' rescue boats to take passengers on sightseeing trips, including to nature reserves - [***Iceland Review***](#). The actions are considered particularly worrisome as it is thought that there are no Icelanders with the proper knowledge of the area, or other guides, on board. Landings are dangerous in some places, visir.is reports. Haukur Vagnsson, a captain who has witnessed the practice, said he is concerned about the development. "At many of these places, the weather can naturally change very quickly and it can also be very difficult to bring the boat to land in some areas." [***Read More...***](#)

THE introduction of the new Integrated Security System has reduced theft of containers and crime at the port of Mombasa - [***AllAfrica***](#). KPA security officer Boniface Musumba said the system has enabled the authority to monitor operations in the port. The port has 600 CCTV cameras installed all round the facility. "The port is now under 100 per cent security surveillance. Every activity in the port is captured and necessary action taken. The system has also addressed trespass," Musumba said. The system is part of KPA's compliance to the International Ship and Port Facility Security by the International Maritime Organisation. It is aimed at safeguarding ships and ports serving international trade against security threats including terrorism. [***Read More...***](#)

EGYPT HAS chosen a consortium that includes the Egyptian army and global engineering firm Dar al-Handasah to develop an international industrial and logistics hub in the Suez Canal area, government and military sources said on Sunday - [***Reuters***](#).

The Suez Canal is the fastest shipping route between Europe and Asia and brings in around \$5 billion of revenues per year, a vital source of hard currency for Egypt which has suffered a slump in tourism and foreign investment since a 2011 uprising.

To attract more ships and generate more income, the country has had plans to develop 76,000 square kilometres (29,000 square miles) around the canal for years. In January, Egypt invited 14 consortia to bid for project. [***Read More...***](#)

EGYPT PLANS to add an extra lane to the Suez canal, one of the world's most important thoroughfares for trade, in an attempt to increase the number of ships using it each day - [***The Guardian***](#).

The canal, which allows ships to travel from Europe to Asia without passing southern Africa, only provides for one-way traffic, with occasional room for ships to pass each other. A new 45-mile lane, plans for which were announced on Tuesday by Egypt's president, Abdel Fatah al-Sisi, would allow ships to travel in both directions for just under half of the canal's 101 miles.

"This giant project will be the creation of a new Suez canal parallel to the current channel," said Mohab Mamish, the chairman of the Suez Canal Authority, in a televised speech.

According to Egypt's main state news website, Mamish hopes the new channel will be working within a year, but such a quick turnaround is by no means certain. It is also unclear to what extent the expansion would speed up the canal's operations, said Angus Blair, a Cairo-based analyst who has followed the project's development. [***Read More...***](#)

SEVERAL BATTLES have been fought over Egypt's Suez Canal, and the historic waterway is now on course for a new war – over prices paid by ship operators - [***Al Arabiya News***](#).

The 100-mile canal, which links the Mediterranean and Red Sea, is an invaluable shortcut in the

maritime world, cutting thousands of miles – and, more importantly, dollars – off voyages.

Given the Suez Canal's status as a symbol of national pride and Egyptian independence, it was with great fanfare that the construction of an additional,



parallel lane was announced this week.

The new 48-mile channel will be built at a cost of \$4bn, as Egypt looks to boost earnings from the canal to \$13.5bn by 2023, up from about \$5bn a year now, according to a Reuters report.

Achieving revenues of \$13.5 billion may still be a tall order, analysts said, given the tight competition in the shipping industry and a similar expansion project being undertaken by Suez's rival, the Panama Canal. [Read More...](#)

ALMOST THREE quarters of Syria's entire chemical stockpile has been destroyed, the world's chemical weapons watchdog said Thursday, after another 190 tons of agents were incinerated in Britain - [The Daily Star Lebanon](#). "The OPCW confirmed today (Thursday) that 74.2 percent of Syria's entire stockpile of chemicals has now been destroyed," The Hague-based

Organisation for the Prevention of Chemical Weapons said in a statement. Around 190 tons of mainly chemical

precursors,

used for making nerve agents and a small amount of hydrochloric acid were destroyed at a commercial facility at Ellesmere Port near the northwestern city of Liverpool, the OPCW said. The chemicals made up around 15 percent of the stockpile removed from Syria.

Image... Cargo containers carrying hundreds of tons of Syrian chemical weapons are lined up on



the deck of the Danish vessel Ark Futura. (AP Photo/Vigili del Fuoco) [Read More...](#)

ROYAL NAVY ship HMS Enterprise has berthed in Malta with 110 persons on board, not thought to be diplomats - [Malta Today](#).

Michael Aron, British ambassador to Libya, said on Twitter that of the 110 people who left Libya, 30 were children, 12

were infants, four were pregnant women and an elderly and sick person were also aboard.

The ship berthed at 7.22am. An embassy press officer said "no diplomats were onboard". No injured persons were reported to be aboard. Speaking to journalists at the quay, High Commissioner Rob Luke confirmed no diplomats were on the ship, adding that all passengers were British nationals. [Read More...](#)



THE 56,500-dwt Iron Baron V (built 2014) was reportedly at the outer anchorage of the port - [Tradewinds News](#).

Mary Glynou of management company Edem Marine confirmed that the ship's captain had seen smoke and evidence of some conflict ashore and was preparing to leave the anchorage when the ship was hit.

"The ship is alright. There is no damage that could be considered to make it unseaworthy, nor have any of the crew been injured, they are all safe," said Glynou.

"The captain did not expect this to happen to merchant ships. There were a lot of tankers close by," she added. [Read More...](#)

THE REPUBLIC of Korea (ROK) has dispatched a guided missile destroyer to Libya to evacuate South Koreans from the embattled country, the Korean foreign ministry said on Thursday - [USNI News](#).

"Munmu the Great will leave Oman's Port of Salalah in the afternoon to arrive in the sea of Libya around mid-August with a mission to

evacuate South Koreans,” a foreign ministry official said to the Yonhap News Agency. The move from the ROK government follows a foreign ministry evacuation order issued last week or about the 500 Koreans currently in the country. Munmu the Great was in the Middle East as part of international anti-piracy operations. [Read More...](#)

South Korean Ferry

KIM Yung-oh is not exactly sure how much weight he has lost. But when he undoes his belt buckle, his pants bunch around his concave belly. Twenty pounds, he estimates - [The Washington Post](#). Kim, whose 16-year-old daughter was one of 304 people who died when the Sewol ferry sank in April, will on Wednesday enter the 24th day of a hunger strike — staged on Gwanghwamun Plaza, a wide median strip along a central Seoul

boulevard that leads toward the presidential Blue House. The plaza is also where Pope Francis will celebrate an open-air Mass next week — and



Kim is vowing to stay put.

“No matter what, I want to stay here and appeal to the pope,” Kim said weakly during an interview on an elevated platform under a tent on the plaza, part of a protest against perceived government obfuscation over the cause of the ferry disaster. The pope is scheduled to meet with the Sewol families during his visit, but in Daejeon, a city about 100 miles south of Seoul. Nonetheless, protesters know they have some leverage over President Park Geun-hye’s administration as it prepares for the pontiff’s arrival.

The April 16 capsizing of the Sewol — an overloaded ferry transporting an estimated 476 people and far too many containers from the mainland to the southern island of Jeju — remains an active tragedy in South Korea.

Ten passengers have still not been found, and Seoul’s City Hall remains a carefully tended memorial — complete with funereal chrysanthemums — to the victims, the vast majority of whom were students from one high school. [Read More...](#)

THE INCHEON District Prosecutors’ Office announced on Wednesday (6 August), that a total of 43 officials have been charged with corruption in connection with the Sewol ferry disaster - [IHS Maritime 360](#).

Of the officials, 18 were detained and 25 officials were charged without being detained.



The Sewol capsized during a routine Incheon-Jeju crossing on 16 April, leaving 304 of the 476 passengers and crew either dead or missing.

Lee In-Soo, former head of the Korea Shipping Association (KSA) has been charged in relation to the suspected embezzlement of KRW260M (\$251,000).

Lee was one of the top officials at South Korea’s Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries before joining the KSA.

Another detained KSA official is suspected of instructing safety inspectors to overlook alleged illegal actions carried out by shipping companies. The KSA vice-president has also been charged without detention in relation to suspected fraud. They were suspected of permitting overloaded vessels, including the Sewol, to sail.

Image: A survivor student from the sunken ferry Sewol in the water off the southern coast arrives to testify in the trial of the 15 crew members.

Photo: PA [Read More...](#)

SOUTH Korea’s rival political parties yesterday (7 August) reached an agreement on a new Sewol-related bill - [IHS Maritime 360](#).

The Sewol ferry capsized during a routine Incheon-Jeju crossing on 16 April, leaving 304 of the 476 passengers and crew either dead or missing, and triggering major criticism of the government’s handling of the disaster.

The leaders in the country's National Assembly of both the ruling Saenuri Party and the main opposition party, the New Politics Alliance for Democracy (NPAD), Lee Wan-Goo and Park Young-Sun respectively, have agreed to pass the bill during a parliamentary meeting due to be held on 13 August.

According to the agreement, a special counsel will supervise an investigation into the cause of the Sewol disaster. Several officials, including the vice-justice minister, will recommend two candidates for the role.

South Korean president Park Geun-Hye will then appoint one of them to become the counsel.

There was also a consensus on how to form a committee to investigate the sinking. [Read More...](#)



Missing Malaysian Aircraft MH370

THE ROYAL Malaysian Navy (RMN) hydrographic vessel, KD Mutiara has set sail for the southern Indian Ocean to participate in the four-month search mission for the missing MH370 aircraft - [The Sun Daily Malaysia](#). RMN fleet commander Vice-Admiral Datuk Mohamad Roslan Ramli said the assignment for KD Mutiara would be coordinated by the Military Coordination Sub Surface based in Perth, Australia, once it reached the southern Indian Ocean on Aug 18.

"KD Mutiara is a hydrographic vessel that can employ the bathymetric measurement for objects on the ocean bed up to 11,000m deep using single-beam echo sounder and another system using multi-beam echo sounder that can accurately provide measurement of objects located up to 7,000m deep."

He said this to reporters after flagging off KD Mutiara with the strength of 19 officers and 118 staff, including a doctor and a religious officer, at the RMN Base operations jetty here today. [Read More...](#)

AUSTRALIAN AUTHORITIES are poised to announce the next phase of the underwater search for Malaysia Airlines flight MH370 this

week, five months after the plane vanished without a trace - [CNN](#).

The Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB), which is leading the search for the missing plane at the Malaysian government's request, is expected to engage a single, private contractor to search for the Boeing 777-200ER, and if successfully located, to positively identify and map the wreckage.

The operation, which the ATSB says is likely to begin in early September and will last up to a year, will include a number of underwater vehicles that will slowly scan some 60,000 square kilometres (23,000 square miles) of the southern Indian Ocean, looking for any sign of aircraft debris. It's not yet clear exactly how the deep-sea search, which Australia has estimated will cost \$56 million, will play out. While the ATSB has developed the overall search strategy, the independent contractor will be responsible for day-to-day operations in the search zone. [Read More...](#)

FUGRO Survey PL has won the contract to undertake the deep sea search for the missing Malaysia Airlines MH370 - [IHS Maritime 360](#). The Dutch-based company is already on contract to complete a bathymetric survey of the seabed in the search zone.

A second vessel, the Fugro Discovery, is now on route to Perth to join the Fugro

Equator. Both vessels are equipped with towed deep-water vehicles and

carrying expert personnel, to undertake the search using side scan sonar, multi-beam echo sounders and video cameras.

"Fugro has a significant Perth-based operation and so they are familiar with the Australian operations," Australian Deputy Prime Minister Warren Truss told today's media conference. Image: Australian Deputy Prime Minister Warren Truss points the new search area for MH370.

Photo: PA [Read More...](#)





SEARCHING FOR the missing plane MH370 continues to be a priority for the Malaysian government, said Transport Minister Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai - ***The Sun Daily***. "After five months of searching for the missing plane, we would like to assure the next of kin of MH370 passengers that our commitment to the search for this flight has remained consistent and has strengthened," he said in a statement. Liow added that the government, together with its international partners Australia and China have announced that the contract to conduct a search of the southern Indian Ocean sea floor has been awarded to Fugro Survey Pty Ltd on Aug 6. "Fugro will utilise two vessels equipped with towed deep-water vehicles operated by experts who will undertake responsibility for the search operations.

"The vessels will scan the sea floor utilising sophisticated side scan sonar, multi-beam echo sounders and video cameras with the hope of locating and identifying aircraft debris," he said, adding that the underwater search of the 60,000 square kilometre area is expected to take up a significant amount of time. Liow pointed out that the Government has also despatched naval survey ship KD MUTIARA, which will be arriving in the latter half of this month to join the bathymetric survey work. "To reiterate, the commitment of the governments involved in the search of MH370 has thus far



never wavered and this will continue," he said.

Read More...

Downed Malaysian Aircraft MH17

INTERNATIONAL experts with sniffer dogs on Saturday recovered the remains of more victims and personal belongings from the Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 crash site in east Ukraine, despite shelling limiting access - ***The Guardian***. Seventy Dutch and Australian police investigators spent a second day scouring more of the wreckage strewn over 20 sq km, after previously managing to screen only a tiny patch. Pieter-Jaap Aalbersberg, head of the Dutch police mission, said: "Today, because they had more time, the experts were able to comb through a bigger area. They again found human remains and personal belongings." But while work continued undisturbed for most of the experts, mortar fire forced a small team of investigators to leave a village where more debris lay. ***Read More...***

THE IMMEDIATE family members of the victims of the ill-fated Malaysia Airlines (MAS) Flight MH17 are expected to receive an advance compensation of US\$50,000 at the soonest possible date ***Bernama***.

Women, Family and Community Development Minister Rohani Abdul Karim said MAS was handing over the advanced payment. "I understand the payment to the closest kin will be made soon as it was clear what happened to the aircraft," she said when contacted by RTM in the Selamat Pagi 1Malaysia programme aired over TV1.

Rohani said earlier, 25 family members of the victims of the MH17 tragedy had received US \$5,000 as a one-off payment from MAS to assist them in their daily expenses. ***Read More...***

THE CRASH of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 has been extraordinarily public. Investigators of aircraft accidents typically cordon off the scene immediately after a crash, and tightly control

access for media and others to avoid disturbing the debris - **Wall Street Journal**.

Because Flight 17 fell in a war zone — across farm fields and homes near where pro-Russia separatists are fighting the Ukraine government — control of the wreckage has been chaotic, and the comparatively sanitized photos typically released by aviation safety officials have been replaced by thousands of images distributed across wire services and social media.

Mapping that wreckage is intended to illustrate how Flight 17 may have come down and the geographical challenges of conducting an investigation in a war zone. **Read More...**

THE DUTCH-led mission to retrieve human remains and evidence from the site of the Malaysia Airlines crash over eastern Ukraine was halted Wednesday because of security concerns - **The Washington Post**.

In announcing the abrupt pullout, only six days after the search officially started, Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte said it was too dangerous for the team to continue working in the war zone. He promised families of the 298 crash victims that the search would resume when Ukraine is “more stable.”

The team of forensics experts from the Netherlands, Australia and Malaysia did not reach the site until July 31, about two weeks after the plane was shot down, because of fighting between government troops and pro-Russian separatists. The team expected to find many human remains but largely recovered only personal effects because local residents and emergency workers already had picked up many bodies and body parts.

The team, however, searched only three of six areas it had identified as places where more remains and possessions were likely to be. The experts acknowledged Wednesday that more remains may be languishing in fields, woods and ponds that they never got around to searching.

Read More...

AUSTRALIA IS holding a national day of mourning for those who died in the MH17 air disaster in Ukraine - **BBC News**.

Thirty-eight of the 298 people who died when the plane was brought down over eastern Ukraine on 17 July were Australian nationals or residents.

Australian Prime

Minister Tony Abbott addressed a national memorial ceremony held in Melbourne.

The bereaved would be supported and justice would be sought for the dead, he said.

"There will be a time to judge the guilty but today we honour the dead and we grieve with the living," he said.

Flags will also fly at half-mast across Australia to mark the day. **Read More...**



ONE COUNSELLOR for each family will be allocated for the families of the MH17 victims to provide the support they need to overcome the loss of a loved one - **New Straits Times**.

Woman, Family and Community Development minister Datuk Seri Rohani Abdul Karim said her ministry is responsible to aid the next-of-kin of the deceased in terms of counselling, monetary and compensation.

"We have conducted 36 counselling sessions so far and we will be keeping tabs with the next-of-kin should they need further assistance as we go along.

"We have 25 counsellors working round the clock to provide consultation and emotional support.

"In addition, our counsellors will take note of all their problems and provide them with possible answers or solutions.

"We respect the families' privacy therefore the session is upon request only," she said. **Read More...**

DEFENCE MINISTER Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein today denied reports in the social media that Malaysia Airlines (MAS) flight MH17 was shot down by fighter jets - **Naval Open Source INTelligence**.

He said intelligence and evidence gathered from the fragments of the ill-fated aircraft clearly

showed it was shot down by missiles that were launched to the air from the ground.

"Based on military intelligence and evidence from a portion of fragments found, it is not likely the bullets were used from air to air but from surface to air. [**Read More...**](#)

Released by Pirates

NSTR

Pirates in Court

AN INTERNATIONAL law used for 400 years to combat piracy on the high seas and, later, to convict Nazi and Japanese war criminals, is seriously flawed, according to new research. Dr Matt Garrod, a legal scholar specialising in international law at the University of Portsmouth's School of Law, has found evidence that law-makers, including the United Nations, have unwittingly been blind-sided by a law built on little more than a myth - [**University of Portsmouth**](#). His research, published in the journal *Diplomacy and Statecraft*, argues that the laws of universal jurisdiction, which kings, countries and courts have relied upon for hundreds of years, are built on the hearsay of second-hand sources without close examination.

He said: "The laws against piracy at sea are built on a house of cards. They are based on a concept called universal criminal jurisdiction which stems from the idea that some crimes are so serious, so heinous, they are crimes against humanity and against the values of all mankind.

"But the original lawmakers were powerful sovereigns protecting their own interests, not least their sovereign right to freely navigate the high seas and develop colonial trade and settlements and ultimately grow their own empires uninhibited. "They weren't interested in protecting all mankind. Pirates were even sometimes described as 'heinous' because their activity was destructive of the colonial trade of sovereigns.

"Piracy is a serious crime but it is robbery at sea, not a crime against humanity. Universal criminal

jurisdiction never existed. It is a hollow concept."

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

Italian Marines

FIVE MONTHS after the Centre dropped anti-piracy charges against the two Italian marines, facing trial for killing two fishermen off the coast of Kerala in February 2012, the Supreme Court will hear on Monday their plea challenging the jurisdiction of NIA to prosecute them - [**DNA India**](#). However, senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, present Attorney General (AG), will not appear for the Centre in the case as he was representing the marines and the Republic of Italy before.

Talking to DNA, the government's senior most law officer Rohatgi said, "I cannot appear in the case now. I don't know which law officer would be engaged by the government in the case."

The second senior most law officer Ranjit Kumar is likely to represent the government before the bench headed by Chief Justice RM Lodha. When contacted Kumar, however, said, "he has not got any instruction from government so far."

Earlier, former AG, GE Vahanvati had informed the apex court about central government's decision that SUA will not be attracted in this case that would have seen them being sentenced to death. SUA only provides for death penalty while IPC provides death or life imprisonment for murder charges. [**Read More...**](#)

THE SUPREME Court on Monday granted permission to the two Italian marines, facing trial for killing two fishermen off Kerala in February 2012, to extend their bail bond. Senior advocate K T S Tulsi appearing for the marines pleaded for the extension of the duo's bail bond, which was allowed by the Bench - [**New Indian Express**](#). The court is hearing the plea of marines challenging the NIA's jurisdiction to prosecute them. Marines Massimiliano Latorre and Salvatore Girone, who were part of a security team protecting a privately-owned cargo ship, claim that they mistook the fishermen for pirates. After flip-flops, the Centre had informed the apex court that the accused would not be tried under the stringent anti-piracy law that would have seen

them being sentenced to death. Meanwhile, the court stayed the criminal trial against the marines before the Special Court here. [**Read More...**](#)

Private Security

A MALTA-based, industry-leading and highly profitable maritime security company – Gulf of Aden Group Transits (GoAGT) – abruptly closed its doors this week and went into administration, leaving hundreds of employees across the globe in the lurch, some literally at sea - [**Malta Today**](#). The Seychelles-registered GoAGT and its Maltese company, Maritime Guard Group (MGG) was used by the likes of Shell to provide armed security staff to protect ships and tankers from pirates off the coasts of Somalia.

But despite raking in approximately \$1 million every month, hundreds of its security employees have been left scattered at sea, after the tier one, maritime security company ceased trading, while allegedly owing millions in unpaid salaries.

Other security officers have been stranded in Djibouti, Mauritius, South Africa and the UAE, all several months of salaries in arrears, with no way of getting back to their homes without paying thousands in air fares.

While its sole beneficial owner, CEO Nicholas Davies, has told the UK Independent that he was trying to sort out a financial black hole after a creditor called in a debt, some of GoAGT's 30 Malta-based staff have been busy finding vessels – unpaid – willing to take the stranded guards to other ports for free.

While the sudden implosion of GoAGT – whose ISO28007 accreditation requires a clean bill of financial health – has rocked the shipping world, it comes as no surprise to many people who have worked there. [**Read More...**](#)

International Response

TWO “DRONES” Italian Air Force Predator Plus were deployed in Djibouti where it will operate from August 6 as part of the European Union anti-

piracy mission Atalanta about to pass, for the third time since 2008, under the command of Italian - [**Italy Defence Analysis**](#).

The news has not been made official yet but qualified sources report that the mission of the two aircraft and the Air Force detachment that employs them will be made known August 6 when the German admiral Zur Mühlen Jurgen will transfer command of operation Atalanta to Rear Admiral Guido Rando Navy aboard the guided missile destroyer Andrea Doria, sailed July 24 from Taranto and already arrived in Djibouti. Approved in December 2008 by the Council of the European Union to combat Somali piracy, mission Atalanta helped with NATO operation Ocean Shield and international fleets in the Indian Ocean found to reduce to a minimum the pirate phenomenon. [**Read More...**](#)

THE NEW Zealand Air Force has added a crew to the fight against piracy in the United Arab Emirates - [**NewstalkZB NZ**](#).

55 personnel and an Orion aircraft will conduct maritime surveillance in the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean.

Air Commodore Kevin McEvoy says they're responsible for making sure all vessels are accounted for.

He says with New Zealand getting 99 percent of its imports via the ocean, maritime security is paramount. [**Read More...**](#)

THE UNITED States will announce on Wednesday plans to spend \$110 million a year over the next three to five years to help African nations develop peacekeeping forces that can be rapidly deployed to head off militant threats and other crises, an Obama administration official told [**Reuters**](#).

President Barack Obama is expected to unveil the program during the third day of a summit of African heads of state in Washington, along with another U.S. plan to spend an initial \$65 million to bolster security institutions in Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Niger, Nigeria and Tunisia, the official said.

The United States would partner with Senegal, Ghana, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda to develop rapid response forces. Those forces would be ready to deploy as part of United

Nations' or African Union missions, the official said.

"We've seen over time increasingly capable African peacekeepers who are deploying to address crises across the continent," the official told Reuters, speaking on condition of anonymity. "But there continues to be a gap in systematically supporting these peacekeepers to help them deploy more quickly and to help them better sustain themselves once deployed."

U.S. officials were hopeful that an intelligence-sharing initiative might also emerge from the discussions at the summit, but details were still unclear. [**Read More...**](#)

Piracy Costs

KIDNAPPING a European brings profit; kidnapping an American brings a drone. If you were in the kidnapping business, which would you choose? - [**Palisades Hudson Financial Group**](#) While our military and intelligence forces hunt terrorists, Europeans are some of their best customers, providing the cash flow that helps keep them in business.

The New York Times reported last week that al-Qaida and its affiliates have received at least \$125 million in kidnapping revenue since 2008, much of it from European governments. These ransom payments are often designated as "humanitarian aid" and delivered through third parties, even as foreign ministers in many European countries have denied (which is to say, lied about the fact) that they have paid any sort of ransom. The Times found, however, that kidnappers today net up to \$10 million per hostage. Evidence suggests that three main al-Qaida affiliates are coordinating their efforts, too.

I have written before about the importance of denying kidnappers ransoms. Not only does paying ransoms encourage further abductions, it can lead to tragically violent outcomes. The results, both of paying ransoms and refusing to do so, could not be clearer. The United Nations Security Council has even issued a resolution calling on member states to "prevent terrorists from benefiting directly or indirectly from ransom

payments" and to discourage private sector organisations from paying as well.

Piracy off the coast of Somalia has dropped sharply since peaking in 2011. The International Maritime Bureau reported only 15 incidents in 2013, and overall piracy is down 40 percent from its height. Increased naval patrols and other countermeasures, including the capture and trial in Western countries of pirates, deserve a lot of the credit. But crucially, leaders of the G8 group of developed countries also agreed in June 2013 to stamp out ransom payments for hostages.

Governments and shipping companies began defending their crews with force if needed, and pirates have been killed, captured, tried and imprisoned, rather than merely rewarded.

Yet despite the success on the seas off Somalia, the counter-kidnapping effort on land had clearly faltered by late last year, amid numerous indications that European countries other than Britain were still paying off kidnappers affiliated with terrorist groups. [**Read More...**](#)

Smuggling/Pirate Fishing

ON JUNE 11, 2014, 11 fishermen made history in Costa Rica.

In three separate seizures along Costa Rica's Pacific Coast from Playas del Coco to Golfito, authorities arrested the 11 fishermen who were transporting 4.1 metric tons of cocaine. The operations were carried out with cooperation and intelligence from the U.S. Coast Guard and the Drug Enforcement Administration, and they represented the most illicit drugs ever seized in a single day in the small Central American country - [**The Tico Times**](#).



If convicted, the fishermen – currently in preventive detention – could face 20 years in prison for drug trafficking. The average age of the suspects is 32.

Because they have their own boats and knowledge of Costa Rica's infrequently patrolled coastline, Costa Rica's artisanal fishermen are increasingly becoming targets for major drug traffickers from South America and Mexico, particularly along the Pacific drug-trafficking corridor. Overfishing and low market prices are contributing to the problem, squeezing some 15,000 families who fish with rods or longlines. Several large seizures recently have shed light on a new trend of young fishermen – without prior criminal records – risking their freedom for quick cash by ferrying cocaine or providing fuel and other assistance to traffickers, as drug cartels move their product north to the United States, along the country's Pacific coastline. [Read More...](#)

WEST AFRICAN waters, rich in fishery resources, are currently the target of organised ocean floor pillaging, an activity which endangers the nutritional security of populations in the sub-region for whom nutritional balance greatly depends on the products of fishing - [GRIP](#). Many foreign ships, generally European or Asian, fish in West African Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) without authorisation and without any consideration for the marine flora and fauna, thereby adding to the already serious overexploitation of the marine zone. Illegal fishing is more prevalent in West African waters than anywhere else in the world, representing an annual economic loss for the sub-region estimated between 828 million and 1,6 billion US dollars. In order to confront this issue, governments and organisations both local and international are working to improve national legislation and surveillance systems while reinforcing regional cooperation. [Read More...](#)

SPANISH police say they have seized 127 kilograms of cocaine from a Spanish navy training ship, which allegedly carried the drug from Colombia and dropped off some in New York - [Yahoo News](#).

A Civil Guard statement Wednesday said three sailors were arrested on July 12 when the ship returned to Spain, but the drug wasn't found until last Saturday, hidden in the ship's reserve sails. Investigations began in May when U.S. authorities arrested two Colombians who allegedly picked up 20 kilograms of cocaine from sailors on the training ship, the Juan Sebastian de Elcano, during its stop in New York. The Civil Guard said drug traffickers had contracted the sailors to transport the cocaine during a stop in the Colombian city of Cartagena de Indias. [Read More...](#)

MALTESE customs officials have seized a record 64M cigarettes at the Marsaxlokk Freeport - [IHS Maritime 360](#).

The cigarettes were hidden in nine 12m-long containers that had been declared as carrying furniture and toys.

They arrived from Asia and were bound for the EU.

Customs officials scanned the containers after they had doubts about the paperwork and discovered the cigarettes earlier this week. The cigarettes, worth about €12M (\$16M) in unpaid excise duty, will be destroyed.

The name of the vessel from which the containers were unloaded was not reported. [Read More...](#)

IN DECEMBER 2009 at the 3rd Session of the Ministerial Conference of the Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC) the Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing by adopting a Regional Plan of Action on IUU Fishing (RPOA-IUU). The FCWC countries are implementing this RPOA-IUU through coordinated efforts of the six countries; Benin, Cote D'Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria and Togo - [Stop Illegal Fishing](#).

To support these efforts, the Stop Illegal Fishing (SIF) working group of the NEPAD Agency (NPCA), FCWC and the Ghanaian Ministry of Food and Agriculture, through the Ghana Fisheries Commission, were in Lome, Togo to support the FCWC region with a "Sub-regional workshop for capacity building in the fight against IUU in the FCWC Region" held from the 28th July to the 1st

August 2014. Regional experts from Cameroon and Senegal were also invited to share their experiences.

The workshop created a platform for exchange of experiences and coordination of efforts at the operational level to fight against IUU fishing in the sub-region. Discussions on national capacity and the international and regional regulations and frameworks in place to support FCWC States helped to build the countries capacity.

The meeting was officially opened on Tuesday 29th July 2014 by the Togolese Minister of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries, Mr. Ouro Koura Agadzi, whose attendance affirmed Togo's commitment to combatting IUU fishing. The Minister informed participants that his country has undertaken significant reforms to strengthen their legal and institutional framework for fisheries management, and in the interim Togo has suspended the registration of fishing vessels under the flag of Togo and suspended the issuance of licenses to foreign fishing vessels to fish within Togolese waters and of Togolese-flagged vessels to fish on the high seas. [**Read More...**](#)

Seafarers' Plight

THE ICS (International Chamber of Shipping), IMEC (International Maritime Employers' Council), and the ITF (International Transport Workers' Federation) have issued joint advice to members on Ebola following the ongoing outbreak in West Africa - [**Seatrade Global**](#).

The groups have issued strong recommendations to all vessels calling at countries affected by the recent outbreak. The advice includes ensuring crew are aware of the risk of ebola and the ways it can be transferred, adhering to ISPS requirements to safeguard against unauthorised personnel boarding the vessel, giving careful consideration before granting shore leave in affected countries, avoiding making crew transfers in affected countries and monitoring crew for symptoms after departing affected areas.

The recent outbreak of Ebola in West Africa has killed at least 800 people in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone and has a current mortality rate of around 55%. The disease presents with flu-like symptoms which can develop into internal and external bleeding, including from the eyes, nose and gums.

The virus that causes the disease is spread by contact with the bodily fluids, has an incubation period up of two to 21 days and is believed to be initially transferred from fruit bats.

There is no vaccine or cure for the disease, supportive care is all that can be offered, the most crucial of which is keeping victims hydrated. [**Read More...**](#)

A TWO-day Maritime Piracy Humanitarian Response Awareness Campaign updated the seafarer public in Luneta Park, Manila of MPHRP's programmes and services led by MPHRP Regional Director for Philippines/Southeast Asia Rancho Villavicencio and MPHRP Assistant Programme Director Hennie la Grange, July 23-24 - [**MPHRP**](#).

In partnership with SEACOMS Maritime Development International, Inc., the Maritime Piracy Humanitarian Response Programme Philippines held its awareness campaign for the second time in Manila where a seafarer crowd

was gathered to be informed of the programme's existence and how MPHRP assists piracy survivors and their families locally.

As MPHRP Philippines continues to build its alliances with the government, industry, unions and faith-based organisations to assist our seafarers and their families affected by piracy, the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) Administrator Dr. Maximo Mejia, Jr. graced the event with an inspirational message on July 23. Dr. Mejia stressed the support that the maritime industry would extend in reaching the needs of the Filipino seafarers in cases of piracy incidents.

Read More...



Aid Workers Plight

NSTR.

And Finally...

AN Indian woman in the last phase of her pregnancy has swum across a turbulent river to get to a hospital - **BBC News**.

Yellavva, who is nine months' pregnant, said she was "scared" crossing the monsoon-swollen Krishna river, but did it to ensure her baby was born safely.

There is no medical centre in Yallavva's village in the southern state of Karnataka and she said she did not want to give birth at home.

Villagers and doctors have described her swim as an "amazing achievement".

Yellavva, 22, is a resident of Neelakantarayanagadde, a small island-village in Yadgir district, and the only way to travel from there to the mainland is through a raft which doesn't operate when the river is choppy. When Yellavva crossed the river, its swirling waters were rising 12 to 14 feet high and even experienced swimmers would have hesitated to get into the water at the time.

"I was scared. But, it was for my child that I got the determination to get over all my fear and cross the rising river waters," she told BBC Hindi.

Yellavva was helped by her father, brother and cousins who swam with her. **Read More...**



Piracy Incidents

Hijacks:

- NSTR.

Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies (All regions):

- **West Africa** - Two robbers in a small boat approached and attempted to board an anchored Liberia-flagged bulk carrier, **Castlegate**, using grappling hooks attached with ropes at 0330 LT in position 05:49S – 013:28E, Matadi Inner Anchorage, Democratic Republic of Congo. Duty crew noticed the robbers and raised the alarm. Seeing the crew alertness, the robbers aborted the attempted boarding, and escaped in their boat. Reported (IMB) 4 Aug.
- **SE Asia** - Three robbers boarded an anchored Singapore-flagged LPG tanker, **BW Tokyo**, at 0115 LT in position 05:34S - 104:38E, Teluk Semangka, Indonesia. Deck patrol noticed the robbers, raised the alarm and crew mustered. Hearing the alarm and seeing the crew alertness, the robbers escaped empty handed in their boat. Local authorities informed. Reported 4 Aug.

Other Incidents:

- NSTR.

Suspicious Activity:

- **Red Sea** - Merchant vessel reported sighting one white and blue skiff with 5 POB and allegedly, a ladder, closing to within 3 cables at 0735 UTC in position 12:53.9N - 043:14.6E, BAM, Red Sea. The vessel activated protection measures and embarked AST fired two flares resulting in the skiff stopping any further action; no weapons seen. Vessel and crew safe. Reported (UKMTO) 6 Aug.

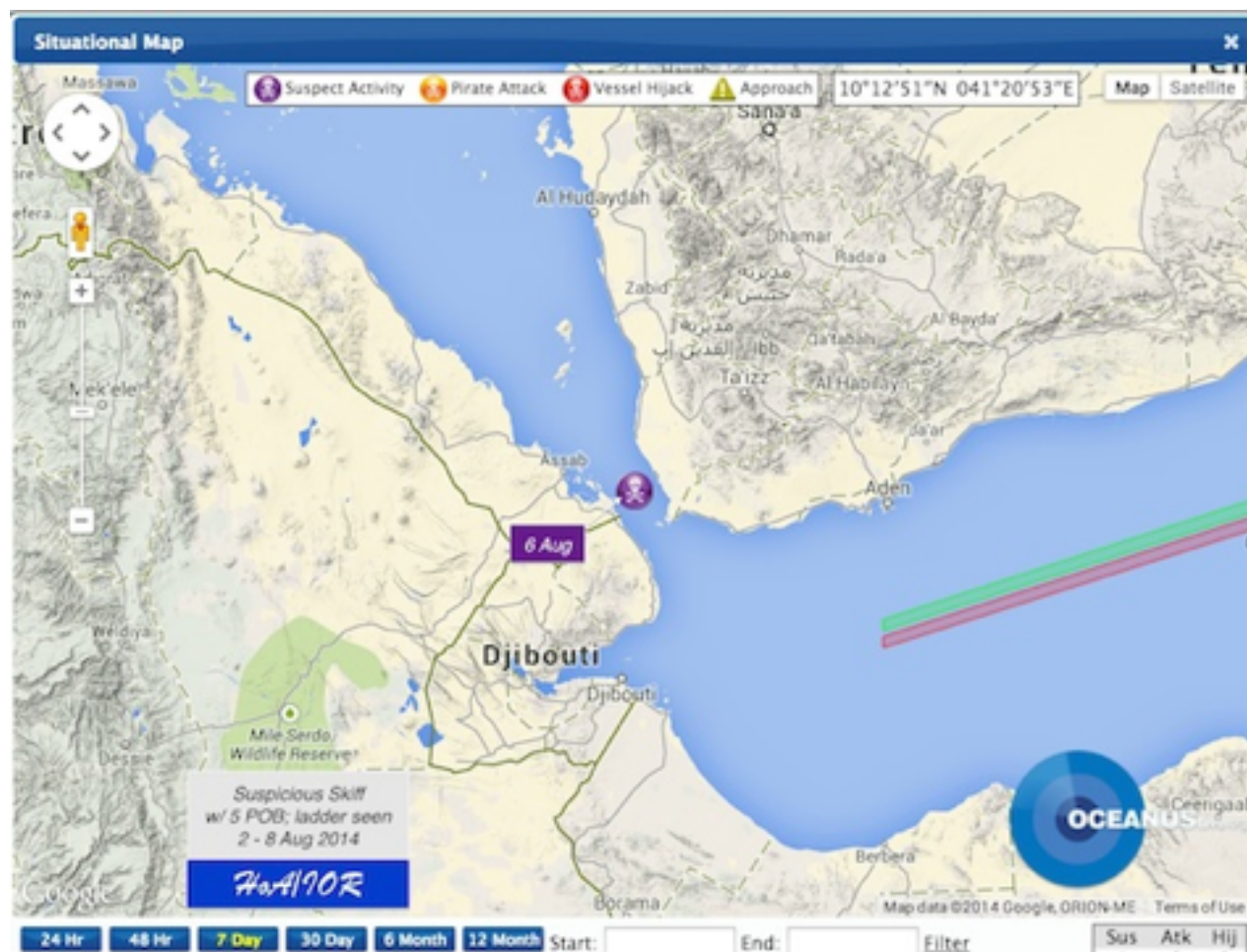
IMB - Vessels held: 0;

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](#)



Reported incidents in the HoA/IOA 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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