

DAILY MARITIME INCIDENT UPDATE

Information Fusion Center-Colombo



Information Fusion Center
Colombo
Sri Lanka

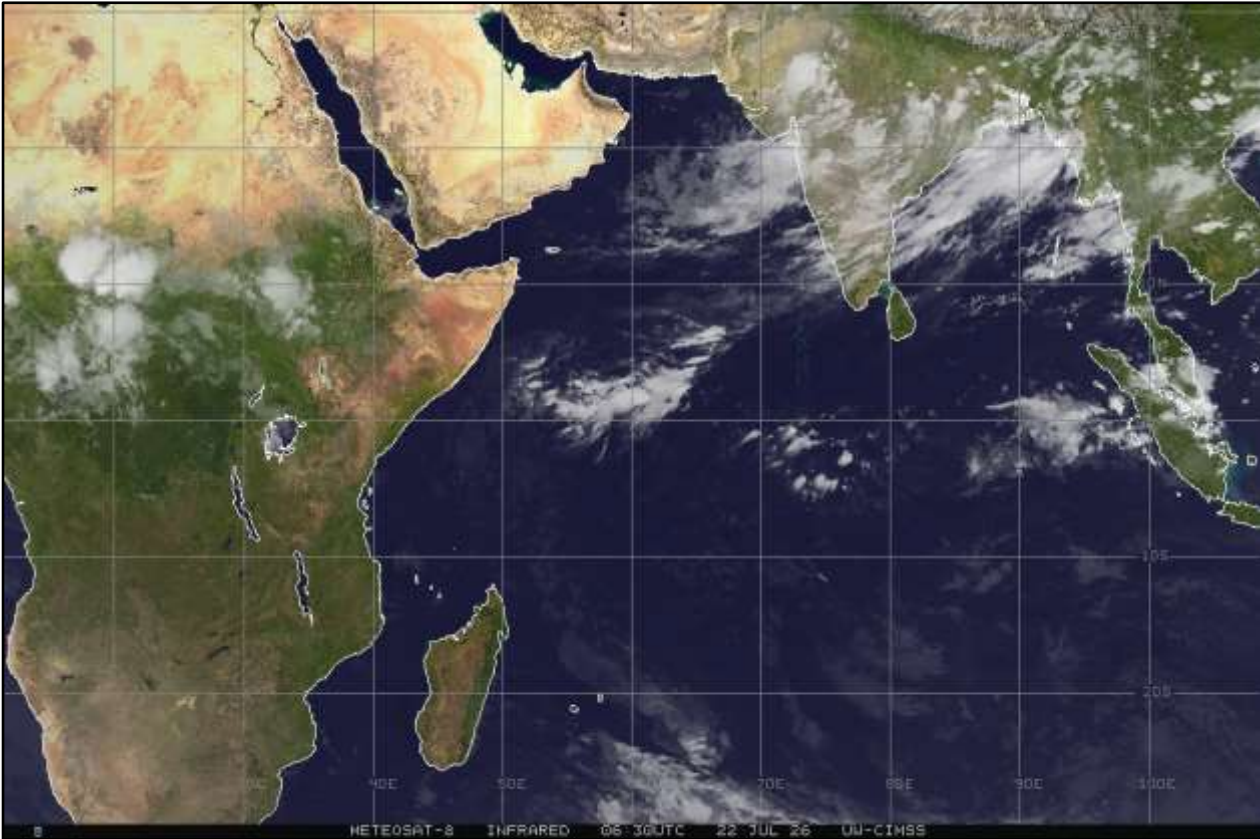
Date 2026.07.22

IFC -Colombo

WEATHER FORECAST



Weather Forecast for Next 24 hrs



FLEET FORECAST

Fleet Forecast for Area - E

Issued by the National Meteorological Center, Department of Meteorology Sri Lanka.

Valid period: 2026.07.22/0600UTC to 2026.07.22/1400UTC

Issued at 0000UTC on 2026.07.22

To: CBO Radio/Fisheries/SL Navy/CBO Port/Coast Guard

Shear line is approximately along : 03N 60E, 04N 70E, 01N 80E, 03N 90E, 03N 100E

Weather:

OCNL Showers / T'Showers in sections: 20, 45

SCT Showers / T'Showers in sections : 00, 05, 10, 15, 40, 50, 55, 75, 85

ISOL Showers / T'Showers elsewhere.

Winds:

North of Shear line:

West of 75E: SW'ly to W'ly / (10-20) kts

East of 75E: SW'ly / (15-20) kts; gusting up to 30 kts in sections 05, 10

South of Shear line:

SE'ly/ (15-20) kts; gusting up to (25-30)kts in sections 40, 45, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80, 85

Seas:

Rough, very rough at times in sections : 05, 10

Moderate, Fairly rough at times in Sections : 40, 45, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80, 85

Moderate in Sections : 15, 50, 50

Slight to moderate elsewhere.

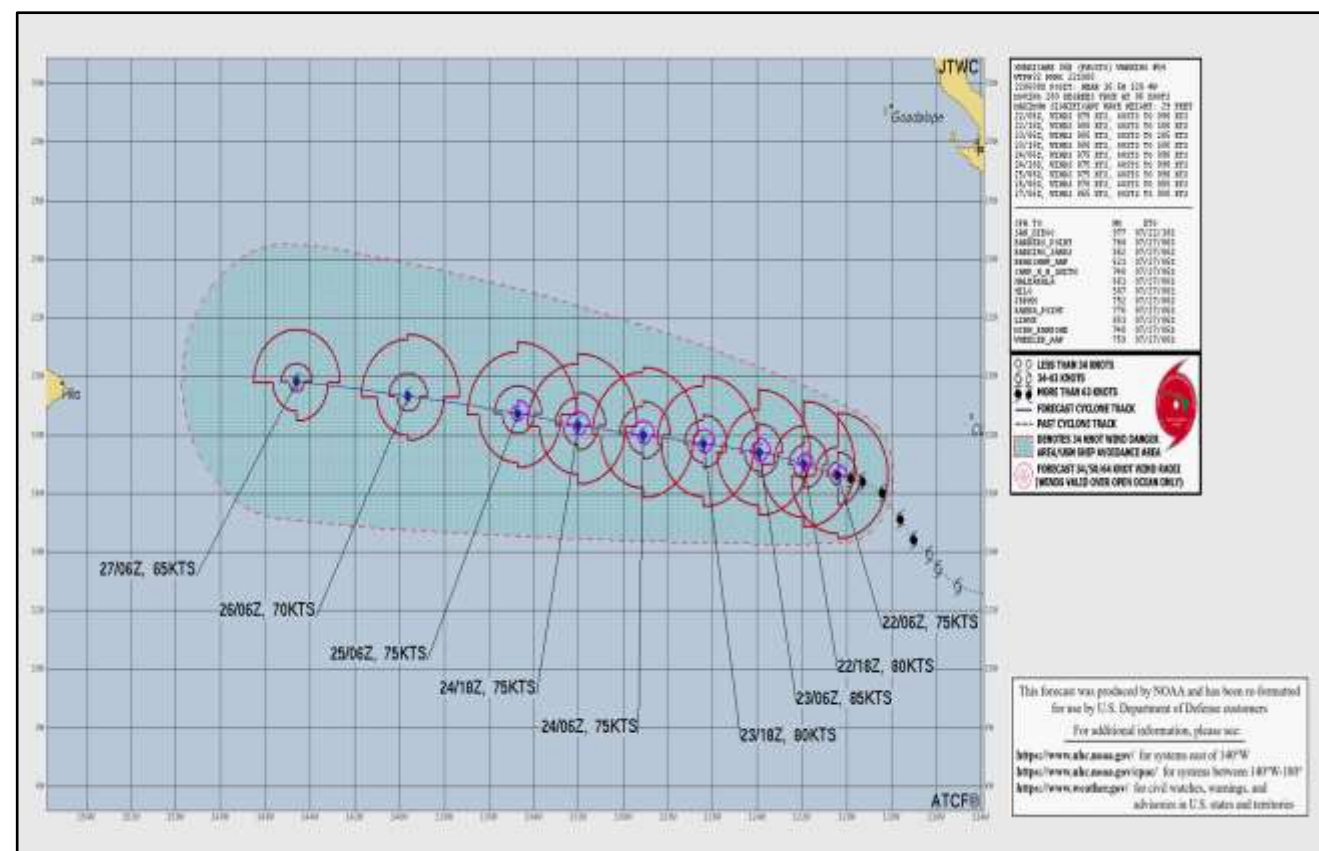
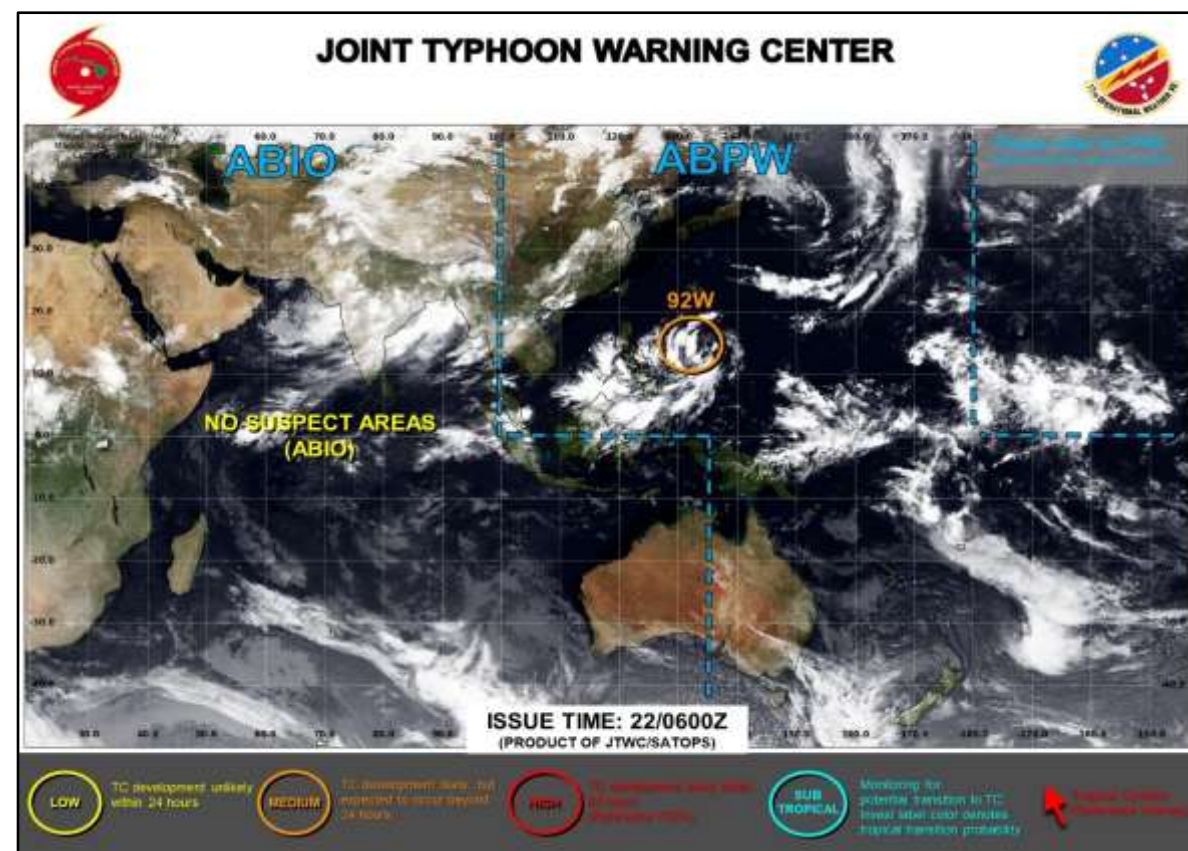
NOTE: Seas can be temporarily very rough during thundershowers.

- Source: 1. <https://meteo.gov.lk> 2. <https://www.srilankaview.com/weather.htm>

CYCLONE

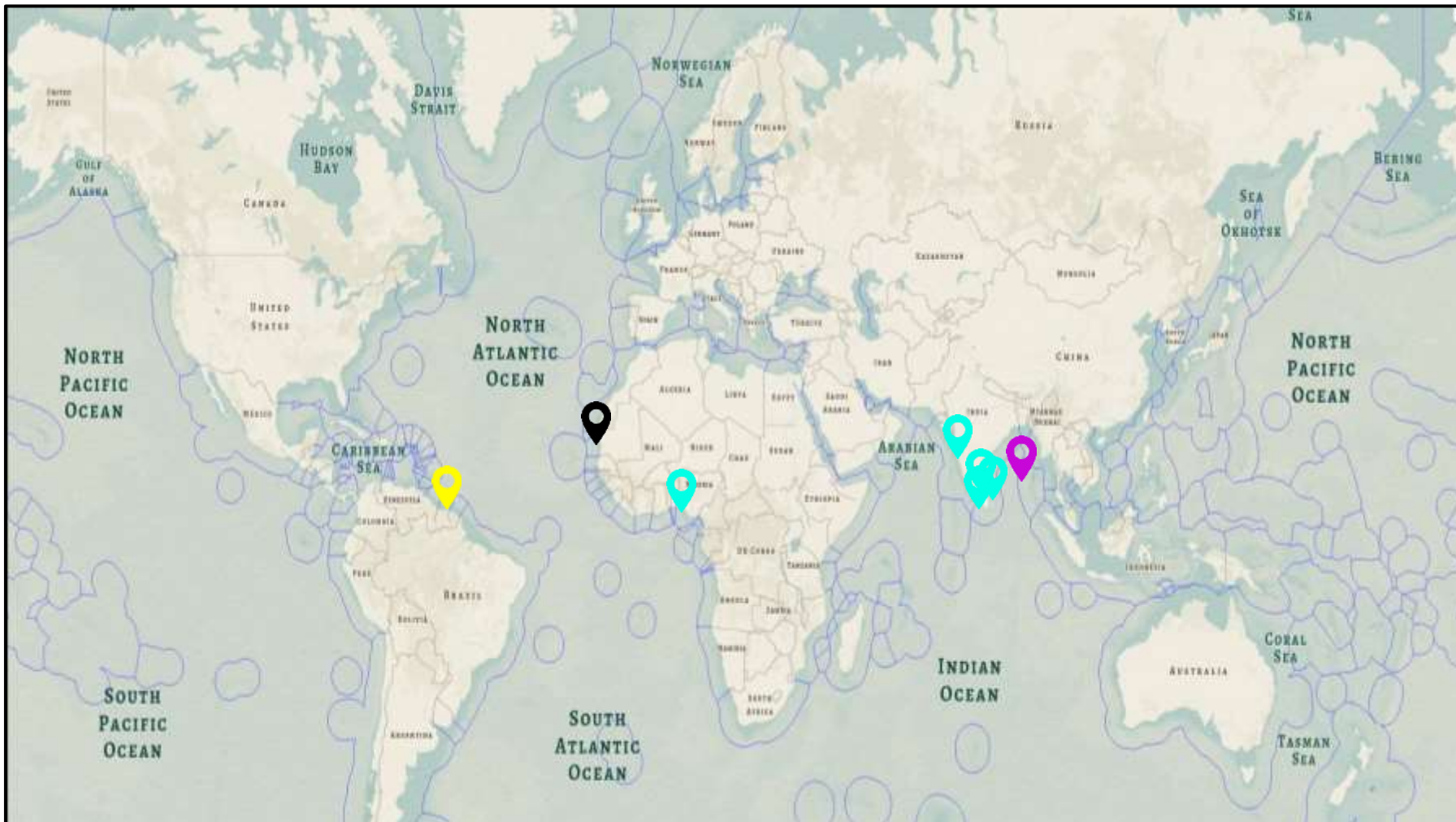


TROPICAL CYCLONE "FAUSTO"



Source: <https://www.metoc.dc3n.navy.mil/jtwc/jtwc.html>

SUMMARY (MARITIME INCIDENT)



CATEGORY	NO
 Maritime Incidents	01
 Piracy & Armed Robbery	NIL
 Smuggling	05
 IUU Fishing	NIL
 Narcotic	NIL
 Irregular Human Migration	01
 Marine Environment Pollution	NIL
 Other	01
Total Incidents	08

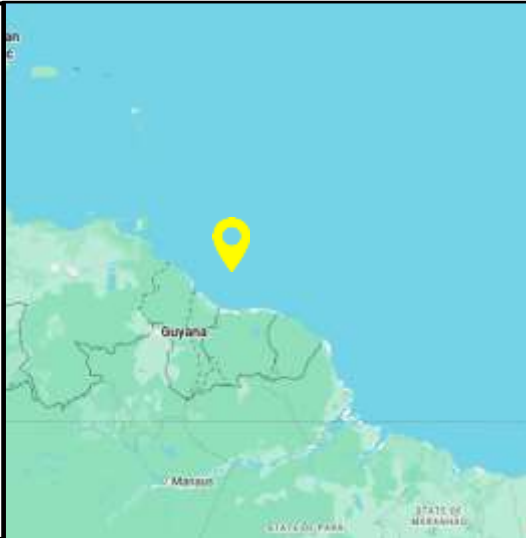
MARITIME INCIDENTS



18 Jul/ Two Confirmed Dead, Dozens Missing After MV Barima Ferry Capsizes/ Guyana

INCIDENT DATE	COUNTRY/REGION	LOCATION	SUB CATEGORIES	VESSEL DETAILS	ADDITIONAL DETAILS
2026.07.18	Guyana	Off Guyana Coast	Capsizing/ Sinking	MV Barima ferry	Rescue teams found 67 survivors, but complications arose as many did not match the original passenger list, hindering the identification of missing persons.

Guyanese maritime authorities are conducting a large-scale search-and-rescue operation after the passenger ferry MV Barima capsized during its trip from Georgetown to Port Kaituma. Two fatalities have been confirmed, with many others still unaccounted for. The ferry was reportedly carrying 116 passengers and 17 crew members however, concerns about the accuracy of the passenger manifest are now a key aspect of the ongoing investigation.



Source -: <https://www.cruisemapper.com/news/16481-mv-barima-ferry-capsizes-off-guyana-coast>

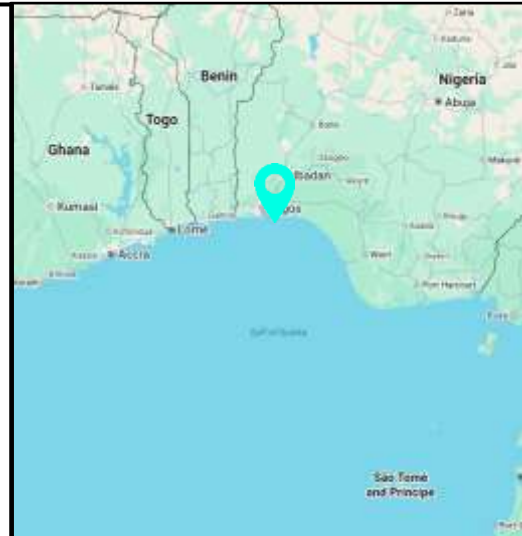
SMUGGLING



21 Jul/ Navy Hands Over 529 Bags of Smuggled Rice to Customs in Badagry/ Nigeria

INCIDENT DATE	COUNTRY/REGION	LOCATION	SUB CATEGORIES	VESSEL DETAILS	ADDITIONAL DETAILS
2026.07.21	Nigeria	Porto Novo Creek	Contraband/ Goods smuggling	-	The Navy's operations aim to combat smuggling, trafficking, and transnational crimes while enhancing cooperation with security agencies to safeguard Nigeria's maritime domain and economic interests.

The Nigerian Navy has transferred 529 bags of foreign parboiled rice, seized during anti-smuggling operations in Badagry, Lagos, to the Nigeria Customs Service. The rice was intercepted during targeted patrols along the Badagry-Porto-Novo Creek and nearby waterways, disrupting smuggling activities in the Nigeria-Benin maritime corridor.



Source -: <https://shipsandports.com.ng/navy-hands-over-529-bags-of-smuggled-rice-to-customs-in-badagry/>

SMUGGLING



21 Jul/ Gold Seizures by Customs Nearly Double After 13 May Duty Hike, Govt Informs Parliament/ India

INCIDENT DATE	COUNTRY/REGION	LOCATION	SUB CATEGORIES	VESSEL DETAILS	ADDITIONAL DETAILS
2026.07.21	India	Customs department	Contraband/ Goods smuggling	-	In response to concerns about increased smuggling due to higher import duties on gold and silver, the minister stated that Customs and the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) are consistently vigilant and prepared to prevent and detect such illegal activities.

Gold seizures by the Customs department nearly doubled following the new customs duty on gold and silver effective 13 May 26. From 13 May to 30 Jun, 160.91 kg of gold was seized in 287 cases, up from 86.16 kg in 165 cases from 01 Apr to 12 May. Additionally, arrests related to gold smuggling increased from 67 to 116 during the same periods. Silver seizures also rose significantly, with 535.95 kg seized in 16 cases compared to 49.53 kg in seven cases previously. The customs duty revision was noted by Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Jitin Prasada in a Lok Sabha reply.



Source -: <https://www.indiasnews.net/news/279201327/gold-seizures-by-customs-nearly-double-after-may-13-duty-hike-govt-informs-parliament>

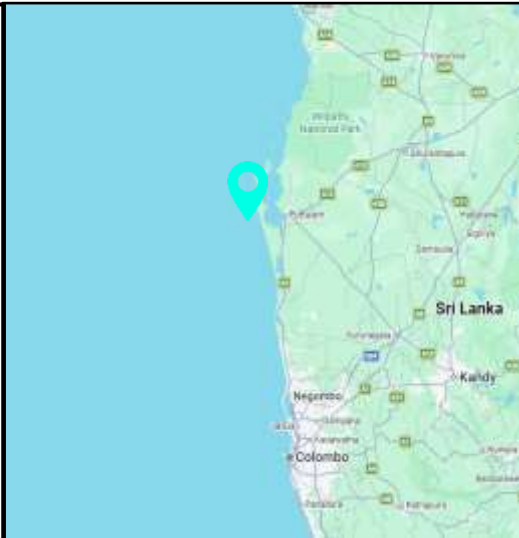
SMUGGLING



19 Jul/ Suspect Arrested in Kalpitiya With Prescription Drugs and Kendu Leaves/ Sri Lanka

INCIDENT DATE	COUNTRY/REGION	LOCATION	SUB CATEGORIES	VESSEL DETAILS	ADDITIONAL DETAILS
2026.07.19	Sri Lanka	Kalpitiya	Contraband /Goods smuggling	-	The suspect, a 38-year-old resident of Kalpitiya, was identified, and the individual, along with the seized items, was handed over to the Kalpitiya Police for legal proceedings.

A coordinated operation by the Navy and Police on 19 Jul 26 resulted in the arrest of a suspect in Janasavipura, Kalpitiya, who had a significant stock of prescription drugs and Kendu leaves. Following credible information, naval personnel from SLNS Vijaya, in conjunction with the Kalpitiya Police, searched a suspicious house and discovered 67,640 capsules of prescription drugs and approximately 30 kg of Kendu leaves intended for illegal sale.



Source -: <https://news.navy.lk/operations-news/2026/july/suspect-arrested-in-kalpitiya-with-prescription-drugs-and-kendu-leaves.html>

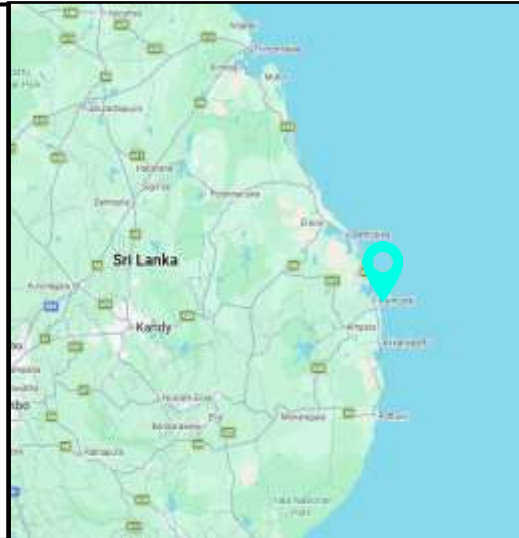
SMUGGLING



19 Jul/ Suspect Nabbed With Cannabis Mixed Tobacco Product in Kalmunai / Sri Lanka

INCIDENT DATE	COUNTRY/REGION	LOCATION	SUB CATEGORIES	VESSEL DETAILS	ADDITIONAL DETAILS
2026.07.19	Sri Lanka	Kalmunai	Contraband /Goods smuggling	-	The suspect arrested in the operation is a 61-year-old resident of Kalmunai. Both the individual and the seized tobacco stock were surrendered to the Kalmunai Police Station for legal proceedings.

The Navy, in collaboration with the police, apprehended a suspect and confiscated over 30 kg of the illegal tobacco known as "Mukku Thool" during a raid in Kalmunai on 19 Jul 26. Acting on a tip-off, naval personnel from SLNS Deegayu and the Kalmunai Police searched a suspicious shop and nearby house, uncovering the concealed tobacco substance.



Source -: <https://news.navy.lk/operations-news/2026/july/suspect-nabbed-with-cannabis-mixed-tobacco-product-in-kalmunai.html>

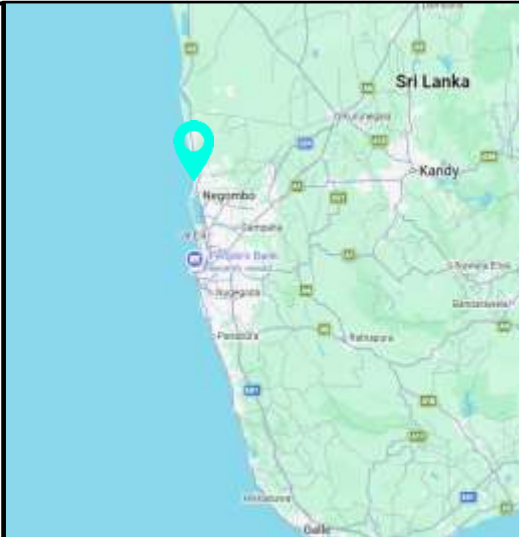
SMUGGLING



20 Jul/ Navy Seizes Over 1,456kg Of Smuggled Kendu Leaves In Negombo/ Sri Lanka

INCIDENT DATE	COUNTRY/REGION	LOCATION	SUB CATEGORIES	VESSEL DETAILS	ADDITIONAL DETAILS
2026.07.20	Sri Lanka	Kudapaduwa Area	Contraband /Goods smuggling	-	The seized truck and stock of kendu leaves were transferred to the Katunayake Customs Preventive Office for legal proceedings.

The Navy seized over 1,456 kg of smuggled Kendu leaves and a truck during a search in Kudapaduwa, Negombo, on 20 Jul 26. The operation, conducted by SLNS Kelani of the Western Naval Command, followed credible information and involved inspecting a suspicious truck ready for distribution.



Source -: <https://news.navy.lk/operations-news/2026/july/navy-seizes-over-1,456kg-of-smuggled-kendu-leaves-in-negombo.html>

IRREGULAR HUMAN MIGRATION



18 Jul/ 144 Refugees Dead or Missing After Maritime Incidents Off Mauritania Coast, Says UN/ Mauritania

INCIDENT DATE	COUNTRY/REGION	LOCATION	SUB CATEGORIES	VESSEL DETAILS	ADDITIONAL DETAILS
2026.07.18	Mauritania	Off Mauritania Coast	Illegal Migrants boats capsizing	-	The deaths occurred during three rescue operations along the Mauritanian coast from July 14 to July 18. The UN agency stressed the need for improved access to education, job opportunities, and legal migration pathways to decrease the number of individuals taking perilous sea journeys.

The deadliest maritime incident reported by the UNHCR involved a boat that departed Bufaloto, Gambia, and drifted for 25 days before being rescued on 18 Jul 26. The vessel was found carrying the bodies of 143 individuals, with 38 survivors eventually brought to Nouadhibou for humanitarian aid. In total, at least 144 refugees and migrants have been reported dead or missing off the coast of Mauritania due to various attempts to reach Europe.



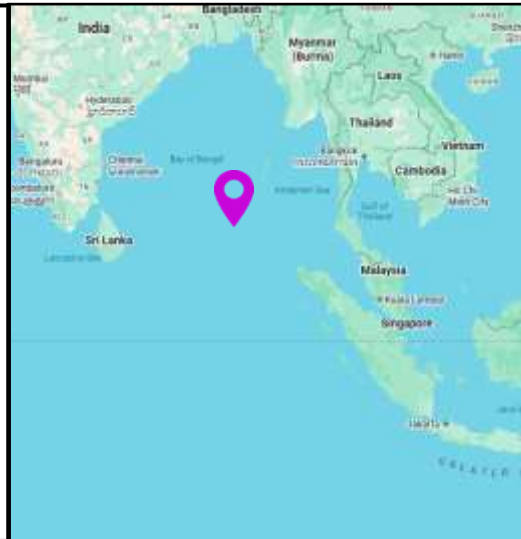
Source -: <https://www.indiatoday.in/amp/world/story/mauritania-migrant-boat-tragedy-143-bodies-found-unhcr-atlantic-route-2953009-2026-07-21>



21 Jul/ The World's Deadliest Sea Crossing/ Australia

INCIDENT DATE	COUNTRY/REGION	LOCATION	SUB CATEGORIES	VESSEL DETAILS	ADDITIONAL DETAILS
2026.07.21	Australia	Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal	Foreign affairs	-	The 11 member states of ASEAN officially host approximately 3.9 million displaced persons, though the actual number is likely much higher due to millions of undocumented migrants escaping conflict to neighboring countries like Thailand.

Two boats carrying Rohingya refugees capsized off the coast of Myanmar last week, with over 500 individuals feared dead. This incident constitutes a major tragedy in the world's deadliest maritime migrant route, where one in seven attempting to cross the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal perishes. The previous year recorded a peak of 900 confirmed deaths, and projections for 2026 indicate an even harsher toll. In response to the ongoing crisis, foreign ministers from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) are set to convene in Manila alongside various official "Dialogue Partners," including Australia. The discussions are expected to emphasize the Myanmar crisis and its regional implications, representing a crucial opportunity for coordinated international support.



Source -: <https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/world-s-deadliest-sea-crossing-and-the-role-for-australia>



Information Fusion Center Colombo Sri Lanka

DISCLAIMER

The information in this report has been sourced from various internal and external parties, including international and local stakeholders, maritime agencies, and open sources. The report analyzes incidents to identify trends and discrepancies, aiming to improve the safety and security of mariners and seafarers. While efforts have been made to ensure data accuracy, users should exercise due diligence. Some incident locations may be approximate. IFC-Colombo requests stakeholders' cooperation in reporting incidents for more accurate analysis of maritime threats. The views expressed in this report do not reflect those of the Sri Lanka Navy or Government of Sri Lanka.

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