

# Incident Alert

<b>Incident Report</b>	: 03/2010
<b>Date/Time of Incident</b>	: 10 February 2010 at 1137hrs (local time)
<b>Location of incident</b>	: 20° 24.61' N, 092° 15.56' E
<b>Area Description</b>	: Off the coast of Myanmar, Bay of Bengal
<b>Name and Type of Ship</b>	: <i>Topniche 7</i> / tug boat towing <i>Rapid 3312</i> / deck crane barge

## Details of Incident

Two robbers in a boat named *Mayer Duai* boarded a flat-top deck crane barge, *Rapid 3312* which was being towed by the Singapore-registered tug boat, *Topniche 7*, while underway at position 20° 24.61' N, 092° 15.56' E, off the coast of Myanmar, Bay of Bengal. The barge was loaded with clinkers and had departed Malaysia for the port of Chittagong, Bangladesh. The tug boat is expected to arrive at the port of Chittagong at 2100 hrs (local time) on 11 February 2010.

The robbers left the barge after taking with them a canvas and some ropes. At about 1300 hrs (local time), the ship owner reported that *Mayer Duai* was shadowing the barge at approximately 0.4 nm away. The owner instructed the tug boat and barge to continue their journey to the port of Chittagong. At about 1520 hrs (local time), the owner reported that *Mayer Duai* gave up the chase. The 10 crew onboard the tug boat was not harmed.

The ship owner reported the incident to Singapore's Port Operations Control Centre (POCC), who in turn contacted the MRCC of Myanmar and MRCC of Bangladesh to request for assistance. The ship owner also reported the incident to the ReCAAP Focal Point (Bangladesh) which informed the Bangladesh Coast Guard and Navy who reportedly dispatched patrol boats to assist the tug boat immediately. The ReCAAP Focal Point (Bangladesh) and Singapore's POCC which is also the ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore) reported the incident to the ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ISC).

## Reported by

ReCAAP Focal Point (Bangladesh)  
ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)



## Comments by ReCAAP ISC

### Past Incident

This is the first incident reported in the vicinity of St. Martin's Island. Incidents reported in the area mostly occurred at the ports and anchorages of Chittagong, Bangladesh.

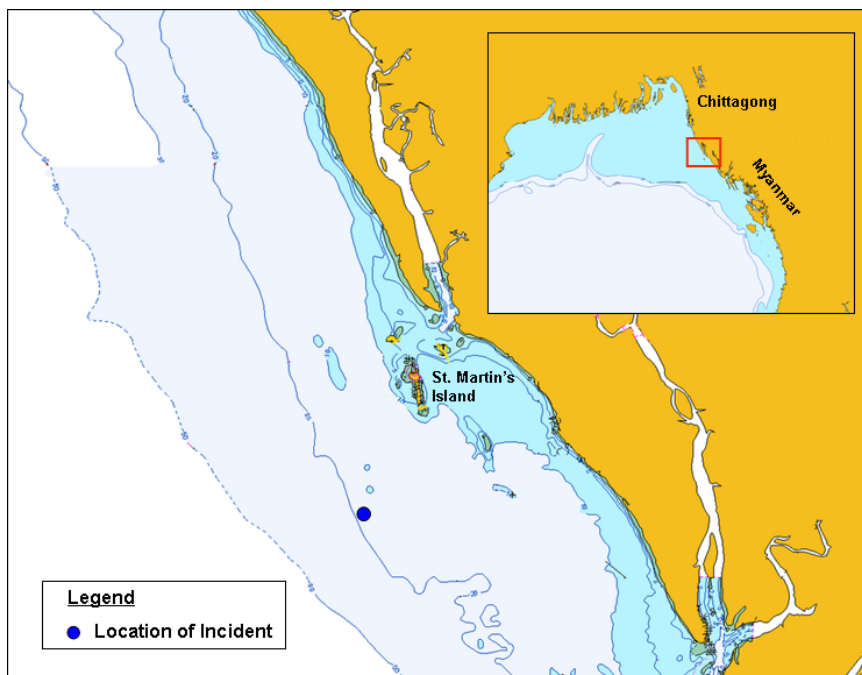
### Observation

The ReCAAP ISC notes that the robbers involved were opportunists, who after taking the items onboard the barge, left without harming the crew. However, they were bold in boarding the vessel in daylight hours and continued to shadow the vessels.

### Recommendations

Ship masters and crew are advised to maintain vigilance at all times to keep a sharp lookout for any suspicious looking boat and adopt measures as listed in their counter-boarding plan. Additional measures in accordance with the vessel security plan are recommended such as preventing the pirates/robbers from boarding their vessels.

The ReCAAP ISC commends the crew of *Topniche 7* for remaining calm and maintaining vigilance in preventing boarding by the pirates who continued to shadow the tug boat. The ReCAAP ISC strongly advocates that ship master reports all actual and attempted incidents to the port authorities or the nearest coastal state immediately. Immediate reporting may permit the authorities to assist the ship masters, and initiate broadcast to warn mariners operating in the area.



**Approximate location of incident**

