

Burmese

coaster crewmembers arrested

Kuala Lumpur (AP) — The captain and eight crew members of a Burmese-registered boat were arrested after customs officers seized gold bars worth \$188,075 from their vessel.

Negri Sembilan state customs office director Ahmad Abas said officers also seized \$94,038 worth of cigarettes, liquor, sharks' fin, dried mushrooms and Chinese herbs from the ship.

Ahmad said a customs boat on routine patrol intercepted the ship in Malaysian waters off Port Dickson, 120 km southwest of here in the Straits of Malacca.

GOLD

The ship was ordered to stop and the officers boarded the vessel where they found a briefcase containing the 10 gold bars, each weighing about 1 kg, Ahmad said.

The captain and the crew were arrested after they failed to say where they obtained the gold. A search of the ship later revealed the other items, the officer said.

The crew claimed they were on their way from Singapore to Burma, but Ahmad said they intended to sell the goods somewhere along the Malaysian coast.

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