

UNTAET seeks additional US\$16 million for East Timor

At the conclusion of a two-day conference in Lisbon, Portugal, where donor nations reviewed progress in East Timor over the first six months of 2000, countries expressed support for an additional US\$16 million sought by UNTAET to help the territory meet its budget commitments for the coming fiscal year.

The money is in addition to the US\$522.45 million that was pledged at the previous donors meeting in Tokyo in mid-December, of which US\$148.98 million was for humanitarian activities and US\$373.47 million for civil administration, reconstruction and development.

Sergio Vieira de Mello, UN transitional administrator for East Timor, said that "the responses received from member states and international organizations constitute a vote of confidence and a clear indication that donors appreciated the responsible and realistic budget submission made by the East Timorese and UNTAET, particularly for the revised consolidated budget."

Donors expressed support for the activities of the World Bank-administered Trust Fund for East Timor (TFET), and endorsed a work program for July to December 2000. The meeting resulted in additional donors joining the TFET.

"The donor community and the East Timorese have worked with an incredible speed in the first six months of reconstruction of East Timor," said Jemaluddin Kassum, World Bank Vice President for the East Asia and Pacific region. "Now we need to focus our attention on the quality of the development process. We see East Timorese participation and leadership in the coordination of development agencies as key to a sustainable development process. This is particularly important as we move into this new phase: the implementation of reconstruction plans."

Xanana Gusmão, President of the National Council of Timorese Resistance (CNRT), was quoted as calling the conference a "great success" in that it endorsed a concrete work programme for the reconstruction and development of East Timor.

"We are profoundly moved by the fact that the international community has responded swiftly to the message brought to Lisbon by us, the East Timorese, and knew how to express their unequivocal support for

the people of East Timor, in a spirit of generosity and trust," Mr. Gusmão said.

"This process must include East Timorese people of all political persuasions, including those who are still living in West Timor," he said.

Mr. Vieira de Mello said several countries had not been able to make a firm commitment at the latest meeting since their contributions would be subject to approval by their own parliaments. But he was confident the funds would be forthcoming.

The UN Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) sought the additional US\$16 million to enable it to implement its US\$43 million budget for the 2000-2001 fiscal year, which starts July 1.

Meanwhile, UNTAET and the World Bank signed grant agreements on education and agriculture at the Lisbon conference, bringing to seven the number of programmes under TFET.

The Emergency School Readiness Project (ESRP) is aimed at reopening schools in time for the academic year, which begins in October. US\$8.7 million will be spent on rebuilding classrooms while another US\$3.2

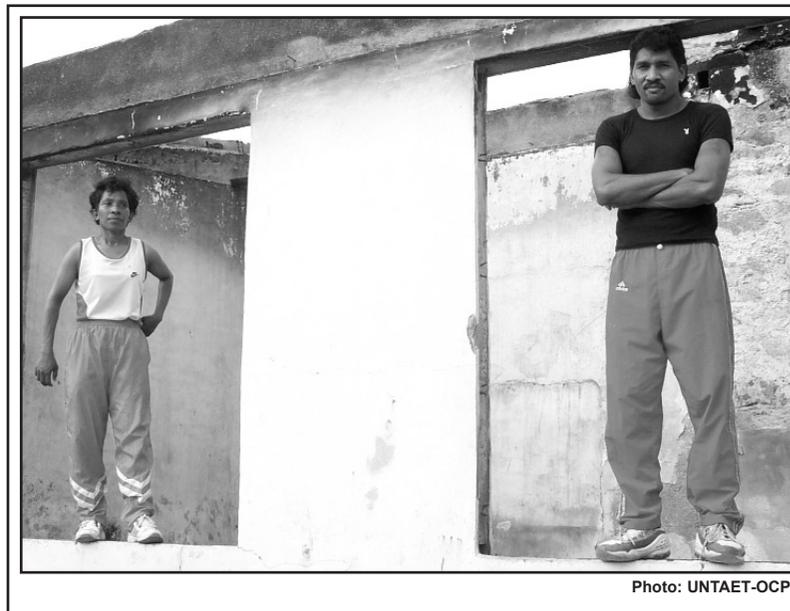
million is earmarked for buying teaching material.

According to World Bank officials, the ESRP's main goal is to assure that all East Timorese children who seek access to primary and secondary education will be able to enrol in a school that meets basic operational standards in terms of physical infrastructure, furniture, school equipment, textbooks and other teaching materials.

The first step in the ESRP will be to rebuild school physical infrastructures and acquire and distribute learning-teaching materials. The second and third stages of the Project will involve developing social mobilization and communications campaigns, supporting policy development and providing management and implementation support.

The US\$18.2 million Agricultural Rehabilitation and Development Project will try to improve the food security of selected poor households, increase agricultural production in selected areas and promote rural growth.

Compiled from wire service reports.



STRONG CONTENDERS

Marathoner Aguida Amaral (left) and boxer Victor Ramos in the ruins of the Dili Benfica Sport Complex, which was used for torture in the days after the popular consultation. They are among the 10 East Timorese athletes who were selected to train in Canberra, Australia prior to the Sydney Olympics, courtesy of the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) Olympic Solidarity Fund.

See page 7 for story and more photos.

Photo: UNTAET-OCPI

So who are the street kids of Dili?

"Dollar, dollar, mister!" the scruffy pair of boys pleaded as they trailed Faith Mburu, a staff member with the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET), down a Dili street.

In a hurry to get dinner at the Olympia Hotel, Ms. Mburu took little notice of the advancing duo until they became outright menacing.



Photo: UNTAET-OCPI

STREET TOUGH — A few of the children who hang out in front of the UNTAET Headquarters at the Governor's House.

"It was dark by the time I left the office," she says. "But the boys confronted me at the intersection near the Governor's Building. One of them reached for my handbag but a male colleague who was walking a short distance behind me chased him away.

"It was somewhat terrifying," Ms. Mburu recalls, describing the moment as a wake-up call. "Now, I'm very cautious, especially in the evening."

Nearly a month after the incident in the capital's Central Business District (CBD), a number of boys ranging in age from six to their late teens continue to roam the streets of Dili, begging for food

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Many refugees in West Timor still afraid to go home

After last September's spasm of violence and destruction forced hundreds of thousands of East Timorese from their homes, more than a third of those who were transported to West Timor continue to live in squalid refugee camps, in many cases too afraid to return to their hometowns.

While approximately 160,000 of the 300,000 people who were taken - often against their will - across the border have returned to East Timor, another 120,000 remain unable or unwilling to leave the crowded and dirty camps.

In recent weeks, the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) has retaken the initiative to finding a solution to the refugee problem, stepping up contacts with West Timor authorities

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We should receive returnees wholeheartedly and happily



There is much work to be done in East Timor! Houses must be rebuilt and crops planted. Children must return to school. Communities must organise themselves and work together to improve their lives. Leaders must prepare themselves to take on new roles and responsibilities. These important activities require peace, stability and cooperation.

Everyone must participate in rebuilding East Timor, including the refugees in West Timor who still want to return home. After all, they are our brothers and sisters and most of them want to return to help reconstruct their country. The sooner the refugees come back, the sooner reconciliation and reconstruction can take place and the more stable and peaceful East Timor will be.

Maintaining peace, stability and cooperation will require reconciliation with those whose political opinions may be different. It will require understanding and acceptance of those who fled or were forced to go to West Timor against their will. It is not a crime to have escaped to West Timor. Even refugees who were involved in crimes perpetrated by the militia have the right to return to their country. Those suspected of crimes will be judged in a court of law. Do not take the law into your own hands. If you have been a witness or have any information relating to crimes you should contact CivPol for investigation. This will facilitate the application of justice and prevent further violence.

The East Timorese people have suffered great losses. But those people who confront returnees with violence, threats or insults are making the wound last longer. This will create more difficulties for the community and for the country.

The East Timorese society will not reap the positive benefits of independence if there is no peace, stability and cooperation...

A message from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Many refugees...continued from page 1

and engaging in a campaign meant to counter rumour and false information.

However, the reasons for the delay in the return of the refugees are fairly clear, says Colin Stewart, an UNTAET political affairs officer based in the West Timor capital of Kupang. "Many of them are still under the influence or intimidation of pro-autonomy political leaders who do not, in fact, wish them to return," he says.

These leaders, who have lost the power and lifestyles they once had under the Indonesian regime, are not eager to return to East Timor to face uncertain careers, and, in many cases, criminal charges. So they and their followers intimidate those who express the desire to go home, and spread disinformation about terrible things that happen to refugees who go home.

"In the volatile, rumour-filled environment of the refugee camps, stories are quickly circulated whether they are true or not," Mr. Stewart says.

In other cases, some refugees who were civil servants, police or former members of the Indonesian military face financial disincentives to returning home. They are still receiving small salaries or pensions from the Indonesian government, which they would lose if they return home. Since their careers are uncertain should they return, even these small benefits encourage them to stay in exile, Mr. Stewart says.

What is certain is that while most of the concerns about repatriating refugees have centred around militia members who may have been responsible for much of last September's destruction, most of the refugees have committed no crimes, says UNTAET's Mr. Stewart. "Twenty per cent - or 90,000 of the 450,000 who voted

- chose autonomy," he says, "yet almost 300,000 people were displaced to West Timor. So in fact, most of the refugees were people who voted for independence."

Yet, in some case, they have been subject to harsh treatment upon their return, as if they were criminals. While the vast majority of the refugees have returned safely, any incidents of violence against the refugees have been quickly publicized and exaggerated in the West Timor media, supporting those who produce negative propaganda, Mr. Stewart says.

To counter the false information circulating in the camps, UNTAET has been trying to facilitate political reconciliation between East Timorese by arranging meetings and other contacts.

"This process is essential for the long-term stability of East Timor, since an unhappy group in exile will only continue to cause trouble," says Mr. Stewart. "This is a difficult issue that depends upon the East Timorese themselves, but until it is resolved, innocent East Timorese refugees will continue to suffer. Incidents of violence against returnees harm the reconciliation process and discourage further



An East Timorese refugee couple (above) speaking with a member of the Indonesian Army (TNI) while a UN Military Observer watches. At right, East Timorese returning to West Timor at the border crossing in Batugade after visiting relatives in East Timor during the family reunion visits.



Photo: UNTAET-OCPI

repatriation."

UNTAET has also been working with other international organizations to try to spread reliable information on the true situation in East Timor. The more personal contacts there are with people in East Timor - through letters, phone calls, border meetings or visits - the more confidence the refugees will have that the situation in East Timor is fine for them to return, says Mr. Stewart.

UNTAET has been negotiating with the Indonesian Government to have it pay East Timorese pensions in East Timor. Aside from providing those in East Timor with the money which is properly theirs, this would remove the need for people to stay in West Timor to claim such benefits, says Mr. Stewart.

The Constitution and the Rebirth of East Timor

Over the coming months, you, the people of East Timor, need to decide what will be the structure of your future government. You will deliberate about democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights - standards of government that must serve you well not just today or tomorrow, but long into the future. In this and subsequent issues of Tais Timor, I will write a column about these issues, and, perhaps, I can offer some useful observations.

In determining the structure of your future government, it is crucial that you maintain a serious commitment to the goal of establishing democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights. Without such a commitment, democracy cannot survive. But if there are many individuals, groups and organizations willing to work and sacrifice for that goal, then it will happen.

But the country as a whole can also commit itself officially to these goals - and to any other goals and principles that it chooses - through a constitution. A constitution is not just a text on a piece of paper. It is an official commitment to your ideals, and it establishes in detail the form of government that would help achieve those ideals, including a legislature, the judiciary and an executive. It can be thought of a bit like marriage. A country makes a long-term commitment to its ideals; it promises to do some things (to run things democratically, for example) and promises also never to do other things (to terrorize its population, for example).

A constitution is an official commitment, by the people and by the government for the people, to protect and uphold certain principles - most importantly democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights. Free and fair elections are central to democracy. Independent courts are central to the rule of law. And a constitution, if it is given suffi-

cient force, can be central to the protection of human rights.

These are pretty abstract ideas. Philosophers have written about them for centuries, and lawyers have tried to define them more precisely, in order to put them into law. When that happens with ideas, we can easily forget their connection to our own experiences; I don't want to forget that connection. So I will also talk about the experiences from which these ideas emerged: about fear and hope, danger and opportunity, and about the imperfection of all human beings. These are elements of our everyday experience, including very much the recent bitter experience of East Timor.

The ideas of constitution, democracy, rule of law, and human rights are our inheritance from the experiences of previous generations. They were first put forward in a simpler form in Europe in the second half of the seventeenth century, although they have a more ancient history too. They were developed and have evolved since then. And finally, after World War II, the international community, through the United Nations, officially adopted these principles.

The end of the 17th century in Europe and the end of World War II were in some ways similar moments in history. In both, a period of horrific destruction and violence was ending. The 17th century was marked by massive wars all across Europe. People were shocked and horrified by violence on a scale not seen before. And 250 years later the world wars of the 20th century again ushered in a new scale of destruction and human suffering.

At the end of each period, the vivid memory of the past combined with hope for the future. Most people wanted to do everything possible to reverse the destruction they suffered in their immediate past, and to prevent

a return to violence. But they were also ready to begin rebuilding - not just material rebuilding, but the rebuilding of the human spirit. These were also periods of great rebirths.

East Timor just went through a time of great violence and destruction. But that time is over, and the attention is turning to rebuilding. It is, we all hope, a moment of great rebirth for East Timor. It is from such moments in the past that the ideas of constitution, democracy, rule of law and human rights have emerged.

So I will be talking with you about these ideas that come out in periods of rebirth when human experiences - both fears and hopes - seem somehow more intense. In moments of rebirth, when fear is still but hope has returned, the need for democracy, rule of law and human rights is especially clear.

A good constitution makes the period of rebirth more permanent. It limits destruction and diminishes fear. It protects us as far as possible from the danger that violence will return again to politics and to life. It makes it easier for as many people as possible to improve their world, each in their own way. And, when a constitution works well, it strengthens hope.

The author, Karol Soltan, is the Deputy Director of the UNTAET Office of Political, Constitutional and Electoral Affairs. He speaks with some experience about the importance of democracy and of a constitution. Mr. Soltan was born in Warsaw, Poland, five years after it was completely destroyed in World War II.

"The memories of playing in that city's ruins as a child came back forcefully to me on my arrival in Dili," he says.

Recalling that time, he adds, "The Germans had planned to completely destroy my city, so that no building remained standing, and they almost succeeded."

Today, Warsaw is completely rebuilt, and a vibrant city. Poland and its capital have been reborn. "The people have changed, too," says Mr. Soltan. "Germans are now among Poland's closest friends in Europe."

Rehabilitation of central bank starts

The rehabilitation of the Central Payments Office began on 15 of June and is expected to be completed in two months. The work is carried out by an Australian company, TIC East Timor, and will cost US\$416,000. The amount will cover full rehabilitation of the destroyed building, as well as the installation of high standard security systems and the reinstallation of bank vaults. Fifty people are working on the project, 38 of them East Timorese.

This is the first major reconstruction project on a public building carried out by UNTAET. Several other buildings are being renovated and the works are currently out for tender. In Dili, these include: the Judicial Affairs Office, Education warehouse, the Court of Appeal, the Employment Service Centre, installation of a kitchen at the Police College and the renovation of toilet and septic system at the airport.

In Baucau, rehabilitation works are underway for the prison, the district court, the Public Prosecutors Office and the market.

In Suai, repairs are planned for the government building.



Photo: UNTAET-OCPI

CNRT President Xanana Gusmão and Cristina Carrascalão during the 27 June dedication of his library, the first to open since the popular consultation last August.

The Xanana Gusmão Reading Room, located in the historical building that once housed the former Indonesian consulate in Dili, displays books and paintings by the independence leader as well as letters that were sent to him and medals that he was awarded and is open daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The library has a collection of books on East Timor, as well as children books, travel guides, novels and dictionaries, all in Portuguese, Tetun, Bahasa Indonesia and English.

The building also houses the Timorese women's network OMT and the Le Zival student organisation. The Yayasan Murak Rai cultural industries centre opened three shops-in the back of the building selling colorful handicrafts.

Street kids...continued from page 1

and money from foreigners, and occasionally using more forceful tactics.

The minors, who station themselves at strategic spots where internationals frequently pass by, are gaining notoriety for Oliver Twist-type tactics that are familiar in many developing countries.

"The other day I was insulted by one of the boys when I declined to offer him money," says a journalist based in Dili. "He hurled an unprintable English expletive at me. It was a first!" he adds. A Vietnamese national working with the United Nations, who has herself been victimized, says the trend is perturbing. "It's kind of a shock to me, knowing the gentle nature of most Timorese, whether old or young," she says.

Carlos Ximenes, a former Timorese university student, agrees with these sentiments. Venturing an explanation, he says, "What we are witnessing in this country is profound cultural shock - the foreigners, the flashy cars and other things. This may be misleading to some youths, especially the vulnerable ones without close family guardians." He adds that he finds "outrageous" recently reported cases of elderly Timorese men begging for food on the streets of Dili.

While it is likely that the presence of the international community in East Timor may have precipitated a social change of sorts, experts also say that the impact of last year's massive population movement created a destabilizing influence on the Timorese family.

"Almost all families were divided either in order to protect women and children, or because militia and military forcibly sepa-

rated them," says a joint report prepared by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the International Rescue Committee (IRC) and the Christian Children's Fund (CCF) published in March. "One result is a number of children who have been separated from their parents."

These separated children are "especially vulnerable and may not be receiving the same care and support as other children in their temporary family," the report says. Some of these separated youngsters have undoubtedly ended up on Dili's streets.

But, a distinction must be made between honest, hardworking boys who are vendors and the young street idlers who spend their time begging, taunting, and sometimes stealing.

A familiar sight in Dili is young men hawking cigarettes, fruit, sweets and other foodstuff. It has been a way of life in East Timor's capital city as long as anyone can remember. "Since the Indonesian period my friend and I have been selling fried bananas and peanuts prepared by our parents," says 12 year old Arsino Costa Araujo, flanked by Marselino do Rego. "It is our contribution to family income." The third graders say their work is done strictly, "after school time." Arsino estimates the number of other young Dili street peddlers to be in the hundreds.

"If children have opportunities for education and entertainment but are also doing some work that is not hazardous, I do not think it is a problem," says Richard Koser, a UNICEF Information Officer based in Dili. He quickly adds, however, that UNICEF plans to soon establish child and youth centres in Dili and Oecussi for those children

who, for whatever reasons, are not in school and living principally in the streets.

Joao da Costa, 12, is an orphan. The boy now lives with his grandmother. To make ends meet, "she asks me to sell things like bananas and cigarettes to support her in getting food, vegetables, clothes," Joao says. "I cannot refuse because we need the money."

Aware of the plight of children like Joao, the UNTAET administration is keen to intervene. "We realize the need to arrest the situation before it gets out of control," says Faith Harding, Director of the Office of the Deputy SRSG. "Most of the children are mentally and physically wounded," she adds, "and therefore, require some help."

The plan, says Ms. Harding, is to focus on establishing community-based programmes linked with other groups like the Church and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). A committee comprising the top brass of the Department of Social Services has been formed to specifically address the problem and its members are soon expected to make public their findings.

Meanwhile, a ray of hope already shines for the street children. It's the efforts of the Saleasian sisters. The nuns, backed by 30 volunteers, opened a centre at the former Gedung Kejaksaan (legal office) on 26 May to provide support to displaced children. "Some of the street children have parents, others do not, while most do not go to school," says Sister Aurea Freitas. "What we are doing at the moment is to provide a place for them to come, play and for us to counsel them."

JUST WHO ARE THESE KIDS?

The street children are a by-product of a complex societal situation and therefore an individual approach to the problem simply cannot work on its own, says Alain Beaudoin UNTAET's staff counselor. "The whole (social) system has collapsed. It's not out of choice that they are in the streets," the UNTAET staff counselor remarked, describing the current situation as "a society in crisis."

Beaudoin decries what he calls the "cash handouts syndrome," in which people help perpetuate the street existence of the kids by

giving them money. "I would rather give them a loaf of bread," said the counselor, echoing sentiments of most such professionals including many social workers who contend that giving out doles to the poor tends to foster a dependency.

The UNTAET staff counselor, who has spent considerable time in Haiti and Latin America, reiterates his belief that "the solution is political as well as social. It will not be solved on an individual basis." It calls for a multi-disciplinary approach, he says. "The ideal would be a holistic system, involving the total welfare of people, including their health, and physical and social needs."

Calling for a true understanding of the plight of Dili's street kids, Beaudoin targets poverty as the main culprit. It has created a chain reaction of problems like rural-urban migration, clusters of dispossessed and displaced as well as prolonged family separation. For many, "this is not living, it's survival." The problem is exacerbated by the breakdown of traditional social support structures like the extended family, which suffered a severe blow following the protracted war last year.

The international presence has also aggravated the problem. "You can see many people con-

gregating near the boat [Olympia Hotel] because they see it as a sign of wealth," Beaudoin observed, terming the sight of relatively affluent-looking foreigners with their numerous possessions as a crucial attraction.

"One thing to remember is that this isn't Haiti or the streets of Rio," concludes the staff counselor. "There's no glue sniffing, or child prostitution or serious abuse of these kids. There is still time to help them."

WHAT YOU CAN DO

When you come across such street kids, rather than giving them handouts, you might advise them to seek assistance through the Saleasian congregation sisters who have a center at Balide-Crystal (in Gedung Kejaksaan, a former courthouse) which provides counseling and programs.

You might also refer the children to their church or youth group which can provide assistance. In addition, UNICEF is expected to soon open a Comoro child and youth center. The organization plans to establish other outlets in Balide and Bekora, in addition to district-based rehabilitation centers.

But above all, avoid stereotyping or stigmatizing victims of a situation wrought by circumstances that, to quote Beaudoin, "are beyond their control."



Photo: UNTAET-OCPI

One of the young boys who is without a home in Dili.

'You have earned our affection'

UNRT Vice President Jose Ramos Horta and Jordanian commander Col. Ahmad Farajat chat over tea at the battalion's headquarters in Oecussi (photo below) on 18 June.

In a day-long visit to the East Timor enclave of Oecussi, hosted by Col. Farajat, Mr. Ramos Horta spoke to villagers in Sacato — only 1.5 kilometres from the West Timor border — and Junho, where an estimated crowd of 2,000 people warmly welcomed the UNRT leader.

Surrounded by residents of Sacato, Mr. Ramos Horta expressed appreciation for the professional dedication of the Jordanian forces. "You have made lives here in Oecussi more peaceful," said the UNRT leader, who had been critical of the Jordanian deployment when it was announced in January. "You have given the people tranquility, given them safety and given them comfort.

"You have truly earned the affection and trust of the people of Oecussi," Mr. Ramos Horta said.

Since its arrival, the 900-strong battalion has been instrumental in cleaning up the District, repairing schools and homes and bringing stability to an area that was 98 per cent destroyed in the aftermath of last August's vote.



Photos: UNTAET-OCPI



News Briefs

Bodies of UNAMET staff exhumed: The bodies of two UNAMET personnel, killed in the violence last September, were exhumed in Ermera on 10 June. This is the first exhumation in connection with investigations into the deaths of UNAMET staff.

The decomposed bodies are being held at the morgue at UNTAET's Human Rights Center in Dili. Forensic experts are examining the bodies and will issue death certificates shortly.

The bodies, both males, were found in graves, with one of them exhumed from a coffin in the village of Babolete, Atsabe sub-district.

Six Timorese working with the United Nations Mission in East Timor were killed during the violence. The six killed were João Lopes, Orlando Gomes, José Ernesto Mariano, Ruben Barros Soares, Domingos Pereira, and Leonardo da Silva da Oliveira. Álvaro Dias Lopes, also a UNAMET staff member, was seriously injured.

First foreigner arrested on drug charges: An Australian construction worker suspected of possessing and dealing drugs

was arrested on 17 June in Dili. He is the first foreigner to be arrested in East Timor.

The arrest followed the detention of a Civilian Police officer from Egypt suspected of drug dealing. He was held and questioned on 16 June and subsequently repatriated to Egypt.

CivPol searched the Australian suspect's premises and found a significant amount of organic matter, believed to be marijuana, as well as paraphernalia and money. The case of the Australian citizen, who is being held in Becora prison in Dili, has been turned over to the investigating judge.

A full report was sent from Dili to United Nations Headquarters in New York, where a decision will be made shortly about where the case of the CivPol will be tried.

Bulk fuel to be sold at lower prices: Following talks between officials from Pertamina and UNTAET, the Indonesian petroleum company announced that it would sell bulk petrol and diesel at the price of 3,000 rupiahs per litre.

The price will apply to purchases of at least five drums of fuel or 1,000 litres. Taxi drivers and others who use smaller quantities of fuel could form groups to buy the fuel in bulk..

Indonesian investigators to East Timor:

A 15-member team from the Indonesian Attorney General's office is scheduled to visit Dili in early July for 10 days of interviewing witnesses and collecting material evidence.

Legal and political representatives from UNTAET and their Indonesian counterparts agreed that UNTAET investigators alone would question witnesses in a number of selected cases. The results will be handed over to the Indonesian Attorney General's office.

UNTAET seizes illegal ammunition:

UNTAET Civilian Police (CivPol) and customs agents have seized a shipment of illegal ammunition in a cargo container in Dili. The ammunition, 200 rounds of soft-nose bullets, was concealed in a box with several packages of curtains. The investigation is ongoing.

On 1 June, UNTAET's Border Control officers stopped two trucks at the Batugade crossing point. The importer initially presented customs officers with invoices for the shipment, which indicated a value of nine million rupiahs. During a routine inspection, however, a second manifest was found showing the goods valued at 39 million rupiahs. The trucks were escorted to Dili port, since they were too large to unload at Batugade.

District news round-up

Aileu: Three Protestant churches were burned in the villages of Name Lesso, Fahiso and Berilau in the Lequidoe sub-district.

The Protestant pastor in Berilau was physically assaulted and his motorbike burned. The incident was apparently sparked when Protestant youths jeered at a Catholic procession. In East Timor, the month of June is dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and nightly processions are a common occurrence.

District CivPol are investigating the incidents and have called on all parties to exercise religious tolerance. The Catholic priest in the area referred to the incident in a Sunday sermon and called for reconciliation between Protestants and Catholics.

Baucau: UNTAET delivered 1,200 tonnes of fish to approximately 600 people and provided 105 plastic sheets and 100 ration packs to about 150 families in the villages of Laisoro, Adu and Maluru which were affected by a recent mudslide.

The UN World Food Programme (WFP) brought in 6.2 tonnes of rice and corn while CARITAS, a non-governmental organization (NGO) gave 108 families a month's supply of cooking oil and beans.

The mudslide was caused by heavy rains and erosion in a mountainous area that had severe deforestation. Besides destroying homes, the mud drenched rice paddies, coconut trees and cassava crops. There were no reports of casualties although 6,000 people across six villages were affected.

The biggest mudslide occurred between the villages of Bualale and Laisoro Lai, covering an area estimated to have been about one kilometer long and 100 meters wide.

Pop star lends voice for East Timor's children

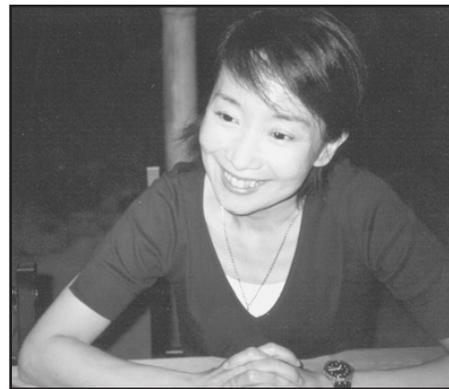


Photo: UNTAET-OCPI

UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador to East Timor Agnes Chan.

UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador to East Timor Agnes Chan during an 18 June interview in Dili. The Hong Kong-born musician toured refugee camps in Kupang and Atambua, West Timor, where the plight of children touched her deeply. "I saw a lot of babies in the camps...the situation is not good at all," she said, describing the refugee settlements as "very stressing."

Ms. Chan, who is also a teacher and writer, said the children were innocent victims of last year's turmoil and that it was important some people speak up for them. "I remember when the UNICEF Committee asked me to become the Goodwill Ambassador to East Timor," the singer recalled. "The Committee said there were very small voices in the world that needed to be heard and asked if I would like to join in lending support to their cause. I replied 'Yes, of course, I would like to join you.'"

As for the possible role that neighboring Asian nations like Japan - where Ms. Chan is a major pop star - could play in East Timor's future, the artist said: "I think the kind of country or identity the East Timorese will choose depends on themselves. They deserve their dignity and independence." However, she said, there is a need to educate the public to think for themselves, a pre-requisite to nation-building. "But this is a process that I hope will really liberate the hearts of the East Timorese from the long years they have suffered."



**UN CivPol 24 HOUR
Emergency Number in Dili
(mobile) 0408039978**

CORAL: 'THE RAINFORESTS OF THE OCEANS'

East Timor has extensive coral reefs. The reefs are important fishery and nursery areas and provide protection to coastlines from erosion and even sand for beaches. One of the most diverse and fragile ecosystems, coral reefs are often referred to as the 'rainforests of the oceans'. In the future, coral reefs may also prove to be very important economically to East Timor as tourist attractions. However, the reefs in East Timor are showing increasing signs of stress, particularly along the northern coastline.

BE AWARE:

- buying and selling of coral including "dead" coral is **ILLEGAL**
- collecting of coral from the reef is **ILLEGAL**
- destruction and degradation of coral reefs is **ILLEGAL**
- anyone engaged in the above activities is liable to face a substantial **FINE**

And please remember, coral belongs in the sea not in your house or office as decoration!

For further information on this or any other environment issue, please contact the UNTAET Environmental Protection Unit on ext. 5335 or visit its office in "tent city" behind the Governor's House.



Photos: UNTAET-OCPI



**RADIO
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- News in Portuguese at 8 a.m. and 7 p.m.
- News in Bahasa Indonesia at 8:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.



Sports News

Tennis: Mary Pierce won the French Open tournament after defeating Spanish rival Conchita Martinez while on the men's side, Gustavo Kuerten of Brazil won his second French tennis title after beating Swede Magnus Norman in a five-set final.

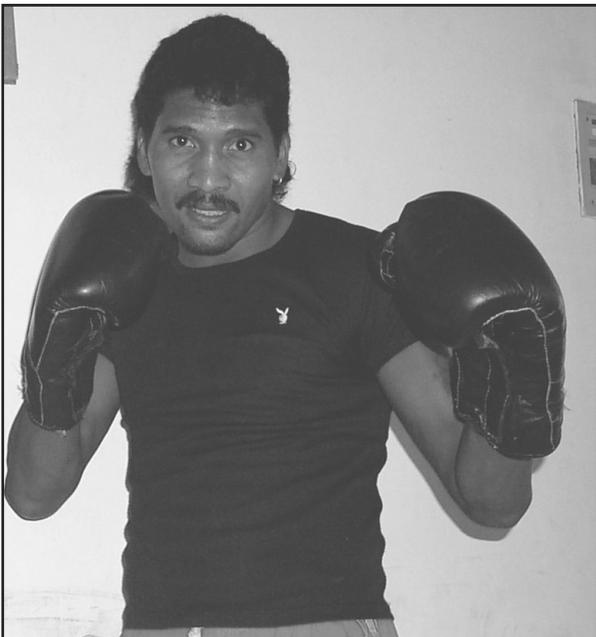
Basketball: The Los Angeles Lakers won their 12th championship, beating the Indiana Pacers 4-2 in the best-of-seven series. Center Shaquille O'Neal scored 41 points in the title-clinching game and was named "Most Valuable Player" of the series.

Euro 2000: The tournament kicked off on 10 June, when Belgium won their first game in Group B action against Sweden, 2:1, while Italy beat Turkey, 2:1. In other games, Germany tied Romania, 1:1, while Portugal beat England, 3:2, in Group A. Group C matches saw Norway down Spain, 1:0 and Slovenia play to a 3:3 draw with Yugoslavia. Meanwhile, France shutout Denmark, 3:0 and the Netherlands whitewashed the Czech Republic, 1:0.

France and Holland qualified for second round with identical 3:0 victories over the Czech Republic and Denmark, respectively. Group A qualifiers

include Portugal, which beat Romania, 1:0, on a final minute goal. England kept its hopes alive by putting down Germany with the lone goal scored by Shearer.

Transfer market: Raul Gonzalez and Roberto Carlos signed new contracts with Real Madrid to play another five years. Currently Raul is reportedly the highest paid player, receiving 4 million pounds a year. Madrid is also reportedly in negotiations with Roberto Pirez offering him a move after he was previously linked with Arsenal. Fiorentina is reported to be interested in Slovenian international skipper Zlatko Zahovic, after signing Fatih Terim from Galatasaray...Hakan Sukur is in the process of negotiating his move to Inter Milan, while Lazio is reported to have a strong link with Barcelona's Portuguese midfielder, Luis Figo, and is ready to pay 30 million pounds for his move...After signing Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink, Middlesbrough also paid a 3 million pound transfer fee for signing Clarence Seedorf away from Real Madrid. The squad also spent 6 million pounds to bring on Chris Sutton from Chelsea...Meanwhile, Aston Villa is reported to be in negotiations to move French international midfielder David Ginola from Tottenhamhotspur for a price of 3 million pounds. Spurs' manager George Graham is hoping Ginola will stay and help him fight against Man United and Arsenal next season.



Photos: UNTAET-OCPI

Olympics: International Olympic Committee (IOC) Vice-President Kevan Gosper arrived in Dili on 17 June to help establish East Timor's Olympic Committee and to identify potential candidates to compete in the Sydney Games.

Accompanying Mr. Gosper was Pere Miro, director of Olympic Solidarity. The two sports representatives were warmly welcomed by East Timor Olympic Committee Chairman Jose Ramos Horta.

"We have already identified Victor Ramos as a potential starter in the Sydney Games," Mr. Miro said. "Identifying an athlete who can move up to Olympic competition so quickly is very difficult."

Mr. Miro said that he hoped to be able to identify "three or four [athletes] to build up around that group as a squad. We've already got an agreement in principle with the Australian Institution of Sport (AIS) to assist us and we hope to have Mr. Ramos on a plane within days. The IOC will fund all that through a scholarship program."

Mr. Gosper added that the IOC was prepared to provide immediate funds to re-roof the heavily destroyed public sports gymnasium in Dili.

Olympic hopeful Victor Ramos (left) was a medalist in the Asian Games and the Southeast Asian Games. Below, some of the athletes and their coaches who have been invited to train in Australia prior to the Sydney Olympic Games, which begin 15 September. Only two of the athletes will actually compete in the Games. Lower right, marathon runner Aguida Amaral in training.



Tiu answers questions about... The plight of refugees

Dear readers: Last September when the violence broke out following the 30 August vote more than half of the Timorese who were forced to flee ended up in West Timor, many against their will. Many of the refugees have returned to East Timor. But thousands remain in refugee camps on the other side of the border. Their continuing plight bothers many of my young friends, and we discussed it recently. Listen in:

Friends: Hello Katuas, diak ka la'e?

Tiu: Good thanks, but what's up with you this time?

Joao: Well Tiu, I guess you know that if we're here, it means we'd like to talk. Have you the time?

Tiu: Of course, I'll make it for all of you.

Gracia: Tiu, to be more specific, we would like to know something about what's happening with the refugees in West Timor.

Aluci: Yeah, how many people went over to West Timor and how many are still there?

Tiu: The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and international agencies say anywhere from 150,000 to 280,000 people went to West Timor. Those same organizations say that about 90,000 people are still there. The Indonesian Government, however, cites a figure of about 126,000.

Joao: How are living conditions in West Timor, especially regarding food, health, and shelter?

Tiu: Well my friend, refugees in West Timor are living in very difficult conditions, but they vary from site to site. Some refugees are renting houses, even running small businesses, but others are living with families in only bamboo huts. The situation for many got worse during the heavy flooding in May. Many had their huts and their possessions washed away. More than 20 refugees drowned.

Aluci: What do they eat Tiu?

Tiu: A small rice ration is issued to each family, but there are difficulties, and sometimes not everyone gets it regularly.

Refugees also receive free care at health posts and hospitals, but in places like Betun, which was badly hit by the floods, a lot of the clinics were destroyed so now the Church and doctors are treating patients in makeshift housing.

Gracia: Wow, it sounds terrible. But Tiu, why don't they just come back to Timor Lorosa'e and resume life back home.

Tiu: Well Gracia, you know as well as I do

that it's not as simple as that. For starters, some of the refugees are militia members and others former civil servants. They remain somewhat hesitant to return.

Adding to all this is an outright intimidation and misinformation campaign in the refugee camps. It leaves some with the sense that East Timor is in chaos and a frightening place to be.

Gracia: But Tiu that's not accurate!

Tiu: Of course not, Gracia. Our friends and families need reliable and honest information about conditions here in Timor Lorosa'e and they need assurances that they would be safe if they chose to return, and that they would be able to earn a living, give their kids an education and have adequate health care.

Many of them are also waiting for local leaders who went with them to West Timor to give them reassurances that the time is right for them to return home.

We can all help those that want to come back by telling them what exactly is happening here. For example, guys, send letters and photos to them through organizations such as UNHCR, the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Show them conditions have improved.

Liza: But Tiu, a lot of us have already done such things. So why do so many refugees continue to stay there?

Tiu: Well, as I said before, there is still a lot of intimidation and misinformation occurring. We just have to be patient and trust that in time, all those who want to return will become better informed and will return. That process is happening, if only slowly.

Liza: Now Tiu, what about those refugees who had migrated to other Indonesian provinces? How many of them have been repatriated?

Tiu: I'm sorry, I can't really say that I know. But overall, the total number of people who've been repatriated to East Timor stands at more than 160,000.

Aluci: Tiu, have any militia members been

repatriated to East Timor? And how was the reintegration process?

Tiu: Well sure, many of them have come back. Some of them were easily reintegrated into the community when it was found that they had not committed any crimes. But for those who were suspected of taking part in some of the violence and killings, they've been taken by the UN Civilian Police (CivPol) and are being held in detention centers.

Joao: Then Tiu, how are those people going to be reintegrated into society?

Tiu: Joao, the best way to support the reconciliation process in Timor Lorosa'e is for communities to be informed ahead of time about the possible difficulties returnees might have with reintegrating into society.

Communities are encouraged to talk about whether the returnees committed any crimes and involve CivPol, human rights groups, the church, NGOs and UNTAET officials as well.

Nevertheless, there have been some who were rejected by the community or were attacked and harassed by others. That's not good, as you kids know two wrongs don't make a right.

Gracia: Tiu do you have any information regarding the living conditions of refugees once they return from West Timor?

Tiu: Virtually all of them get some help with the transition. Most returnees come with few possessions, but they receive food, shelter and other assistance on their arrival. Vulnerable individuals receive special assistance.

Anyway my friends, I have to run, but we should talk again sometime soon. It's always a pleasure.

Friends: Obrigado barak, Tiu. We always enjoy talking to you as well. Bye!



A pair of brothers reunited at the monthly family gatherings in Batugade on the East Timor-West Timor border.

Photo: UNTAET-OCPI



The name Tais Timor conjures the image of the careful, time-honoured process that goes into making the traditional Timorese cloth used in all important life events. As the different "ingredients" that make up East Timor come together during the transitional period to rebuild the country, Tais Timor aims to record and reflect those events that weave the beautiful tapestry that is Timor Lorosa'e.

A bi-weekly public information service of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET). Published in Tetun, Indonesian, Portuguese and English. Written, edited and designed by the UNTAET Office of Communication and Public Information (OCPI). Circulation 75,000. UNTAET-OCPI, c/- PO Box 2436, Darwin NT 0801, Australia. Tel: +61- 8- 8942-2203 Fax: +61-8-8981-5157 email: untaet-ocpi@un.org Not an official document. For information purposes only.