

## WORLD BRIEFS

### ZIMBABWE THROWS OUT ELECTION MONITORS

HARARE, Zimbabwe (PANA) - Zimbabwe earlier this week threw out some Kenyan and Nigerian election observers in a European Union team on suspicion they were working for former colonial power, Britain, which it has barred from monitoring next weekend's parliamentary polls. President Robert Mugabe, saying Britain was an interested party in the polls because of its open support for the opposition; last month barred London from sending an observer team for the June 24-25 parliamentary elections. "We will welcome any observer team as long as they don't include a single Briton," he told Don McKinnon, the visiting Commonwealth secretary general. Government officials said 10 Kenyans and seven Nigerians had been denied accreditation because it had been discovered they were representing Britain and not the EU. The UN pulled out of Zimbabwe's election process last month after the government refused it permission to co-ordinate the activities of all foreign observers. More than 16,000 election observers have been deployed in the country to monitor the polls.

### UEMOA EXPERTS MEET IN OUAGADOUGOU

OUAGADOUGOU, Burkina Faso (PANA) - The statutory committee of experts from the eight-nation West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) began a five-day meeting in Ouagadougou earlier this week to prepare the agenda for its second annual council of ministers to be held June 28 to June 29 in Dakar, Senegal. The experts will examine draft laws on the application of royalties, the public finance management transparency code and the reform of public markets. They would also discuss the issue of contributions to a fund for the establishment of a regional food security program, joint health projects and a program for the development of telecommunications. The first meeting of the UEMOA council of ministers was held in Ouagadougou May 30-31. UEMOA is composed of Benin, Burkina, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo.

### FIRST TOLLGATE IN MOZAMBIQUE OPENS

MAPUTO, Mozambique (PANA) - Mozambique's first tollgate opened Monday at Moamba, about 60 km north-west of Maputo, on the motorway linking Maputo and the South African town of Witbank. An official of Trans Africa Concessions, a French consortium building the road, said the toll for light vehicles is 33,000 meticais or 15.2 South African rands (slightly more than two US dollars). Small trucks with two axles will be charged 81,000 meticais or 38 rands. The toll on trucks with three or four axles is 162,000 meticais or 76 rands. The highest toll is for heavy trucks with five or more axles — 242,000 meticais or 114 rands. However, cheaper rates would be offered to motorists resident in Moamba district, and for passenger vehicles plying the Maputo-Moamba-South Africa route, according to road construction sources. The last tollgate to be built between Maputo and Matola is highly controversial because motorists who live in Matola and work in the capital or vice versa will have to pay a toll.

### KENYAN SEAMEN TO TRAIN LOCALLY

NAIROBI, Kenya (PANA) - Kenya will soon start training its seamen locally instead of sending them overseas, it has been officially announced. The government has appointed a director for the mariners' training program to be conducted at the Mombasa-based Bandari College. College principal Jacqueline Kahumba said trainees would have to meet international standards for certification. The state-run Bandari College will award graduates certificates recognized by the International Marine Organization. Kenyan marine officials say that more than 6,000 seamen in the country have been rendered jobless due to lack of the vital standard certification and watch-keeping certificates. The IMO insists on mandatory training of seamen in order to uplift the standards of shipping and safety of life at sea world-wide. "The government has already appointed a director who is expected to oversee the training. Instructors for the course, who were trained at the institution by South Africa's IMO experts last July, are also ready," she added. The National Seamen Union of Kenya has expressed delight at the government's decision to gazette training regulations.

## INTERNATIONAL

### Ex-Mobutu general-turned-rebel dies

KIGALI, Rwanda (AP) — Celestin Ilunga, a former general in Zairian dictator Mobutu Sese Seko's army who later joined Congolese rebels has died, a rebel spokesman, said Saturday. His age was not immediately available.

Kin-Kiey Mulumba said Ilunga died of heart failure in South Africa on Thursday. He was recently appointed "defense minister" in the Congolese Rally for Democracy, the Rwandan-backed rebel group that controls most of eastern Congo.

Ilunga, who underwent

military training in the United States, was not prominent in the rebel army ranks and tried to distance himself from the rebels' close ties with Rwanda.

Ilunga was considered one of the best-educated army cadres under Mobutu and served as the interior minister in what was then called Zaire and has since been re-named Congo. He was known to have close ties with UNITA rebels in Angola during the more than two decades of cooperation between Mobutu and UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi.

Ilunga was a senior official in the Zairean Armed Forces that fought to defend Mobutu's regime against Rwandan-backed rebels led by now President Laurent Kabila. Mobutu was overthrown in May 1997 and died several months later.

After falling out with the Rwandans, Kabila enlisted the support of Rwandan Hutu soldiers and militia responsible for the 1994 genocide in Rwanda.

The alliance drew Rwanda back into the Congo in August 1998 in support of rebels seeking to oust Kabila.

Ilunga joined the anti-Kabila rebellion last year, but remained isolated, mainly because of his reluctance to cooperate with the Rwandan army. Rwandan military officials, for their part, were suspicious of Ilunga's links with a

network of former Mobutu cronies living in exile in South Africa, France and Belgium.

Mulumba said Ilunga would be "temporarily laid to rest" in South Africa, until he could be buried in the Congolese capital, Kinshasa.

He is survived by a large family.

### South Africa prepares to sign trade accord with Brazil

JOHANNESBURG (IPS) — South Africa is preparing to sign an accord with Brazil that will lay the basis for a free trade area between the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) and Mercosur, the Latin American free trade area.

SACU consists of South Africa, Botswana, Namibia,

Lesotho and Swaziland.

The union is a liberalized sub-regional arrangement, whereby cross-border trade is organized in such a way that tariff and duties are collected into a common pool and distributed among the five member states. This is done according to a formula weighted in favor of the

smaller economies.

S.A.'s trade and industry minister, Alec Erwin, is to visit Brazil next month to prepare for the signing of a framework that will lay the groundwork for the start of free trade negotiations.

A delegation of trade officials from the SA trade and industry department will visit

Brazil next week to prepare for Erwin's July visit to that country.

Brazilian foreign minister, Luiz Lampeira, visited SA in March this year, testing the waters for free trade talks between S.A. and Brazil.

"Information has already (See Trade, Page 13)

### Clinton praises Horn of Africa pact

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton said the agreement by Ethiopia and Eritrea to cease hostilities in their border war is a "breakthrough" and he hopes the two countries can "realize their potential in peace instead of squandering it in war."

The accord reached Sunday in Algeria after more than two weeks of talks does not bring a definitive end to the 25 months of fighting that has left thousands of dead in the Horn of Africa.

It does allow a reprieve while negotiators delineate the bitterly disputed frontier.

"This is a breakthrough which can, and should end the tragic conflict in the Horn of Africa," Clinton said in a statement Sunday. "It can, and should permit these two countries to realize their potential in peace, instead of squandering it in war."

The president said he hopes their agreement to end the fighting "also signals their commitment to build the peace."

Ethiopia and Eritrea should use the next round of talks to produce "a final, comprehensive, lasting agreement, so they can get on with the work of pursuing democracy and development for their people," Clinton said.

"Ethiopia and Eritrea are America's friends. If they are ready to take the next step, we and our partners in the international community will walk with them."

Clinton said he has asked his special envoy to the talks, former national security adviser Anthony Lake, to return to Algiers to work with the Organization of African Unity, which mediated the accord, on the next round of negotiations.



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