

## WORLD BRIEFS

### MILK PRODUCTION IN KENYA DECLINED BY OVER 60% LAST YEAR

NAIROBI, Kenya (PANA)-Dairy farmers in Kenya's Rift Valley province earned 2.8 billion Kenyan shillings (about \$38 million) from milk sales last year. According to a provincial agriculture and livestock production report released, a total of 9,182,783 kg of milk was delivered to various processing plants in the province compared to 23,912,557 kg in 1999, reflecting a drop of 61.6 percent. The report says milk delivered to private dairy plants dropped by 42.6 percent during the year due to reduced supply occasioned by drought and stiff competition from raw milk hawkers. During the year, 17 private dairy plants in the province processed a total of 36,523,257 kg of milk compared to 64,050,197 kg the previous year. The amount of milk sold during the year was estimated at 142,365,386 kg worth 2,135,480,790 Kenyan shillings (about \$1.8 million)-3.2 percent more than in 1999. The report, released by the Rift Valley Provincial Director of Agriculture Daniel Nyasani says milk sold for Ksh12 per kg in rural areas compared to Ksh22 per kg in urban centers. The total amount of milk sold in the year 2000 was about 188,671,426 kg compared to 225,283,319 kg in 1999 reflecting a decline of 16.2 percent.

### IMMUNIZATION URGED FOR HIV POSITIVE CHILDREN

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (PANA)-South Africa's Western Cape Health Department called for all children, even if HIV positive, to be immunized against major, vaccine-preventable diseases. "Immunization remains the cornerstone of child health and no child should be denied the benefit of it," read the core message of an Immunization Awareness Campaign at the start of the National Immunization Week running concurrently with the Child Week. The operation is in line with a World Health Organization (WHO) recommended immunization schedule whereby children are routinely vaccinated against diseases like tuberculosis, diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, poliomyelitis, measles, haemophilus influenza type B and hepatitis B. The country's Health Department, in conjunction with provincial departments, also runs an expanded program on immunization using vaccines of the highest quality. Many parents believe that immunization is not recommended for HIV positive children, and some think that infectious diseases are just a normal part of growing up. The Western Cape Health Department insists that many childhood diseases such as polio have almost been eradicated and measles largely eliminated, immunization nonetheless forms the basic foundation of child health.

### MALARIA KILLS 2,500 PEOPLE EVERY YEAR IN NIGER

NIAMEY, Niger (PANA)-Health authorities in Niger have affirmed that malaria kills about 2,500 people every year in the country. According to Malaria Program Coordinator Ibrahim Ousmane, an average of 17 people die every day at peak periods of the epidemic (rainy season). The health care official explained that children aged between 0 and 9 were the most vulnerable, since their bodies have not yet developed the substance resilient to malaria. According to Dr. Ousmane, Niger is divided into three malaria zones: the hyper-endemic zone in regions bordering the Niger river where the level of transmission is very high, the central zone where the level of transmission is average and the hypo-endemic zone where the level of transmission is somewhat low. In Niger, malaria is an endemic disease with 850,000 cases reported in health centers and about 2 million people infected every year throughout the country. The country spends an average 7 billion francs CFA (\$9.3 million) on malaria drugs every year, corresponding to 20,000 FCFA (\$26) for each malaria case. "This year, we have set up a training program costing about 15 million FCFA (about \$20,000) for 300 agents who shall work all over the country," said Dr. Ousmane. Within the framework of the "one child one mosquito net" creed launched by President Mamadou Tandja, Dr. Ousmane adds that his service was trying to "have 100,000 mosquito nets by the end of the year," and presently had acquired 50,000. Moreover, an emergency plan has been set up with the objective of providing health care centers with the drugs to fight malaria epidemics.

## INTERNATIONAL

# Woes mount for Trinidad, Tobago's leaders

By Peter Richards

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad (IPS)-It's turning out to be a hot summer for Prime Minister Basdeo Panday and his ruling United National Congress.

Already beset by legal challenges to its parliamentary majority, the UNC is now embroiled in infighting, with one minister publicly accusing some of his colleagues of plotting to undermine Panday and another threatening to leave the Cabinet.

At the same time, labor unions and civil society groups are gearing up to protest alleged corruption.

Infrastructure Minister Carlos John says fellow ministers are "planting information" in the news media as part of a "concerted plot to undermine Mr. Panday in the Cabinet."

John says the conspiracy



BASDEO PANDAY

began during the UNC's bitter primary election earlier this year. Political observers say his outburst could not have been made without Panday's blessings.

"One can clearly see from the pronouncements in the press by certain members of the Cabinet, that they've been flexing their muscles. Certain members of the Cabinet

are not hiding the fact that they are now power-hungry," John says without naming the individuals. "They know themselves."

Other senior members of the Panday Cabinet have sought to distance themselves from John's outburst but one newspaper, quoting reliable sources, claimed that Panday was in moves with opposition leader Patrick Manning to amend the Constitution to allow the Prime Minister to become the country's first executive president.

Both Panday and Manning have publicly denounced the article. Panday, at a recent news conference, went so far as to ask reporters what measures should be taken against journalists who write "lies, half truths and innuendoes."

Manning has held discussions with the Media Association of Trinidad and To-

bago on the issue, saying that the article was "mischievous" and that "a sinister plot" was being unfolded.

Meanwhile, Panday's troubles show no sign of letting up.

He has declined to provide Attorney-General Ramesh Lawrence Maharaj with a copy of a forensic report into alleged corruption at the state-owned oil company Petrotrin.

The report, done by the London-based Integrated Security Systems, spoke of officials maintaining Swiss bank accounts and luxury homes in Europe.

Maharaj has sought to downplay the issue but confirmed that he was seeking legal advice to determine whether he had any legal recourse in the matter.

Political infighting may (See Trinidad, Page 17)

## Home video industry booming in Nigeria

LAGOS, Nigeria (AP) - The film set is somebody's living room, rented out for the day. There are stains on the rug, beer bottles on the table, and three actors on the couch, sweating in the afternoon heat.

Somewhere outside a generator is sputtering away, struggling to provide electricity to a camcorder and two bright stage lights that keep growing dim.

"We had to hire a generator, but as you can see, it's not quite in order," 32-year-old producer Larry Agoha notes grimly before leaning

into the ear of a friend to ask for help.

"Hey, if you've got electricity, can we can we shoot some scenes at your house tomorrow?"

Despite power outages, low budgets and ailing equipment, the art of filmmaking is booming in the West African nation of Nigeria - but not up on the big screen.

With only a few dozen movie theaters in a country of 120 million - and none in the commercial capital, Lagos, Africa's largest city, filmmakers are reaching audiences the only way they

can: on home video.

"We don't have any multiplex cinemas, so if you want to watch a movie here, you've got to watch it on video cassette," says director Mahmood Ali-Balogun.

Nigerians give different reasons for the country's poor cinematic infrastructure.

Some say a 1970s government plan to encourage Nigerian films - by discouraging imports - inadvertently killed many theaters. Others say the proliferation of VCRs simply provided a cheap alternative to big movie houses.

For filmmakers in Nigeria

today, that's just as well.

Few can afford to shoot on the costly 35 mm film normally shown at large cinemas, preferring digital video cameras instead that are relatively cheap and simple to operate.

"You don't need any special skills to work a camcorder. Anybody can just pick one up and start shooting," Ali-Balogun says.

And a lot of people have.

Hordes of fledgling producers have tried their hands at the trade, filling video store shelves with low-budget Ni-

(See Video, Page 15)

## Zimbabwe's Mugabe lashes out at United States

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP) - President Robert Mugabe lashed out Saturday at the United States and other Western nations he said were planning racist and punitive sanctions against his government because of its seizures of white-owned farms.

"What is our crime? Our crime is that we are black and in America blacks are a condemned race," Mugabe told a ceremony honoring black guerrillas of the bush war that ended white rule of Zimbabwe in 1980.

On Aug. 1, the U.S. Senate approved a bill offering a wide-ranging aid package to the southern African nation on the condition it ends government-endorsed violence and intimidation.

The bill also urged President Bush to consult with Eu-

ropean Union countries, Canada and other nations on possible sanctions against Zimbabweans responsible for the "deliberate breakdown of the rule of law, politically motivated violence, and intimidation in Zimbabwe."

The bill still has to be approved by the U.S. House of Representatives.

Mugabe called the Senate action an affront to Zimbabwe's sovereignty.

"We will never revert to be a colony by remote control by the United States," Mugabe said.

He said his government was acting in fairness by demanding land "from the kith and kin of the God-chosen Anglo-Saxons who only yesterday condemned us as slaves."

"These Anglo-Saxon big-

ots glibly use the language of democracy to duck their colonial responsibilities," he said.

He condemned white farmers in Zimbabwe who supported foreign sanctions.

"We will proceed with land reform with or without their cooperation, with or without sanctions. Let that be known here and abroad, let farmers tell their constituencies overseas," Mugabe

said. "We will not budge on this question."

On Friday, 21 white farmers were denied bail after their arrest Monday on charges of attacking black squatters and ruling party militants who had occupied white land in the Chinhoyi corn and tobacco district, 70 miles northwest of Harare.

Addressing about 6,000 supporters at the Heroes Acre, (See Zimbabwe, Page 16)

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