

International

Coconut oil possible cure for AIDS!

MANILA, Dec 28: A Philippine legislator asked the government today to allocate funds to boost research on the use of coconut oil as possible cure for the virus that causes AIDS, reports Reuter.

Congressman Ramon Bagatsing urged the health and the science and technology departments to pursue the findings of US-based biochemist Mary Ening that the fatty acid monolaurin in coconut oil could kill the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

HIV causes Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS).

"We are duty bound to support more research into Dr Ening's discovery, not only because of the increasing number of Filipinos threatened by the HIV, but also because we are among the world's top producers of coconut oil", said Bagatsing, former chairman of the committee on science and technology in the house of representatives.

In October, Ening told a symposium of Southeast Asian coconut oil producers in Manila that studies had shown that lauric oils might be a suitable supplement in the diet regimens of HIV-infected individuals because of their high lauric acid concentration.

UK urges Zambia to charge or free Kaunda soon

LONDON, Dec 28: Britain on Saturday urged Zambia to quickly charge or release former president Kenneth Kaunda, held in a maximum security jail after his Christmas Day arrest, reports Reuter.

Foreign Office Minister Tony Lloyd added to international criticism levelled at Zambian President Frederick Chiluba for detaining his political rival Kaunda, 73, apparently in connection with an abortive coup attempt two months ago.

Lloyd said in a statement he was "extremely concerned" to hear of the arrest, adding that Britain would continue to "monitor the situation closely."

"The Zambian authorities must complete their investigations with all speed and either charge or release Dr Kaunda," the British minister said.

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said. The Iraqi military probably will lie dormant, and the chance of US military action is remote...

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