

NATIONAL

THE ROUND-UP

King, Queen express condolences to Iran

Their Majesties the King and Queen have sent a condolence letter to Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in response to the earthquakes on Aug 11 that killed at least 250 people.

The earthquakes also injured thousands and flattened villages in the northwest of Iran.

The King said in the letter: "The Queen and I are deeply saddened by the news of the recent earthquake which has caused heavy loss of lives, casualties and severe damage in your country.

"We wish to extend our sincere sympathy and condolences to Your Excellency, and through you, to all those who have suffered loss and bereavement in this natural disaster."

The Royal Household Bureau, which released details of the letter, said their Majesties the King and Queen have sent another condolence letter to the Philippine President Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino in response to severe flooding that struck on Aug 7.

The floods caused many casualties and heavy damage to infrastructure and property in the Philippines.

Court dismisses Jullapat coal case

The Central Administrative Court has dismissed a case against Samut Sakhon governor Jullapat Saengjan that accused him of failing to crack down on illegal coal shipments.

Residents complained illegal coal shipments have polluted the Tha Chin river, and claimed the governor failed

Mercury found in skin creams

Research by consumer groups has found that up to 20% of whitening creams studied are highly contaminated with mercury, which is harmful to humans.

The Foundation For Consumers and the Ecological Alert and Recovery-Thailand (Earth) yesterday released findings of the study after conducting experiments on 47 different kinds of whitening creams sold across the country.

Jutamas Suppradid, a researcher at Earth, said the product with the highest amount of mercury contained 99,070 parts per million of mercury, despite the fact that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) bans the use of the toxic substance in cosmetics. "Mercury is present in a myriad of consumables, but it is extremely difficult to detect," Penchom Saetang, the Earth director, said.

Mercury serves to block the production of melanin, resulting in a fading of the skin colour.

The prolonged use of products containing mercury can lead to inflammation of the liver, kidneys and urinary tract. Some of the products found contaminated were FC Rice Milk Cream, White Rose Sheep Placenta Cream, Best Beauty Pearl Cream and Baby Face Cream. Manufacturers have been told to remove them from the market.