

THE ROUND-UP

Herbal cobra bite antidote developed

SURIN: Kap Choeng Hospital has developed a herbal medicine for use as a substitute for cobra antivenom, the Public Health Ministry announced yesterday.

In a joint study between the hospital and Mahasarakham University, 36 border patrol police officers who had been bitten by cobras were treated with a concoction of the root of *lod thanong daeng* (*Trigonostemon reidioides*), dried betel nut and lime juice.

All of them survived without the use of cobra venom serum, said Dr Satawas Sinprasitkul, director of the hospital.

After that initial research, the hospital conducted additional tests of the herbal medicine on 80 people who had been bitten by cobras and all of these patients survived as well, Dr Satawas said.

Deputy Public Health Minister Surawit Khonsomboon said Kap Choeng Hospital has successfully developed 46 herbal formulae as part of its alternative medicines service.