

# THE CITY

## 10 points

**THE AVERAGE** superiority in IQ for breast-fed infants, according to a Philippines study.

## Kingdom's top young scientists

### DAILY XPRESS

Five researchers will be given cash prizes and trophies at the Young Scientist Awards on August 11. The Foundation for the Promotion of Science and Technology under the Patronage of His Majesty the King selected the five based on their merit.

On August 11, HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn will present the young scientists Bt100,000 in cash and a trophy at a ceremony at the Bangkok International Trade and Exhibition Centre.

### Artiwan Shotipruk

Her research on sub and supercritical fluid technology makes it more environmental-friendly to extract protein from bio-resources.

### Naratip Vittayakorn

Research on lead-free piezoelectric ceramics shows that electronic waste pollution can be cut.

### Satit Saejung

His research pinpoints sufficient conditions for fixed-point iteration schemes in Banach spaces.

### Narattaphol Charoenphandhu

His findings can be applied to improving calcium-fortified tablets and calcium-enriched diet.

### Burin Gumjudpai

He is a pioneer in Schrodinger Equation research.



Winners of this year's Young Scientist Awards beam as they congratulate each other. The awards are granted by the Foundation for the Promotion of Science and Technology under the Patronage of HM the King.

## OUTSTANDING RESEARCH

# SCIENCE PAYS

## Two university professors win award for finding new ways to tackle disease

By Wannapa Phetdee

### DAILY XPRESS

Two professors have won awards as outstanding scientists for research that helps to tackle diseases.

Dr Watchara Kasinrerk of Chiang Mai University and Dr Apiwat Mutirangura of Chulalongkorn University will each receive Bt400,000 and HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn will give them shields of honour at Bitec on August 11.

Watchara has conducted research on the development of technologies for the laboratory production of monoclonal antibodies, which can be used to develop high-performance immunodiagnostic kits for several dis-

eases. He has developed strip tests for the rapid screening of Alpha Thalassemia-1 carriers. They are to be commercially produced by a private company.

### Strip tests

"It is the first Alpha Thalassemia strip test in the world. It is easy and quick to detect. It takes only five minutes and each kit costs only Bt100. Hospitals in Thailand have used the strip test," Watchara says.

Watchara has also created a kit that is used with a complete blood count machine to enumerate CD4+ lymphocytes, a type of white blood cell, for assessing HIV/Aids patients instead of using a flow cytometer.

"My team will develop a kit to test tuberculosis using our monoclonal antibodies," he adds.

### Catching cancer

Apiwat is being honoured for research that discovered Epstein Barr virus (EBV) DNA in the serum of nasopharyngeal carcinoma (NPC) among patients.

He has also found that the unequal rates of spontaneous mutation of the methylation status of endogenous DNA double strand breaks may help explain how cancer genomes, which have genome-wide decreases in DNA methylation levels, mutate faster than normal cells. The mechanism will be important for further research in cancer. "I will continue developing methods of screening cancers, treating cancer using gene therapy and protecting the body from cancer."

## briefly

## Rare gem cheap glass

An uncut diamond claimed to be worth Bt315 million turned out to be a cheap gemstone, a probe revealed yesterday.

Thai Gem and Jewelry Traders Association committee member Somchai Pornjindarak and seven experts officially examined the stone.

"It's Cubic Zirconia, sold at only Bt100 to Bt200," he said.

The stone was snatched by a conman during a discussion with agent Rinlapas Poonyajirapat last week in Bangkok's Don Muang district. She later claimed it was returned.

## Caught for Krathom

Six people were arrested for growing more than 100 Krathom plants in Bangkok's Nong Chok district, police said yesterday. The suspects reportedly confessed to growing the plant for their own consumption. Krathom leaves are used in the "See Khun Roy" narcotic drink popular among youths.

## A helping hand

The government's measures to assist people during these tough times will cut Bt1,000 from monthly expenses for 9.8 million households, a source said yesterday. Cuts in excise for oil began on July 25, while five measures start today. These are the postponement of an increase cooking gas prices, free use of less than 50 cubic metres of water per month, free use of electricity of less than 80 units, free travel on 800 city buses and free travel on third-class railway carriages.

**DAILY XPRESS**

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