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The disease has killed up to 20,000 people over the past 20 years and is known as another “silent killer.” It has expanded from two districts to seven in the North Central provinces’ dry zone, where farming was transformed after the introduction of modern techniques in the 1960s and ’70s. No cases have been detected elsewhere in the country, and research has failed to determine the cause. Some blame the tiny area’s heavy use of pesticides and herbicides. Others believe “unnatural” drinking water, perhaps from lead-containing pipes, could be the source. Villagers have been told to give up fish, alcohol and sweets and drink boiled water. But no one can say definitely of these efforts.

**MANILA:** Pope Francis waded into the global debate on climate change and the environment yesterday, saying in the text of a speech he read to the crowd noted, “Respect for the environment means courage to protect the environment.” His comments came a day after he said, “I don’t know if it is all (man’s fault) but I feel the earth is changing more severely sickened. Elevated cadmium and pesticide residues were detected in urine, the author to determine that they may be a more serious kidney disease, which affects other than those in neighboring countries. It does not reveal cancer.”

**RAJANGARIYA:** It’s midmorning and hundreds of people are squeezed under a banyan tree’s shady canopy to have blood drawn by just three nurses, working as a team for the first time. Others wait outside the dusty rural health center where the WHO report documented raised levels of cadmium and lead in certain patients’ kidneys over time, in combination with other factors such as arsenic. Since no national cadaver transplant program exists, many patients post desperate newspaper ads with their photos and desire to have dialysis machines, forcing most villagers to receive less than the three recommended weekly treatments. Since no national cadaver transplant program exists, many patients post desperate newspaper ads with their photos and desire to have dialysis machines, forcing most villagers to receive less than the three recommended weekly treatments. Since no national cadaver transplant program exists, many patients post desperate newspaper ads with their photos and desire to have dialysis machines, forcing most villagers to receive less than the three recommended weekly treatments. Since no national cadaver transplant program exists, many patients post desperate newspaper ads with their photos and desire to have dialysis machines, forcing most villagers to receive less than the three recommended weekly treatments.