

Coliform in water blamed for jaundice

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Excessive presence of coliform in water is said to be the sole reason behind the jaundice epidemic in Biratnagar, which has already taken five lives in the past two weeks, said the health workers involved in the investigation.

Huge amount of coliform was found when the water distributed by Nepal Drinking Water Corporation was tested. No poison has been reported in the foodstuffs, said food technology and investigation office.

More than 20 patients are

undergoing treatment in various health facilities in Biratnagar at present. They had consumed the contaminated water.

According to public health office, Morang, more than 500 persons were infected with the disease this season.

"Jaundice was found to have spread in the area due to water containing coliform," said public health officer Nawaraj Subba. Hence, we have appealed to people to drink only boiled water and we are trying to find the reason behind the spread of bacteria as well, he said.

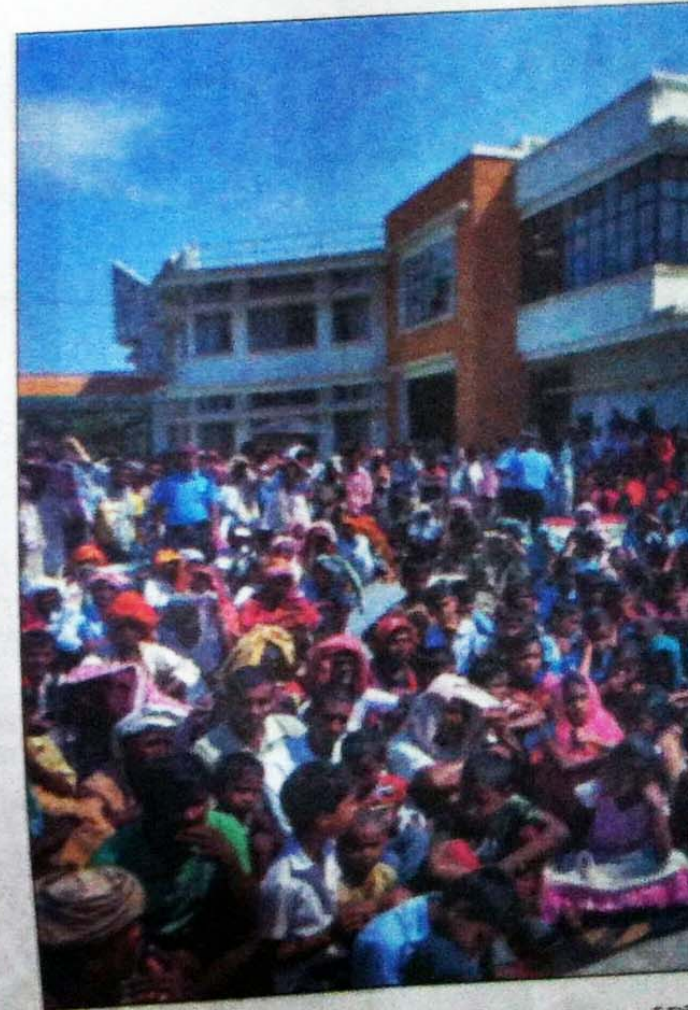
The amount of coliform should be zero for water to

be safe for drinking, but its content is unacceptably high in the water distributed in the area, according to health workers.

We have started discussing dissemination of the disease with health experts. However, the situation has not been too severe, Subba said.

Loss of appetite, nausea, normal fever and feeling of vulnerability, among others, are symptoms of the disease.

In case of delay in treatment and even during treatment patients may die, he added. When a jaundice case worsens, the disease may turn into hepatitis B and E.



Locals participating in the 2nd anniversary of P Siraha, on Monday.

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