

THE ROUND-UP

Corruption tops list of problems

Nearly two-thirds of economists who responded to a recent poll pointed to graft as the country's most serious problem, Bangkok Post said yesterday.

The Bangkok University-based pollster said opinions were sought from 63 economists at 31 leading economic organisations between June 11 and Tuesday.

It reported that 63.5% of respondents thought corruption is the most serious problem as it could lead to an economic crisis if the government fails to act against it. The pollster said 69.9% of the economists also wanted the government to keep a close watch on household debt, and 63.5% pointed to the need to monitor public debt.

The government should give priority to reviewing, changing or revoking its populist policies, they said.

For the rice-pledging scheme, the government should set a clear-cut budget for each harvest year, base the pledging system on market prices, and set up zoning for rice growing areas covered by the scheme, the economists said.