

Thais want new face at FAT

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More than 80 percent of people want a new president of the Football Association of Thailand (FAT), according to an opinion survey.

The poll was conducted by Bangkok University from Oct 10-13 and released yesterday — two days before tomorrow's election of FAT president.

Among the 699 respondents in Bangkok and nearby areas, 80.7 percent want to see changes to Thai football and a new FAT leader.

Tomorrow's election pits incumbent FAT president Worawi Makudi against former national team manager Virach Charpanich.

According to the survey, 83 percent said they would vote for Virach if they

were eligible voters and the other 17 percent preferred Worawi.

However, 52.6 percent believe Thai football is going in the right direction and only 14.3 percent see it in a decline.

Both Worawi and Virach have vowed to take Thailand to their first ever World Cup finals but 64.1 percent of the respondents believe it is an impossible task while 35.9 percent believe it is a possible target.

Asked if Thailand would win the SEA Games gold medal in Myanmar in December, 57.3 percent believe they will get past the first round but do not win gold.

Only 36.5 percent believe they are capable of winning the title having been eliminated in the first round in the previous two tournaments, the pollsters said.