

Senate group shortlists two for NBTC board

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An Upper House committee has shortlisted two prospective candidates for board member posts at the National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission (NBTC), which would increase the number of commissioners to seven in line with its maximum quota.

The two are Apirat Siritaratwat, an engineering lecturer from Khon Kaen University as a candidate in the telecom field, and Pol Gen Nathathorn Prousoontorn, former special adviser of the Royal Thai Police, in the field of law.

The shortlist created by the Secretariat of the Senate's selection committee is scheduled to be forwarded to the Upper House for voting.

The move is in line with the amended NBTC Act, which obliges the selection committee to nominate seven people for the NBTC board. At present, five commissioners are in office.

On Dec 20 last year, the Senate voted in favour of five of the seven prospective candidates put forth by the selection committee to become new NBTC board members.

With five members approved, the new board can start operating in line with the amended NBTC Act, ending months of a decision-making vacuum at the regulator.

A source at the Secretariat of the Senate who requested anonymity said the next step is to wait for the reopening of an ordinary parliamentary session in May, when the Senate will have to set up a panel to scrutinise the two proposed candidates' qualifications.

If they pass this vetting, the two candidates will be voted on by the Senate. If they are approved, they will be royally endorsed, with the process expected to conclude by July, the source said.

An executive at the NBTC who requested anonymity said the five sitting commissioners discussed the vacant position of NBTC



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NBTC EXECUTIVE

secretary-general.

The seat has been vacant since Takorn Tantasith ended his term in September 2020. Deputy secretary-general Trairat Viriyasirikul was named acting chief until the new board appoints the new head.

The NBTC source said the vacant post has hurt NBTC management as it lacks a clear vision and strategy to move ahead.

"It is most likely the existing board will wait for the full seven members before recruiting a new secretary-general," the source said.

According to the source, former commissioner Col Natee Sukonrat has expressed strong interest in the seat and has confidence he will be chosen for the post.

Col Natee has close ties with Torpong Selanon, an incumbent commissioner in the field of people's liberty and rights. Both worked together as commissioners at the National Telecommunications Commission, the former telecom regulatory body before the NBTC was established.

MARKET MONITOR

NUNTAWUN POLKUAMDEE
PORNKAMON TEERAPIBOONKUN



CURTAIN COMES DOWN ON POOR MONTH FOR STOCKS

RECAP: Global shares moved higher yesterday, buoyed by strong Wall Street corporate earnings, but still heading for the worst month in two years.

The SET index moved in a range of 1,655.25 and 1,685.42 points this week before closing yesterday at 1,667.44, down 1.37% from the previous week, in daily turnover averaging 75.68 billion baht.

Foreign investors were net buyers of 3.49 billion baht and retail investors bought 2.11 billion baht. Institutional investors were net sellers of 5.5 billion baht and brokerage firms offloaded 101.82 million baht worth of shares.

NEWSMAKERS: The US economy unexpectedly shrank by 1.4% year-on-year in the first quarter, as a ballooning trade deficit and softer inventory growth belied otherwise solid consumer and business demand.

- Alibaba Group plans to expand its Southeast Asian arm, Lazada, to Europe, two sources familiar with the matter told Reuters, as the Chinese e-commerce company seeks further overseas growth amid slowing opportunities at home.
- Toyota Motor Corp topped its global sales target for the fiscal year ended March 31, with 9.51 units sold, its second-highest annual figure ever.
- Boeing shares tumbled on Wednesday after the aviation giant reported a \$1.2-billion loss in an ugly quarter weighed down by fresh one-time costs on its Russia business, the Air Force One presidential jet and the new

TOP 5 GAINERS AND LOSERS

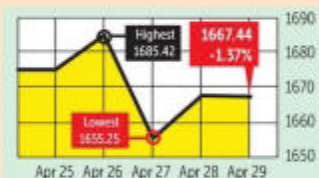
Gainers	Securities	Closing price	Change
+	SCB	112.50	58.45%
+	TIPH	65.50	25.74%
+	SAWANG	12.00	20.00%
+	JUTHA	1.47	18.55%
+	UWAN	9.85	17.26%

Losers	Securities	Closing price	Change
-	THG	64.25	-35.10%
-	FE	188.00	-25.58%
-	NCAP(XAO)	8.35	-25.39%
-	AS	18.20	-21.89%
-	RAM	53.25	-17.00%

As of Thursday

*New Listing

BANGKOK POST GRAPHICS



* From the previous week

BANGKOK POST GRAPHICS

777X plane.

- Elon Musk and Twitter reached an agreement for the world's richest man to buy the social networking platform for US\$44 billion, resolving the pressing question of whether the company's board would consent to the leveraged buyout deal.
- In the face of a pandemic that appears to be receding and the highest US inflation in four decades, Amazon.com posted its slowest growth in years and its first quarterly loss since 2015.
- Facebook parent Meta on Wednesday reported better profit than expected in the recently ended quarter, calming investors worried about the toll of competition from TikTok and eased pandemic restrictions.
- Indonesia imposed a ban on all palm oil exports on Thursday, as the world's largest producer risked destabilising a global vegetable oil market already hitting peak prices.
- The Fiscal Policy Office has downgraded its 2022 growth forecast to an average of 3.5% from 4.0%, mainly because of the Ukraine crisis and its effect on domestic energy prices.
- It's time for reviving the economy to take precedence over injecting money into Covid relief programmes, Finance Minister Arkhom Termpitayapaisith said on Monday.
- Household debt has reached a 14-year high of 217,000 baht on average and totalled 14.58 trillion baht, equivalent to 90.1% of GDP, at the end of 2021, the University of the Thai Chamber of Commerce reported.
- Despite truckers' anger, diesel prices in Greater Bangkok will rise above the 30-baht cap to 32 baht per litre tomorrow, the government says, as it can no longer afford subsidies.
- Commerce Minister Jurin Laksanawisit has blocked an attempt by instant noodle makers to raise prices on the back of higher production costs.
- Thai exports remain robust, with the dollar value reaching a 30-year high in March, resulting in 14.9% year-on-year growth in the first quarter of 2022.
- Factory output unexpectedly dipped in March as higher inflation started to affect industry,

while the Russia-Ukraine war remains a key risk, the Industry Ministry said on Thursday.

- More than 1,000 new factories, mostly in the food industry, have been established over the past six months with investment worth 56.3 billion baht, a sign the domestic economy is slowly recovering, says the Department of Industrial Works.
- The National Rice Policy Committee has approved a budget of 1.92 billion baht for crop insurance for the main crop of the 2022 season.
- The Tourism Authority of

Thailand is maintaining its target for foreign arrivals at 300,000 visitors per month, even as the low season approaches, before gaining momentum at end of this year.

- Authorities say Thailand is on track to regain its spot as a top tourist destination, with a goal of earning 1.5 trillion baht this year after the elimination of PCR tests on arrival and the Test & Go scheme from May 1.
- The Thailand Pass registration system, widely criticised by the travel industry, could be scrapped on June 1 if improving Covid trends continue. Tourists would only need their TM6 immigration form for vaccine declaration, authorities say.
- Covid-19 screening for fully vaccinated visitors in Phuket will be lifted from tomorrow, the island province's governor said.



- The new board of the National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission (NBTC) has set up four subcommittees to study the planned merger of the mobile businesses of True Corporation and Total Access Communication (Dtac).

COMING UP: Germany and the US will release April manufacturing PMI on Monday. The Reserve Bank of Australia will announce the results of its rate meeting on Tuesday. Also due Tuesday are German unemployment for April, US job openings and British manufacturing PMI.

- New Zealand will release first-quarter employment data on Wednesday and Australia will release March retail sales. The US will release April nonfarm employment and non-manufacturing PMI.
- The US Federal Reserve will announce its interest rate decision on Thursday. Due the same

day is a Bank of England rate decision. The US and Canada will release April employment data on Friday.

STOCKS TO WATCH: UOB Kay Hian Securities views energy stocks will remain attractive as oil prices remain high and oil companies' first-quarter profits should be good. Top picks are TOP, ESSO, SPRC and BCP. Coal stocks that will benefit from Chinese import tax cuts are BANPU, LANNA and AGE.

SCB Securities recommends stocks with high growth potential and limited impact from external factors, including KBANK, AMATA, I.H, GULF and ADVANC. Beverage stocks set to rise during the summer season are CBG and OSP.

TECHNICAL VIEW: DBS Vickers Securities sees support at 1,640 points and resistance at 1,690. SCB Securities sees support at 1,640 and resistance at 1,718.