

## BRIEFS

### Unis offer business plan prizes

Kasikornbank and Mahidol University are inviting students and new entrepreneurs to submit business plans for prize money of Bt550,000.

Applications are open from now until July 18.

Winning plans must be designed for new businesses whose products must be difficult to imitate. The enterprises must also uphold ethical standards.

The programme is part of KBank's support of SMEs.

A report shows that less than half of SMEs in Thailand survive after three years in business, against 71 per cent in the UK and 65 per cent in the US. Obstacles include access to funding, lack of experience and lack of business management knowledge. Importantly, they lack good planning.

– The Nation