BERNAMA MALAYSIAeBiz
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This Week's Highlight :
MRT: Sungai Buloh-Serdang-Putrajaya Line Next - PM

SG BULOH-KAJANG LINE...The second phase of the 51km Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) Sungai Buloh-Kajang (SBK) line was officially launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak on July 17,2017. -- fotoBERNAMA by Adib Hasri

KUALA LUMPUR -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said the Barisan Nasional (BN) government was now working at embarking on the second Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) route, the Sungai Buloh-Serdang-Putrajaya (SSP) line. "Our focus now is to deliver the second line to the people, the MRT SSP line which will benefit some two million residents from Sungai Buloh to Putrajaya, encompassing Sri Damansara, Kepong, Batu, Jalan Sultan Azlan Shah, Jalan Tun Razak, KLCC, Tun Razak Exchange, Kuchai Lama, Sungai Besi, Seri Kembangan and Cyberjaya", he said in his latest posting on his official blog site, Thursday.

This Week's Top Stories

MONDAY

Geely-Proton Targets China, SEA Markets

TANJUNG MALIM -- The government has targeted the production of about 280,000 units of cars for the China and Southeast Asian markets from the strategic partnership between Zhejiang Geely Holdings Group and Proton Holdings Bhd (Proton). Second Minister of International Trade and Industry Datuk Seri Ong Ka Chuan said Monday, the automotive market in Malaysia was small, where last year's sales of various brands recorded 580,000 units compared to China at 28 million units.

TUESDAY

Malaysia Must Embrace Design Thinking - Najib

KUALA LUMPUR -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak has called on Malaysians, especially the younger generation, to embrace design thinking as part of a collective effort to achieve the aspiration of becoming the top 20 nation in the world by 2050. Design thinking should be embarked on immediately as a small step towards securing incremental increases of the aspiration, which was one of the goals set under the National Transformation 2050, he said at the launch of Genovasi Malaysia Design Thinking Programmes Tuesday.

WEDNESDAY

Electricity Tariff Based On Actual Costs - EC

By Mohd Khairi Idham Amran

KUALA LUMPUR -- Consumers are paying the cost of electricity tariff based on actual costs that are formulated transparently and systematically, the Energy Commission (EC) said. Head of Electricity Pricing Unit, Energy Development and Market Regulatory Department, Marlinda Mohd Rosli said Wednesday, the tariff rate adjustment, which was reviewed under the Imbalance Cost Pass-Through (ICPT) mechanism every six months, was divided into three elements, including costs of supply and capital.

THURSDAY

Palm Oil Exports To Europe Hit RM4.81 Billion

KUALA LUMPUR -- Malaysia exported 1.35 million tonnes of palm oil and palm-based products worth RM4.81 billion to Europe in the first five months of this year, the Dewan Rakyat was told Thursday. Deputy Plantation Industries and Commodities Minister Datuk Datu Nasrun Datu Mansur said the main importers of the country's palm oil and palm-based products in Europe were the Netherlands, Italy and Spain, as palm oil was vastly used in the food and non-food industries there.

FRIDAY

Malaysia's Trade Surplus Widens To RM9.88 Bln

KUALA LUMPUR -- Malaysia's export growth continued to outpace import, with June 2017 trade surplus at RM9.88 billion, marking the 236th consecutive month of trade surplus since November 1997 and the highest surplus since April 2016. In a statement Friday, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) said exports in June 2017 showed a stronger year-on-year growth than imports for the second straight month.

SMEbrief

Tekun Disburses RM4.29 Bln 1H2016

KUALA LUMPUR – The National Entrepreneurial Group Economic Fund (TEKUN Nasional) disbursed financing of RM4.29 billion to 473,982 entrepreneurs from 1998 to Jun 30, 2016. The Auditor General's Report Series One released Monday, revealed that for the same period, repayments recorded just RM2.71 billion (63.2 per cent) and a service charge of four per cent was imposed on the financing amounts.

UEM Urges SMEs To Digitalise Business

By Mohd Noor Azeery Idris

KUALA LUMPUR -- Local companies especially Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) must digitalise their business to grab the opportunities and venture into new markets without borders, and subsequently compete at the global level. UEM Group Bhd Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Datuk Izzaddin Idris said Tuesday, the business model in Malaysia had started to shift from conventional operations to digital as mobile applications were able to smoothen transactions.

Bad Debts Classification Affects Tekun

By Nik Nur Izzatul Hazwani Nik Adnan

KUALA LUMPUR -- The National Entrepreneurial Group Economic Fund (TEKUN Nasional) has clarified that its accumulated losses of RM209 million in 2015 were not due to operating losses, instead as a result of classifying the borrowers' outstanding debts as write-offs. Chairman Datuk Nor Azita Abdul Rahman said Wedesday, in fact, TEKUN Nasional recorded a profit of RM19.5 million in the financial year 2015 before performing the write-offs.

Perak Committed To Helping Micro Entrepreneurs

IPOH -- The Perak government continues to be committed to helping micro entrepreneurs with income of RM200,000 a year to enable them to become middle-class entrepreneurs, said Datuk Samsudin Abu Hassan. The State Committee Chairman for Entrepreneur and Cooperative Development, Consumer Affairs, NGOs and Civil Society, said Thursday, some 80 per cent of 60,000 entrepreneurs in Perak which were still ranked as micro entrepreneurs would be assisted.

CGC Confident Of Achieving 2017 Target

KUALA LUMPUR -- Credit Guarantee Corporation Malaysia Bhd (CGC) is confident of achieving its target of providing 9,500 guarantees valued at RM4.7 billion this year despite recording slightly over 40 per cent below target in the first half of this year. President and Chief Executive Officer Datuk Mohd Zamree Mohd Ishak said Thursday, as at June 30 this year, CGC has guaranteed about 3,100 companies valued at RM1.5 billion.

PropUP

Property *update*

KL Metro To Build Another Hotel In Port Dickson

PORT DICKSON -- Kuala Lumpur Metro Group (KL Metro) has welcomed the state government's offer to build another hotel here. KL Metro Chairman, Datuk Mat Hassan Esa said Monday, the company currently managed three hotels in Port Dickson, namely the Lexis, Grand Lexis and Lexis Hibiscus.

Sime Unit Disposes Of Stake In Seriemas

KUALA LUMPUR -- Sime Darby Bhd's property arm, Sime Darby Property Bhd (SDP), is disposing of its entire 40 per cent stake in Seriemas Development Sdn Bhd to PNB Development Sdn Bhd for RM625 million. In a filing to Bursa Malaysia Tuesday, the group said, the disposal aimed to unlock value through monetisation and opportunistic divestments, adding that it would enable Sime Darby to reduce its borrowings via the proceeds from the proposed disposal.

Sunway Reit To Buy Clio Property For RM340 Mln

KUALA LUMPUR – Sunway Real Estate Investment Trust (Sunway REIT), through its trustee, RHB Trustees Bhd, has entered into a conditional sale and purchase agreement with Sunway Forum Hotel Sdn Bhd to acquire Sunway Clio property for RM340 million in cash. Sunway REIT Management Sdn Bhd, the manager of Sunway REIT, said Thursday, the property, located at Sunway City in Subang Jaya, Selangor, consisted of a 19-storey four-star hotel comprising 401 rooms known as Sunway Clio Hotel, a three-storey retail space with net lettable area of about 8,211 square metres and a multi-storey car park with 732 bays.

SGB To Acquire Klasik Ikhtiar For RM3.5 Mln

KUALA LUMPUR – Spring Gallery Bhd (SGB) has proposed to acquire the entire issued and paid-up share capital of Klasik Ikhtiar Sdn Bhd (KISB) for RM3.5 million to diversify its business into property development. In a filing to Bursa Malaysia Thursday, SGB said, it has obtained its shareholders' approval on April 3 this year to diversify into property development which the board believed would provide another stream of revenue source to complement its existing construction business.

Fajarbaru Launches RM280 Mln Residential Project In Sentul

KUALA LUMPUR --Fajarbaru Builder Group Bhd has launched its maiden residential property project, Rica Residence, with a gross development value (GDV) of RM280 million in Sentul. Its Chairman, Datuk Low Keng Kok said Thursday, the 39-storey tower was scheduled for completion in the first quarter of 2021.

MARKET

BURSA MALAYSIA

Scoreboard

Gainers - 368

Losers - 432

Not Traded - 610

Unchanged - 425

Value - 1472545151

Volume - 14194463

Bursa Malaysia Ends Mixed

KUALA LUMPUR -- Bursa Malaysia ended mixed Friday, with the key index recovering from earlier decline to close at its intraday high, lifted by buying interest in heavyweights. The FTSE Bursa Malaysia KLCI (FBM KLCI) finished at the day's high of 1,774.53, up 2.63 points, after touching an intraday low of 1,770.14 earlier. The market bellwether opened 0.56 of-a-point higher to 1,772.46 against Thursday's close of 1,771.90. On the broader market, losers trounced gainers 432 to 368, with 425 counters unchanged, 610 untraded and 22 others suspended. Volume eased to 1.42 billion units worth RM1.47 billion from 1.75 billion units worth RM1.75 billion on Thursday. The Main Market turnover slipped to 894.50 million shares worth RM1.32 billion from 1.12 billion shares worth RM1.54 billion on Thursday.

FOREX: Ringgit Closes Unchanged Against US Dollar

By Mohd Khairi Idham Amran

KUALA LUMPUR -- The ringgit closed unchanged against the US dollar Friday on lack of catalysts, a dealer said. At 6 pm, the local unit stood at 4.2770/2800 against the greenback, similar to Thursday's close of 4.2770/2800. Inter-Pacific Securities Head of Research, Pong Teng Siew, said the ringgit showed signs of effects from the measures taken by Bank Negara Malaysia last year to stabilise the local unit against the greenback. "It managed to reduce the volatility of the ringgit against the US dollar but the ringgit is locked with the trend of US dollar against other currencies.

If the US dollar weakened against other currencies, the ringgit is also weakened," he told Bernama. The ringgit was closed mostly lower against a basket of major currencies. It fell against the Singapore dollar to 3.1534/1570 from 3.1451/1480 on Thursday and versus the yen, depreciated to 3.8857/8895 from 3.8667/8698 previously. It strengthened against the British pound to 5.6264/6312 from 5.6606/6659 Thursday but eased against the euro to 5.0811/0864 from 5.0657/0705 previously.

Exchange Rate
(Ringgit : Foreign Currency)

	Buying	Selling
USD	4.2770	4.2800
EUR	5.0811	5.0864
GBP	5.6264	5.6312
100 YEN	3.8857	3.8895
SGD	3.1534	3.1570

Source: Bank Negara Malaysia

Short-Term Rates End Steady On BNM's Intervention

KUALA LUMPUR -- Short-term interbank rates closed steady Friday on Bank Negara Malaysia's (BNM) intervention to absorb excess liquidity from the financial system. The liquidity surplus in the conventional system declined to RM27.73 billion from RM35.58 billion in the morning, while in the Islamic system, it fell to RM10.21 billion from RM13.2 billion previously. Earlier, BNM conducted seven money market tenders, comprising four conventionals, a Qard, a Commodity Murabahah Programme and a reverse repo. The central bank also conducted a RM26.9 billion conventional money market tender and a RM10.2 billion Qard money market tender, both for three-day money. The overnight Islamic reference rate stood at 2.96 per cent, while the one-, two- and three-week rates stood at 3.02 per cent, 3.06 per cent and 3.11 per cent, respectively.

KLIBOR Futures Contracts Close Untraded

KUALA LUMPUR -- The three-month Kuala Lumpur Interbank Offered Rate (KLIBOR) futures contracts on Bursa Malaysia Derivatives closed untraded Friday. Spot month August 2017, September 2017, October 2017 and December 2017 remained pegged at 96.54, 96.53, 96.51 and 96.48, respectively. Turnover and open interest remained at nil. At the 11 am fixing, the underlying three-month KLIBOR stood at 3.43 per cent.

KLCI Futures Contracts Close Higher

KUALA LUMPUR -- The FTSE Bursa Malaysia KLCI (FBM KLCI) futures contracts (FKLI) on Bursa Malaysia Derivatives finished higher Friday on renewed buying interest. August 2017 rose six points to 1,775.0, September 2017 went up 4.5 points to 1,774.5, December 2017 increased 3.5 points to 1,774.5 and March 2018 gained five points to 1,772.5. Turnover eased to 2,499 lots from 3,442 lots on Thursday, while open interest fell to 29,122 contracts from 30,059 contracts Thursday. The underlying benchmark FBM KLCI finished 2.63 points higher at 1,774.53.

PBB Founder Teh Hong Piow To Step Down As Chairman

KUALA LUMPUR -- Public Bank Bhd (PBB) Founder Tan Sri Teh Hong Piow would relinquish his position as chairman on Jan 1, 2019, and will then be bestowed the title of Chairman Emeritus. Teh, who established the bank on Dec 30, 1965, will remain the bank's adviser to provide guidance to support the continued growth of PBB and the group, it said in a statement Monday.

AMMB Hopes To Reach Merger Agreement With RHB Bank By Sept

KUALA LUMPUR -- AMMB Holdings Bhd hopes to reach a merger agreement with RHB Bank Bhd and send the papers to the relevant authority by September. AMMB's Group Chief Executive Officer, Datuk Sulaiman Mohd Tahir told reporters Monday, talks were still ongoing and both parties had received exclusive negotiations period from Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) which would end on Aug 31, 2017.

Total Loan Growth Higher In June 2017- BNM

KUALA LUMPUR -- Malaysian banks achieved higher loan growth in June 2017, driven by approvals to businesses, says Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM). In a statement Monday, the central bank said outstanding loans increased to 5.7 per cent in June compared with 5.5 per cent in the previous month.

Bank Rakyat Foundation Launches 'Jom Settle!' Campaign

KUALA LUMPUR -- In conjunction with its 10th anniversary celebration at Bank Rakyat Twin Towers Tuesday, Bank Rakyat Foundation (YBR) launched a "Jom Settle!" Campaign which offers up to 50 per cent discount on full settlement of its education loan. A total of 1,235 graduates who have received YBR Pembiayaan Pendidikan Boleh Ubah' (PPBU) are eligible to participate in this campaign.

Maybank To Continue Hiring Employees

KUALA LUMPUR -- Malayan Banking Berhad (Maybank) will continue hiring employees despite the challenges posed by the global economic uncertainty. Maybank Group Chief Human Capital Officer Nora Abd Manaf told reporters Tuesday, the bank would not resort to massive dismissals despite facing economic pressures, including rising costs.

Public Bank's Islamic Unit Issues RM500 Mln Sukuk

KUALA LUMPUR -- Public Bank Bhd (PBB)'s subsidiary, Public Islamic Bank Bhd (PIBB) has Thursday issued the second tranche of Subordinated Sukuk Murabahah amounting to RM500 million under its Sukuk Murabahah Programme. In a filing to Bursa Malaysia, PBB said the proceeds would be used by PIBB for its working capital, general banking and other corporate purposes, all of which shall be Shariah-compliant.

FAMA Records Sales Of RM6.91 Mln From 'My Best Buy' Programme

SUNGAI BULOH -- The Federal Agricultural Marketing Authority (FAMA) has recorded sales of RM6.91 million from the My Best Buy Programme from January to July this year, its director-general Datuk Ahmad Ishak told Bernama Monday. He said the total amount of sales from the programme since it was launched in 2014, now stood at RM26.21 million.

CIMB Niaga's 1H17 Net Profit Up 87.5 Pct To 1.4 Tril Rupiah

KUALA LUMPUR -- PT Bank CIMB Niaga Tbk's (CIMB Niaga) unaudited consolidated net profit for the first half of 2017 (1H17) grew by 87.5 per cent year-on-year (yoy) to 1.4 trillion rupiah, or an earning per share of 54.92 rupiah. In a filing to Bursa Malaysia Monday, CIMB Group Holdings Bhd said, the improved net profit was supported by an increase in net interest income (NII) of 8.9 per cent yoy to 6.33 trillion rupiah and a 16.9 per cent yoy decline in provision expense.

Palette Multimedia Gets RM18 Mln Cloud Business Contract

KUALA LUMPUR -- Ace market-listed Palette Multimedia Bhd has signed additional contracts to provide Cloud platforms worth RM18 million for House Atlantis and CJSC Gollard, the associate companies of Russia's RKSS Group, it said in a statement Monday. RKSS is one of the largest telecommunication, networking and Cloud system integrators in Russia.

MAHB's Q2 Pre-Tax Profit Surges To RM92.31 Mln

KUALA LUMPUR -- Malaysia Airports Holdings Bhd's (MAHB) pre-tax profit in the second quarter ended June 30, 2017 surged to RM92.31 million from RM17.51 million in the same period last year. In a filing to Bursa Malaysia Monday, the airport operator said, revenue rose to RM1.09 billion from RM997.6 million previously.

Personal Services Industry Generates RM8.1 Bln Gross Output In 2015

KUALA LUMPUR -- Personal services and other activities such as computer repairs and maintenance of personal and household goods generated RM8.1 billion in gross output in 2015. In a statement Tuesday, the Statistics Department said the amount was equivalent to a RM3.4 billion or 11.1 per cent increase per year. It said the report was based on the information compiled by the Economic Census in 2016 on activities in 2015.

Prestariang Unit Gets Contract Extension Worth RM10 Mln

KUALA LUMPUR -- Prestariang Bhd's unit, Prestariang Systems Sdn Bhd (PSSB) received an extended letter of award (LOA) from the Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE) worth RM10 million, to distribute and manage Microsoft software licences for public higher education institutions in Malaysia. Prestariang, in a filing to Bursa Malaysia Wednesday, said the contract extension was for one year, effective July 3, 2017.

IATA: Global Air Freight Demand Grows 10.4 Pct In H1 2017

KUALA LUMPUR -- Global air freight market demand grew by 10.4 per cent in freight tonne kilometres (FTKs) in the first half of this year (H1 2017), compared with the same period last year, said the International Air Transport Association (IATA). It said in a statement Wednesday, demand growth continued to significantly outstrip capacity growth which increased by 3.6 per cent year-on-year (YoY) in available FTKs in the first half of this year.

Mydin Eyes Online Business

KUALA LUMPUR -- Mydin Mohamed Holdings Bhd, the owner of Malaysia's largest hypermarket chain, Mydin, plans to venture into the online business as part of a plan to expand and diversify its business portfolio. Managing Director, Datuk Wira Dr Ameer Ali Mydin told reporters Wednesday, the company was awaiting the right time to launch the initiative.

Malaysia Secures Business Events Worth RM32.7 Mln

KUALA LUMPUR -- Malaysia has won three highly competitive bids to host world class business events which are expected to generate a collective economic impact of RM32.7 million. The winning bids are for the hosting of the World Tunnel Congress (WTC) 2020, the 17th World Congress for Endoscopic Surgery of the Skull Base and Brain (ENDO KL) 2020 and the Congress of the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) 2022, Malaysia Convention & Exhibition (MyCEB) said in a statement. the WTC 2020 was expected to generate RM17.2 million in economic impact with 1,500 delegates; the ENDO KL 2020 (RM8.8 million in economic impact and 900 delegates) and the IBBY 2022 (RM6.7 million in economic impact and 800 delegates).

F&N's Q3 Pre-Tax Profit Falls To RM73.52 Mln

KUALA LUMPUR -- Fraser & Neave Holdings Bhd's (F&N) pre-tax profit for the third quarter (Q3) ended June 30, 2017 fell to RM73.52 million from RM111.77 million in the same quarter a year ago. Revenue eased to RM1.04 billion from RM1.1 billion previously. In a filing to Bursa Malaysia Thursday, F&N said, the lower revenue was mainly due to subdued Hari Raya festive sales amid challenging competitive landscape.

CGC Confident Of Achieving 2017 Target Despite Slower First Half

KUALA LUMPUR -- Credit Guarantee Corporation Malaysia Bhd (CGC) is confident of achieving its target of providing 9,500 guarantees valued at RM4.7 billion this year despite recording slightly over 40 per cent below target in the first half of this year. President and Chief Executive Officer Datuk Mohd

Zamree Mohd Ishak told reporters Thursday, as at June 30 this year, CGC has guaranteed about 3,100 companies valued at RM1.5 billion.

Lazada Malaysia To Expand Automotive Products Range

KUALA LUMPUR -- Lazada Malaysia aims to expand the range of products under its automotive segment within two years, said Chief Executive Officer, Hans-Peter Ressel. He told the media Thursday, there were about one million automotive products currently available on its platform, including oil and fluids as well as accessories, adding, demand for these had been increasing.

MMHE's Q2 Pre-Tax Loss Widens To RM13.45 Mln

KUALA LUMPUR -- Malaysia Marine and Heavy Engineering Holdings Bhd's (MMHE) pre-tax loss in the second quarter (Q2) ended June 30, 2017, slipped further to RM13.45 million from a pre-tax loss of RM821,000 in the same quarter last year. Revenue also shed to RM257.26 million from RM297.44 million previously. For the six-month period, its pre-tax loss expanded further to RM31.06 million from a pre-tax loss of RM6.16 million, while revenue slipped 11 per cent to RM493.1 million from RM 554.2 million previously, it said in a filing to Bursa Malaysia Thursday.

Handal Unit Bags Onshore Crane Overhaul & Repair Services Contract

KUALA LUMPUR -- Handal Resources Bhd's subsidiary, Handal Offshore Services Sdn Bhd (HOSSB), has secured a contract from ExxonMobil Exploration and Production Malaysia Inc. to provide onshore overhaul, major repair and refurbishment services for offshore cranes. The contract works, which commenced on July 27, 2017, was for a three-year period with an option for a one-year extension, said the integrated offshore crane services provider and fabricator in a statement Thursday.

Langkawi Targets RM9 Bln Revenue From Tourism

LANGKAWI -- Langkawi Development Authority (LADA) is targeting a revenue of RM9 billion from tourism by 2020. Its chief executive officer Datuk Azizan Noordin said Thursday, the projection was based on the expected five million tourist arrival this year, an increase from 3.67 million last year.

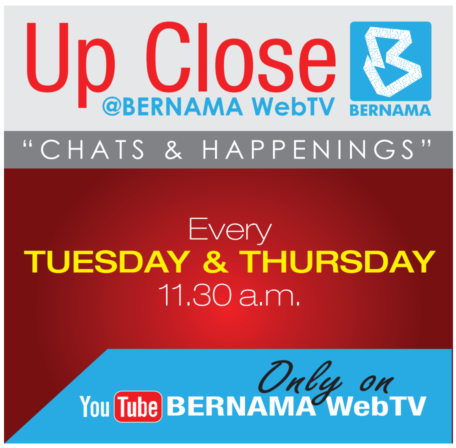
Malaysia-Africa Bilateral Trade To Grow 3-4 Pct In 2017

By Siti Noor Afera Abu

KUALA LUMPUR -- Bilateral trade between Malaysia and Africa is expected to surge about three to four per cent this year due to Malaysia's growing influence and presence in the region. Foreign Ministry Undersecretary for Africa Datuk Abdul Aziz Harun told Bernama, Malaysia's investments in Africa were expanding, while the traditional donor-recipient relations were giving way to more mature partnerships.

Trade With ASEAN Up 2.6 Pct In June 2017 - MITI

KUALA LUMPUR -- Trade with ASEAN grew by 2.6 per cent to RM36.29 billion, accounting for 26.6 per cent of Malaysia's total trade in June 2017 compared to June 2016. In a statement Friday, the Ministry International Trade and Industry (MITI) said exports expanded by 1.9 per cent to RM20.36 billion, while imports rose by 3.6 per cent to RM15.93 billion year-on-year.



Govt Working To Improve Fuel Pricing Mechanism – Minister

KUALA LUMPUR -- The Domestic Trade, Co-operatives and Consumerism Ministry is still discussing with the Finance Ministry on improving the current method of setting the prices for petrol and diesel, the Dewan Rakyat was told Monday. Minister Datuk Seri Hamzah Zainuddin said the discussions were held following feedback from various stakeholders, including oil companies, on June 20, and petrol station operators on July 6.

PNB To Engage With Core Companies On Improving Shareholder Returns

KUALA LUMPUR -- Permodalan Nasional Bhd (PNB) will start engaging with its core companies, in which it has an at least 10 per cent shareholding, with a view to improving total shareholder returns. Tan Sri Abdul Wahid Omar, who Tuesday marked his first complete year as the fund management's Group Chairman, said PNB was also planning to work closely with other institutional investors for greater shareholder activism aimed at enhancing corporate governance and performance of public listed companies.

US$240 Bln Funding For OBOR Initiative

KUALA LUMPUR -- Funding for the One Belt One Road (OBOR) initiative, China's game-changing development plan to link the country with the African, Asian and European continents, has gained some traction with accumulated pledges of about US$240 billion (US$1=RM4.28) to-date. The Asian Institute of Chartered Bankers (AICB) Chairman, Tan Sri Azman Hashim said in a speech Tuesday, the amount included the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank's pool of about US$100 billion for the initiative.

Petrol Price Up Four Sen, Diesel Six Sen

KUALA LUMPUR -- The retail prices of RON95 and RON97 petrol as well as diesel will be higher by a few sen per litre for the week from Aug 3 to 9, it was announced Wednesday. Statistics on the website of the Domestic Trade, Cooperatives and Consumerism Ministry show that the retail price of petrol will be up by four sen, to RM2.07 for RON95 and RM2.32 for RON97. The retail price of diesel will rise six sen, to RM2.05.

FPC Discusses Measures To Achieve Near-Balanced Budget In 2020

PUTRAJAYA -- The Fiscal Policy Committee (FPC) Wednesday deliberated on fiscal consolidation measures in the strive to achieve a near-balanced budget in 2020. The Ministry of Finance said the FPC scrutinised the country's fiscal position and medium-term economic growth, as well as the fiscal risks, including the unexpected external liabilities to ensure that the government's exposure would be under control and minimal, it said in statement Wednesday.

Petronas Secures Another Block In Gulf Of Mexico

KUALA LUMPUR -- Petroliam Nasional Bhd's (Petronas) subsidiary PC Carigali Mexico Operations S.A de C.V. has been awarded shallow water Block 6 in Gulf of Mexico's Salina Basin. In a statement Wednesday, Petronas said, Block 6 covered an area of about 559 square kilometres (sq km) in water depths of between 30 and 80 metres, and would be operated by PC Carigali Mexico in a 50:50 partnership with Ecopetrol, Colombia's national oil company.

EPF To Carefully Consider Any Investment In Technology Stocks

KUALA LUMPUR -- The Employees Provident Fund (EPF) will carefully consider any investment in technology stocks moving forward. Chairman, Tan Sri Shamsudin Osman told reporters Wednesday, there was a need to understand the type of companies and risk return profile, to ensure any investment provides good returns to depositors.

MIDA Approves Medical Device Investments Worth RM1.95 Bln

KUALA LUMPUR -- The Malaysian medical device industry is poised for a bright future as RM1.95 billion worth of investments were approved in the first half of the year, said the Malaysian Investment Development Authority (MIDA). Chief Executive Officer Datuk Azman Mahmud told a media briefing Wednesday, foreign investors contributed 90 per cent of the investments involving 16 projects.

CGC SAS To Enrich Career Path Of Unemployed TVET Graduates

KUALA LUMPUR -- Credit Guarantee Corporation Malaysia Berhad's (CGC) and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) Apprentice Scheme (SAS) aims to enrich the career path of unemployed Technical and Vocational Education (TVET) graduates in Malaysia. CGC president and chief executive officer Datuk Mohd Zamree Mohd Ishak told reporters Thursday, the SAS is unique as it focuses on TVET graduates, particularly on developing much needed skills for the current job market, beside encouraging them to explore entrepreneurship as their career option.


JOM SINGGAH!!!
Karnival
SkillsMalaysia
ZON TENGAH 2017
12 - 14 OGOS
CIAST
Seksyen 19, SHAH ALAM
SERTAI ACARA MENARIK & HEBAT:
PERTANDINGAN WORLDSKILLS MALAYSIA BELIA PERINGKAT AKHIR 2017 • PERTANDINGAN NATIONAL ROBOT CHALLENGE
PENEMPATAN PEKERJAAN @SKILLS JOB FAIR • SERVIS MOTOSIKAL PERCUMA • SERVIS GUNTING RAMBUT RM2
KURSUS PENDEK KEMAHIRAN MENJANA PENDAPATAN • EXPLORE SKILLS RACE 2017 • TRY A SKILL (TAS)
PAMERAN DAN DEMONSTRASI KEMAHIRAN • SEMINAR DUTA REMAJA BERKEMAHIRAN
SEMINAR PENGIKTIRAFAN PENCAPAIAN TERDAHULU (PPT) • KURSUS INDUKSI SLDN
DIALOG BERSAMA PIHAK INDUSTRI • KONVOKESYEN SLDN
STESEN KOMUTER SEKSYEN 19, SHAH ALAM
KPJ Selangor Specialist Hospital
PEJABAT PENDIDIKAN DAERAH
BELAKANG HOTEL DE PALMA SHAH ALAM
SEKSYEN 22
TAMAN PERINDUSTRIAN SUBANG UTAMA
Aeon Big Seksyen 23
SECTION 24
UPTOWN SHAH ALAM
Klang River
SHUTTLE BUS PERCUMA DISEDIAKAN DARI LOKASI TEMPAT LETAK KERETA KE CIAST
MAKLUMAT LALUAN BAS:
No Bas Smart Selangor: SA01 (Stesen KTM Shah Alam - Seksyen 7)
No Bas Smart Selangor: SA03 (Stesen KTM Shah Alam - Seksyen 20)
No Bas Rapid KL: T754 (Stesen KTM Shah Alam - Hentian Bandar Shah Alam)
LOKASI TEMPAT LETAK KERETA BERHAMPIRAN TAPAK KARNIVAL
goo.gl/8vossY
PRA PENDAFTARAN PENCARI KERJA
www.dsd.gov.my
SkillsMalaysia

MAHB Launches Billing Portal For Clients, Vendors, Partners

KUALA LUMPUR -- Malaysia Airports Holdings Berhad (MAHB) has launched its newly-developed Online Billing Portal for the benefit of nearly 15,000 clients, vendors and business partners, including airline companies. The airport operator, in a statement Tuesday, said the portal would enable a more efficient and transparent finance process for all its partners.

Teraju Appoints GRA Communications To Manage PR

KUALA LUMPUR -- The Bumiputera Agenda Steering Unit (TERAJU) has appointed public relations consulting firm, GRA Communications Sdn Bhd, to manage its public relations and social media engagement with immediate effect. "GRA had been chosen to provide strategy and execution for the TERAJU brand, and we are excited at the prospect of taking our promise to greater heights," it said in a statement Tuesday.

PBSN Launches BSN Dana Shariah Money Market Unit Trust Fund

KUALA LUMPUR -- Permodalan BSN Bhd (PBSN), has launched a new unit trust fund, BSN Dana Shariah Money Market (BSNDSMM), a fund that seeks to provide short-term liquidity and income while maintaining capital stability. With the launch of the new fund, the number of unit trust funds managed by PBSN now stands at six, said the fund management and unit trust company in a statement Tuesday.

Shell Awards Financial Grants To NGOs

KUALA LUMPUR -- Shell Malaysia has awarded financial grants to six non- governmental organisations (NGOs) (Land Empowerment Animals People (LEAP) Spiral, Binturong Alam Ventures, PACOS Trust, Light Up Borneo, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak and Rumah Gareh) to undertake six special projects that will benefit communities in Sabah and Sarawak. In a statement Tuesday, the oil company said its Sustainable Development (SD) Grants Programme serves as a catalyst to elevate sustainable development projects undertaken by NGOs and special interest groups.

Bernama Editorial Staff Receive Incentive Award

KUALA LUMPUR -- Several reporters, editors and photographer of the Malaysian National News Agency (Bernama) were surprised with complimentary international flight tickets and Premium Savings Certificate during its Editorial Department Incentive Award ceremony Wednesday. The award, which is the first in its series, was organised by the news agency with the cooperation from AirAsia Bhd and Bank Simpanan Nasional (BSN).

300 Investors From 4 Countries Attend Market Insight Forum 2017

KUALA LUMPUR -- The Market Insight Forum 2017 organised by RHB Asset Management Sdn Bhd (RHB AM) here Wednesday attracted nearly 300 investors and experts from Malaysia, Hong Kong, Thailand and Singapore. Themed "Understanding the Business of Tomorrow", the forum was aimed at giving insights and updates on investment perspectives to institutional and corporate investors, including business partners, it said in a statement Wednesday.

Mondelez Malaysia Launches New Product Variation

KUALA LUMPUR -- Mondelez Malaysia, part of the global snacking powerhouse Mondelez International, has launched a new product variation for its belVita breakfast biscuits range, belVita Banana & Oats. The new offering is aimed at strengthening its category leadership in biscuits in Malaysia by diversifying its product offerings and catering to a wider group of audiences, it said in a statement Wednesday.

Bank Islam Signs MoU To Drive Digital Platform

KUALA LUMPUR -- Bank Islam Malaysia Bhd signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Cognizant Wednesday to embark on innovative digital Islamic banking in its operations. Bank Islam' s Chief Executive Officer, Khairul Kamaruddin told reporters Wednesday, digital technology has progressively entered the financial market with growing demand for financial technology (fintech) in Islamic banking system as well.

Tune Protect Group Announces Two Key Appointments

KUALA LUMPUR -- Tune Protect Group has appointed Khor Kee Eng as its Chief Actuary and Khoo Ai Lin as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Tune Insurance Malaysia Bhd (Tune Protect Malaysia), a 83.3 per cent-owned subsidiary of the company. In a filing to Bursa Malaysia Thursday, the group said Khor, a fellow of the Institute of Actuaries, joined the company as chief actuary on Tuesday, while Khoo was appointed as CEO of Tune Protect Malaysia on Wednesday.

Capturing The Soul Of A Scene

By Suriani Razali

DEFINING MOMENT...Bernama photographer Mazlan Samion with his winning entry 'Jalan ke Jannah' (The Journey to Paradise). He was announced the first prize winner at an international photography competition organised by the Islamic Arts Museum of Malaysia. -- fotoBERNAMA

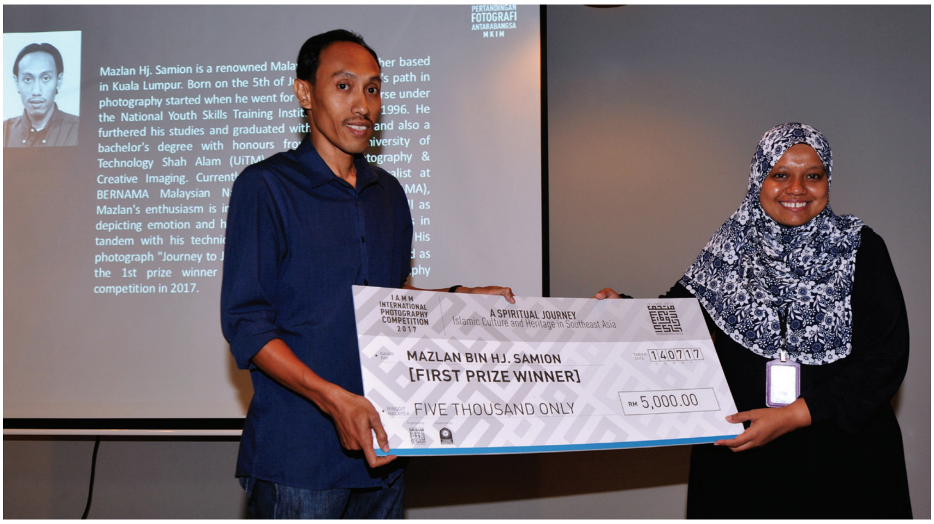
KUALA LUMPUR (Bernama) -- Journalism is not only about news writing. The accompanying photographs matter just as much. A good photograph does not only complement a news article. Often, it adds depth to the story and delivers a powerful message that simply cannot be conveyed by words alone. Capturing such photographs requires a lot from the photographer. Aside from good technical skills, a good photojournalist needs to be patient and ready, and must have the creativity to approach a scene from an angle that makes it engaging.

He needs to be bold and confident and most importantly, he needs to be able to capture the soul of the scene. Many top photojournalists agree that good photographs speak to the emotions. Mazlan Samion, 40, understands these concepts and executes them well. This is attested by the numerous national and international awards won by the National News Agency (Bernama) photographer.

WINNING ENTRY

On July 14, he was also announced the first prize winner at an international photography competition organised by the Islamic Arts Museum of Malaysia themed "A Spiritual Journey: Islamic Culture and Heritage in Southeast Asia." His winning entry entitled 'Jalan ke Jannah' (The Journey to Paradise) featured a photograph he took in 2015 in conjunction with the Nuzul Al-Quran celebration that year. Mazlan, who has been with Bernama for 13 years, is a firm believer of ethical journalism. "Every scene captured must be a realistic one. As photojournalists, we are taught to tell things as it is. Nothing should be staged or manipulated.That also means that we are not allowed to alter a photograph after it has been taken, such as by superimposing it," he said. He also believed in giving a task his all. "We tend to give our best when we have the passion for it. When we think about how what we do will benefit a lot of people, we would go all out to accomplish it," he said recently during an interview on NINE11, a live programme by the Bernama News Channel (BNC)

FEATHER IN CAP...Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia (IAMM) Deputy Chief Curator Nurul Iman Rusli presenting a mock cheque to Bernama photogapher Mazlan Samion for his winning entry entitled 'Jalan ke Jannah' (The Journey to Paradise.) -- fotoBERNAMA



MINI AMBASSADORS

Mazlan regards Bernama photojournalists as 'mini ambassadors' for the country, as the photographs they take would be picked up by local and international media. He cited the example of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Meeting in Honolulu, Hawaii which he was assigned to cover 2011. The meeting was held in conjunction with the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Summit and among those who attended were the then US President, Barack Obama and the Prime Minister of Malaysia Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

"The president's bodyguards had ordered me to remove myself from the area but at the time Obama was shaking hands with the heads of state and I was not able to get a good shot because Obama had his back towards me. So I asked permission to get a better angle and they allowed me, but only for a few seconds. "I used those few seconds the best I could. I called out to President Obama three times before he finally turned towards me, enabling me to get a shot of him shaking hands with Datuk Seri Najib," he said.

Getting that golden shot with just a click at an opportune moment gave him an immense sense of accomplishment. The icing on the cake was when the photograph was used on the front page of the major newspapers in Malaysia.

BERNAMA

LIST OF MARKET REPORTS :

1. Bursa Malaysia
2. Forex
3. Money Market
4. FBM KLCI Futures
5. Crude Palm Oil (CPO) Futures
6. Rubber Futures
7. KLIBOR Futures
8. Kuala Lumpur Tin Market (KLTM)
9. Gold Futures

Bursa Malaysia Likely To Trade Higher

By Siti Radziah Hamzah

KUALA LUMPUR -- Bursa Malaysia is likely to trend higher next week with the key index, FTSE Bursa Malaysia KLCI (FBM KLCI), set to test the new resistance level of 1,780 in line with the recovery in commodity prices and the spillover effects of improved economic data, said an analyst. Affin Hwang Investment Bank Vice President and Head of Retail Research, Datuk Dr Nazri Khan Adam Khan, said higher trade surplus recorded in June 2017 announced on Friday would provide a boost to the market, alongside Dow Jones Industrial Average breaching a record high of 22,000 on Thursday.

"We expect the market to continue the upward momentum next week. We have seen technology and gloves counters trading higher on Friday," he told Bernama.

Malaysia's export growth continued to outpace imports, with June 2017 trade at RM9.88 billion, marking the 236th consecutive month of trade surplus since November 1997 and the highest surplus since April 2016. Trade surplus in June 2017 stood at RM9.88 billion while Malaysia's total trade for the month increased by seven per cent to RM136.26 billion, up from RM127.38 billion recorded in June 2016. Another dealer said market participants would also monitor the release of US non-farm payrolls on Friday to gauge market movement next week. The market was in choppy throughout the week on lack of catalysts. Total turnover was slightly lower at 7.31 billion units worth RM9.79 billion from 7.87 billion units worth RM9.03 billion last week. Main Market volume was marginally higher at 5.10 billion shares valued at RM8.87 billion from 5.08 billion shares valued at RM8.45 billion last Friday.

FOREX: Ringgit Likely To See Range-Bound Trading

KUALA LUMPUR -- The ringgit is expected to see range-bound trading against the US dollar next week as the local unit stabilised against the greenback, a dealer said. Inter-Pacific Securities Head of Research, Pong Teng Siew, said the ringgit was expected to trade around 4.28 against the US dollar as the measures taken by the Bank Negara Malaysia to stabilise it against the greenback continued to reduce the volatility between the two currencies. However, he said, while the measures were able to protect the ringgit against the US dollar, it did not protect the ringgit against the other currencies as the local unit was locked with the US dollar trend against the other currencies.

"If the US dollar weakened against the other currencies, the ringgit also weakened against other currencies," he told Bernama. On a Friday-to-Friday basis, the ringgit was traded lower at 4.2770/2800 against the US dollar from 4.2760/2790 in the previous week. The local note was also traded lower against other major currencies. It declined versus the Singapore dollar to 3.1534/1570 from 3.1471/1514 previously and weakened against the yen to 3.8857/8895 from 3.8377/8418 last Friday. The local note fell against the British pound to 5.6264/6312 from 5.6187/6239 the previous week and depreciated against the euro to 5.0811/0864 from 5.0106/0154.

Money-Market: Short-Term Rates Expected To Remain Stable

KUALA LUMPUR -- Short-term rates are expected to remain stable next week with Bank Negara Malaysia likely to offer tenders to absorb surplus funds from the system. For the just-ended week, the overnight rate was quoted at 2.96 per cent, while the one-week, two and three-week rates stood at 3.02 per cent, 3.06 and 3.11 per cent respectively.

The central bank intervened on a daily basis to mop up surplus liquidity by conducting range maturity auction tenders, Islamic range maturity auction tenders, Qard tenders, Commodity Murabahah Programmes, reverse repo tenders and conventional money market tenders. It also called for Qard money market tenders and conventional money market tenders. The total liquidity surplus in the conventional system for the week just-ended stood at RM27.73 billion, almost unchanged from the previous week's RM27.62 billion, while in the Islamic system, it increased to RM10.21 billion from RM9.20 billion. The benchmark three-month interbank rate stood at 3.43 per cent.

KLCI Futures To Be Firmer Next Week

KUALA LUMPUR -- The FTSE Bursa Malaysia KLCI (FBM KLCI) futures contracts are expected to be firmer next week, tracking the performance of the underlying cash market, a dealer said. The dealer said the sentiment in the cash market was bullish with support from the announcement of strong trade surplus for June 2017 as well as the recovery in commodity prices. On a Friday-to-Friday basis, spot month August 2017 increased by 6.5 points to 1,775.0, September 2017 gained five points to 1,774.5 and December 2017 was seven points higher to 1,774.5. July 2017 expired at 1,764.5 and the new contract month, August 2018, stood at 1,772.5 on Friday. Turnover for the week eased to 20,721 lots from 83,495 lots last Friday, but open interest shed to 29,122 contracts from 46,142 contracts. The benchmark FBM KLCI ended the week 2.63 points higher at 1,774.53 from 1,767.08 last Friday.

High CPO Inventory Projection To Drag Down CPO Futures

By Harizah Hanim Mohamed

KUALA LUMPUR -- Crude palm oil (CPO) futures contracts on Bursa Malaysia Derivatives are expected to be traded between RM2,450 and RM2,500 a tonne in anticipation of higher fresh fruit bunches and CPO stocks, said a dealer. Interband Group of Companies Senior Trader, Jim Teh, said next week's likely downtrend was also influenced by Indonesia's high CPO stocks.

"Anyway, traders are awaiting Malaysian Palm Oil Board monthly report, scheduled to be released on Aug 10, which will give them clues before taking their next moves," he told Bernama. For the week just-ended, the Malaysian CPO futures market was traded mixed on expectations of higher CPO level but the commodity's trading was supported by anticipation of high palm oil product exports. On a Friday-to-Friday basis, spot month August 2017 lost RM76 to RM2,590 a tonne, September 2017 erased RM55 to RM2,601 a tonne, October 2017 reduced RM47 to RM2,608 a tonne and November 2017 was RM37 lower at RM2,616 a tonne. Weekly turnover eased to 215,404 lots from 233,470 lots while open interest fell to 239,040 from 250,725 contracts. On the physical market, August South fell 60 and stood at RM2,620 per tonne against last week's RM2,680.

Rubber Mart To Face Uncertain Prospects

KUALA LUMPUR -- The Malaysian rubber market is expected to face uncertain prospects next week as traders are closely monitoring the currency and crude oil movements, said a dealer. He said the ringgit was expected to be traded at the current level. However, the fluctuations of the benchmark crude oil prices would be significant for rubber prices.

"The trend in oil prices will determine the pricing of synthetic rubber, which is competitor for natural rubber," he said.

The encouraging economic data from China and US would also have spillover effects on rubber prices, he said. For the week just-ended, rubber prices were mixed, weighed by oil prices but at the same time they were supported by positive updates in the regional markets. On a Friday-to-Friday basis, the Malaysian Rubber Board's official physical price for tyre-grade SMR 20 gained 11.5 sen to 633 sen from 621.5 sen a kg, and latex-in-bulk declined five sen to 501 sen a kg from 506 sen a kg. The 5 pm closing price for tyre-grade SMR 20 was 18 sen better at 621.5 sen a kg, and latex-in-bulk added half-a-sen sen to 502.5 sen a kg.

KLIBOR Futures Contracts Likely To Remain Quiet

KUALA LUMPUR -- The three-month Kuala Lumpur Interbank Offered Rate (KLIBOR) futures contracts on Bursa Malaysia Derivatives are expected to be quiet next week on lack of market-moving news. For the week just-ended, the market was untraded with open interest at nil. On a Friday-to-Friday basis, spot month August 2017, September 2017, October 2017 and December 2017 remained pegged at 96.54, 96.53, 96.51 and 96.48, respectively. The underlying three-month KLIBOR on the cash market was unchanged at 3.43 per cent on Friday.

KLTM Likely To See Range-Bound Trading

By Azizul Ahmad

KUALA LUMPUR --The Kuala Lumpur Tin Market (KLTM) is likely to see range-bound trading next week with prices in the range of between US$20,400-US$RM20,900 per tonne, with an upside bias, a dealer said. He said the upward momentum could be sustained on continuous demand amid supply concerns.

"As the global tin consumption was reportedly still more than production, a shortage of supply will persist for quite some time and the price will continue to remain strong going forward.

"Fundamentally, tin price shall remain firm as demand for the metal remains intact. The metal's price is expected to stay at above the current level due to the strong fundamentals and further recovery in oil prices would prompt more bidder for the metal," he told Bernama.

Another dealer said the metal price on the London Metal Exchange (LME) was longer the main reference as the local market had sometimes been traded independently. "Regular bidders at KLTM came from world's largest tin producer, China, as well as other biggest users of the commodity such as US, Japan, South Korea, India and the UK and sometimes from Pakistan and Bangladesh. They kept dominating daily trading against the local sellers," he added. For the week just-ended, the market was trading in the range of US$20,500 to US$20,850 a tonne.

It ended the week at US$20,650 a tonne, US$100 lower compared to US$20,750 a tonne the previous Friday. The LME price eased by US$5 to US$20,650 a tonne from US$20,655 a tonne previously. Weekly volume on the KLTM improved to 228 tonnes from 206 tonnes in the previous week. The price differential between the KLTM and LME turned at par, from a premium of US$95 a tonne previously.

Gold Futures Contracts To Trade Higher

KUALA LUMPUR -- Gold futures contracts on Bursa Malaysia Derivatives are expected to trade higher next week, tracking the performance of the US Commodity Exchange (Comex) gold futures amid optimism of a weakening US dollar. A dealer said US dollar hit multi-month lows as sentiment turned bearish of another interest rate hike in the world's largest economy this year. He said market-watchers would be eyeing the release of US non-farm payrolls, scheduled on late Friday evening, for further clues on the outlook for interest rates.

"Investors are cautious ahead of the release of the data. They are now awaiting for clues on whether the data will impact the timing of the US Federal Reserve's policy tightening," he said.

For the week just-ended, the gold market traded mostly higher, mainly tracking the performance of the Comex gold market. On a Friday-to-Friday basis, August 2017, September 2017 and October 2017 advanced 20 ticks each to RM174.30, RM174.40 and RM173.90 a gramme respectively. Newly introduced November 2017 ended the week at RM174.10 a gramme. Weekly turnover declined to 27 lots worth RM470,450 from 42 lots worth RM725,620 in the previous week. Open interest decreased to 180 contracts from 279 contracts previously.