BERNAMA MALAYSIAeBiz
WEEKLY BUSINESS ROUNDUP 13 - 17 JUNE 2016

June 17, 2016

This Week's Highlight : Over 90 Institutions Forward Budget 2017 Input

PUTRAJAYA -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak shaking hands with public and private sector representatives at the Budget 2017 Consultative Council meeting here Thursday. Also present Finance Minister II, Datuk Seri Ahmad Husni Hanadzlah.
Pix Harry Salzman FotoBERNAMA

PUTRAJAYA -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said more than 90 institutions have forwarded memorandums containing useful and pragmatic suggestions as input for the 2017 Budget preparation. Speaking after chairing the Budget 2017 Consultative Council meeting at the Treasury here Thursday, Najib, who is also the Finance Minister said the memorandums covered macro, sectoral and social issues.

This Week's Top Stories

Monday

Malaysia To Launch Global Campaign To Drive Exports

PUTRAJAYA -- The National Export Council (NEC) has formulated several initiatives to promote public-private partnerships in the quest to drive Malaysia's export growth, including through a global campaign.
The initiatives were presented at the NEC meeting chaired by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak here Monday.

Tuesday

New Proton Perdana Launch A Turning Point - Najib

PUTRAJAYA -- The launch of the new model of the Proton Perdana, an executive sedan by Proton Holdings Bhd (Proton), could prove to be a turning point for the national carmaker, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak Tuesday. He said the launch also symbolised the government's determination to help Proton regain its glory days and put it on track to generating more profit which will benefit the country.

Wednesday

M'sia, S. Korea In Talks On Proposed HSR Project

PUTRAJAYA -- South Korea has engaged in talks with Malaysia over the possible involvement in the proposed Kuala Lumpur-Singapore high-speed rail project. The meeting between South Korean Land, Infrastructure and Transport Minister Kang Hoin and Transport Minister Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai here Wednesday touched on, among others, the project.

Thursday

Najib Unveils Incentives For Bandar Malaysia Master Developer

KUALA LUMPUR-- The prime minister says the government has agreed to give the master developer of Bandar Malaysia, IWH CREC Sdn Bhd and its wholly-owned subsidiaries, several incentives in relation to the development of the project. The incentives would include a 10-year income tax exemption and eight years of exemption from stamp duty, as well as real property gains tax and withholding tax, said Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak at the signing of the IWH CREC Sdn Bhd shareholders agreement here Thursday.

Friday

M'sia Records RM37.3 Bln Investments In Q1

KUALA LUMPUR-- Malaysia recorded RM37.3 billion worth of approved investments in the services, manufacturing and primary sectors during the first quarter of 2016, involving 1,271 projects which will create 39,990 job opportunities. Minister of International Trade and Industry, Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed said Friday, the country remained a competitive investment location for foreign investors, with foreign direct investments up to RM12.8 billion in the first quarter this year from RM10 billion in the corresponding period of 2015.

SMEbrief

MalaysiaTo Set Up Herbal, Cosmetic And Perfumery Cluster

KUALA LUMPUR -- Malaysia will be the first ASEAN country to set up a herbal, cosmetic and perfumery cluster to be known as the Langkawi Cosmetic Island (LCI) in collaboration with France-based Cosmetic Valley. Costing between RM300 million and RM500 million, largely from the private sector, work on the LCI, which will be developed in three phases, will begin by year-end, Malaysian Bioeconomy Development Corporation Sdn Bhd CEO Datuk Dr Mohd Nazlee Kamal said Monday.

Malaysia Poised To Be Key Player In Bio-Cosmeceutical, Wellness

KUALA LUMPUR -- Malaysia has the potential to become a significant player in bio-cosmeceutical and wellness industries in the coming years given the country's rich biodiversity. Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation Datuk Seri Madius Tangau said Monday, Malaysian companies needed to find the niche products based on local ingredients in order for them to penetrate the high-growth cosmetics sector.

Govt Committed To Developing SMEs - Ahmad Maslan

SUNGAI BESAR -- The government will continue to undertake various initiatives to develop and strengthen the small and medium enterprise (SME) sector as it represents 98 per cent of businesses in the country. Deputy International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Ahmad Maslan said Thursday, to date, 653,158 SMEs were registered with the ministry, with 19.5 per cent of them based in Selangor.

Learn From High-tech Firms, M'sian Manufacturers Urged

KUALA LUMPUR -- Malaysian manufacturers have been urged to learn new technologies from big markets like Germany and high-technology companies to help them develop the knowledge and the research and development (R&D) expertise in facing the fourth industrial revolution and future challenges. Minister of International Trade and Industry II Datuk Seri Ong Ka Chuan said Thursday, local manufacturers including small and medium enterprises (SMEs) need to also be alert to technological changes by working closely with global partners to support and build the industry ecosystem.

PropUP Propertyupdate

UDA Holdings To Open 2 New Hotels In 5 Years

PEKAN -- Uda Holdings Bhd (UDA) plans to open two new hotels under its Ancasa brand in the next five years, one each in Kota Baharu, Kelantan and Johor Baharu, Johor. Chairman Datuk Mohd Shafei Abdullah said Monday, the Kota Baharu branch is expected to be built on a 1.5-hectare site next year at an estimated cost of RM50 million.

Grand-Flo Eyes Higher Revenue From Property Segment

PETALING JAYA -- Tracking solutions provider and property developer Grand-Flo Bhd, is eyeing higher revenue from its property division, in line with its construction progress, for the financial year ending Dec 31, 2016. Group Managing Director/Group President Tan Bak Hong said Wednesday, the company has currently two ongoing projects located in mainland Penang, namely Vortex Business Park and The Glades.

Sapura Resources To Refocus Capital For Property Business

KUALA LUMPUR -- Sapura Resources Bhd will refocus its capital to develop the property business following the sale of its education assets, says Managing Director Datuk Shahriman Shamsuddin. He said the company has a joint venture with KLCC (Holdings) Sdn Bhd to build a 52-storey tower attached to the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre and hoped to get this ready by 2020.

Phase One Bandar Malaysia Devt Kicks Off 2017

KUALA LUMPUR -- The first phase of the Bandar Malaysia development, which has a gross development value (GDV) of RM50 billion to RM60 billion and will be developed over five years, is set to kick off next year. Executive Vice Chairman of Iskandar Waterfront Holdings Sdn Bhd (IWH), Tan Sri Lim Kang Hoo said Thursday, the first phase will include the development of 5,000 units of affordable homes and the mass rapid transit and light rail transit development, among others.

5,000 Affordable Homes In Initial Development Of Bandar Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR -- About 5,000 units of affordable houses will be built in the first phase of the Bandar Malaysia development, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said. "MOF Inc and IWH-CREC have committed to build 5,000 units of affordable homes in the first phase of this development," he said when speaking at the signing of the IWH CREC Sdn Bhd shareholders agreement here Thursday.

MARKET

Scoreboard

Gainers - 357

Losers - 331

Not Traded - 640

Unchanged - 388

Value - 1421867635

Volume - 11170252

Bursa Malaysia Ends Marginally Higher

KUALA LUMPUR -- Bursa Malaysia ended the week marginally higher on improving buying momentum in most heavyweights and in line with its regional peers. At 5 pm, the benchmark FTSE Bursa Malaysia KLCI (FBM KLCI) stood at 1,624.18, up 9.28 points or 0.58 per cent, after fluctuating between 1,614.29 and 1,624.31 throughout the day. It opened 0.06 of-a-point lower at 1,614.84.

On the broader market, gainers led losers 357 to 331 with 388 counters unchanged, 640 untraded and 18 others suspended. Volume was lower at 1.12 billion units worth RM1.42 billion from 1.57 billion units worth RM1.55 billion on Thursday. The FBM Emas Index went up 51.21 points to 11,357.42, the FBMT 100 Index rose 53.21 points to 11,060.17 and the FBM Emas Shariah Index increased 44.75 points to 11,927.3.

The FBM 70 added 26.16 points to 12,853.45 but the FBM Ace shed 9.56 points to 5,260.98. The Finance Index increased 80.0 points to 14,035.93, the Plantation Index was 24.5 points higher to 7,568.37 and the Industrial Index rose 25.74 points to 3,053.88.Main Market turnover decreased to 701.96 million shares worth RM1.36 billion from 992.60 million shares worth RM1.47 billion on Thursday.

The ACE Market volume fell to 263.73 million shares worth RM37.87 million from Thursday's 338.33 million shares worth RM49.04 million. Warrants declined to 151.11 million shares worth RM22.23 million from 237.77 million shares worth RM33.04 million previously.

Exchange Rate
(Ringgit : Foreign Currency)

	Buying	Selling
US	4.0970	4.0030
S'pore	3.0332	3.0397
100 Yen	3.9277	3.9350
Sterling	5.8550	5.8652
Euro	4.6112	4.6196

Source: Bank Negara Malaysia

Ringgit Ends Flat Against US Dollar

KUALA LUMPUR -- The ringgit ended the week flat against the US dollar Friday in a choppy market as most market participants stayed on the sidelines rather than take a major position, dealers said.

At 5pm, the ringgit remained unchanged at 4.0970/0030, moving between 4.0960 and 4.1080 throughout the day.

A dealer said the market was also showing caution towards expectations whether the UK would leave the European Union (Brexit) as it could affect not only the UK, but also the global economy, including the foreign exchange market.

"Most major markets have felt the burn from the Brexit woes with Europe under immense pressure as concerns heighten that it could trigger an undesirable domino effect which could encourage other countries to leave the European Union.

"The Brexit fears and concerns over global instability have left most central banks on a standstill with the Bank of England and the Fed remaining on the fence," FXTM research analyst Lukman Otunuga said in a statement.

He said the Brexit polls go beyond the borders and Europe with everyone feeling the pinch as uncertainty continues to mount ahead of the June 23 referendum.

Back home, the ringgit traded mixed against other major currencies.

It depreciated against the Singapore dollar to 3.0332/0397 from 3.0312/0377 Thursday and decreased against the British pound to 5.8550/8652 from 5.8038/8135. However, the ringgit appreciated against the yen to 3.9277/9350 from 3.9330/9403 and firmer versus the euro at 4.6112/6196 from 4.6128/6212.

Short-Term Rates Close Stable

KUALA LUMPUR -- Short-term interbank rates ended stable Friday on Bank Negara Malaysia's (BNM) intervention to reduce the liquidity surplus in the financial system. The liquidity surplus in the conventional system was reduced to RM24.49 billion from RM28.42 billion earlier, while in the Islamic system, it declined to RM4.64 billion from RM11.77 billion previously. BNM had earlier called for three tenders -- a conventional money market, a repo and a Qard tender-iRMA. The central bank also conducted a conventional money market tender for RM24.5 billion and a Qard money market tender for RM4.6 billion, both for three-day money. The overnight Islamic reference rate stood at 3.20 per cent, while the one-, two- and three-week rates were pegged at 3.31 per cent, 3.35 per cent and 3.40 per cent respectively.

KLIBOR Futures End Untraded

KUALA LUMPUR -- The three-month Kuala Lumpur Interbank Offered Rate (KLIBOR) futures contract on Bursa Malaysia Derivatives closed untraded Friday. Spot month July 2016 and August 2016 were pegged at 96.35, while September 2016 and December 2016 were stood at 96.40, respectively. Open interest was nil. At the 11 am fixing, the underlying three-month KLIBOR stood at 3.65 per cent.

KLCI Futures Close Higher

KUALA LUMPUR -- The FTSE Bursa Malaysia KLCI (FBM KLCI) futures contracts (FKLI) on Bursa Malaysia Derivatives closed higher Friday in line with the stronger underlying cash market. Spot month June 2016 rose 15 points to 1,627.0, July 2016 increased 15.5 points to 1,627.5, September 2016 advanced 13.5 points to 1,618.5 and December 2016 added 12.5 points to 1,610.0. Turnover expanded to 7,510 lots from 7,339 lots on Thursday while open interest was higher at 42,463 contracts from 41,078 contracts Thursday. The benchmark FBM KLCI closed 9.28 points higher at 1,624.18.

Bank Islam To Extend E-Donation Terminal Nationwide

By Zairina Zainudin

KUALA LUMPUR -- Bank Islam Malaysia Bhd plans to further extend its e-Donation Terminal, an innovation product that serves as a platform for Muslims to contribute using contactless electronic cards from debit and credit cards, to more mosques nationwide in the next two months. Its managing director, Datuk Seri Zukri Samat said Monday, the e-payment product, which worked via Visa payWave, was currently run under a pilot project at Masjid Wilayah, Kuala Lumpur with the installation of two terminals.

British Pound May Hit Parity If UK Exits EU - Economist

By Azizul Ahmad

KUALA LUMPUR -- The value of the British pound could hit parity with the US dollar this year if the United Kingdom (UK) withdraws from the European Union (EU), says IQI Chief Economist Shan Saeed. He said Tuesday, the pound sterling would get a beating from the current level of 1.42 against the US dollar and might touch between 1.25 and 1.30 against the greenback in the next three to four months upon UK's exit.

CIMB Proposes Special Interim Dividend

KUALA LUMPUR -- CIMB Group Holdings Bhd has proposed a special interim dividend-in-specie involving the distribution of 1.367 billion existing PT Bank CIMB Niaga TBK class B Shares. The distribution represented about 5.44 per cent equity interest in CIMB Niaga, it said in a filing to Bursa Malaysia Wednesday.

USD/MYR Reference Rates Promotes Best Practices

KUALA LUMPUR -- Bank Negara Malaysia and the Financial Markets Association of Malaysia (FMA or PPKM1) today announced several changes as part of the effort to adopt global best practices for the domestic financial market. In a joint statement Wednesday, BNM and FMA noted that a new methodology is adopted in the USD/MYR Spot Fixing (PPKM-MYR) based on market transaction data, effective July 18, 2016.

AMBANK Aims To Transform Digital Banking Capabilities

KUALA LUMPUR -- AMMB Holdings Bhd (AmBank Group) wants to transform its digital banking capabilities and expects to launch new digital products over the next six months. Group Chief Executive Officer Datuk Sulaiman Mohd Tahir said Tuesday, the inclusion of financial technology (fintech) towards better mobile banking, cash management and understanding customer behaviour is now becoming very important to the bank.

RHB Launches Limited Pay Investment-Linked Plan

KUALA LUMPUR -- RHB Bank Bhd together with bancassurance partner Tokio Marine Life Insurance Malaysia Bhd Wednesday launched a life insurance plan -- Essential PrimeLink. With the launch of the new plan, RHB are also targeting RM6 million regular premiums for the next six months, said RHB Banking Group, Group Retail Banking Executive Director, U Chen Hock in a statement Wednesday.

Al Rajhi Bank Offers Islamic Debt Card

KUALA LUMPUR -- Al Rajhi Bank Malaysia is offering Rafahia Debit Card-i, Malaysia's first Islamic debit card with Takaful protection of up to RM1 million. The product is for Muslims looking to perform the haj or umrah within the next 12 months, said Chief Executive Officer Steve Chen Thursday.

Full Financing To Buy PROTON Cars - Bank Rakyat

KUALA LUMPUR -- Malaysia's biggest Islamic Cooperative Bank Thursday entered into cooperation with PROTON Holdings Bhd (Proton) to offer 100 per cent financing facilities for the purchase of Proton cars including Proton Perdana which was launched on Tuesday. Bank Rakyat chairman Tan Sri Abdul Aziz Zainal said the offer would be open at all times to employees in both the public and private sectors who met the loan conditions.

Cagamas Exploring Refinancing New Asset Classes

KUALA LUMPUR -- Cagamas Holdings Bhd is exploring refinancing new asset classes, including the infrastructure and small-medium-enterprise sectors. "We will continue to step up our efforts to further diversify our funding sources and promote a broader range of debt securities in the capital market. "On the Islamic finance front, we will strive to introduce more globally accepted sukuk structures to attract a larger pool of international and regional investors," Cagamas Holdings said in its annual report 2015.

RM30 Mln Human Capital Fund From Various Agencies - IRDA

JOHOR BAHARU -- The Iskandar Regional Development Authority (IRDA) has clarified that the RM30 million allocation for human capital development in the economic region will come from various government agencies. In a statement here Friday, IRDA said this included an allocation under IRDA's Social Projects Fund for the Iskandar Malaysia Employment Grant (IMEG).

Berjaya Auto Profit Declines To RM278.73 Mln

KUALA LUMPUR -- Berjaya Auto Bhd's pre-tax profit declined to RM278.73 million for the financial year ended April 30, 2016 against RM298.97 million registered a year ago. Revenue rose to RM2.11 billion during the year under review, from RM1.83 billion recorded previously, it said in a filing to Bursa Malaysia Monday.

Bank Muamalat Makes RM167.2 Mln Profit

KUALA LUMPUR -- Bank Muamalat Malaysia Bhd's pre-tax profit for financial year ended March 2016 rose by 36.9 per cent to RM167.2 million from RM122 million previously. Its total revenue increased to RM1.21 billion from RM1.07 billion in the same period last year, largely due to the 18.7 per cent growth in financing income while total overheads were cut by 8.5 per cent to RM345.1 million from RM377.2 million in the previous corresponding year.

Boon Siew Honda Aims 50 Pct Mart Share By 2020

KUALA LUMPUR -- Boon Siew Honda Sdn Bhd, manufacturer and wholesaler of Honda motorcycles, aims to garner 50 per cent of the motorcycle market share in Malaysia by 2020. Its market share was 20 per cent (87,000 units) in 2015 and 19.4 per cent (100,000 units) in 2014, its Deputy Chairman/ Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Datuk Seri Tan Hui Jing said Monday.

States Asked To Cut Arrears In Revenue Collection

PUTRAJAYA -- The National Finance Council (NFC) has asked the state governments to continue to adopt proactive measures to cut the arrears of their revenue collection which had exceeded RM2 billion a year from 2011 to 2015. Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, who chaired the meeting Tuesday, said the state revenue committees agreed to the proposal.

Glomac's Profit Falls To RM121.5 Mln FY16

KUALA LUMPUR -- Glomac Bhd's pre-tax profit fell to RM121.5 million for the financial year ended April 30, 2016 from RM142.82 million in the 2015 financial year. Revenue, however, rose to RM598.9 million from RM473.25 million previously, Glomac said in a filing to Bursa Malaysia Wednesday.

Top Gloves Q3 Profit Falls To RM73.74 Mln

KUALA LUMPUR -- Top Glove Corporation Bhd's pre-tax profit for the third quarter (Q3) ended May 31, 2016, declined to RM73.74 million from RM100.58 million recorded in the same period a year ago. Revenue however rose to RM672.27 million from RM661.19 million previously, the company said in a filing to Bursa Malaysia Tuesday.

Malaysian Cos Record RM207.25 Mln Sales At Indobuildtech

KUALA LUMPUR -- Malaysian companies recorded potential sales amounted to RM207.25 million at the Indobuildtech Expo 2016, a 3.4 per cent increase from RM200.22 million last year. Twelve Malaysian companies took part in the exhibition, Indonesia's biggest and best known trade exhibition from May 25-27, the Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE) said in a statement Wednesday.

FGV Will Go For Deals With Good Returns - CEO

KUALA LUMPUR -- Felda Global Ventures Holdings Bhd (FGV) will only participate in business ventures that will bring good returns to the group and investors, says President and Chief Executive Officer Datuk Zakaria Arshad. "We must ensure our decisions are based on the interest of our stakeholders, as well as, the group as a whole," he told reporters after presenting business tithes to deserving recipients here Wednesday.

Ketengah Posts Lower Profit Of RM16.70 Mln

KUALA TERENGGANU -- Ketengah Holdings Sdn Bhd posted a lower pre-tax profit of RM16.70 million last year versus RM21.54 million registered in 2014. General Manager Omar Ismail said, the decline was mainly due to lower palm kernel price and the global oil price volatility. "However, this has not dampened the overall operations of the group," he told reporters after a breaking of fast with the media here Thursday.

11Street Eyes 30-35 Pct Higher Sales For Hari Raya

KUALA LUMPUR -- Global e-commerce marketplace 11street expects its e-mall sales to increase by 30 to 35 per cent this upcoming festive season, said Chief Executive Officer Hoseok Kim Friday. Kim said an online survey, the Ramadhan Spending Survey 2016, which aimed to provide a better understanding of Malaysians' expenses as Hari Raya approaches, showed more than 95 per cent of Malaysians are positive about online shopping.


worldskills ASEAN Kuala Lumpur 2016
PERTANDINGAN KEMAHIRAN ASEAN 2016
ASEAN SKILLS COMPETITION KUALA LUMPUR 2016
24 - 26 September 2016
MAEPS, Serdang, Selangor
Penganjur:
KEMENTERIAN SUMBER MANUSIA
KEMENTERIAN KERJA RAYA
worldskills Malaysia
SKILLS FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE
Sekretariat Worldskills Malaysia
03-8886 2426
www.wsasean.org
ORANG RAMAI DIJEMPUT HADIR

150 Foreign Trade Missions Planned This Year - Mustapa

KUALA LUMPUR -- The Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE) plans to organise 150 foreign trade missions this year, including 85 for export promotion and 65 for export development, the Dewan Negara heard Monday. “These two programmes focus among others on the food and beverage, oil and gas, medical devices as well as construction and professional services sectors,” International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed said.

BRT System In Iskandar To Cost Below RM3 Bln

KUALA LUMPUR -- The implementation cost for the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system for Iskandar Malaysia is expected to cost not more than RM3 billion, said Iskandar Regional Development Authority (IRDA) Chief Executive Datuk Ismail Ibrahim. “At the moment, we do not have the final value, however, it is expected to cost not more than RM3 billion, which covers infrastucture cost for building the line, operation cost including buses and several other application costs, he said Tuesday.

New Proton Perdana Good For Argentina - Envoy

By Nur Ashikin Abdul Aziz

KUALA LUMPUR -- The newly launched Proton Perdana has a good chance of penetrating the Argentine market, with the country slowly opening up its economy under the new government of President Mauricio Macri, said its Ambassador to Malaysia Manuel Balaguer Salas Wednesday. The envoy said that although Argentina previously practised “protectionism” including towards its automotive industry, Macri, since coming to office in December 2015, has slowly opened up its market.

Proton To Identify Strategic Partner Under Supervision

PUTRAJAYA -- Proton Holdings Bhd will formally identify a strategic partner under the supervision of the recently formed special task force. Chief Executive Officer Datuk Ahmad Fuaad Kenali said Tuesday, the national carmaker has set a timeline of one year for the company to find a strategic partner for deeper collaboration.

LTE To Be Key Technology In Malaysia By 2019

PETALING JAYA -- The Long-Term Evolution (LTE) is expected to be the main access technology by 2019 in Malaysia, Ericsson said in its Mobility Report. Ericsson Malaysia and Sri Lanka head Todd Ashton said Tuesday, in Malaysia, the LTE subscriptions over total mobile subscriptions were currently at 21 per cent and were expected to increase to 61 per cent by 2021.

South Korea Banks On Experience To Secure HSR Project

KUALA LUMPUR -- South Korea is banking on its 12-year experience in its Korea Train Express (KTX) implementation in its quest to bid for the proposed high speed rail (HSR) project linking Kuala Lumpur and Singapore. Its Land, Infrastructure and Transport Minister, Kang Hoin said Tuesday, the KTX track construction and implementation had enabled South Korea to gain ample knowledge and know-how in developing the HSR network.

1MDB: IPIC, Aabar Submit Request For Arbitration

KUALA LUMPUR -- Abu Dhabi’s International Petroleum Investment Company (IPIC) and Aabar Investments PJS have submitted a Request for Arbitration (RFA) to the London Court of International Arbitration, said 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB). In a statement Tuesday, the company said, it and its legal counsel will review the RFA once it has been served with a copy.

Felcra To Boost Performance By Venturing Into Food, Property

KUALA KANGSAR-- Felcra Bhd will strengthen its financial performance by venturing into food and property sectors this year, said Chairman, Datuk Bung Mokhtar Radin. On food-based business, Bung Mokhtar said Thursday, the company planned to buy a stake in company involved in poultry business. “The purchase agreement is expected to be signed before year-end,” he said.

IBD Master Plan On Public Display - JCorp

JOHOR BAHARU -- The master plan of the Ibrahim International Business District (IIBD) is now on public display until July 3, 2016 at the Komtar Johor Baharu here. Johor Corporation (JCorp) President and Chief Executive Datuk Kamaruzzaman Abu Kassim said Thursday, the people of Johor were invited to go over the plan and share their views on the commercial centre development project.

ARREIT To Acquire Sepang Land For RM40 Million

KUALA LUMPUR -- AmanahRaya Real Estate Investment Trust (ARREIT) has proposed to acquire a piece of freehold land in Dengkil, Sepang from Cyberview Sdn Bhd and Setia Haruman Sdn Bhd for RM40 million cash. In a filing to Bursa Malaysia Thursday, AmanahRaya-REIT Managers Sdn Bhd, the manager of ARREIT, said the acquisition was in line with its key investment objective of providing sustainable returns to the unitholders.

Mydin Confident of Hitting RM3.8 Bln Sales FY2017

SEREMBAN -- Mydin Mohamed Holdings Bhd (Mydin) is confident of achieving its sales target of RM3.8 billion for the financial year (FY) ending March 31, 2017, supported by the opening of seven hypermarkets nationwide. Its Managing Director, Datuk Ameer Ali Mydin said Friday, the company recorded sales of RM3.5 billion in the financial year ended March 31, 2016, up from RM3.2 billion in the same period in 2015.

Silk Sees Significant Contribution Change With Highway Sale

PETALING JAYA -- Silk Holdings Bhd's proposed disposal of its highway asset will result in a significant change in contribution to the company, said Executive Chairman Datuk Mohd Azlan Hashim. "After the disposal, we will have the flexibility to look into areas that we think we have opportunities to grow," he told reporters after the company's annual and extraordinary general meetings here Friday.

B10 For Sale Must Comply With Provisional Std - Ministry

KUALA LUMPUR -- The government will ensure that all B10 biodiesel sold in the country complies with the provisional standard under MS 2535:2013(P), said the Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities. The B10 standard has been in development since 2013, and a number of automotive manufacturers including Mercedes Benz, Scania, Peugeot, UD Truck and Volvo Truck have indicated their acceptance of B10, the ministry said in a statement Friday.

Govt Loses RM2.5 Bln Tax Revenue Over Illicit Cigarette Trade

KOTA BAHARU -- The illegal cigarette trade is causing the government to lose about RM2.5 billion in tax revenue last year, National Kenaf and Tobacco Board chairman Datuk Mohd Adhan Kechik said. "The smuggling of illegal cigarettes is said to be due the exorbitant cigarette prices here, which is among the highest (in the region) besides Singapore and Brunei.," he added.

Mydin Opens 5 New Supermarkets This Year

PARIT BUNTAR -- Mydin Holdings is opening five new supermarkets this year including one each in Negeri Sembilan, Kedah and Melaka and two in Sarawak. Its Northern Region General Manager Azmin Saduruddin said Friday, the new supermarkets comprise one each in Pulau Sebang in Melaka (with an investment of RM128 million); Taman Batik in Sungai Petani, Kedah (RM53 million); and in Semariang in Kuching (RM50 million) and Mydin City One (RM50 million) in Sarawak.

Second Adya Hotel To Open In Langkawi

LANGKAWI -- Adya Hotel, a hotel company wholly owned by the Kedah state government, plans to open a second hotel in Cenang, Langkawi, said Chairman Nor Saidi Nanyan. The Adya Hotel Cenang comes after Adya Hotel Langkawi, the first shariah-compliant hotel on the island resort, while the company is also in the process of taking over a hotel in Kuala Lumpur, he said, without elaborating.

RM300 Mln Released To Proton - Irwan

PUTRAJAYA -- Some RM300 million of the total RM1.5 billion soft loan approved to Proton Holdings Bhd (Proton) has been disbursed to the national car maker, said Treasury Secretary-General Tan Sri Dr Mohd Irwan Siregar Abdullah Tuesday. "First they (Proton) pay off all the debtors like vendors. We go according to progress, evaluate and release (the soft loan)," he said when asked on the RM1.5 billion soft loan after launching the National Code Challenge at the Finance Ministry here.

Malindo Air Adds Extra Flights For Hari Raya

KUALA LUMPUR -- Malindo Air will add new flight frequencies across its domestic network for scheduled flights from the Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA). In a statement here Tuesday, Malindo Air said, the new frequencies would take effect in conjunction with the Hari Raya 'Balik Kampung' holidays from July 1 onwards.

Tabung Haji Maintains Haj Payment At RM9,980

PETALING JAYA -- Lembaga Tabung Haji (TH) is maintaining the payment for each haj pilgrim this year at RM9,980, although expenses for each pilgrim have risen to RM18,890. TH Board of Directors member Tan Sri Abdul Shukor Husin said Wednesday, TH's overall subsidy for haj pilgrims is expected to rise to RM160 million this year from RM125 million last year.

Prasarana To Announce First Set Of Tenders For LRT3

KUALA LUMPUR -- Prasarana Malaysia Bhd will announce the first set of tenders for advanced works on the 37 km Bandar Utama-Klang Light Rail Transit line 3 project (LRT3) in the next two to three months. President and Group Chief Executive Officer Datuk Azmi Abdul Aziz said Wednesday, this includes site preparations and building of workers quarters.

MIMOS, MICHTH To Develop Smart City In Melaka

MELAKA -- MIMOS Bhd (MIMOS) is collaborating with Melaka state government subsidiary, Melaka ICT Holdings Sdn Bhd (MICTH), to turn Melaka City into a smart city. MIMOS President and Chief Executive Officer Datuk Abdul Wahab Abdullah said Wednesday, the national information, communications and technology research and development centre would provide the necessary technology in the endeavour.

Malindo Air, Turkish Airlines Announce Interline Partnership

KUALA LUMPUR -- Malindo Air has teamed up with Turkish Airlines to tap new markets as well as enable passengers to find connections easier when travelling between ASEAN and Europe. In a statement Friday, Malindo Air Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Chandran Rama Muthy, said this interline partnership would make travel seamless from this region, reward frequent travellers on Malindo Air and offer passengers even more options when travelling to Turkey and beyond.

SEW-EURODRIVE To Open Largest Manufacturing Factory In Johor

JOHOR BAHARU -- SEW-EURODRIVE, a leading German company in the field of drive engineering, is expected to open its largest manufacturing factory at the Frontier Industrial Park (Frontier 2) here in August this year. The project is being developed by WB Land Sdn Bhd. Managing Director Wong Yen Yap said Wednesday, SEW-EURODRIVE's factory is among six detached factory units currently undergoing construction in the second phase of the Frontier 2 project.

AirAsia Is Official Airline For Rajinikanth's 'Kabali' Movie

KUALA LUMPUR -- AirAsia has signed up with V Creations,the producers of Kabali, an upcoming action movie from India featuring "superstar" Rajinikanth, as the official airline. Commenting on the partnership, AirAsia India's Chief Executive Officer Amar Abrol said Thursday, the airline was thrilled to be the official airline for the movie.
"We are overwhelmed with joy to be a part of the movie and enable as many passengers to celebrate the Kabali fever.

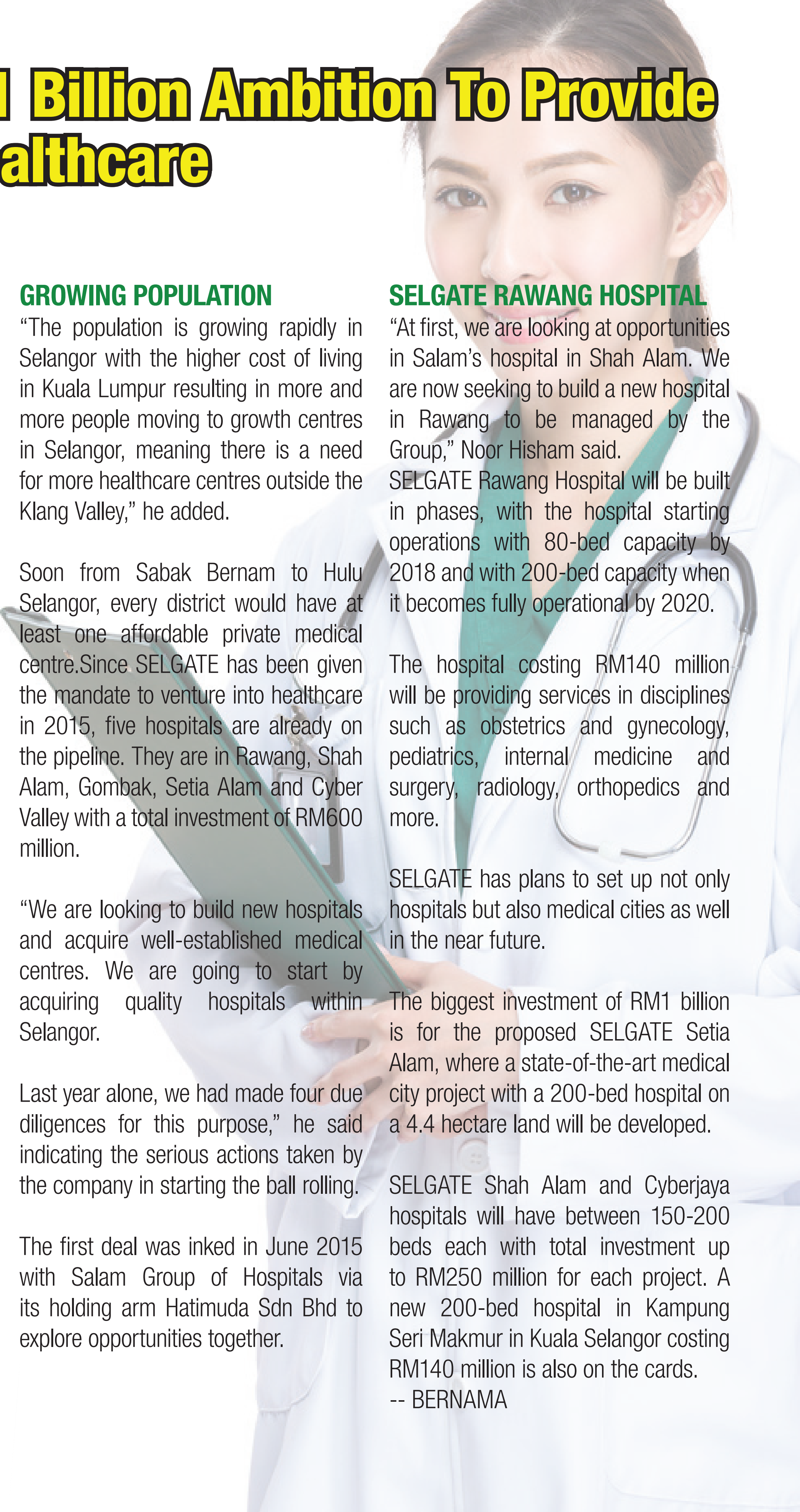
1MDB To File Response To Request For Arbitration

KUALA LUMPUR -- 1MDB says it will file a robust response to the Request for Arbitration (RFA) on or before the deadline of July 11, 2016 as stipulated by the London Court of International Arbitration. In a statement Friday, IMDB said it is confident of its legal position and has appointed Weil Gotshal & Manges (Weil Gotshal) to represent it in the dispute with International Petroleum Investment Co (IPIC).

Najib Witnesses MoU Signing On Borneo744 Township

PUTRAJAYA -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak Friday witnessed the signing of the memorandum of understanding (MOU) for the establishment of the first Blue Ocean Entrepreneurs Township (BOET) in Bintawa, Kuching (Borneo744). The township, which was announced by Najib on April 3, 2016 during the 'Gathering of Rising Entrepreneurs, Act Together' in Kuching, Sarawak, will serve as a hub of creativity and innovation to bring together industry players under one roof to form a more creative working relationship.

Selgate's RM1 Billion Ambition To Provide Affordable Healthcare



By Nurul Jannah Kamaruddin

KUALA LUMPUR (Bernama) -- Malaysia has world-class healthcare facilities and medical specialists in numerous disciplines that even lures foreigners to seek medical treatment in the country.

A report by the Malaysian Healthcare Travel Council (MHTC), an agency under the Ministry of Health, stated that the country had witnessed over 850,000 healthcare travellers in 2015. Nonetheless, private healthcare is still beyond the means of most Malaysians as it is expensive.

At the moment, there are only about 20 major private hospitals in Selangor offering 4,572 beds and the private healthcare players have set their eyes on the affluent section of the society as their target market.

"SELGATE is ready to pour in billions of Ringgit in providing affordable healthcare for the six million people in Selangor, providing the best quality hospitals and even medical insurance coverage in the future," said its CEO Noor Hisham Mohd Ghouth in an interview.

SELGATE has big plans to cater for the rapidly growing population in industrialised Selangor in fulfilling the need for quality healthcare, targeting at least 10 new private hospitals in Selangor by 2025 before venturing nationwide.

GROWING POPULATION

"The population is growing rapidly in Selangor with the higher cost of living in Kuala Lumpur resulting in more and more people moving to growth centres in Selangor, meaning there is a need for more healthcare centres outside the Klang Valley," he added.

Soon from Sabak Bernam to Hulu Selangor, every district would have at least one affordable private medical centre.Since SELGATE has been given the mandate to venture into healthcare in 2015, five hospitals are already on the pipeline. They are in Rawang, Shah Alam, Gombak, Setia Alam and Cyber Valley with a total investment of RM600 million.

"We are looking to build new hospitals and acquire well-established medical centres. We are going to start by acquiring quality hospitals within Selangor.

Last year alone, we had made four due diligences for this purpose," he said indicating the serious actions taken by the company in starting the ball rolling.

The first deal was inked in June 2015 with Salam Group of Hospitals via its holding arm Hatimuda Sdn Bhd to explore opportunities together.

SELGATE RAWANG HOSPITAL

"At first, we are looking at opportunities in Salam's hospital in Shah Alam. We are now seeking to build a new hospital in Rawang to be managed by the Group," Noor Hisham said.
SELGATE Rawang Hospital will be built in phases, with the hospital starting operations with 80-bed capacity by 2018 and with 200-bed capacity when it becomes fully operational by 2020.

The hospital costing RM140 million will be providing services in disciplines such as obstetrics and gynecology, pediatrics, internal medicine and surgery, radiology, orthopedics and more.

SELGATE has plans to set up not only hospitals but also medical cities as well in the near future.

The biggest investment of RM1 billion is for the proposed SELGATE Setia Alam, where a state-of-the-art medical city project with a 200-bed hospital on a 4.4 hectare land will be developed.

SELGATE Shah Alam and Cyberjaya hospitals will have between 150-200 beds each with total investment up to RM250 million for each project. A new 200-bed hospital in Kampung Seri Makmur in Kuala Selangor costing RM140 million is also on the cards.
-- BERNAMA

LIST OF MARKET REPORTS :

BURSA MALAYSIA

Bursa Malaysia Expected To Trade Higher

By Siti Radziah Hamzah

KUALA LUMPUR -- Bursa Malaysia is likely to trend higher next week, supported by improving domestic economic figures and stabilising commodity prices.

Affin Hwang Investment Bank Vice-President and Retail Research Head, Datuk Dr Nazri Khan Adam Khan said the local bourse had fairly stabilised during the week just ended after the US Federal Reserve (Fed) kept interest rates unchanged.

The Fed had decided against a rate hike at its fourth Federal Open Market Committee meeting this week, after raising them for the first time in a decade in December 2015. Nazri Khan said the FBM KLCI would likely find its next support and resistance level at between 1,600 and 1,620, and 1,630 to 1,650, respectively.

"We have improving economic data such as higher labour productivity and easing inflation, which means Bank Negara Malaysia has less pressure to increase interest rates," he told Bernama.

In May, the Consumer Price Index eased to 2.0 per cent year-on-year, and was marginally down from 2.1 per cent recorded in April. Meanwhile, Malaysia's labour productivity grew by 3.3 per cent to RM74,538 per labour hour last year from RM73,091 in 2014.

However, investor sentiment was cautious ahead of the United Kingdom's (UK) referendum on possible exit from the European Union on June 23. "I think most likely the UK may remain inside the European Union.

Even if it decides to exit, it will take two years before it officially comes out. The market will have enough time to adjust," said Nazri Khan. Weekly turnover decreased to 7.17 billion units worth RM7.25 billion from 8.55 billion units worth RM8.25 billion last week.

Main market volume fell to 4.30 billion shares worth RM6.80 billion from 5.61 billion shares worth RM7.73 billion previously.

FOREX : Ringgit To Trade Between 4.0300 And 4.0800 Versus US Dollar

KUALA LUMPUR -- The ringgit is likely to trade between 4.0300 and 4.0800 against the US dollar next week, driven by the local equity market performance, a dealer said.

Hong Leong Bank Senior Manager for Bond and Economic Research Choong Yin Pheng said the ringgit was expected to turn slightly bullish next week, in anticipation of extended dips in the US dollar amid a dampened Federal Reserve rate hike outlook.

"Gains will likely be modest if oil prices continue to dip but we reckon that risk appetite in the markets is likely to improve, providing an overall support to the ringgit. "Technically, we expect the ringgit may make another attempt to break higher, but we are currently skeptical that it could break between the 4.1225 and 4.1282 region," she said.

However, she said fears of the United Kingdom exit from the European Union would continue to make an impact over this region as risk-off sentiments spurred US dollar buying against regional currencies. For the week just-ended, the ringgit traded mixed against the greenback in a choppy market as most market participants stayed on the sidelines.

On a Friday-to-Friday basis, the local unit was lower at 4.0970/0030 against the US dollar from 4.0700/0760 in the previous week. It also ended lower against other currencies except for the British pound.

The ringgit was down against the Singapore dollar to 3.0332/0397 from 3.0004/0059, depreciated against the yen to 3.9277/9350 from last Friday's 3.8030/8104 and slid against the euro to 4.6112/6196 from 4.5987/6071 previously.

However it appreciated against the British pound to 5.8550/8652 from last week's 5.8767/8862.

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

KUALA LUMPUR -- The Malaysian money market is likely to remain stable next week with Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) continuing to intervene to manage surplus liquidity. The central bank is expected to conduct daily tenders to reduce excess liquidity from the financial market.

For the week just-ended, BNM intervened on a daily basis to absorb excess funds by conducting several tenders -- conventional money market, Qard, Qard tender-iRMA, repo, reverse repo, money market range maturity auction and Commodity Murabahah Programme.

On Friday, BNM's action helped to reduce the market's liquidity surplus in the conventional system to RM24.49 billion from RM28.42 billion earlier.

The market liquidity in the Islamic system fell to RM4.64 billion from RM11.77 billion previously. The overnight rate stood at 3.20 per cent while the one-, two- and three-week rates were at 3.31 per cent, 3.35 per cent and 3.40 per cent respectively throughout the week. Meanwhile, the benchmark three-month interbank rate was at 3.65 per cent.

KLCI Futures To Trend Higher

KUALA LUMPUR -- The FTSE Bursa Malaysia KLCI (FBM KLCI) futures contracts (FKLI) on Bursa Malaysia Derivatives are likely to improve next week, tracking the expected positive performance on the cash market.

A dealer said the local stock market was expected to trade higher in tandem with the better sentiment on the global front.

For the week just-ended, the futures market was mostly lower on cautious trading. Spot month June 2016 shed 6.5 points to 1,627.0, July 2016 declined 5.5 points to 1,627.5, September 2016 eased 6.5 points to 1,618.5 and December 2016 fell 4.0 points to 1,610.0.

Turnover improved to 36,091 lots from 28,045 lots last week while open interests was slightly higher at 42,463 contracts against 42,325 contracts previously. The benchmark FBM KLCI settled at 1624.18, down 17.04 points from 1,641.22 last Friday.

CPO Futures May Rebound

By Azizul Ahmad

KUALA LUMPUR -- Crude palm oil (CPO) futures contract on Bursa Malaysia Derivatives is expected to rebound next week amid an oversold position for the commodity. The weak exports situation was temporary as the use of palm oil globally was not declining, said a senior trader.

Demand from China and India are still there, despite currently easing as major consumers had stocked up before the Muslim month of Ramadan.

"We don't expect prices to stay permanently depressed as exports are expected to start recovering towards Aidilfitri. The return of next festive demand is expected to come from other importing countries and this could boost CPO export in the coming months," he told Bernama.

Meanwhile, Interband Group of Companies Senior Trader, Jim Teh, said that market would turn cautiously quiet as the recent announcement of a hike in export duty might affect buyers' behaviour.

"The CPO futures contracts are expected to trade between a narrower band of RM2,400 and RM2,450 a tonne next week with lesser speculative activity expected," he added.

On a Friday-to-Friday basis, July 2016 delivery shed RM109 to RM2,485 per tonne, August 2016 declined RM118 to RM2,462 per tonne, September 2016 eased RM110 to RM2,450 per tonne, while October 2016 was RM94 lower at RM2,441 per tonne.

Weekly turnover rose to 275,228 lots from 258,196 lots last week while open interest decreased to 288,553 contracts from 304,028 contracts previously.

On the physical market, June South was RM110 lower at RM2,540 per tonne from last Friday's RM2,650 per tonne.

Rubber Market To Trade Cautiously

By Azizul Ahmad

KUALA LUMPUR -- The Malaysian rubber market is expected to trade cautiously next week on the performance of the ringgit, crude oil prices, as well as its regional peers. A dealer said prices for the soft commodity were expected to be rangebound on the back of the current firmer trend of the ringgit against the US dollar.

"The recovery in crude oil prices towards US$50 per barrel (for Brent crude futures), meanwhile, could influence the price of SMR grades and latex-in-bulk positively. "Additionally, the local market will likely move in tandem with the Tokyo Commodity Exchange (TOCOM)," he told Bernama.

For the week just-ended, the local rubber market was on an uptrend as TOCOM futures rebounded after hitting a four-month low. "We aren't sure if prices at TOCOM have ended their bearish mode or if it is purely minor short-covering after a slide in the yen," he added.

On a Friday-to-Friday basis, the Malaysian Rubber Board's official physical price for tyre-grade SMR 20 rose 11 sen to 500.5 sen per kg while latex-in-bulk soared 25.5 sen to 444 sen per kg.

The 5 pm unofficial closing price for SMR 20 gained 21.5 sen to 514 sen per kg while latex-in-bulk was 20.5 sen higher at 444 sen per kg.

KLIBOR Futures Likely To Be Flat

KUALA LUMPUR -- The three-month Kuala Lumpur Interbank Offered Rate (KLIBOR) futures contract on Bursa Malaysia Derivatives is expected to remain untraded next week due to lack of interest.

The futures market was also untraded for the week just-ended with open interest remaining nil. On a week-to-week basis, new spot month July 2016 and August 2016 remained pegged at 96.35 while September 2016 and December 2016 stood at 96.40. The underlying three-month KLIBOR on the cash market was unchanged at 3.65 per cent.

KLTM To Trade Between US$17,000 And US$17,200

By Sharifah Pirdaus Syed Ali

KUALA LUMPUR -- The Kuala Lumpur Tin Market (KLTM) is likely to trend higher next week but within a narrow range of between US$17,000 and US$17,200 a tonne, a dealer said.

The dealer said the demand for the metal was expected to remain moderate especially from China following its economic slowdown and the market would probably be supported by Southeast Asian buyers.

"We expect the movement of the market to be a bit flat following the soft demand for the metal. "The price will move on technical correction to align with the metal's price on the London Metal Exchange within the range US$17,000 and US$17,200 a tonne next week," he told Bernama.

For the week just-ended, tin price ended US$50 higher at US$17,100 a tonne compared to US$17,050 a tonne last Friday. The weekly turnover improved to 238 lots from 227 lots last week. On a Friday-to-Friday basis, the premium between the KLTM and LME widened to US$95 a tonne from US$25 a tonne.

Gold Futures Expected To Trend Higher

By Sharifah Pirdaus Syed Ali

KUALA LUMPUR -- Gold futures contracts on Bursa Malaysia Derivatives are expected to trend higher next week, on the back of uncertainty surrounding the United Kingdom exit from the European Union (Brexit).

Phillip Futures Sdn Bhd Dealer, Leo Goh Boon Hao, said concerns over Brexit ahead of the June 23 referendum would still be the primary driver over the next few days. "If Britain decides to leave the group, gold is expected to get a further boost as a safe haven.

"However, we expect global financial products to experience a huge volatility," he told Bernama. On a Friday-to-Friday basis, June 2016 rose 136 ticks to RM169.5 a gramme and July 2016 increased 121 ticks to RM169.85 a gramme. August 2016 and September 2016 improved 113 ticks each to RM170.15 and RM170.5 a gramme, respectively.

Weekly turnover surged to 237 lots worth RM3.91 million from 85 lots valued at RM1.40 last Friday. Open interest on Friday rose to 421 contracts from 337 contracts previously.