MALAYSIAeBiz
WEEKLY BUSINESS ROUNDUP SEPTEMBER 12- 15 2016

September 15, 2016

This Week's Highlight :
Govt Firm On Transforming Public Transportation System - Najib

MILESTONE...Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak Thursday officiated the groundbreaking of the RM32 billion mass rapid transit (MRT) Sungai Buloh-Serdang-Putrajaya (SSP) line, the second one after the Sungai Buloh-Kajang (SBK) line. Also present MRT CEO Datuk Seri Shahril Mokhtar (left). Pix Mahayudin Mohamad fotoBERNAMA

PUTRAJAYA -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said Thursday, the government is taking decisive action to catch up on what was not done or focused on in modernising and transforming Malaysia's public transportation system.
Full attention will be given to developing a modern, efficient, realiable and safe transportation system for the people in the Klang Valley and beyond, " he said when officiating at the Mass Rapid Transit Sungai Buloh-Serdang-Putrajaya Line ground-breaking ceremony at the MRT worksite near Putrajaya Sentral here.

This Week's Top Stories

MONDAY

Power Substations Upgrade To Address LRT Issues - PM

KUALA LUMPUR -- The upgrading of 15 power substations on Kelana Jaya LRT line shall be commissioned and implemented as an immediate measure to address issues and recent incidents involving the Light Rail Transit (LRT) services, Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said."This measure will take up to three to six months to complete," he said in a statement here Tuesday.

TUESDAY

RM200 Mln Electric Motorcycle Plant In Pahang - MATRADE

From Nurul Hanis Izmir

NANNING (China) -- A factory to assemble electric motorcycles costing RM200 million will be developed in Gambang, Pahang, and is expected to be completed in two years, said the Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE). Its chief executive officer (CEO), Datuk Dzulkifli Mahmud said Tuesday, the project would be a joint-venture between a Chinese company and two Malaysian firms.

WEDNESDAY

EPF Simpanan Shariah Hits RM41.1 Bln

KUALA LUMPUR -- The Employees Provident Fund (EPF) Wednesday announced that 41.07 per cent, amounting to RM41.1 billion, from the initial allocation of RM100 billion for Simpanan Shariah 2017 has been taken up, as at Sept 13, 2016. The pension fund said members wanting to switch to Simpanan Shariah should visit any EPF branch, nationwide, to avoid last-minute crowds in December. "The closing date for Simpanan Shariah 2017 is Dec 23, 2016 or subject to the availability of the RM100 billion allocation," it said in a statement.

THURSDAY

PM Wants Ministries, Agencies To Study Public 2017 Budget Proposals

KUALA LUMPUR -- Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak wants all ministries and government agencies to study the proposals made by the public on the #Bajet2017 website. The prime minister said this was needed as many suggestions that came from the people at large via the special website were related to the ministries. "These are the views and opinions of the 'rakyat', all need to take note," he said in his latest posting on his Facebook page Thursday.

SMEbrief

MATRADE- ICBC-Qinzhou MoU To Smoothen SME Exports

From Nurul Hanis Izmir

NANNING (China) -- The Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE) today signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) and the Guangxi Qinzhou Free Trade Port to smoothen export of goods produced by Malaysian small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to China. MATRADE director of China Unit, Ong Yew Chee said Monday, the MoU would help open up more opportunities for Malaysian SMEs to export their products to the republic.

Steinbeis, UKM Tie-Up In SME Programme

KUALA LUMPUR -- Steinbeis Malaysia Foundation has collaborated with Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) to host a One-on-One Consultancy Programme for the small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the food and beverage (F&B) industry. Steinbeis Chief Executive Officer Mark Rozario said Tuesday, the programme, which is the first of its kind, had enabled the SMEs to have one-on-one personalised sessions to engage with industry consultants regarding their respective business problems or needs.

E-Commerce To Play Vital Role In ASEAN Economic Devt

From Nurul Hanis Izmir

NANNING (CHINA) -- Trading, via the e-commerce platform, will play an important role in the economic development of ASEAN going forward, says Alibaba Group Chairman, Jack Ma. Ma said Tuesday, the group aims to participate in the development of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and assist young entrepreneurs excel in their businesses via the e-commerce platform.

BIMB Gives Out RM200 Mln Loans To SMEs

KOTA BHARU -- Bank Islam Malaysia Bhd (BIMB) has disbursed RM200 million in loans to small and medium enterprises, including batik fabric producers in Kelantan, since the bank opened for operations in 1983, says Managing Director Datuk Seri Zukri Samat. He said Wednesday, the bank gives out various loans to a maximum of RM500,000 to help batik producers develop their business and to make inroads into overseas markets.

ASEAN Govts, Private Sector Urged To Empower Young Entrepreneurs

KUALA LUMPUR -- Governments and the private sector in ASEAN member countries have been urged to empower young entrepreneurs, the group likely to spearhead the economy in the future."An appropriate skills programme for this group could help uplift their economic well-being and purchasing power.ASEAN's young demographics makes this a region with high purchasing power," said Joint Chairman of ASEAN Young Entrepreneurs Council Syed Nabil Aljeffri Wednesday.

PropUP Property*update*

LBS Bina, Worldwide Prop Tie-Up To Develop Ijok Township

KUALA LUMPUR -- LBS Bina Group Bhd's subsidiary, Kemudi Ehsan Sdn Bhd, and Worldwide Property Management Sdn Bhd have signed a development rights agreement with Menteri Besar Selangor (Incorporated) (MBI) to develop a township in Ijok, Kuala Selangor. In a filing to Bursa Malaysia Tuesday, LBS Bina said, the development would cover 367.86 hectares of leasehold land expiring on Feb 15, 2111.

RAM: Moneylender Licence Won't Affect Property Sector

KUALA LUMPUR -- RAM Rating Services Bhd expects the property sector to be insignificantly lifted by the move to allow eligible developers to apply for a moneylender's licence to provide loan facilities to house buyers. The rating agency said Tuesday, based on its analytical publication on 10 key Malaysian property developers in June 2016, entitled Slowdown and Increasing Leverage Pressure Credit Health of Leading Developers, most of these players had geared up in the past two years to fund land acquisition and working-capital needs.

Johor On Track To Provide Affordable Housing Schemes

JOHOR BAHRU -- The Johor government will meet its target of providing at least 60,000 units of affordable houses to people in the state by 2020, said Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin Tuesday. The latest effort is the Johor Affordable Housing Scheme (RMMJ) carried out with AmBank Islamic Berhad.

H1 Property Sales Fall By 39 Pct - REHDA

PETALING JAYA -- Property sales in Malaysia slipped by 39 per cent in the first half of 2016 (H1 2016) when compared to the robust 52 per cent growth a year ago, due to slower demand and end-financing related issues. Real Estate and Housing Developers' Association (REHDA) President, Datuk Seri FD Iskandar said Wednesday, first-time buyers declined by 13 per cent in 1H 2016.

Cabinet Wants Home Financing Policy Reviewed, Improved

PUTRAJAYA -- The Cabinet today instructed the Ministry of Urban Wellbeing, Housing and Local Government to review and improve the home financing policy stated under the Moneylenders Act 1951 for house purchase. Minister Tan Sri Noh Omar said matters concerning the effectiveness of the policy in helping the people in securing loans for house purchase was discussed and concluded after he explained his housing developer loan facility proposal to the Cabinet members during their meeting Wednesday.

BURSA MALAYSIA

Scoreboard

Gainers - 397

Losers - 369

Not Traded - 529

Unchanged - 385

Value - 2319799431

Volume - 13281355

Bursa Malaysia Ends Lower

KUALA LUMPUR -- Bursa Malaysia closed lower Thursday weighed down by external factors as well as weak local sentiment due to the holiday-shortened trading week.At 5 pm, the FTSE Bursa Malaysia KLCI (FBM KLCI) eased 8.40 points to close at 1,652.99 points against Wednesday's close of 1,661.39 points. A trader said the overseas sentiment was dampened by the global oil glut which was set to worsen and continue until next year. "This has also affected the Asian equities markets, which saw Singapore's Strait Times down 0.37 per cent and Japan's Nikkei 225 was lower by 1.26 per cent," he said. Gainers outpaced losers by 397 to 369 while 385 counters were unchanged, 529 untraded and 19 others suspended. Volume fell to 1.33 billion units worth RM2.32 billion from Wednesday's 1.40 billion units worth RM1.82 billion. The market will be closed Friday for Malaysia Day.

Exchange Rate

(Ringgit : Foreign Currency)

	Buying	Selling
USD	4.1340	4.1400
EUR	4.6491	4. 6467
GBP	5.4742	5. 4843
100 YEN	4.0391	4.0457
SGD	3.0259	3.0325

Source: Bank Negara Malaysia

Ringgit Ends Lower Against US Dollar

KUALA LUMPUR -- The ringgit closed lower against the US dollar Thursday on weak demand for the local note, coupled by the lacklustre performance on Bursa Malaysia, said a dealer. At 6 pm, the ringgit was quoted at 4.1340/1400 against the greenback from 4.1210/1260 on Wednesday. FXTM Chief Market Strategist Hussein Sayed said the global equity sell-off resumed on Thursday with most Asian indices declining for the sixth consecutive day. On concerns that the US Federal Reserve will soon tighten its monetary policy, Sayed said it has been an excuse to keep cash off the table. Meanwhile, the ringgit were traded lower against a basket of major currencies. The ringgit fell against the euro to 4.6491/6567 from 4.6246/6318 on Wednesday and slid against the Singapore dollar to 3.0259/0325 from 3.0173/0218, previously. It eased against the British pound to 5.4742/4843 from 5.4430/4521 on Wednesday and declined against the yen to 4.0391/0457 from 4.0103/0164.

Short-Term Rates End Stable On BNM Intervention

KUALA LUMPUR -- Short-term interbank rates closed stable Thursday on Bank Negara Malaysia's (BNM) intervention to absorb excess liquidity from the financial system. The liquidity surplus in the conventional system eased to RM25.56 billion from RM37.26 billion earlier, while in the Islamic system, it fell to RM6.73 billion from RM11.7 billion previously. Earlier, BNM conducted a range maturity auction tender, a repo tender and a Qard tender. The central bank also conducted a RM25 billion conventional money market tender and a RM6.6 billion Qard money market tender, both for four-day money. The overnight Islamic reference rate stood at 2.95 per cent while the one-, two- and three-week rates stood at 3.01 per cent, 3.06 per cent and 3.10 per cent, respectively.

KLIBOR Futures Contract Closes Untraded

KUALA LUMPUR -- The three-month Kuala Lumpur Interbank Offered Rate (KLIBOR) futures contract on Bursa Malaysia Derivatives closed untraded Thursday. Spot month September 2016, October 2016, November 2016 and December 2016 were all pegged at 96.60, respectively. Open interest was nil. At the 11 am fixing, the underlying three-month KLIBOR stood at 3.40 per cent.

KLCI Futures Contract Ends Lower

KUALA LUMPUR -- The FTSE Bursa Malaysia KLCI (FBM KLCI) futures contract on Bursa Malaysia Derivatives closed lower Thursday weighed by the weaker cash market. September 2016 fell 4.5 points to 1,653.5, October 2016 lost 4.0 points to 1,652, December 2016 was 5.5 points easier at 1,649.5 and March 2017 shed 7.0 points to 1,641. Turnover slipped to 9,418 lots from 9,908 lots on Wednesday and open interest narrowed to 45,166 contracts from 46,373 contracts, previously. The underlying benchmark FBM KLCI finished 8.4 points weaker at 1,652.99.

Supernewsroom Turns To Crowdfunding For Expansion

By Nurhafizah Ghazali

KUALA LUMPUR -- Supernewsroom, a digital media relations platform, will be listed on equity-based crowdfunding site CrowdPlus.asia next month, in an effort to raise RM1 million. Founder, Manminder Kaur Dhillon told Bernama Tuesday, the money would be used to fuel an expansion plan to "conquer" Asia by 2018.

Cagamas Issues RM1 Bln Dual Currency Notes

KUALA LUMPUR -- The national mortgage corporation, Cagamas Bhd, has issued dual currency medium-term notes of US dollar and Ringgit amounting to RM1 billion. The exercise, issued through its wholly-owned subsidiary, Cagamas Global PLC, comprised of one-year US$130 million and one-year RM470 million notes, it said in a statement Tuesday.

Bank Islam Eyes 20,000 Customers For Biz Credit Card

KUALA LUMPUR-- Bank Islam Malaysia Bhd (BIMB) aims to capture 10 per cent of its current 200,000 business customers for its first Shariah-compliant Visa Infinite Business Credit Card-i in the first three years. Managing Director Datuk Seri Zukri Samat said Tuesday, the bank had targeted to secure at least 500 cardholders by year-end.

Bank Islam Unperturbed Over Proposed Developer Loan Scheme

KUALA LUMPUR -- Bank Islam Malaysia Bhd (BIMB) is unperturbed over a proposal for housing developers to offer unsecured home loans at interest rates comparable to credit cards. "We are unlikely to be affected if it were to be implemented and we will continue to focus on the same target market which is the middle income group," it said Tuesday.

CIMB Thai Appoints Kittiphun President/CEO

KUALA LUMPUR -- CIMB Thai Bank pcl (CIMB Thai) has obtained approval from Bank of Thailand to appoint Kittiphun Anutarasoti as its President/ Chief Executive Officer, beginning Oct 19, 2016. In a statement Wednesday, CIMB Group (CIMB) said, Kittiphun will replace Subhak Siwaraksa, who has expressed his wish to retire.

ASEAN Economies To Grow Steadily Amid Strong Fundamentals - Maybank

By Azeman Ariffin

JAKARTA -– Despite speculation that ASEAN economies will be severely affected by the global economic downturn by next year, Maybank - ASEAN's fourth largest bank by assets - is optimistic that economic growth in the region will still be strong over the next three to five years. Maybank Kim Eng Group Chief Executive Officer Datuk John Chong said Wednesday, the bank believes that the fundamentals of ASEAN are strong and growth is expected to hit around five per cent this year.

RM4.85 Mln UK Prosperity Funds For Projects In Malaysia

By Nur Ashikin Abdul Aziz

KUALA LUMPUR -- The UK Government has allocated Prosperity Funds worth 913,500 pound (about RM4.85 million) for eight projects in Malaysia in 2016/17, the largest amount ever allocated since the fund was introduced in 2011. British High Commissioner to Malaysia Vicki Treadell said Wednesday, she was pleased to see that Malaysia stands to benefit from an increased allocation which created new opportunities for cooperation as well as strengthening existing collaborations.

REHDA Rejects Full-Financing Proposal To House Buyers

KUALA LUMPUR -- The Real Estate and Housing Developers' Association (REHDA) has rejected the proposal to provide 100 per cent financing to house-buyers. "No developer in Malaysia has the capacity to provide 100 per cent loan to house-buyers, but the proposal would at least assist with the downpayment," said President Datuk Seri FD Iskandar told reporters Wednesday.

Fitch: Property Developer Lending Can Stoke Risks

KUALA LUMPUR -- The decision to grant lending licences to property developers can add to the risks associated with rising household debt, says Fitch Ratings. The scheme is likely to encourage unregulated lending to households with weak financial profiles, and undermine the strength of the financial system if not implemented prudently, it said in a statement Thursday.

Perak Transit To Use RM20 Mln From IPO For Expansion

KUALA LUMPUR -- Ipoh-based bus company, Perak Transit Bhd, is allocating RM20 million out of its initial public offering (IPO) proceeds totalling RM36.75 million for expansion. Chief Financial Officer, John Loh Kwang Yean said Thursday, part of the allocation would be used for the construction of a new integrated public transportation terminal in Kampar and the acquisition of 25 new express buses.

MRT SBK Line On Schedule At No Extra Cost - PM

PUTRAJAYA -- The MRT Sungai Buloh-Kajang (SBK) line will be completed as scheduled with no additional cost to be incurred, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said Thursday. Spanning 51 kilometres, the MRT-SBK line, which is being built at the cost of RM23 billion, is now 89 per cent completed, he said at the MRT Sungai Buloh-Serdang-Putrajaya (SSP) line ground-breaking ceremony here.

Malaysian Soft Exports To Maintain Double-Digit Growth

From Nurul Hanis Izmir

NANNING (CHINA) -- The Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (Matrade) aims to maintain at double-digits this year, the growth in export of lifestyle products. Abu Bakar Yusof, the Lifestyle Unit Director at Matrade said Monday, the export of lifestyle or "soft exports" including fashion, cosmetics, furniture, jewellery and accessories improved 13 per cent to RM37 billion last year, compared with 2014.

Taipei Aims 20 Pct Rise In M'sian Tourist Arrivals

From Niam Seet Wei

TAIPEI-- The Taipei City government aims to record a 20 per cent year-on-year growth in Malaysian tourist arrivals by year-end, up from 370,000 in 2015. Information and Tourism Commissioner, Yu-Yen Chien said Monday, of the 430,000 Malaysians who visited Taiwan last year, 370,000 visited Taipei, the country's capital.

Parkson Expects Higher Earnings After Unit Disposal

KUALA LUMPUR -- Parkson Holdings Bhd expects to achieve higher earnings by about RM300 million for the financial year ending June 30, 2017 following the disposal of a company by its subsidiary, Parkson Retail Group Ltd. In a filing to Bursa Malaysia Tuesday, Parkson said it owns a 54.67 per cent stake in Parkson Retail Group, which also made the same announcement to the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Ltd.

Boeing Forecasts China Demand For 6,810 Airplanes Worth US$1 Trillion

KUALA LUMPUR -- Boeing, China's leading provider of commercial airplanes, projects a demand for 6,810 new airplanes valued at US$1.025 trillion in the country over the next 20 years. This makes it the first trillion dollar aviation market in Boeing's forecast. "As China transitions to a more consumer-based economy, aviation will play a key role in its economic development. "As travel and transportation are key services, we expect to see passenger traffic grow 6.4 per cent annually in China over the next 20 years," said vice president of Marketing, Boeing Commercial Airplanes, Randy Tinseth. In its annual China Current Market Outlook (CMO) released on Tuesday the aircraft manufacturer also predicted that the country would need 5,110 new single-aisle airplanes through 2035, accounting for 75 per cent of the total new deliveries. Low-cost carriers and full-service airlines have been adding airplanes and expanding new point-to-point services to cater for both leisure and business travel demand from a rising middle class in China and throughout Asia.

Astro Posts Higher Pre-Tax Profit H1 FY17

KUALA LUMPUR -- Astro Malaysia Holdings Bhd reported a higher pre-tax profit of RM448.985 million for the six months ended July 31, 2016 from RM414.67 million in the previous corresponding period. In a filing to Bursa Malaysia Wednesday, Astro said its revenue for the period rose to RM2.79 billion from RM2.69 billion previously.

Malaysia's Sales At CAEXPO Top RM329.60 Mln

From Nurul Nanis Izmir

NANNING -- Malaysia's sales at the just concluded 13th China-ASEAN Expo (CAEXPO) 2016 topped RM329.60 million, a 53.6 per cent increase from last year's event, the Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE) said. MATRADE China's Unit Director Ong Yew Chee said Wednesday, the sales surpassed MATRADE target of RM250 million, while RM214.61 million in sales were generated at the CAEXPO 2015.

Malaysia's Food Processing Machinery Imports May Hit RM1.69 Bln

KUALA LUMPUR -- Growing population and demand for quality food are set to spur Malaysia's import of food processing and packaging machinery by 5-10 per cent or up to 33.4 million euros (RM154.42 million) this year from 334 million euros (RM1.54 billion) recorded in 2015. Richard Clemens, Managing Director of Food Processing and Packaging Machinery Association in the German Engineering Federation said Wednesday, the increase in population, especially the young generation was among the key growth factors for the sector.

Proton's New Persona Gets 7,000 Bookings

SHAH ALAM -- National carmaker Proton Holdings Bhd has received 7,000 bookings to date for its all-new Persona. Group Managing Director, Datuk Seri Syed Faisal Albar Syed A.R. Albar said Thursday, the new Persona has been well received since it was launched on Aug 23, 2016.

CPO Export Tax Rises To 6.5 Pct October

KUALA LUMPUR -- The crude palm oil export tax will increase to 6.5 per cent in October from the current five per cent. The Royal Malaysian Customs Department in a circular said Thursday, the new tax is calculated based on a reference price of RM2,879.47 per tonne.

Magni-Tech Q1 Pre-Tax Profit Rises To RM30.98 Mln

KUALA LUMPUR -- Magni-Tech Industry Bhd's pre-tax profit for the first quarter ended July 31, 2016 rose to RM30.98 million from RM20.48 million in the corresponding quarter a year ago. Revenue increased to RM271.39 million from RM193.81 million previously, it said in a filing to Bursa Malaysia Thursday.


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

Cattle Industry Needs To Be Expanded - Johari
KUALA LUMPUR -- The cattle industry needs to be further expanded as its by-products have the ability to help stabilise the country's economy. Second Finance Minister Datuk Johari Abdul Ghani said Monday, discussions would be held with the Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-based Industry to map out a long term plan with the growing annual demand in the country for the rearing of cattle.

Malaysia To Persuade France Not To Hike Palm Oil Duties
PUTRAJAYA -- Malaysia, as a major palm oil producer, will try and persuade France not to hike duties on Malaysian palm oil which currently attracts 21 per cent import tax, said Plantation Industries and Commodities Minister Datuk Seri Mah Siew Keong. "We are engaged in high-level discussions with French parliamentarians, said Mah Tuesday.

Astana International Financial Centre To Boost Kazakhstan Economy
KUALA LUMPUR -- The Astana International Financial Centre (AIFC), part of Kazakhstan's "100 Concrete Steps" initiative to be opened in 2017, is poised to bring economic prosperity to the young nation. The Kazakh embassy in Malaysia said in a statement Tuesay, the centre is to attract more foreign direct investments (FDIs), open up Kazakhstan's banking sector and increase the ease of doing business for insurance companies and Islamic finance institutions.

Third Klang Valley MRT Line
KUALA LUMPUR -- Mass Rapid Transit Corporation Sdn Bhd (MRT Corp) is in the midst of planning to build the third Klang Valley MRT Line that will shorten travel time within the capital. Director of Strategic Communications and Stakeholder Relations Datuk Najmuddin Abdullah said Tuesday, MRT Corp has appointed an independent consultant to study the plan, for which its first report is expected to be ready in the fourth quarter of this year or the first quarter of next year.

Malaysia's August Palm Oil Stocks Down 17.29 Pct
KUALA LUMPUR -- Malaysia's total palm oil stocks fell 17.29 per cent to 1.46 million tonnes in August against 1.77 million tonnes in the previous month, the Malaysian Palm Oil Board (MPOB) said Tuesday. Crude palm oil stocks declined 25.78 per cent to 757,405 tonnes in August from 1.02 million tonnes at end-July.

ASEAN Poised To Attract Investment Amid Global Volatility - InvestKL
KUALA LUMPUR -- ASEAN is poised to benefit from the global economic uncertainty as foreign investors are shifting their attention to the region where there is ample room for growth, InvestKL chief executive officer Datuk Zainal Amanshah said Wednesday. Being the world's seventh largest economy which is expected to grow between 4.5 to 4.6 per cent this year, he said ASEAN is an attractive market for foreigninvestment.

ECERDC Attracts RM4.5 Bln Investment From China In Renewable Energy
From Nurul Hanis Izmir
NANNING -- The East Coast Economic Region Development Council (ECERDC) has secured potential investments of RM4.50 billion from China for the construction of renewable energy and advanced chemical factory in Malaysia-China Kuantan Industrial Park (MCKIP). Its Chief Executive Officer, Datuk Seri Jebasingam Issace John said Wednesday, construction of the factory will commence early next year and was slated for completion early 2018.

ASEAN Leaders Urged To Boost Awareness Of ASEAN Community
KUALA LUMPUR -- ASEAN leaders should be more proactive by implementing public awareness campaigns about the ASEAN community to prevent a Brexit-like event, says a local academic. Prof. Emeritus Datuk Dr Abdul Rahman Embong of Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia's Institute of Malaysian & International Studies (IKMAS) said Wednesday, the people in ASEAN countries do not have sufficient knowledge about the regional bloc, making the implementation of its objectives problematic.

ASEAN Members Need To Re-Look At Non-Tariff Barriers' Implementation - IDEAS
KUALA LUMPUR -- ASEAN member countries need to re-look at the implementation of non-tariff barriers to ensure that they do restrict the entry of foreign companies. Chief Executive Officer of Institute of Democracy and Economic Affairs (IDEAS), Wan Saiful Wan Jan said Wednesday, although the tax rates for exports and imports had been reduced to near zero now, investors had unknowingly imposed new restrictions in efforts to protect the interests of local industries.

LBS Bina Disposes MITCE Stake For RM225 Mln

KUALA LUMPUR -- LBS Bina Group Bhd (LBGB) is disposing a 75 per cent equity in MITCE Engineering Sdn Bhd (MITCE), held via MITC Sdn Bhd (MITC), in an inter-party deal worth RM225 million, to streamline operations.

For this purpose, MITC, has entered into a share sale agreement (SSA) with ML Global Bhd (MGB), which is a 51.18 per cent-owned subsidiary of LBGB.

HeiTech, Elite Capital JV In Bermuda

KUALA LUMPUR -- HeiTech Padu Bhd has entered into a joint venture agreement with Elite Capital Ltd to establish and operate a company in Bermuda. The proposed joint venture company in Bermuda would explore business opportunities which encompass the development, licencing and maintenance of software, specifically for identity, travellers and transportation businesses which is intended to be used, utilised or operated outside of Malaysia, said HeiTech in a filing to Bursa Malaysia Wednesday.

S'pore Businesses Encouraged To Explore Investment Opportunities In Malaysia

By Massita Ahmad

SINGAPORE -- Singaporean businesses are encouraged to further explore the broad range of investment opportunities in Malaysia, High Commissioner of Malaysia to Singapore Datuk Ilango Karuppannan said Wednesday. He cited the Principal Hub incentive scheme that would make Malaysia a hub for their regional operations as an example.

EITA Resources Secures RM15.2 Mln Contract To Install Lifts

KUALA LUMPUR -- EITA Resources Bhd's unit, EITA Elevator (M) Sdn Bhd has secured a contract worth RM15.2 million from Kerjaya Prospek (M) Sdn Bhd for the supply, delivery, installation, testing and commissioning of lifts. In a filing to Bursa Malaysia Wednesday, EITA Resources said the contract would be for several projects (sub-contracts) for the proposed development of main buildings, including office suites and serviced apartments.

Rising Protectionist Sentiment Temporary - Mustapa

KUALA LUMPUR -- The rising tide of protectionism against trade globally is expected to be temporary and would depend on respective governments' efforts to tackle the issue, said Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed. The International Trade and Industry Minister said Thursday, the rise of the anti-globalisation movement is evidenced by Brexit, the vote by British citizens to leave the European Union.

Malaysia To Launch World's First Islamic Venture Capital Fund

PUTRAJAYA -- Plans to establish the world's first Islamic venture capital fund are now in the final stage and will be launched at the right time, said Treasury Secretary-General, Tan Sri Irwan Serigar Abdullah Thursday. He said the teams from the ministry and Jeddah-based Islamic Development Bank (IDB) had met twice to finalise the structure of the fund, spearheaded by Malaysia in collaboration with the IDB.

Najib Officiates RM32 Bln MRT SSP Line Groundbreaking

PUTRAJAYA -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak Thursday officiated the groundbreaking of the RM32 billion mass rapid transit (MRT) Sungai Buloh-Serdang-Putrajaya (SSP) line, the second one after the Sungai Buloh-Kajang (SBK) line. The groundbreaking of the 52.5 km line marks another milestone for Greater Kuala Lumpur to achieve 40 per cent public transport modal share within the next 15 years. As at end-2015, the share stood at 25 per cent.

Eco World Optimistic Of Hitting RM4 Bln Sales

KUALA LUMPUR -- Property developer Eco World Development Group Bhd is optimistic of achieving its sales target of RM4 billion in the financial year ended Oct 31, 2016 compared to RM3.016 billion sales achieved in the financial year ended Oct 31, 2015. President/ Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Datuk Chang Khim Wah said Thursday, the company has received strong interest for its products despite tough market conditions.

CAEXPO Among Malaysia's Strategies To Boost Ties With China

From Nurul Hanis Izmir

NANNING (CHINA) -- Malaysia's participation in the 13th China-ASEAN Expo (CAEXPO) here is one of Malaysia's strategies to strengthen bilateral trade among both countries. The Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation's (MATRADE) Strategic Planning Division Senior Director Wan Latiff Wan Musa said Monday, the CAEXPO was among the biggest events in China, with a population of 1.3 billion.

ICAO, IATA, ACI To Host AVSEC KL Conference

KUALA LUMPUR -- Key topics such as securing landside spaces at airports, information sharing among governments, managing the risks of home-grown terrorism and preventing cyber threats will top the agenda of the 25th AVSEC (Aviation Security) World Conference from Oct 25-27, 2016 in Kuala Lumpur. The event, jointly organised by the International Air Transport Association (IATA), the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) and Airports Council International (ACI), will also address evolving aviation security risks with integrated solutions.

Leweko Unit Secures RM14.5 Mln Contract From Iswarabena

KUALA LUMPUR -- Leweko Resources Bhd's subsidiary, Dura Technology Sdn Bhd, has accepted a letter of award for sub-contract works from Iswarabena Sdn Bhd for RM14.5 million. The project entails the supply, delivery and launch of Ultra High Performance Concrete Post Tensioned Segmental U Beam for the building of the Kuala Terengganu Bypass was sub-contracted by the main contractor, said Leweko in a statement Tuesday.

DRB-HICOM Unit Tie-Up With Kawasaki For RM81.48 Mln

KUALA LUMPUR -- DRB-HICOM Bhd's subsidiary, Motosikal Dan Enjin National Sdn Bhd, has entered into reccurent related party transactions (RRPT) with Kawasaki Heavy Industries Ltd (KHI) for RM81.48 million. In a filing to Bursa Malaysia Tuesday, DRB-HICOM said, the amount, by way of aggregation, has exceeded the percentage ratio of the group's net assets of one per cent as at March 31, 2016 which was equivalent to RM65.43 million.

AWC Secures 3 Subcontracts Worth RM27.5 Mln

KUALA LUMPUR -- AWC Bhd has secured three contracts worth a total of RM27.5 million for projects located in Taiwan, India and Malaysia. In a statement Tuesday, AWC said the project in Taiwan, awarded by Evergreen Sky Catering Corporation, is for the supply, installation, testing and commissioning for a waste handling system for a new inflight catering facility at Taoyuan International Airport.

New Chairmen At Helm Of MPOB, MPB

PUTRAJAYA -- Datuk Ahmad Hamzah has been appointed Chairman of the Malaysian Palm Oil Board (MPOB), while Tan Sri William Mawan Ikom will helm the Malaysian Pepper Board (MPB). Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities Datuk Seri Mah Siew Kiong said Tuesday, Ahmad's appointment is from Sept 1 to Aug 31, 2018, and William Mawan from Aug 16 to Aug 15, 2018.

Safety Guidelines For Telco Sub-Contractors

KUALA LUMPUR -- Local telecommunications companies and edotco Group have teamed up to standardise the industry's health, safety and environment (HSE) requirements for sub-contractors undertaking network infrastructure work at any of the telco sites. Celcom, Digi, Maxis, U Mobile and edotco, in a joint statement Tuesday, said that they have agreed to a single common set of HSE requirements for the sub-contractors, which was implemented on Sept 1, 2016.

Malaysia to Host Australian Business Asia Regional Conference

KUALA LUMPUR -- Malaysia will play host to the Australian Business Asia (ABA) regional conference this November. The event, from Nov 9-11, is being billed as the largest convergence of Australian businesses in Asia. ABA and Malaysia Australia Business Council Chairman Leigh Howard said Wednesday, the event comes at an interesting time, as Australian companies look to expand to the region.

Hamad To Retire As PNB President, Group CEO

KUALA LUMPUR -- Permodalan Nasional Bhd (PNB) Wednesday announced that its President/Group Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Tan Sri Hamad Kama Piah Che Othman, will retire effective Sept 30, 2016 after 37 years with the PNB Group. Meanwhile, Datuk Abdul Rahman Ahmad, 47, formerly the CEO of Ekuiti Nasional Bhd (Ekuinas) will assume the role of President/Group CEO with effect from Oct 1, 2016.

ACCCIM Unhappy Anti-Profiteering Mechanism Extended

KUALA LUMPUR -- The Associated Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia (ACCCIM) is displeased with the government's decision to extend, for another six months, the Anti-Profiteering Mechanism from its original deadline of June 30, 2016. President Datuk Ter Leong Yao said Thursday, the six months extension disrupted many businesses, amid increasing costs.

MRT SSP Line A Boost For Construction Sector

By Zarul Effendi Razali

PUTRAJAYA (Bernama) -- The development of the Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) Sungai Buloh-Serdang-Putrajaya line will enable the construction industry to continue its double-digit growth momentum moving forward. CIDB Holdings Sdn Bhd Chairman Datuk Seri Dr Judin Abdul Karim said the sequence continuation of the MRT SSP line work from the MRT Sungai Buloh-Kajang (SKB) line is healthy for the industry growth.

“It is very important to have continuity because we do a complicated work like tunneling where we use heavy equipment, which requires a lot of skilled people with high technology. “When we have trained people to do tunneling (work) for example, and if we don’t continue with such work, we may need to find new people when another job comes along,” he told reporters after the MRT SSP line ground-breaking ceremony by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak here, Thursday.

Judin said the sequential continuation of the MRT project from the SKB line to the SSP line would ensure continuity for the workers and machinery used in the industry. “That means the companies (involved) can invest in talents and retain them as they are almost assured of another job. “In that way, the companies can build skills and competitiveness. Once we have this, we can also compete internationally,” he added.

EASES TRAVEL FOR CIVIL SERVANTS

He said that it would be easier for local companies to export their homegrown talents overseas as their knowledge of handling the latest technology is still fresh.

“Many western countries may have advance technologies but they have not done projects that require such technology (of late). Unlike us, we have just done it and our people’s knowledge about the technology is still fresh,” he said.

The 52.2 km MRT SSP line, which will be built at the cost of RM32 billion,is expected to be fully completed by the second quarter of 2022, while the SKB line, spanning 51 km, is now at 89 per cent completed and scheduled to be fully operational by July next year.

Meanwhile, Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Dr Ali Hamsa said the MRT SSP line would help ease travel for civil servants living in Putrajaya, Cyberjaya and Serdang, and working in Kuala Lumpur.

“We have approved about 12,000 apartments and houses for civil servants here. So, civil servants, who are working in the Klang Valley, can make use of this line in the future,” he said.
-- BERNAMA

GROUNDBREAKING... Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak officiating the groundbreaking of the RM32 billion mass rapid transit (MRT) Sungai Buloh-Serdang-Putrajaya (SSP) line, the second one after the Sungai Buloh-Kajang (SBK) line. Also present Chief Secretary to the Government, Tan Sri Dr Ali Hamsa and MRT CEO Datuk Seri Shahril Mokhtar. Pix Mahayudin Mohamad fotoBERNAMA

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: External Factors, Pre-Budget Rally To Influence Local Equity Mart
By Harizah Hanim Mohamed

KUALA LUMPUR -- Rising concerns over the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) and Bank of Japan's (BoJ) meetings next week coupled with a pre-Budget rally are expected to keep markets jittery, with Bursa Malaysia likely to see cautious trading next week.

Affin Hwang Investment Bank Vice-President and Head of Retail Research Datuk Dr Nazri Khan Adam Khan said these three factors are expected to cause uncertainty in the market.

"However, I expect the Federal Reserve to keep interest rates unchanged and as for the BoJ, they might not announce any new stimulus," he told Bernama.

He also added that the local bourse should hover between 1,650 and 1,660 points in the near term.

As for the country's 2017 Budget, rumours and market talk would also influence the market as most eyes are glued on the feedback from the wishlists, Nazri said.

The market was closed last Monday and Friday for Hari Raya Aidiladha and Malaysia Day respectively.

Weekly turnover eased to 4.09 billion units worth RM5.65 billion, from 7.89 billion units worth RM7.49 billion recorded last week.

Main market volume fell to 2.78 billion shares worth RM5.43 billion, from 4.61 billion shares valued at RM7.03 billion transacted previously.

FOREX: Ringgit Likely To Trend Lower Against US Dollar

By Azlee Nor Mahmud

KUALA LUMPUR -- The ringgit is expected to trade in a tight range against the US dollar next week on global uncertainties that will dictate the movement of the dollar.

Affin Hwang Investment Bank Vice-President/ Retail Research Head Datuk Dr Nazri Khan Adam Khan said next week the US Federal Reserve and Bank of Japan are expected to hold meetings on monetary policies.

"The ringgit will trade in a stringent mode, and likely there will not be an increase next week," he told Bernama.

On a Thursday-to-Friday basis for the shortened week, with the AidilAdha celebration on Monday and Malaysia Day on Friday, the local note eased against the greenback to 4.1340/1400 from 4.0675/0725.

Against other currencies, the ringgit ended lower against a basket of currencies.

The ringgit slid against the Singapore dollar to 3.0259/0325 from 3.0030/0069 last Friday and eased against the yen to 4.0391/0457 from 3.9792/9852.

The local note fell against the euro to 4.6491/6567 from 4.5845/5905 but strengthened against the British pound to 5.4742/4843 from last Friday's 5.4118/4205.

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

KUALA LUMPUR -- The money market is likely to remain stable next week on Bank Negara Malaysia's (BNM) intervention to absorb excess liquidity from the financial system.

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 including conventional money market, range maturity auction (RMA), Qard as well as repo tenders.

On Thursday, BNM's action reduced the market's liquidity surplus in the conventional system to RM25.56 billion from RM37.26 billion earlier, while in the Islamic system, it fell to RM6.73 billion from RM11.7 billion previously.

The overnight Islamic reference rate was unchanged at 2.95 per cent, while the one-, two- and three-week rates stood at 3.01 per cent, 3.06 per cent and 3.10 per cent, respectively.

The benchmark three-month interbank rate stood at 3.40 per cent.

FBM KLCI Futures Likely To Track Cash Market

KUALA LUMPUR -- The FTSE Bursa Malaysia KLCI (FBM KLCI) futures contracts on Bursa Malaysia Derivatives are expected to take a cue from the cash market amid two important meetings to be held next week.

An analyst said the market is cautious on the Federal Reserve and Bank of Japan's meetings, which will set the tone for markets.

On a Friday-to-Thursday basis, spot month September 2016 fell 28.5 points to 1,653.5, October 2016 was 26.5 points easier at 1,652, December 2016 slid 23.5 points to 1,649.5 and March 2017 lost 21.0 points to 1,641.

Turnover increased to 28,512 lots from 23,732 lots last week, while open interest increased to 45,166 contracts from 42,424 contracts.

The benchmark FBM KLCI ended the week 8.4 points lower at 1,652.99.

CPO Futures To Trade Lower

KUALA LUMPUR -- Crude palm oil (CPO) futures contracts on Bursa Malaysia Derivatives are likely to trade lower at between RM2,500 and RM2,700 per tonne on lack of demand, said a dealer.

Interband Group of Companies Senior Palm Oil Trader Jim Teh said demand for the edible oil from the two biggest buyers, China and India, has moderated due to high stocks.

"The market is likely to trade on speculative play next week. The only good news is the palm stockpile has reduced," he added.

Malaysian palm oil output has been slow to recover from the El Nino drought earlier this year, while a weaker ringgit against the US dollar makes palm oil cheaper for foreign currency holders.

According to a news report, Plantation Industries and Commodities Minister Datuk Seri Mah Siew Keong had said palm oil production would probably drop 10 per cent this year after El Nino reduced yields in the first half of 2016.

He added that annual output will be lower even after a production recovery in the second half.

The CPO market was mostly lower in the holiday-shortened week on sluggish demand for the edible oil.

It was closed on Monday for Hari Raya AidilAdha and Friday for Malaysia Day celebrations.

On a Thursday-to-Friday basis, spot month September

2016 declined RM65 to RM2,833 a tonne, October 2016 was slightly lower by RM6 to RM2,718 a tonne, November 2016 fell RM46 to RM2,594 a tonne and December 2016 depreciated RM76 to RM2,565 a tonne.

Weekly turnover weakened to 176,139 lots from from 227,564 lots last Friday while open interest rose to 247,655 contracts from 237,950 contracts previously.

On the physical market, September South was RM40 lower at RM2,880 a tonne.

Rubber Market Likely To Perform Better

KUALA LUMPUR -- The Malaysian rubber market is expected to see better performance next week in anticipation of limited supply of the commodity, dealers said.

A dealer said the wet weather in rubber producing countries would cause a shortage in the raw material and this would boost prices.

He said the movement of the ringgit and crude oil prices would also influence demand next week.

For the week just ended, the local rubber prices were traded higher mainly affected by movements of rubber prices in regional futures markets.

On a Friday-to-Thursday basis, the local market traded higher throughout the holiday-shortened week, with the Malaysian Rubber Board's noon price for tyre-grade SMR 20 increasing 8.5 sen to 542 sen a kg, while latex-in-bulk added two sen to 456 sen a kg.

The 5 pm unofficial closing price for SMR 20 gained 12 sen to 542.5 sen a kg, while latex-in-bulk was unchanged at 456.5 sen a kg.

The market was closed on Monday for Hari Raya Aidiladha and Friday for Malaysia Day.

KLIBOR Futures Expected To Remain Untraded

KUALA LUMPUR -- The three-month Kuala Lumpur Interbank Offered Rate (KLIBOR) futures contracts on Bursa Malaysia Derivatives are expected to continue their lacklustre trading next week.

On a Friday-to-Friday basis, spot month September 2016, October 2016, November 2016 and December were all pegged at 96.60.

The underlying three-month KLIBOR on the cash market stood at 3.40 per cent.

KLTM Expected To Be Uncertain

By Zairina Zainudin

KUALA LUMPUR -- Trading on the Kuala Lumpur Tin Market (KLTM) is expected to be uncertain next week in the absence of major market moving factors, dealers said.

The prices are expected to hover at the current level of between US$17,800 and US$18,000 per tonne.

They said the buyers would be reluctant to take heavy positions as demand is expected to follow the uncertain performance of the global tin market price trendsetter, the London Metal Exchange (LME).

"The US interest rate and short supply from Indonesia, which are already factored in, will also continue to influence sentiment in the market," a dealer told Bernama.

Indonesia, the world's largest tin supplier, exported 5,379 tonnes of tin during August, a hike by almost 62 per cent against exports during the previous month.

For the week just ended, the KLTM finished US$400 lower at US$19,200 per tonne on Thursday against US$19,600 per tonne recorded last Friday.

The local market was closed on Monday and Friday for the Hari Raya Aidiladha and Malaysia Day celebrations, respectively.

Turnover fell to 102 tonnes from 195 tonnes last week. The price differential between the KLTM and the LME was at par on Thursday compared to a premium of US$25 registered on the previous Friday.

Gold Futures Likely To Be On Uptrend
By Azlee Nor Mahmud

KUALA LUMPUR -- Gold futures contracts on Bursa Malaysia Derivatives are expected to be on an uptrend next week on the subdued local note, said a dealer.

Phillip Futures Sdn Bhd Dealer Ong Su Ling told Bernama local gold prices on Bursa Malaysia are expected to trade higher if the ringgit continues its weakening momentum and the US Commodity Exchange's (COMEX) gold futures maintain their sideways movement.

On a Thursday-to-Friday basis, September 2016 rose 32 ticks to RM176.50 a gramme, October 2016 increased 30 ticks to RM176.50 a gramme, November 2016 was up 49 ticks to RM178.15 a gramme and December 2016 soared 53 ticks RM178.15 a gramme.

Weekly turnover improved to 20 lots worth RM352,180, from 55 lots worth RM966,000 registered last week.

Open interest was higher at 262 contracts on Thursday versus 249 contracts previously.