BERNAMA
MALAYSIAeBiz
WEEKLY *BUSINESS ROUNDUP 21 - 25 NOVEMBER 2016*

Edition138

November 25, 2016

This Week's Highlight :
TN50 Malaysia's Roadmap Towards 2050 - Zahid

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi. fotoBERNAMA (File Pix) By Hafizie Shabudin

KUALA LUMPUR -- The 2050 National Transformation (TN50) envisioned by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Abdul Razak is a futuristic policy for the country's roadmap in the next 30 years after 2020, said Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi. "After completing the whole of the Vision 2020 agenda, we will see how our nation, our country, our economic system, our products look like as well as what other good things could be accomplished over the next 30 years," he said in an exclusive interview with Bernama ahead of next week's UMNO General Assembly.

This Week's Top Stories

MONDAY

IMF Supportive Of Malaysia's Currency Move - Najib

From Leslean Arshad

LIMA (Peru) -- The International Monetary Fund (IMF), supportive of Malaysia's currency move, has acknowledged that the ringgit's current volatile movement is beyond the country's control. IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde conveyed her views on the matter to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak during an unofficial dialogue held on the sidelines of the APEC Economic Leaders Meeting on Sunday.

TUESDAY

Ringgit In Bangkok, Jakarta and S'pore Widely Accepted

By Mohd Haikal Mohd Isa, Azeman Ariffin and Massita Ahmad

BANGKOK -- Malaysians travelling to Bangkok or other parts of Thailand should not worry as the ringgit is still widely accepted, said money changer operators here Tuesday. Meanwhile in JAKARTA, a check by Bernama found the ringgit still being actively bought and sold by money exchange centres although it was being quoted at RM3.20. In SINGAPORE, plenty of Malaysian ringgit at money changers dismisses speculations that the currency has run out of supply here.

WEDNESDAY

M'sia-Thai To Begin Talks On Bangkok-KL HSR Project

By Mohd Haikal Mohd Isa

BANGKOK -- Malaysia and Thailand will soon begin discussions on the feasibility of constructing a 1,400km High Speed Rail (HSR) connecting Kuala Lumpur and Bangkok, according to the Thai Transport Minister. Arkom Termpittayapaisith said discussions between the two countries will begin at the official level before proceeding to the ministerial level, he said, without specifying the exact date for the start of the official talks.

THURSDAY

Ringgit's Weakness Is Short-Term - Irwan

PUTRAJAYA -- The ringgit's current weakness is short term, says Treasury Secretary-General, Tan Sri Dr Mohd Irwan Serigar Abdullah. "Malaysia's economy is strong and oil prices are stable in not having gone below US$40 (a barrel). The global economy is slightly slow this year, but hopefully, it will improve," he told reporters at the National Code Challenge (II) 2016 closing ceremony, here Thursday.

FRIDAY

Malaysia Needs Proactive Steps To Maintain Trade Momentum

KUALA LUMPUR -- Malaysia needs to take proactive steps to maintain the trade momentum to ensure continuous inflow of foreign investment and access to international export markets, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak. In his official blog www.najibrazak.com, Najib said not maintaining international trade activities at a healthy level would further reduce Malaysia's national income.

SMEbrief

SMES Urged To Make Forays Into Digital Economy

KUALA LUMPUR -- Malaysian small and medium enterprises (SMEs) should take advantage of offerings by government agencies such as the Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE)to foray into the digital economy. Deputy Minister of International Trade and Industry Datuk Chua Tee Yong said Monday, MATRADE had provided incentives, including listing fees of between RM3,000 and RM4,000, for companies to list products not just for Malaysian consumers but others via the internet.

AMMB Expects SMEs To Drive Loan Growth FY17

KUALA LUMPUR -- AMMB Holdings Bhd expects its loan growth to pick up in its financial year ending March 31, 2017 (FY17), mainly driven by small and medium enterprises (SMEs) as well as mortgages. "The group estimated its SMEs loan growth to surpass industry's target to reach six-seven per cent in the current financial year," said Chief Executive Officer, Datuk Sulaiman Mohd Tahir Monday.

Proposed ASEAN Food Regulatory Framework Poses Challenges For SMEs

KUALA LUMPUR -- Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) may face a huge challenge should a regulatory framework on food safety standards be implemented in ASEAN countries. "The hazard analysis on food safety requires a business to do checks on their food products safety level, and many SMEs employing five to six people may find hiring an expert can be costly," Prof Jorgen Schlundt of Singapore's Nanyang Technological University said Tuesday.

No Impact On SMEs Should TPP Be Scrapped

KUALA LUMPUR -- Malaysian small and medium enterprises (SMEs) are unlikely to be impacted should the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPPA) is called off, said the Secretariat for Empowerment of Indian Entrepreneurs (SEED) Chief Executive Officer, Datuk Dr A.T. Kumararajah. Currently Malaysia has inked more than 160 free trade agreements (FTAs) with other countries, and the TPPA was only one of them, he said on the sidelines of the "SME and Entrepreneurship Business Award 2017" media briefing here, Tuesday.

SDSI Offers Local Firms Opportunities For Promotion

MELAKA -- The International Sourcing Programme (INSP), sponsored by Malaysia External Trade Development Corp (MATRADE) in conjunction with the 'One District One Industry' (SDSI) 2016 exhibition, offers opportunities for local companies to promote their products and services to international countries. Matrade's Deputy Director, Exporter Transformation Division, A'dzimah Ahmad Ghazali, said Thursday, INSP would have a big impact through the cost-effective export promotion to help the country's exporters meet potential partners nationwide.

PropUP Propertyupdate

MKH Unit PR1MA To Undertake RM464 Mln Project

KUALA LUMPUR -- MKH Bhd's wholly-owned unit, Metro K.L. City Sdn Bhd has signed a joint development agreement with PR1MA Corp Malaysia to undertake the construction and completion of a mixed development in Daerah Ulu Langat, Selangor. In a filing to Bursa Malaysia Monday, MKH said, the 3.48-hectare project, with an expected gross development value of RM464 million, will take over four years.

Titijaya To Expand Business Portfolio Into Affordable Housing

SUBANG JAYA -- Property developer Titijaya Land Bhd is expanding its business portfolio to include affordable housing as part of its strategy to enhance its future earnings visibility. Its Deputy Group Managing Director, Lim Poh Yit said Wednesday, the company was currently developing mid to high-end residential properties, as well as industrial and commercial projects.

Developers' Proceeds To Be Spent On Low Cost Housing

GEORGE TOWN -- The procceds from the contributions of developers exempted from building affordable housing will be used for low cost and low medium cost housing projects in the state. State Housing, Town and Country Planning and Housing Committee chairman Jagdeep Singh Deo said Wednesday, the funds would be used for projects in Seberang Perai that were identified to replace units which were not being built by developers in their development projects.

GSSB, ARRA Inovasi To Develop Housing Project

KUALA LUMPUR -- O&C Resources Bhd's unit, Grand Superland Sdn Bhd (GSSB) has signed a joint venture agreement with Arra Inovasi Sdn Bhd to develop a housing project in Bangi, Selangor. In a filing to Bursa Malaysia Thursday, GSSB said the gross development value and gross development cost of the project were estimated at RM90 million and RM72 million, respectively.

More 1Malaysia People-Friendly Homes Next Year - Najib

KUALA LANGAT -- More people in the low-income group will be able to own houses as the government is to build more 1Malaysia People Friendly Homes (RMR1M) next year, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak. He announced the good news after launching the 'RMR1M - 10,000 Hasrat Satu Impian' housing initiative at the Youth Land Scheme in Kampung Bukit Changgang here Friday.

MARKET

BURSA MALAYSIA

Scoreboard
Gainers - 347
Losers - 402
Not Traded - 651
Unchanged - 331
Value - 1243877907
Volume - 12787711

BURSA Malaysia Ends Higher, CI Up 3.05 Points

KUALA LUMPUR -- Bursa Malaysia ended higher Friday, with the benchmark FTSE Bursa Malaysia KLCI (FBM KLCI) advancing 3.05 points to 1,627.26 and close to the intra-day high, propelled by buying interest in heavyweight stocks. At 5 pm, the index rose 3.05 points or 0.18 per cent, after lingering between 1,623.35 and 1,627.42 throughout the day. The composite index opened 0.98 of-a-point better at 1,625.19. Market breadth was negative with 402 losers and 347 gainers, while 331 counters were unchanged, 651 untraded and 53 others suspended.

Volume was a shade lower at 1.28 billion shares worth RM1.24 billion from 1.3 billion shares worth RM1.27 billion on Thursday. A dealer said the market maintained its positive vibes in Friday's trading due to the better financial performance of companies in the third quarter. Bursa Malaysia was also supported by local institutions, which constitute more than 50 per cent of market participants, whereas foreign trading participation is at about 20 per cent. "Foreign investors were away following the Thanksgiving Day celebration Thursday, as well as ahead of the weekend.

"The local bourse also tracked its Asian peers, most of whom were higher today, fuelled by overnight gains on Wall Street," the dealer added. Main Market turnover was lower at 839.56 million units worth RM1.16 billion against Thursday's 881.19 million units worth RM1.19 billion.

Exchange Rate
(Ringgit : Foreign Currency)

	Buying	Selling
USD	4.4530	4.4600
EUR	4.7175	4.7267
GBP	5.5538	5.5639
100 YEN	3.9379	3.9455
SGD	3.1159	3.1224

Source: Bank Negara Malaysia

FOREX: Ringgit Ends Lower Against US Dollar

By Rosemarie Khoo

KUALA LUMPUR -- The ringgit closed lower against the US dollar Friday on talks of the US Federal Reserve System (Fed) increasing interest rates in December. At 6pm, the ringgit was traded at 4.4530/4600 against the US dollar from 4.4450/4550 Thursday.

Sunway University Business School's Economics Professor, Dr Yeah Kim Leng, said Friday's stable level suggested the market has likely priced the US rate increase. "The currency market will remain volatile due to the changing policy expectation in the US following Donald Trump's victory in the US presidential race," he told Bernama. The Fed left the target range for its federal funds rate unchanged at 0.25 per cent to 0.5 per cent for the seventh time during its November 2016 meeting. The ringgit was traded mostly lower against other major currencies.

It fell against the Singapore dollar to 3.1159/1224 from 3.1093/1167 on Thursday. The local note rose against the yen to 3.9379/9455 from 3.9389/9481 Thursday. The ringgit declined against the euro at 4.7175/7267 from 4.6966/6094 on Thursday and fell against the British pound to 5.5538/5639 from 5.5354/5500 previously.

Money-Market: BNM's Intervention Helps Short-Term Rates To Close Stable

KUALA LUMPUR -- Short-term interbank rates closed stable Friday on Bank Negara Malaysia's (BNM) intervention to absorb excess liquidity from the financial system. The liquidity surplus in the conventional system eased to RM28.597 billion from RM36.122 billion earlier, while in the Islamic system, it fell to RM7.135 billion from RM9.143 billion. Earlier, BNM conducted three conventional money market tenders and three Qard tenders. The central bank also conducted a RM28.50 billion conventional money market tender and a RM6.90 billion Qard money market tender, both for three-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 Close Untraded

KUALA LUMPUR -- The three-month Kuala Lumpur Interbank Offered Rate (KLIBOR) futures contracts on Bursa Malaysia Derivatives closed untraded Friday. Spot month December 2016, January 2017, February 2017 and March 2017 were quoted at 96.58, respectively. Both volume and open interest remained at nil. At the 11 am fixing, the underlying three-month KLIBOR stood at 3.41 per per cent.

KLCI Futures Contracts End Higher

KUALA LUMPUR -- The FTSE Bursa Malaysia KLCI (FBM KLCI) futures contracts on Bursa Malaysia Derivatives ended higher Friday in line with positive cash market. November 2016 went up by 2.5 points to 1,636, December 2016 gained one point to 1,639.5, March 2017 rose 1.5 points to 1,633.5 and June 2017 was one point better at 1,627. Turnover surged to 20,794 lots from 10,515 lots on Thursday, while open interest widened to 68,079 from 58,497 contracts Thursday. The underlying benchmark FBM KLCI finished 3.05 points higher at 1,627.26.

Embrace Omni-Channel Strategy To Compete With Fintech Cos, Banks Urged

KUALA LUMPUR -- Malaysian banks must embrace an omni-channel strategy and next-best-action approach to compete with fintech start-ups, says technology company Avanade Malaysia. Its Country General Manager Subra Suppiah said in a statement here Monday, banks can optmise their touchpoints with customers by leveraging analytics on user behaviour to create an SEO (Search Engine Optimisation) strategy that provides the highest benefit for the money invested.

Ringgit Still Accepted In Mecca, Medina – TH

KUALA LUMPUR -- The Pilgrims' Fund Board (Tabung Haji) has denied reports in the social media that the ringgit is not accepted in Mecca and Medina, Saudi Arabia. In a statement here Monday, Tabung Haji said, a check with its office in Jeddah showed that the Malaysian currency is accepted by most money-changers in the two holy cities.

Bank Negara's Int'l Reserves At RM407.8 Bln As At Nov 15, 2016

KUALA LUMPUR -- The international reserves of Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) stood at RM407.8 billion (equivalent to US$98.3 billion) as at Nov 15, 2016 compared with RM405.5 billion (equivalent to US$97.8 billion) as at Oct 31, 2016. In a statement Monday, BNM said, the reserves position was sufficient to finance 8.4 months of retained imports and was 1.2 times the short-term external debt.

JCorp Structuring Financial, Tax Incentives For IIBD Investors

JOHOR BAHRU -- Johor Corporation (JCorp) is in the process of structuring and benchmarking financial and tax incentives with the state and federal governments to offer investors in the Ibrahim International Business District (IIBD) here. President and Chief Executive Datuk Kamaruzzaman Abu Kassim said here Monday, IIBD's strategic position could make it the next powerhouse in the Southern Gateway.

Cohesive Efforts Needed By Islamic Finance Players – BNM

KUALA LUMPUR -- More cohesive efforts by industry players across all sectors in Islamic finance are needed to realise the industry's virtues that uphold social justice, equality, economic prosperity and inclusivity, Bank Negara Malaysia said. Deputy Governor Abdul Rasheed Ghaffour said in his keynote address at the 13th Kuala Lumpur Islamic Finance Forum here Monday, industry players should not only play a proactive role to enhance collaboration within the industry but also extend it beyond sectoral boundaries.

EPF's Investment Income Rises 29.21 Pct To RM12.32 Bln In 3Q16

KUALA LUMPUR -- The Employees Provident Fund's (EPF) investment income surged 29.21 per cent to RM12.32 billion in the third quarter (Q316) ended Sept 30, 2016, from RM9.54 billion registered in the same quarter last year. Investment assets increased 4.09 per cent or RM27.98 billion to RM712.50 billion from the RM684.52 billion recorded as at Dec 31, 2015, it said in a statement here Monday.

Zahid: Islamic Banking Assets Now At 27 Pct Of M'sia Total Banking System

KUALA LUMPUR -- Islamic banking assets now stand at 27 per cent of Malaysia's total banking system, while Takaful penetration amounts to 14.8 per cent of the population, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said. He said Islamic finance also provides financing to all segments of society irrespective of beliefs, race and gender. "From less than four Islamic banks and takaful players before the year 2000, there are now 27 players that offer over 100 financial products beyond the basic financial offerings," he said at the official opening of the 13th Kuala Lumpur Islamic Finance Forum here Monday.

RHB To Continue Implementing Initiatives Under Reframed Strategy

KUALA LUMPUR -- RHB Bank Bhd will continue to implement various initiatives under its reframed strategy to remain profitable amid the challenging global environment. Group Managing Director Datuk Khairussaleh Ramli said in a statement here Wednesday, the group had been registering positive outcomes to-date and would remain vigilant by focusing on asset quality.

BNM Maintains OPR At 3 Pct

KUALA LUMPUR -- Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) maintained the overnight policy rate (OPR) at 3.00 percent at the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting here Wednesday. It said at the current level of the OPR, the degree of monetary accommodativeness was consistent with the policy stance to ensure that the domestic economy would continue on a steady growth path amid stable inflation, supported by continued healthy financial intermediation in the economy.

Maybank Posts Higher Q3 PBT At RM2.46 Bln

KUALA LUMPUR -- Maybank posted a higher profit before tax (PBT) in the third quarter ended Sept 30, 2016 (Q316) at RM2.46 billion, compared with RM2.38 billion recorded in the same quarter last year. Revenue stood at RM11.29 billion versus RM11.38 billion posted in Q315, it said in a statement here Thursday.

Hong Leong Financial's Q1 Pre-Tax Profit Rises To RM725.51 Mln

KUALA LUMPUR -- Hong Leong Financial Group Bhd's pre-tax profit for the first quarter ended Sept 30, 2016 rose to RM725.51 million from RM696.98 million in the same quarter a year ago. In a statement here Tuesday, Hong Leong said, the higher pre-tax profit was due to improved contributions from the commercial and investment banking divisions, with continued strong credit and liquidity risk metrics maintained.

Mudah.my Unique Sellers Increase By 29 Pct

KUALA LUMPUR -- Mudah.my, Malaysia's largest online marketplace, recorded a 29 per cent increase in the number of unique sellers in the last 12 months. Chief Executive Officer, Guarav Bhasin told reporters here Tuesday, currently the online marketplace has 1.4 million sellers that catered to 7.5 million unique monthly visitors, since October this year.

Bonia Plans A&P Campaigns, Closure Of Loss-Making Boutiques To Improve Results

By Mohd Khairi Idham Amran

KUALA LUMPUR -- Attire manufacturer and retailer, Bonia Corp Bhd, expects continuous advertising and promotional (A&P) activities as well as the closing of its loss-making boutiques, will improve its performance in financial year 2017. Group Managing Director, Datuk Albert Chiang told Bernama here Tuesday, the company has allocated between five and seven per cent of the revenue for A&P programmes.

FGV Trims Pre-Tax Loss To RM23.23 Mln In Q3

KUALA LUMPUR -- Felda Global Ventures Holdings Bhd (FGV) has managed to trim its pre-tax loss to RM23.23 million for the third quarter (Q3) ended Sept 30, 2016, from a pre-tax loss of RM62.43 million registered in the same quarter of 2015. The improved performance was due to, among others, the cost saving initiatives undertaken by the group, said the oil palm plantation operator in a filing to Bursa Malaysia here Tuesday.

Dayang's Q3 Pre-Tax Profit Falls Almost 50 Pct To RM47.50 Mln

KUALA LUMPUR -- Integrated offshore service provider Dayang Enterprise Holdings Bhd saw its pre-tax profit drop by almost 50 per cent to RM47.50 million for the third quarter (Q3) ended Sept 30, 2016. For the same quarter last year, pre-tax profit stood at RM92.20 million. In a filing to Bursa Malaysia here Tuesday, Dayang said there was an amortisation expenses of intangible assets of RM4.30 million in the quarter reviewed.

Dialog's Q1 Pre-Tax Profit Rises To RM95.66 Mln

KUALA LUMPUR -- Dialog Group Bhd's pre-tax profit for the first quarter (Q1) ended Sept 30, 2016 rose to RM95.66 million from RM80.56 million in the same quarter a year ago. Revenue increased to RM653.55 million from RM536.37 million previously. In a filing to Bursa Malaysia here Tuesday, Dialog said the better financial performance was mainly attributable to higher contribution from its joint ventures (JVs) particularly from Pengerang Independent Terminals which had fully leased out its storage capacity.

AirAsia X Returns To Black In 3Q16

KUALA LUMPUR -- Airasia X Bhd returned to profitability with a pre-tax profit of RM12.01 million in the third quarter ended Sept 30, 2016 (3Q16) against a pre-tax loss of RM291.42 million in the same period a year ago. Revenue rose 24 per cent to RM982.40 million from RM793.01 million previously. In a statement here Tuesday, Airasia X attributed the better performance in 3Q16 to the 54 per cent year-on-year increase in scheduled flight revenue, a 50 per cent growth in ancillary income, as well as a 34 per cent rise in aircraft operating lease income.

Brahim Trims Losses Due To Menu Enhancement By MAB

KUALA LUMPUR -- Brahim's Holdings Bhd has trimmed its pre-tax losses for the third quarter ended Sept 30, 2016 to RM471,000 due to menu enhancement by main customer, Malaysia Airlines Bhd (MAB). It posted RM10.13 million pre-tax loss for the same quarter in 2015. In a filing to Bursa Malaysia here Tuesday, the airline caterer said, revenue rose by 10.88 per cent to RM71.95 million compared with RM64.89 million in the corresponding period in 2015.

IGB Corp's Q3 Pre-Tax Profit Surges 149 Pct To RM252.64 Mln

KUALA LUMPUR -- IGB Corporation Bhd's pre-tax profit surged 149 per cent to RM252.64 million in the third quarter ended Sept 30, 2016 from RM101.36 million in the same period last year. In a filing to Bursa Malaysia here Wednesday, the group said the increase was mainly attributed to contributions from the Property Development, Property Investment-Retail and Hotel divisions.

HRDF Earns RM45.26 Mln From Investments In 2014

KUALA LUMPUR -- The Human Resources Development Fund (HRDF) has earned RM45.26 million from its investments in 2014 compared with RM39.29 million in 2013. In a statement here Wednesday, the fund said it also generated RM3.37 million return on investments from its Investment Fund Managers, accounting for 57.7 per cent of the target set.

Boon Siew Eyes Sales Of 12,500 Units Of Newly-Launched BeAT Scooters

KUALA LUMPUR -- Boon Siew Honda Sdn Bhd expects sales of up to 12,500 units of the new Honda BeAT scooters per annum, Deputy Chairman, Datuk Seri Tan Hui Jing told reporters here Wednesday. Tan said the scooter was targeted at the 17-24 age group and first-time buyers.

MNRB Posts Pre-Tax Profit Of

RM11.57 Mln In Q2
KUALA LUMPUR -- MNRB Holdings Bhd recorded a pre-tax profit of RM11.57 million in the second quarter ended Sept 30, 2016, compared to a pre-tax loss of RM86.74 million in the same quarter a year ago. Revenue rose to RM617.84 million from RM594.04 million previously, MNRB said in a filing to Bursa Malaysia here Wednesday.

Perodua's "Bezza" A Boost To MBM Resources Q3, Profit Jumps 109 Pct

KUALA LUMPUR -- Automotive group MBM Resources Bhd's pre-tax profit for the third quarter jumped 109.4 per cent to RM26.08 million amid improved results from associates, it said in a filing to Bursa Malaysia. For the third quarter of 2015, its pre-tax profit was RM12.45 million. Revenue for the quarter ended Sept 30, 2016 improved by five per cent to RM431.9 million against the corresponding quarter of RM411.18 million, the company said in a filing to Bursa Malaysia here Wednesday.

MMC's Q3 Pre-Tax Profit Up At RM124.14 Mln

KUALA LUMPUR -- MMC Corporation Bhd's pre-tax profit rose to RM124.14 million in the third quarter ended Sept 30, 2016 against RM91.16 million in the same quarter last year. In a filing to Bursa Malaysia Wednesday, the premier utilities and infrastructure group said its revenue increased to RM888.72 million in the quarter reviewed from RM674.53 million previously.

Green Packet's Pre-Tax Profit For Q3 Stood At RM84.41 Mln

KUALA LUMPUR -- Green Packet Bhd's pre-tax profit for the third quarter ended Sept 30, 2016 stood at RM84.41 million and revenue of RM91.45 million. In a filing to Bursa Malaysia here Wednesday, Green Packet said, its net profit for the nine-month period ended Sept 30, 2016 stood at RM70.22 million mainly due to gain in dilution on investment.

Axiata's Q3 Profit Slips 56 Pct On Higher Depreciation, Amortisation

KUALA LUMPUR -- Axiata Group Bhd's pre-tax profit for the third quarter slipped by 56 per cent due to higher depreciation and amortisation arising from network modernisation in Indonesia and Bangladesh. It was also affected by net finance cost, foreign translation losses and lower contribution from associates, it said in a filing to Bursa Malaysia here Thursday.

Avoid Further Losses, AG Tells Putrajaya Corp's PJ Hotels

KUALA LUMPUR -- Putrajaya Corporation's wholly-owned subsidiary PJ Hotels & Resorts Sdn Bhd has been recommended to ensure its activities are in accordance with its objectives through its business plan and framework for effective governance. The 2015 Auditor-General's Report Series 2 released here Monday said PJ Hotels should carry out market research and promotions to ensure continuity and to avoid further losses.

Felda Lost Millions Due To Poor Planning, Execution

KUALA LUMPUR -- The Felda Land Development Authority (Felda) lost millions due to poor planning and execution of projects such as procurement of the Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) data collection services, implementation of a broadband project and three other ventures. The second series of the 2015 Auditor-General's (AG) Report released here Monday said the audit carried out between January and June this year, revealed the planning, implementation, monitoring and management of projects by Felda and its subsidiaries were unsatisfactory, while not meeting the stipulated objectives.

GST Special Refund Scheme Was Properly Conducted – AG

KUALA LUMPUR -- The special refund scheme for the Goods and Services Tax (GST) was properly conducted by the Royal Malaysian Customs Department (RMCD), the 2015 Auditor General Report (Series 2) revealed Monday. It said, however, some weaknesses, including inefficient management of special refund claims and lax reviewing and approving of applications, were found during the audit done between October 2015 and January 2016 by the National Audit Department.

MATTA Urges MAHB To Adopt High-Tech Surveillance System At Airports

KUALA LUMPUR -- The Malaysian Association of Tour and Travel Agents (MATTA) has called on Malaysia Airport Holdings Bhd (MAHB) to adopt the high-technology ThruVis surveillance system without delay. In a statement here Tuesday, its President, Datuk Hamzah Rahmat, said MAHB must be quick to embrace the new technology and always remained ahead of those trying to breach security.

Top 20 Startups Shortlisted For ASEAN's Next Great Idea Programme

KUALA LUMPUR -- Top 20 startups have been shortlisted from a pool of 417 applicants to take part in the ASEAN's Next Great Idea ideation lab at the MaGIC's Campus in Cyberjaya. During the six-day programme which started Monday, the startups will learn how to develop three key aspects of their future business -- customer, product and market. In a joint statement by MaGIC, Uber and Digi, MaGIC Chief Executive Officer Ashran Datuk Ghazi said here Tuesday, under this programme, individuals were encouraged to come forward to develop their ideas.

FMM: Manufacturing Contribution To GDP Should Not Be Lower Than 20 Pct

KUALA LUMPUR -- The manufacturing industry's contribution to the country's gross domestic product (GDP) should not go below 20 per cent, said the Federation of Malaysia Manufacturers (FMM). Its President, Tan Sri Saw Choo Boon told reporters here Tuesday, currently, it contributed between 20 and 25 per cent and it should go higher, especially when the commodity prices were coming down.

MDEC Urges UK Firms To Tap Into Malaysia's ICT Ecosystem

KUALA LUMPUR -- United Kingdom's (UK) technology companies are encouraged to tap into Malaysia's information and communications technology (ICT) ecosystem during their three-day trade mission here beginning here Tuesday. The trade mission, comprising representatives from leading technology companies and potential investors, should also look at Malaysia as the gateway to other emerging markets in the ASEAN region, Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation (MDEC) said in a statement Tuesday.

MTDC To Set Up Academy For Mentors Of Symbiosis Programme

KUALA LUMPUR -- Malaysian Technology Development Corporation Sdn Bhd (MTDC) plans to set up an academy for entrepreneurs, academicians and multinational experts who have become mentors under its Symbiosis 3.0 programme. Chief Executive Officer Datuk Norhalim Yunus told reporters here Tuesday, the academy, set for launch next month, would have three components to develop technology entrepreneurs (technopreneurs).

Felda Has Taken Actions On Issues Raised In AG's Report

KUALA LUMPUR -- The Federal Land Development Authority (FELDA) said it was aware of the issues raised in the Auditor-General's (AG) Report over losses of millions of ringgit due to weaknesses in planning and implementation, and actions have been taken. Among others, actions have been taken and operations have been stopped on certain matters raise, while disciplinary actions have meted out on individuals involved, FELDA Chairman Tan Sri Mohd Isa Abdul Samad said in a statement here Tuesday.

Set Up Mechanism To Ensure Bumis Get Fair Share From M'sia-China Investments - GABEM

By Fadzli Ramli

MELAKA -- The federal government must create a mechanism to ensure that the Bumiputeras get a fair share from the Malaysia-China investments, said the Federation of Malay Economic Bodies (Gabem). Its Chairman, Tan Sri Dr Abdul Rahim Tamby Chik told Bernama here Tuesday, this mechanism could play a pivotal role in monitoring the projects, especially those involving infrastructure and government-to-government cooperation.

Cathay Pacific Accepts M'sian Ringgit For Inflight Purchases
By Zairina Zainudin & Christine Lim May Yu

KUALA LUMPUR -- Cathay Pacific Wednesday said that the Malaysian ringgit can be used by passengers to settle inflight transactions. "Passengers who wish to purchase inflight sales items can always settle their transactions by credit card or in Malaysian ringgit cash too," Cathay Pacific spokesperson said in a response to a query by Bernama. The spokesperson was asked to clarify a social media report Monday that the airline had given notice to its crew not to accept the ringgit for its inflight transactions.

Malakoff Starts Arbitration Proceedings Against 3 Firms
KUALA LUMPUR -- Malakoff Corp Bhd's unit, Tanjung Bin Power Sdn Bhd (TBP), has commenced arbitration proceedings against three companies in respect of loss and damaged amounting to RM785 million it suffered. In a filing to Bursa Malaysia here Wednesday, the utility company said, the firms were Sumitomo Corp, Zelan Holdings (M) Sdn Bhd and Sumi-Power Malaysia Sdn Bhd.

Ekovest To Get More Construction Jobs Worth RM600 Mln
KUALA LUMPUR -- Ekovest Bhd expects to secure additional construction jobs worth RM600 million on top of its current RM6.6 billion construction orderbook for the financial year ending June 30, 2017. Managing Director Datuk Seri Lim Keng Cheng said the projects would keep the company busy for the next three to four years. "We are aggressive in tendering for more projects as we want to be a key player in the industry," he told reporters after the company's annual general meeting here Wednesday.

PNB Eyes RM350 Bln AUM In 2022
KUALA LUMPUR -- Permodalan Nasional Bhd (PNB) aims to increase its assets under management (AUM) to RM350 billion in 2022, leveraging on its new six-year strategic plan announced Thursday. President and Chief Executive Officer Datuk Abdul Rahman Ahmad said the strategic plan from 2017-2022 is aimed at maintaining competitive returns and continue fulfilling the mandate to enhance the economic wealth of Bumiputeras and all Malaysians.

INCEIF Seeks Fintech Partners, Investors
KUALA LUMPUR -- The International Centre for Education in Islamic Finance (INCEIF) is looking for more financial technology (fintech) partners in developing the syariah-based, socio-economic fintech solution model, as well as potential investors for the business model. Its School of Graduate Studies deputy dean Prof Dr Mohamed Eskandar Shah Mohd Rasid told reporters here Thursday, more external support was needed for the model which was developed by INCEIF.

AirAsia Plans IPO Of ASEAN Airline Holding Co
KUALA LUMPUR -- AirAsia Bhd aims to undertake an initial public offering (IPO) of its ASEAN Holding Co, which will consist of all the operations in the region as the low-cost airline eyes bigger investor base. Its Group Chief Executive Officer, Tan Sri Tony Fernandes, told CNBC here Friday, there were tremendous interests in its stock and work towards the IPO has started.

Honda Raises Available Stock Of Front Airbag Inflators To 55 Pct By End-Nov
KUALA LUMPUR -- Honda Malaysia will increase the stock availability of its Takata passenger front airbag inflators to 55 per cent by end-November, a month earlier than the expected timeframe announced previously. In a statement here Friday, Honda Malaysia said the stock availability would gradually increase to 70 per cent by end-December 2016.

Ringgit Affected By Activities, Prices In Offshore NDF Market - FMC
KUALA LUMPUR -- Ringgit prices and its volatility have been affected by activities and prices in the offshore non-deliverable forward (NDF) market which is not necessarily reflective of the economic fundamentals and underlying trade and investment activities. In a statement here Friday, the Financial Markets Committee (FMC) said Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) required onshore banks to adhere to the current rules to prevent facilitation of offshore ringgit NDF market in line with the well established policy of the ringgit.

Prasarana To Offer Bumi Contracts 45-50 Pct Contracts In LRT3 Project
KUALA LUMPUR -- Prasarana Malaysia Bhd will offer an estimated 45 to 50 per cent of the contracts in the 37-kilometre Light Rail Transit 3 (LRT3) project between Bandar Utama in Petaling Jaya and Johan Setia, Klang, to Bumiputera companies. In a statement here Friday, Prasarana said, the move will be via a collaborative effort with Government's Bumiputera Agenda Steering Unit (Teraju), Contractor and Entrepreneur Division of the Ministry of Works and Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB).

MATRADE Continues To Drive Malaysia's Exports To Turkey
KUALA LUMPUR -- The Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE) continues to drive Malaysia's exports to Turkey as it concluded an Export Acceleration Mission (EAM) to Istanbul recently, generating potential sales of US$21.91 million (RM91.92 million). In a statement here Friday, MATRADE said 16 Malaysian companies participated in the EAM, held in conjunction with the 16th MUSIAD Expo from Nov 9 to 12 at the CNR Expo Centre in Istanbul.

Boeing Names New Senior Leaders, Launches Integrated Services Business

KUALA LUMPUR -- Boeing Chairman, President and CEO Dennis Muilenburg named Kevin G. McAllister as President and CEO of Boeing Commercial Airplanes on Nov 21. In a statement here Monday, Boeing said McAllister succeeded company Vice Chairman Ray Conner in that role. Muilenburg also appointed Stanley A. Deal as President and CEO of Boeing Global Services, a new business unit to be formed from the customer services groups within the company's existing commercial airplanes and defence, space and security business units.

MPOB Bags Gold, Silver And Bronze Medals At i-INOVA

KUALA LUMPUR -- The Malaysian Palm Oil Board (MPOB) secured one gold, one silver and two bronze medals for its oil palm-related technologies at the recent 7th Exposition on Islamic Innovation 2016 (i-INOVA) The exposition was held from Nov 8, 2016, it said in a statement here Monday.

Scomi Appoints Zubaidi Country President For Malaysian Ops

KUALA LUMPUR -- Scomi Group Bhd has appointed Zubaidi Harun as Country President for its operations in Malaysia. In a statement here Monday, the energy services company said, Zubaidi would be responsible for growing its Malaysian businesses in various industries including oil and gas (O&G), marine, transport, chemicals and renewable energy.

Bursa Malaysia, Maicsa Launch Guide Book For Chairmen, Directors

KUALA LUMPUR -- Bursa Malaysia Bhd and the Malaysian Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators Mondaylaunched a guidebook providing best practices on annual general meetings (AGMs) tailored for chairmen and directors of public-listed companies. Bursa Malaysia Chairman Tan Sri Amirsham A Aziz said in his welcoming remarks here Monday, the guide, titled 'Best Practice Guide on AGMs for Listed Issuers', provides the principles and steps required to prepare, convene and conduct an efficient and effective AGM.

New MIM Office In Penang Opens For Business

KUALA LUMPUR -- The Malaysian Institute of Management's (MIM) new office in Penang is now in operation for the benefit of the northern region's management fraternity. Strategically located in the e-Gate Development just minutes from the first Penang Bridge, the new branch offers locally-based training and certification courses including a new series of work-based diploma qualifications in management and leadership, recognised in Australia and Malaysia, it said in a statement here Wednesday.

AppAsia Unit Is Now Reseller Of Alibaba.com Singapore's Tech Products

KUALA LUMPUR -- AppAsia Bhd's unit Extol International Sdn Bhd has secured a contract as Alibaba.com Singapore E-Commerce Pvt Ltd's non-exclusive reseller for cloud computing and technology products. In a filing to Bursa Malaysia here Wednesday, AppAsia said the contract is not expected to have any material effects on the share capital and shareholding structure of the Company.

GlobalClub Empire Launches 1GC Social Media Platform

PUTRAJAYA -- GlobalClub Empire Sdn Bhd Wednesday launched 1GlobalClub (1GC), the world's first social media platform that rewards active online users. 1GC Chief Executive Officer Datuk Verdon Bahanda told reporters here Tuesday, the application, developed at a cost of RM3 million, also offers innovative solutions for businesses and the online community.

SC Releases Updated List Of Shariah-Compliant Securities

KUALA LUMPUR -- The Securities Commission Malaysia (SC) has released an updated list of Shariah-compliant securities approved by its Shariah Advisory Council. The updated list, which takes effect on Nov 25, 2016, features a total of 672 Shariah-compliant securities, it said in a statement here Thursday.

Axiata Appoints UEM Group MD/CEO As Director

KUALA LUMPUR -- Axiata Group Bhd has appointed UEM Group Bhd's Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer, Datuk Mohd Izzaddin Idris, as Non-Independent and Non-Executive Director effective Thursday. In a filing to Bursa Malaysia Thursday, Axiata said, Izzadin has a proven track record in corporate leadership and in strategic and operational portfolios -- corporate finance, accounting, merger and acquisitions and investment banking.

Proton Wraps Up 2016 With Launch Of Ertiga

SHAH ALAM -- True to its commitment to launch four cars in 2016, Proton Holdings Bhd officially launched the Proton Ertiga, its fourth and final model for this year, here Thursday. The compact multi-purpose vehicle (MPV), introduced through Proton's collaboration with Suzuki Motor Corp Japan, was unveiled at prices ranging from RM58,800 to RM64,800 for Peninsular Malaysia.

TPP: Malaysia's Next Move After Jan 20 - Mustapa

By M. Saraswathi

KUALA LUMPUR (Bernama) -- Malaysia will take the next course of action only when there is official confirmation that the United States will not participate in the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPPA). "Malaysia would wait for greater clarity from the US Administration when the new President takes office on Jan 20, 2017," Minister of International Trade and Industry Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed said Thursday.

This was despite the fact that the latest statement by President-elect Donald Trump on Nov 21 that one of the first tasks as President would be to withdraw the US from the TPP, said the minister a statement here. "Once there is certainty from the new US Administration after Jan 20, 2017, the chief negotiators may meet to consider options and the way forward."

Meanwhile, Malaysia would continue its work in amending relevant legislations as changes to some of these laws were not just to comply with the TPP but were a result of the ongoing domestic review meant to strengthen and update a number of laws to facilitate trade and fulfil international obligations, he said.

CABINET DECISION

"The final decision on the proposed amendments will however be made by the Cabinet," said Mustapa in his response to the announcement by Trump on the US' intention to withdraw from the TPP. The Minister said all the 12 leaders of the TPP countries met in Lima, Peru on Nov 19, 2016 to review developments and update on their respective domestic processes towards ratification.

"All the TPP countries, except for the US, are in various stages of obtaining their domestic legislative approvals. New Zealand has completed its Parliamentary process. Japan's Lower House has approved the TPPA which is now in the Upper House of the Japanese Parliament," he said.

Minister of International Trade and Industry Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed.
fotoBernama (File Pix) by Dayana Nabila Shaipul Anuar

He said all the leaders reaffirmed their commitment towards the TPP because of the benefits it would bring to their respective economies, as well as to the Asia-Pacific region, in boosting trade and investment and creating jobs and at the same time pursuing good environmental and labour standards. "They were also convinced of the role of the TPP in further enhancing the internationalisation of small and medium enterprises."

FUTURE GROWTH OF E-COMMERCE

The TPP would also create the enabling environment for the future growth of e-commerce in the region. In Peru, the TPP leaders also acknowledged that the deal was a balanced and high quality agreement that should not be abandoned, he said. "As I have indicated before, the TPPA under the present conditions for entry into force cannot take place without the US participation, as the US accounts for about 60 per cent of the combined gross domestic product (GDP) of the 12 members."

"Under the agreement, a minimum of six countries accounting for 85 per cent of the combined GDP of the 12 members must ratify before the TPPA can enter into force," said Mustapa.

He also reiterated that free and fair trade had benefited Malaysia. "While globalisation and liberalisation may not be perfect, free trade agreements complemented with appropriate domestic policies and support measures can spread the benefits of development in favour of the poor and marginalised segments of the society." As a trading nation, Malaysia would continue to pursue preferential trading arrangements that are fair and bring benefits to the country in terms of trade, investment, income and employment, he added.

-- BERNAMA

BERNAMA MALAYSIAeBiz

November 26, 2016

Market Outlook

LIST OF MARKET REPORTS :

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

Bursa Malaysia To Trade Sideways Next Week

By Harizah Hanim Mohamed

KUALA LUMPUR -- Bursa Malaysia is likely to trade sideways next week, with the benchmark FTSE Bursa Malaysia KLCI (FBM KLCI) moving between 1,620 and 1,640 points. Affin Hwang Investment Bank Vice President/Head of Retail Research Datuk Dr Nazri Khan Adam Khan said the market would be pressured by oil prices and heightened speculation of an interest rate hike by the US Federal Reserve (Fed) in December.

"However, at the same time, we expect the recent multi-billion-ringgit deals signed with China to be the catalyst for the local bourse," he told Bernama. The 14 agreements for planned investments signed between Malaysia and China and worth almost RM144 billion, will see both countries working together in property development, steel production, solar cells production, bird's nest production, a port and technology park projects. Commenting on foreign outflows in emerging markets, Nazri said the situation is expected to normalise once the Fed decides on the interest rate. "The current situation (foreign outflow) only involves traders who park their money in the local market. They will come back eventually and after the Fed decides on the interest rate scenario.

"Investors involved in the local cash market comprise about 50 per cent institutional investors, foreign holdings (20 per cent) and the balance is retail investors. "We hoped for more genuine and long-term investors, in this case, investment from China," he added. For the week just-ended, the benchmark FBM KLCI rose 3.46 points to 1,627.26 from 1,623.80 last Friday. Weekly turnover declined to 7.02 billion units worth RM7.53 billion from the 7.33 billion units worth RM8.76 billion registered last Friday. Main market volume contracted to 4.64 billion units valued at RM7.11 billion from the 5.04 billion units valued at RM8.34 billion.

Ringgit Trading To Remain Volatile Next Week

By Rosemarie Khoo Mohd Sani

KUALA LUMPUR -- Trading in the ringgit is expected to remain volatile next week and dip to the RM4.48 level to the US dollar before stabilising and rebounding. The rebound will come in the wake of an expected interest rate hike by the US Federal Reserve (Fed) in December. Affin Hwang Investment Bank Vice-President/Retail Research Head

Datuk Dr Nazri Khan Adam Khan said while Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) has retained the overnight policy rate (OPR) at three per cent, it is almost certain that the Fed will raise interest rates. “The odd monies going out from Malaysia is moving towards the US. It has nothing to do with the country’s economic fundamentals which are strong and growth is expected in 2017.

My view is that the outflow is for the short-term and the ringgit will soon stabilise,” he told Bernama. He said the ringgit was not the only currency affected by the US interest rate factor, as India’s Rupee, China’s Renminbi and Indonesia’s Rupiah were among other emerging market currencies impacted too.

Nazri Khan said the ringgit may further weaken due to foreigners repatriating their money at year-end, which is a norm. On another note, he said the historical Malaysia and China trade agreements worth RM144 billion signed recently would result in funds coming into the country. “We believe the money will come in gradually next year and hopefully this can also cushion the ringgit’s position against the US dollar,” he added. For the week just-ended, the ringgit traded weaker at 4.4530/4600 against the greenback from 4.4140/4190 last Friday. It ended mostly lower against other major currencies.

The ringgit appreciated against the yen to 3.9379/9455 last Friday from 3.9874/9948, but declined against the Singapore dollar to 3.1159/1224 from 3.0962/0008. The local unit fell to 4.7175/7267 against the euro from 4.6780/6837 and eased against the British pound to 5.5538/5639 from 5.4734/4813.

Short-Term Rates To Be Steady Next Week

KUALA LUMPUR -- Short-term rates are likely to be steady next week with Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) expected to offer tenders to absorb excess funds from the system. For the week just-ended, the overnight rate was quoted at 2.95 per cent while the one-week, two and three-week rates moved between 3.01 per cent and 3.10 per cent. For the week just-ended, the central bank intervened on a daily basis to mop up surplus liquidity by conducting conventional money market, reverse repo, repo, Qard and commodity murabahah programme tenders.

Despite late borrowings to further reduce the excess funds in the financial system, the total liquidity surplus for the week just-ended was lower at RM28.59 billion in conventional operations against RM30.49 billion last Friday. Islamic funds were higher at RM7.13 billion against last Friday’s RM5.34 billion. The benchmark three-month interbank rate stood at 3.41 per cent.

KLCI Futures To Trade Sideways Next Week

KUALA LUMPUR -- The FTSE Bursa Malaysia KLCI (FBM KLCI) futures contracts on Bursa Malaysia Derivatives are expected to trade sideways next week, tracking the performance of its underlying cash market. Affin Hwang Investment Bank Vice-President/Head of Retail Research Datuk Dr Nazri Khan Adam Khan, said investors are cautious over the US Federal Reserve's (Fed) possible move to revise interest rates in December.

"It's more of market sentiment. Either way, the market will eventually normalise," he told Bernama. On a Friday-to-Friday basis, November 2016 rose three points to 1,636, December 2016 gained eight points to 1,639.5 and March 2017 increased 3.5 points 1,633.50. Turnover increased to 56,591 lots from 42,903 lots last week, while open interest improved to 68,079 contracts from 43,529 contracts. The benchmark FBM KLCI ended the week 3.46 points higher at 1,627.26.

CPO Futures To Trade At RM2,900-RM3,050 Next Week

By Niam Seet Wei

KUALA LUMPUR -- Crude palm oil (CPO) futures contracts on Bursa Malaysia Derivatives are likely to trade between RM2,900-RM3,050 a tonne next week on speculative play and amid a weakening ringgit, coupled with year-end window dressing activity.

Interband Group Senior Palm Oil Trader Jim Teh said the softer ringgit would be the main driver of local CPO prices as the commodity is now cheaper for foreign buyers. "Speculative buying has helped boost palm oil prices and aided planters in reaping better returns," he told Bernama. In addition, Teh said Indonesia's decision to increase biodiesel usage will also spur demand for CPO. On a Friday-to-Friday basis, December 2016 improved RM170 to RM3,042 a tonne, January 2017 increased RM166 to RM3,036 a tonne, February 2017 was up RM163 to RM3,032 a tonne and March 2017 rose RM162 to RM3,021 a tonne.

Weekly turnover was lower at 170,157 lots from 257,329 lots last Friday, while open interest rose to 233,386 contracts from 227,834 contracts. On the physical market, December South improved RM140 to RM3,080 a tonne from the previous week.

Rubber Market To Trend Higher Next Week

KUALA LUMPUR -- The Malaysian rubber market is likely to trend higher next week, bolstered by the weakening ringgit to the US dollar, said dealers. A dealer said the lower ringgit made the commodity more attractive to foreign buyers, and hence demand for the commodity. He also said continuous rain over the past few days had also raised concerns over rubber production. For the week-just-ended, the local market traded in a quiet but steady tone at the beginning, but SMR 20 surged to 807 sen on Thursday, its highest level since September 2013.

On a Friday-to-Friday basis, the Malaysian Rubber Board's noon price for tyre-grade SMR 20 jumped 34.5 sen to 768 sen a kg, and latex-in-bulk added 31 sen to 578 sen a kg. The 5 pm unofficial closing price for SMR 20 improved 25 sen to 768 sen a kg, while latex-in-bulk rose 31 sen to 579 sen a kg.

KLIBOR Futures To Remain Untraded Next Week

KUALA LUMPUR -- The three-month Kuala Lumpur Interbank Offered Rate (KLIBOR) futures contract on Bursa Malaysia Derivatives is likely to continue its lacklustre trading next week, a dealer said. The underlying three-month KLIBOR on the cash market remained at 3.41 per cent on Friday. On a weekly basis, spot month December 2016, January 2017, February 2017 and March 2017 were all pegged at 96.58.

KLTM To Trade Higher On Tight Supply

By Rosemarie Khoo Mohd Sani

KUALA LUMPUR -- The Kuala Lumpur Tin Market (KLTM) is expected to trade higher next week on sustained tight supply for the base metal. A dealer told Bernama there was no increase in demand for tin, but the limited supply due to disruption of production in China, Indonesia and Myanmar, has caused prices to rise further.

"The KLTM will also move in line with the tin price on the London Metal Exchange. "As the year is coming to an end, traders are also starting to stockpile for the coming holiday season, which may push tin prices even higher," he said. The dealer said due to these reasons, the price may reach its highest level of US$30,000 per tonne soon, unless there are new developments which may prevent this. For the week just-ended, the KLTM price ended US$300 lower at US$21,100 a tonne, but was higher compared with the US$20,100 per tonne recorded on last Friday. Weekly turnover improved to 245 lots from 214 lots last week. The discount between the KLTM and LME narrowed to US$260 a tonne against US$150 a tonne last Friday.

Gold Futures To Consolidate With Downside Bias

By Rosemarie Khoo Mohd Sani

KUALA LUMPUR -- Gold futures contracts on Bursa Malaysia Derivatives are expected to consolidate with a downside bias next week and ahead of a possible US Federal Reserve interest rate hike in December. Phillip Futures Sdn Bhd Dealer Ong Su Ling said market players remained nervous over the decision and would be closely monitoring any US economic data for clues.

"Among the indicators, traders will be eyeing the key US monthly jobs report due on Dec 2," Ong told Bernama. On a Friday-to-Friday basis, November 2016 eased 19 ticks to RM171.50 a gramme, December 2016 fell 20 ticks to RM172.00 a gramme, while January 2017 and February 2017 declined three ticks each to RM172.40 and RM173.20 a gramme respectively. Weekly turnover fell to 42 lots worth RM721,365 from last Friday's 65 lots worth RM1.26 million. Open interest was higher at 340 contracts from 323 contracts previously.