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This Week's Highlight : Malaysia Vision Valley To Draw RM290 Billion Investments

SEALED...Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak (third, left) shakes hands with Sime Darby Managing Director Datuk Jauhari Hamidi (second, left) while Negeri Sembilan Menteri Besar (fourth, left) looks on after witnessing the signing of an agreement for the development of Malaysia Vision Valley (MVV) involving Sime Darby Property Bhd, Brunsfield Development Sdn Bhd and Kumpulan Wang Persaraan (KWAP) in Putrajaya Thursday. From left Brunsfield Executive Chairman Tan Sri Dr Ir Gan Thian Leong, and KWAP CEO Datuk Wan Kamaruzaman Wan Ahmad (right). -- fotoBERNAMA by Mahayudin Mohamad

PUTRAJAYA -- The development of the world class metropolis, Malaysia Vision Valley (MVV) in Negeri Sembilan, is expected to attract more than RM290 billion in investments and transform the lives of millions of people in Negeri Sembilan, says Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak. MVV, to be developed over 153,000 hectares, would encompass the Seremban and Port Dickson districts in Negeri Sembilan.

This Week's Top Stories

MONDAY

Govt Agrees With RM70 Mln Provision To Socso

KUALA LUMPUR -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak Monday announced that the government agreed with a provision of RM70 million to the Social Security Organisation (Socso) for the payment of financial benefits relating to the Employment Insurance System (SIP) for next year (2018). Speaking at at the 2017 National Labour Day here, he also announced that the government proposed to expand the coverage of the Self Employment Social Security Scheme in stages to informal employment categories such as fishermen, farmers, smallholders, hawkers and arts practitioners.

TUESDAY

Malaysia, Bahrain Ink Air Services Agreement, Four MoU

PUTRAJAYA -- Malaysia and Bahrain Tuesday inked an air services agreement and four memorandums of understanding (MoU) in the field of defence, small and medium enterprises (SME), oil and gas as well as commerce at the federal administrative capital here. The air services agreement and MoU signing ceremony was witnessed by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak and visiting King Hamad Isa Al Khalifa at the Seri Perdana here.

WEDNESDAY

Bandar Malaysia Equity Sale To IWH Lapses

KUALA LUMPUR – TRX City Sdn Bhd said Wednesday the share sale agreement (SSA) with Iskandar Waterfront Holdings Sdn Bhd (IWH) and China Railway Engineering Corperation (M) Sdn Bhd (CREC), regarding the sale of 60 per cent of the issued and paid-up capital of Bandar Malaysia Sdn Bhd, has lapsed due to the failure of the purchasing parties to fulfil payment obligations. Following the SSA signing, IWH and CREC assigned its benefits and responsibilities to IWH CREC Sdn Bhd (IWH CREC) on July 21 last year.

THURSDAY

BNM Mulls Enforcing Law Against Illegal Financial Scheme Perpetrators

KUALA LUMPUR – Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) will not hesitate to enforce the law against perpetrators and promoters of illegal financial schemes and has vowed that wrongdoers will face the full brunt of the law. Under the law, action can also be taken against investors who knowingly promote and participate in the illegal schemes, BNM said in a statement Thursday.

FRIDAY

Total Trade Rises To RM159.86 Bln In March

KUALA LUMPUR – Malaysia's total trade in March 2017 expanded by 31.1 per cent, reaching RM159.86 billion compared to the same month last year, with exports increasing by 24.1 per cent to RM82.63 billion. This was the fourth consecutive month that exports registered double-digit growth since December 2016, said the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) in announcing the country's external trade statistics here, Friday.

SMEbrief

SME Week: SME Corp Targets RM12 Mln Sales

KUALA LUMPUR -- SME Corporation Malaysia (SME Corp) is looking at improved sales of RM12 million from the Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) Week 2017 in contrast to the RM8.2 million registered year. Chief Executive Officer Datuk Dr Hafsah Hashim said the improvement would be driven by the participation of online shopping players such as Lazada, 11street and Google, apart from existing hypermarket players, including Giant, Tesco, Lulu, Mydin and Aeon.

Malaysia, Bahrain Reaffirm Commitment On SMEs, Industrial Cooperation

KUALA LUMPUR -- Malaysia and Bahrain have reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and industrial cooperation. Minister of International Trade and Industry (Miti) Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed Tuesday met Bahrain Minister of Industry, Commerce and Tourism, Zayed R. Alzayani to discuss economic matters.

Global Research Alliance Creates Global Opportunities For SMEs

SHAH ALAM – Seven world's renowned research institutions, who are members of the Global Research Alliance (GRA), have shared their knowledge with Malaysian entrepreneurs and industry players on ways to leverage technology and innovation to help spur their business. Some 200 participants took part in the knowledge sharing session themed "Exploring Technology and Innovation with GRA", organised by SIRIM Bhd in conjunction with GRA's 16th annual general meeting here Wednesday.

SME Corp To Empower Retailers Through Supply Chain

SHAH ALAM -- SME Corp Malaysia has collaborated with Malaysia Institute for Supply Chain Innovation (MISI) to provide a deeper understanding of the concept of supply chain management and logistic solutions for SME retailers in the country. SME Corp Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Datuk Dr Hafsah Hashim, said Wednesday, the understanding of the concept was important for SMEs in line with the fourth Industrial revolution.

HDC: Blueprint On Bumi Involvement In Halal Industry

KUALA LUMPUR -- A blueprint on Bumiputera entrepreneurs involvement in the halal industry, which is aimed at enhancing their contribution to the country's exports, will be tabled to the Malaysia Halal Council's meeting on June 1. The blueprint, which is being prepared by the Halal Industry Development Corporation (HDC), will be deliberated by the council which headed by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, HDC said in a statement Thursday.

PropUP Propertyupdate

Damansara Realty Unit, ASB Embark On RM372.8 Mln Project

KUALA LUMPUR – Damansara Realty Bhd's unit, Health Technical Services Sdn Bhd (HTSSB), is keen to enter into a joint-venture agreement with Axventure Sdn Bhd (ASB), and to work together with TRIplc Medical Sdn Bhd on a RM372.8 million project in Kuala Selangor. Under the contract, they will design, build, equip, commission and maintain infrastructure works and buildings for Universiti Teknologi Mara's Teaching Hospital through the private-finance initiative, said HTSSB Tuesday.

Vsolar, Trive Property To Collaborate On Solar Project

KUALA LUMPUR – VSolar Group Bhd has entered into a collaboration agreement with Trive Property Sdn Bhd to market and perform certain complementary business activities, particularly the solar farm project with Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM). In a filing to Bursa Malaysia Tuesday, VSolar said the objective of the agreement was to tap into the know-how and technological advancement of Trive Property in the area of solar technologies to further enhance its expertise in the solar business.

I-Berhad Targets RM300 Mln-RM400 Mln Sales

SHAH ALAM -- I-Berhad, the master developer of i-City, is confident of achieving between RM300 million and RM400 million in sales this year from its Hill10 Residence@i-City project and other ongoing projects, said its Deputy Chairman, Datuk Eu Hong Chew Wednesday. He also said that demand for properties in i-City would remain strong, underpinned by the progress from its four projects, namely i-Suite, Liberty Tower, Parisien Tower and Hyde Tower in i-City.

Govt To Invite Major Developers To Develop Bandar Malaysia

PUTRAJAYA -- The termination of the share sale agreement (SSA) for Bandar Malaysia will not affect the government s long-term plans for 1Malaysia Development Bhd's (1MDB) rationalisation and the development of Bandar Malaysia, said Minister in the Prime Minister s Department, Datuk Seri Abdul Rahman Dahlan. Commenting on the SSA termination Thursday, he said the government would invite both local and foreign companies with good and comprehensive plans to become the main developer for Bandar Malaysia development projects.

BURSA MALAYSIA

Scoreboard

Gainers - 617

Losers - 326

Not Traded - 445

Unchanged - 362

Value - 2493159567

Volume - 35721960

Bursa Malaysia Closes Higher

By Niam Seet Wei

KUALA LUMPUR -- Bursa Malaysia closed higher Friday on continued strong support from foreign institutional investors following the positive local economic headlines, fresh from an announcement on the aborted Bandar Malaysia Sdn Bhd equity sale deal on Wednesday. At 5 pm, the FTSE Bursa Malaysia KLCI (FBM KLCI) added 4.07 points, or 0.23 per cent, to 1,762.74 after fluctuating between 1,757.54 and 1,763.92 throughout the day. The index opened a marginal 0.16 of-a-point higher at 1,758.83 from Thursday's close of 1,758.67. Market breadth was positive with gainers outpacing losers 617 to 326, while 362 counters were unchanged, 445 untraded and 24 others suspended. Volume widened to 3.57 billion units worth RM2.49 billion from 3.44 billion units valued at RM2.89 billion on Thursday. In a note Friday, Alliance DBS Research said buying interest of foreign institutional investors remained strong due to the country's resilient fundamentals, reflected by the net inflow of RM2.7 billion in April. "This represents the fourth consecutive month of net inflow," it said. On the local front, the research house noted that the recent news flow on the setback in developing the iconic Bandar Malaysia project could also spill over to the broader market. "Nevertheless, we believe the market uptrend will remain intact as long as the corporate earnings growth trajectory stays in positive territory," it added. On the impact of Bandar Malaysia share sale issue, Affin Hwang Investment Bank Vice-President and Head of Retail Research Datuk Dr Nazri Khan Adam Khan said the positive local economic headlines should cushion any broad market price weakness. "Local market should welcome 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) Chairman Tan Sri Irwan Serigar Abdullah's statement, affirming that the Bandar Malaysia project will go ahead despite the lapse of the RM7.41 billion deal, " he told Bernama. Main Market turnover narrowed to 2.19 billion units worth RM2.32 billion from 2.32 billion units valued at RM2.75 billion on Thursday.

Exchange Rate
(Ringgit : Foreign Currency)

	Buying	Selling
USD	4.3350	4.3400
EUR	4.7490	4.7562
GBP	5.6052	5.6129
100 YEN	3.8616	3. 8671
SGD	3.0856	3.0896

CLOSING MALAYSIAN FOREIGN EXCHANGE: MAY 5, 2017

FOREX: Ringgit Ends Lower Against Greenback

KUALA LUMPUR -- The ringgit continued to close lower against the US dollar Friday on better demand for the greenback, after the US Federal Reserve surprised markets by maintaining a hawkish stance on the economy. At 6 pm, the local note was quoted at 4.3350/3400 against the greenback from 4.3260/3290 Thursday. A dealer said market sentiment towards the US dollar continued to be boosted by the Federal Reserve's confidence that the slowdown in the economy was temporary. "Heightened expectations over the Federal Reserve raising US rates further have outweighed news on better-than-expected exports data for Malaysia," he added. The Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) Friday announced that the country's exports surged to a record high in March, up 24 per cent from a year earlier to RM82.63 billion, underpinned by higher demand for manufactured goods, which accounted for 81 per cent of total exports. At close, the ringgit traded mostly lower against most major currencies. It rose against the Singapore dollar to 3.0856/0896 from 3.0940/0981 but declined against the Japanese yen to 3.8616/8671 from 3.8300/8337 Thursday. The ringgit fell against the British pound to 5.6052/6129 from 5.5792/5844 and was lower against the euro at 4.7490/7562 from 4.7292/7338 on Thursday.

Money-Market: Short-Term Rates End Stable On BNM's Intervention

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 fell to RM32.28 billion from RM43.62 billion in the morning, while in the Islamic system, it declined to RM7.61 billion from RM10.97 billion. Earlier, BNM conducted two tenders – a range maturity auction and a Qard. The central bank also conducted a RM32.3 billion conventional money market tender and a RM7.6 billion Qard money market tender, both for three-day money. The overnight Islamic reference rate stood at 2.96 per cent, while the one-, two- and three-week rates stood at 3.02 per cent, 3.06 per cent and 3.11 per cent, respectively.

KLIBOR Futures Contract Ends Untraded

KUALA LUMPUR -- The three-month Kuala Lumpur Interbank Offered Rate (KLIBOR) futures contract on Bursa Malaysia Derivatives ended untraded Friday. May 2017, June 2017, July 2017 and September 2017 remained pegged at 96.54, 96.52, 96.50 and 96.48, respectively. Volume and open interest remained nil. At the 11 am fixing, the underlying three-month KLIBOR stood at 3.43 per cent.

KLCI Futures Contract Ends Higher

KUALA LUMPUR -- The FTSE Bursa Malaysia KLCI (FBM KLCI) futures contract (FKLI) on Bursa Malaysia Derivatives ended higher Friday, in line with the firmer underlying cash market. May 2017 added 6.5 points to 1,763.5, June 2017 and September 2017 went up six points each to 1,762 and 1,761, respectively, and December 2017 was five points better at 1,760.5. Turnover slid to 5,389 lots from 5,496 lots on Thursday while open interest improved to 39,275 contracts from 39,220 contracts previously. The underlying benchmark FBM KLCI finished 4.07 points higher at 1,762.74.

Malakoff Corp's Unit Signs Loan Facility With Mizuho Bank For RM325 Mln

KUALA LUMPUR -- Malakoff Corporation Bhd's unit, Malakoff International Ltd, has signed a facility agreement with Mizuho Bank Ltd Labuan Branch for a term loan facility of US$80.0 million (about RM325.0 million). The agreement signed was for the purpose of payment of all outstanding amounts under the existing term loan facility and payment of fees and related expenses, it said in a filing to Bursa Malaysia Tuesday.

Global Sukuk Issuance At US$22.2 Bln In Q1, Says Ram Ratings

KUALA LUMPUR -- Global sukuk issuance reached US$22.2 billion (US$1=RM4.33), as at end-March, a marginal decrease from US$24.1 billion recorded in the same period last year, with Malaysia maintaining its leadership by accounting for 38.5 per cent of the total issuance, says Ram Ratings. In a statement Tuesday, the ratings agency said Indonesia was next (24.7 per cent) followed by Qatar (9.9 per cent) and the United Arab Emirates (nine per cent). It said outstanding global sukuk summed up to US$346.7 billion, as at end-March 2017, with Malaysia maintaining its leadership by commanding 48 per cent of the amount.

BNM: Islamic Banks Are No Longer Required To Maintain Reserve Fund

KUALA LUMPUR -- Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) announced that Islamic banks are no longer required to maintain a reserve fund effective May 3, 2017. The Islamic banks were expected to exercise prudence before submitting an application to distribute the reserves as dividends, the central bank announced on its website. "BNM wishes to inform that in considering the dividend application, the bank shall consider, among others, the Islamic bank's ability to comply with the fully phased-in capital conservation buffer requirement and any other buffers that the bank may specify," it said in a statement, Wednesday.

Maybank Indonesia's Disposal Of Stake In WOM Finance Terminated

KUALA LUMPUR -- The disposal of Malayan Banking Bhd (Maybank)'s Indonesian unit's entire equity interest in WOM Finance has been terminated, as certain conditions precedent to the conditional shares purchase agreement (CSPA) had not been fulfilled. As such, WOM Finance would continue to be a subsidiary of Maybank Indonesia, said the bank in a filing to Bursa Malaysia Thursday.

BNM Reminds Payment Cardholders To Change To New Pin-Based Cards By June 30

KOTA KINABALU -- Bank Negara Malaysia has reminded payment cardholders to change to the new personal identification number (PIN) based card by June 30 to enable payments at point-of-sales (POS) terminals that will only accept PIN-based cards instead of the signature verification method. Bank Negara Director of Payment Systems Policy Department Tan Nyat Chuan said the signature verification method for all payment cards such as debit and credit cards would be turned off, effective July 1.

RHB Eyes 35 Pct Additional Premier Customer By Year-End

KUALA LUMPUR -- RHB Banking Group expects to acquire an additional 35 per cent new premier customers by year-end, with the launch of the RHB Premier Signature Experience reward programme. Acting Head of Group Retail Banking Nazri Othman said the bank was confident of achieving its target, as the new reward programme offered its premier customers exclusive lifestyle privileges, tailored to suit each customer's unique preferences. Speaking to reporters after launching the programme Thursday, he said it catered to the needs of RHB's affluent banking customers, providing them with customised and convenient on-demand banking solutions.

BNM's International Reserves At US$96.1 Bln As At April 28

KUALA LUMPUR -- The international reserves of Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) amounted to US$96.1 billion (equivalent to RM425.2 billion) as at April 28, 2017 compared with US$95.7 billion (equivalent to RM423.2 billion) registered as at April 14, 2017. In a statement Friday, BNM said the reserves position was sufficient to finance 7.9 months of retained imports and was 1.1 times the short-term external debt. The main components of the international reserves were foreign currency reserves (US$89.5 billion), International Monetary Fund Reserves position (US$0.8 billion), Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) (US$1.1 billion), gold (US$1.6 billion) and other reserve assets (US$3.1 billion).

Bank Rakyat Announces 15 Pct Dividend Payment For 2016

KUALA LUMPUR -- Bank Kerjasama Rakyat Malaysia Bhd (Bank Rakyat) has announced a cash dividend payment of 15 per cent, involving a payout of RM450 million for the financial year ended Dec 31, 2016, compared to 13 per cent in 2015. The bank registered a profit before tax and zakat of RM1.74 billion against RM2.01 billion in 2015. Bank Rakyat Chairman, Tan Sri Shukry Mohd Salleh told reporters Friday, the dividend payment was based on higher revenue of RM6.66 billion recorded last year, compared to RM6.43 billion achieved in 2015.

RHB Targets 9-10 Pct Growth In Retail Banking

PETALING JAYA -- RHB Bank Bhd is targeting a nine to 10 per cent growth in its retail banking segment encouraged by the growth in its customer base which recorded over 30,000 new accounts opened monthly since January this year. Group Retail Banking Acting Head, Nazri Othman told reporters Friday, despite challenging economic conditions, the group was able to attract new customers and increase the number of newly-opened accounts through various activities including product campaigns, property launches and collaboration with other corporations.

Anzo Holdings Unit Bags Project Worth RM109.30 Mln

KUALA LUMPUR -- Anzo Holdings Bhd's unit, Harvest Court Construction Sdn Bhd, has secured a project worth RM109.30 million from Tinta Anggun Engineering Sdn Bhd. In a filing to Bursa Malaysia Tuesday, the company said its unit had been appointed as the main contractor for the project. "The contract period is 36 months and it is not expected to have any material effects on the share capital and shareholding structure of the company," it said.

RISDA Targets To Export Entrepreneurs Food Products To China In July

SHAH ALAM -- The Rubber Industry Smallholders Development Authority (Risda) targets to market food products such as biscuits and chocolates by its smallholders or entrepreneurs to the supermarket chain in China by July this year. Chairman, Datuk Zahidi Zainul Abidin, said Tuesday, this was one of the initiatives by the agency to assist in opening up market opportunities for the smallholders and entrepreneurs to increase their income and not depend only on income from rubber which is subject to price uncertainty.

Ikhmas Jaya Secures RM62.40 Mln Contract From Pelaburan Hartanah

KUALA LUMPUR -- Ikhmas Jaya Group Bhd has secured a RM62.40 million contract from Pelaburan Hartanah Bhd, to carry out site clearance, earthworks, piling (bore) and pile cap in Kuala Terengganu, Terengganu. The contract is for a mixed development involving a six-floor shopping mall, multipurpose hall and 10 -floor car park, the company said in a filing to Bursa Malaysia Tuesday.

DNEX Eyes Double-Digit Revenue, Profit Growth

PETALING JAYA -- Dagang NeXchange Bhd (DNEX) is eyeing double-digit revenue and profit growth this year, driven mainly by its IT and e-services business, as well as the growing power business. Group Managing Director Zainal Abidin Jalil told reporters Tuesday, the company managed to expand its IT and e-services segment through initiatives such as the Vehicle Entry Permit and Road Charge System project involving foreign-registered vehicles entering Malaysia via Johor and the eWork Permit System development for the rehiring of illegal foreign workers from 15 countries.

AIMS Group Records 24 Pct Revenue Growth For 2016

KUALA LUMPUR -- Carrier-neutral data services provider AIMS Group, has recorded a 24 per cent growth in revenue for 2016, the company's best performance so far, despite the challenging environment during the year. In a statement Tuesday, Group Chief Executive Officer Chiew Kok Hin said the company managed to outdo the odds with the record-breaking revenue growth which propelled the company well above the industry average.

Firefly Optimistic Of Achieving Passenger Target Of 1.25 Mln In 2017

GEORGE TOWN -- Firefly remains optimistic of achieving the passenger target of 1.25 million for 2017 despite lower demand and increased operational costs. Chief Executive Officer Ignatius Ong told reporters Wednesday, the increase in operational costs on the back of a softer ringgit had hit the group badly. But, Firefly has been practicing zero wastage measures to cope with rising costs.

Malaysia Airlines Eyes Another 26 Routes In 2018, Says CEO

PUTRAJAYA -- Malaysia Airlines Bhd (MAB), which is on the road to recovery, plans to add 26 additional routes to its list of destinations in 2018, says Chief Executive Officer Peter Bellew. In evaluating the potential routes, he told reporters Wednesday, the national carrier has invited all major airports in ASEAN, Australia and India to meet in Kuala Lumpur in the coming weeks to negotiate the routes and promote tourism here.

Global Air Freight Demand Grows 14 Pct In March - IATA

KUALA LUMPUR -- The global air freight market for March 2017 increased 14 per cent in freight tonne kilometers (FTKs) compared with the corresponding period last year, the fastest growth recorded since October 2010, said the International Air Transport Association (IATA). After adjusting for the 2016's leap year impact, freight demand increased nearly 11 per cent, with capacity rising 3.7 per cent over the same period, said IATA in a statement Wednesday.

F&N Posts Higher Pre-Tax Profit Of RM116.8 Mln In Q2

KUALA LUMPUR -- Fraser & Neave Holdings Bhd's (F&N) pre-tax profit for the second quarter ended March 31, 2017 rose to RM116.8 million from RM107.6 million recorded in the same period last year. Revenue decreased to RM992.7 million from RM1.01 billion previously, according to its filing to Bursa Malaysia Wednesday.

APLIC To Generate RM45 Mln In Foreign Spending

KUALA LUMPUR -- Malaysia is expected to generate RM45 million through foreign spending following its hosting of the 16th Asia Pacific Life Insurance Congress (APLIC). Organising Chairman, Tang Kia Sing in a statement Wednesday said the congress, to be held from May 17-19, 2017 was expected to attract more than 5,000 life insurance practitioners from 13 countries.

Axiata Digital Innovation Fund Gets RM10 Mln Investment From JCorp

KUALA LUMPUR -- Malaysia's largest corporate venture capital fund Axiata Digital Innovation Fund (ADIF) has received RM10 million in investment from Johor Corporation (JCorp) to further drive Malaysia's digital industry. ADIF, a collaboration between Axiata Group Bhd (Axiata) and Malaysia Venture Capital Management Bhd (MAVCAP), aims to build up the capabilities of local digital companies, especially that of Bumiputera, to become successful regional and international players, it said in a statement Wednesday.

Cagamas Eyeing RM11 Bln Bond And Sukuk Issue This Year

KUALA LUMPUR -- National mortgage corporation of Malaysia, Cagamas Bhd, is eyeing to issue a mixture of RM11 billion worth of bonds and sukuk this year compared with RM5.7 billion last year. Chief Executive Officer Datuk Chung Chee Leong told reporters Wednesday, the higher projection was due to expectation of better demand from banks for the company's bond and sukuk to comply with the stringent Basel III requirements.

AirAsia Group Records 89 Pct Load Factor In Q1

KUALA LUMPUR -- AirAsia Group recorded a load factor of 89 per cent for the first quarter of 2017 (Q1 2017), up three percentage points (ppts) from the same period last year. In a statement Monday, AirAsia Bhd said the number of passengers carried increased 13 per cent year-on-year (y-o-y) to 15.23 million, well ahead of the nine per cent increase in seat capacity.

klia2 Handled 88 Mln Passengers Since Opening

KUALA LUMPUR -- The Kuala Lumpur International Airport 2 (klia2) has handled a total of 88 million passenger movements at the terminal comprising 30 million domestic and 58 million international passenger movements since its opening on May 2, 2014. klia2 with a capacity to handle a total of 45 million passengers per annum (mppa) had been supporting the traffic growth of low-cost carriers steadily over the last three years, Malaysia Airports Holdings Bhd (MAHB) said in a statement here, Tuesday.

Ong Asks German Cos To Help Expand Industry 4.0 Ecosystem In Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR -- Second International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Ong Ka Chuan has asked high-profile German companies to help expand the Industry 4.0 ecosystem in Malaysia. Industry 4.0 is a combination of automation and digitalisation, while connectivity is the core to drive this revolution, he said in a statement released by the Ministry of International Trade and Industry following his working visit to the world's largest industrial expo, Hannover Messe 2017, in Germany last week.

Malaysian Automotive Players Urged To Tap Mexican Supply Chain

CYBERJAYA -- Malaysian automotive parts and component manufacturers are urged to tap into the US$8 billion (US$1=RM4.33) automotive supply chain market in Mexico and use the country as a platform to expand their exports to the United States, Canada, as well as, North and Latin America. Mexican Ambassador to Malaysia Carlos Felix Corona told reporters Tuesday, Malaysian manufacturers could take advantage of Mexico's preferential access to 45 countries, via its free trade agreements, to expand their export market.

Bahrain Keen To Tap Into Petronas' Expertise In Gas Distribution Sector

PUTRAJAYA -- Bahrain has expressed keen interest to tap into Petronas' knowledge and experience in the gas distribution sector, said Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Abdul Rahman Dahlan. He said in a statement Tuesday, the kingdom was also in the pursuit of expanding its economic relations and exploring economic potentials in this region, particularly with Malaysia.

Celcom To Adopt Rich Communication Service With Google

KUALA LUMPUR -- Celcom Axiata Bhd announced today it will use Google's end-to-end platform to modernise carrier messaging services on Android with Rich Communication Service (RCS). In a statement Tuesday, it said the new service will be available on devices using Android Messages as the default messaging application and supported by Celcom's strong network.

Malaysian Economy Performs Well Despite Challenging Global Environment - IMF

KUALA LUMPUR -- The Malaysian economy has performed well over the past few years and remained resilient despite the challenging global economic environment, said the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in its annual consultation report on Malaysia, which concluded on March 15. Despite the global commodity price impact and financial market volatility, it said the country's economy remained resilient, owing to a diversified production and export base, strong balance sheet position, flexible exchange rate, responsive macroeconomic policies and deep financial markets.

Recovery Of Bursa Malaysia To Continue - Johari

KUALA LUMPUR -- The good recovery of Bursa Malaysia in the first quarter of this year is expected to continue amid sustained growth in the domestic economy, said Second Finance Minister Datuk Seri Johari Abdul Ghani. He said Wednesday, the government observed that year-to-date (YTD), the FBM KLCI gained by six per cent while the number of initial public offering (IPO) stocks had also risen in tandem.

Strong Ties With China Helps Spur Malaysia's Economic Growth - Melaka CM

MELAKA -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak's endeavour in building closer ties with China will not affect the national sovereignty, instead it would further strengthen Malaysia's economic prosperity, Melaka Chief Minister Datuk Seri Idris Haron told reporters Wednesday. He said being home to 1.3 billion people, China boasted an enormous consumer power for Malaysia to tap into.

FGV Still In Talks With Felda On Options Including Land Lease Agreement

NILAI -- Felda Global Ventures Holdings Bhd (FGV) is still in discussions with the Federal Land Development Authority (Felda) on options to undertake which include land lease agreement (LLA) that will benefit various stakeholders. Group President/Chief Executive Officer, Datuk Zakaria Arshad told a press conference Wednesday the option priorities would be in the best interest of FGV, Felda and other shareholders and offered the best win-win solutions for all.

TNB Acquires 51 Pct Stake In Southern Power Generation

KUALA LUMPUR -- Tenaga Nasional Bhd (TNB) is to acquire a 51 per cent stake in Southern Power Generation Sdn. Bhd (SPG) for RM51. SPG is a special purpose vehicle for the development of the 2 x 720 MW Combined Cycle Gas Turbine Power Plant in Pasir Gudang, Johor, at an estimated RM 4.7 billion . On the rationale for the acquisition, TNB in a filing to Bursa Malaysia, Wednesday, the project is expected to be earnings accretive to it upon the scheduled commercial operation.

The Netherlands Looks To Invest In Iskandar Malaysia

ISKANDAR PUTERI -- The Netherlands is looking to invest in potential growth sectors in Iskandar Malaysia and in several areas in Johor, said Netherlands Ambassador to Malaysia Karin Mossenlechner. She told a press conference Wednesday, there was potential for cooperation between the Netherlands and Iskandar Malaysia besides the existing sectors of oil and gas, maritime, manufacturing and education.

HSR: Govt To Call For Tender For Asset Co

KUALA LUMPUR -- The government will call for a tender by the year-end to set up a privately-financed asset company (AssetsCo) for the Kuala Lumpur-Singapore High Speed Rail (HSR) project, said MyHSR Corporation Sdn Bhd Chief Executive Officer Mohd Nur Ismal Mohamed Kamal. This will be the first tender given out for the HSR project. "We are working hard towards the procurement stage, which will be the start of the construction phase, and for AssetsCo, we are targeting by end of this year," he told reporters Wednesday.

Sime Darby Wins Edison Award For Developing High Yielding Palm Oil Clones

KUALA LUMPUR -- Sime Darby Plantation (SDP) has been recognised as Malaysia's first company to receive the Edison Award for it genome initiative to develop oil palm with higher yields, hence reducing the need for more land. The world's largest producer of certified sustainable palm oil won the Bronze award in the sustainability, under the energy & sustainability category of the 2017 Edison Awards in recognition of its achievement, it said a statement Tuesday.

GHL Partners Af Payment Inc In The Philippines

KUALA LUMPUR -- GHL Systems Bhd's (GHL) wholly-owned subsidiary, GHL Systems Philippines Inc, is to commence offering beep payment acceptance services to in-store merchants in the country by end-May 2017. beep is a stored value e-payment service which allows consumers to make payments using a contactless smartcard or any other form factor containing the beep application at transport establishments and other accredited retailers, merchants, and establishments where the beepcard is accepted as a means of payment for goods and services, it said in a statement Tuesday.

Airbnb Launches Business Travel Ready Filter Function For Business Traveller

KUALA LUMPUR -- Online marketplace and hospitality service, Airbnb, has launched a business travel ready (BTR) filter/search function, making it easier and faster for business travellers to find and book the perfect Airbnb for work. The function is available on both desktop and mobile. "Now, business travellers can filter search results to show business travel listings, which guaranteed business-travel-friendly amenities like WiFi, toiletries, a designated work space, an iron, hangers, etc," the travel portal said in a statement Tuesday.

PIAM Reelects Lee As Chairman

KUALA LUMPUR -- The General Insurance Association of Malaysia (PIAM) has reelected AIG (M) Bhd Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Antony Lee as Chairman. MSIG Insurance (M) Bhd CEO Chua Seck Guan is the Deputy Chairman. "The association has been proactively engaging key stakeholders over the past few years to drive the general insurance industry forward. "The management committee anticipates exciting and challenging times ahead, especially with the Phased Liberalisation of the Motor and Fire Tariffs, which is going to be a game changer for the industry," Lee said.

Serba Dinamik To Conduct Feasibility Study For Solid Waste Mgmt Plant In Bahrain

KUALA LUMPUR -- Serba Dinamik Holdings Bhd's (SDHB) unit, Serba Dinamik Group Bhd (SDGB), will be conducting a feasibility study for an integrated solid waste management and water desalination plant in Bahrain. In a filing to Bursa Malaysia Wednesday, the group said for this purpose, a consortium made up of SDGB and EAG Capital Sdn Bhd had entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Malaysia-Bahrain Business Council and Bahrain-Malaysia Business Council.

Bank Muamalat Contributes Items For Surau Under Rapid Rail

KUALA LUMPUR -- Realising the importance of giving comfort to users of public transport, Bank Muamalat Malaysia Berhad Wednesday contributed items worth RM10,000 to surau under the management of Rapid Rail Sdn Bhd. Bank Muamalat chief executive officer Datuk Mohd Redza Syah Abdul Wahid said Wednesday, the contributions including for prayers such as prayer veils (telekung) and mats (sejadah) were for public use at the surau of 36 Light Rail Transits (LRT) and monorail stations.

BP Healthcare Partners With Microsoft To Provide Doctor2u App

KUALA LUMPUR -- BP Healthcare Group, through its member company, ALI Health, the developer of Doctor2U application, has announced its partnership with Microsoft Malaysia to digitally transform its care continuum and deliver new health services. Doctor2U Co-Founder Keegan Flynn told reporters Wednesday, under this collaboration, the company would leverage Microsoft's intelligent cloud services in order to integrate artificial intelligence and machine learning into the platform.

Avicennia Capital , Sun Life Malaysia Appoint New CEOs

KUALA LUMPUR -- Avicennia Capital Sdn Bhd and Sun Life Malaysia have appointed their new chief executive officers (CEOs), effective May 1, 2017. In a joint statement Wednesday, Avicennia Capital named Ooi Say Teng as CEO, while Sun Life Malaysia appointed Raymond Lew Yung Chow as CEO and president.

Mercedes-Benz Opens Fourth 3S Centre In Ipoh

KUALA LUMPUR -- Mercedes-Benz Malaysia Commercial Vehicles (MBM CV) has teamed up with its authorised dealer, Hap Seng Commercial Vehicle (HSCV), to opens its fourth sales, service, spare parts (3S) commercial vehicle centre in Ipoh, Perak. Mercedes-Benz Malaysia Vice-President of Commercial Vehicles Albert Yee said in a statement Wednesday, that further expansion plans can be expected in the coming years, as MBM CV remains committed to meeting the evolving needs of customers.

TNB Generates Electricity The Eco-Friendly Way

By Kurniawati Kamarudin

LUMUT (Bernama) -- For those stepping into the Sultan Azlan Shah Power Station in Manjung near here for the first time, the sight of the 200-metre high chimney will definitely awe them. Though chimneys are known to emit smoke but this power plant's chimney only lets out steam, and filtered sulfur and fly ash.

Upon entering the grounds of the power station, owned by TNB Janamanjung Sdn Bhd (TNBJ), it is mind boggling to see the sight of huge heaps of black coal covering at least quarter of the 325 hectare ground of the power station located along the coast. The easier analogy to describe the sheer size of the coal storage area is that it is equivalent to 27 football fields.

The coal mostly imported from Kalimantan, Indonesia is used to generate 3,100 Watts of electricity for the national grid through four of its power generating units - Manjung 1 (700 Watts), Manjung 2 (700 Watts) and Manjung 3 (700 Watts) that started operations in 2003 while the newest one Manjung 4 (1,000 Watts) that started operations in 2015.

Another generating unit Manjung 5 costing RM6.5 billion under development is expected to contribute an additional 1000 Watts by the year end.

The sight of the 'vast coal field' may be a cause of concern for some as burning of coal contributes to environmental pollution. However, there is nothing to worry. The power plant, the biggest in Malaysia and the one that generates 20 per cent of the total electricity generated in Peninsula has proven that coal can be used to generate clean electricity.

ECO-FRIENDLY...TNB Janamanjung Sdn Bhd (TNBJ) Managing Director Datuk Shamsul Ahmad (left) with Regional Sales General Manager East Asia at GE Steam Power Systems, Massimo Gallizioli, with an image of the Sultan Azlan Shah Power Station in the background. fotoBERNAMA by Hazim Mohammad

TESTIMONIAL

Six studies conducted in 2010, including the "Paleoseismology and Seismic Hazard Study" and Study Of Ecology at Sultan Azlan Shah Power Station by TNB Research Sdn Bhd (TNBR) stands testament to this fact.

Even not many are aware that the technology adopted by TNBJ has set the industrial benchmark in clean electricity generation that is being emulated by other power generation companies in the region.

Unlike the first three units, the Manjung 4 utilises the Ultra Super Critical environmental friendly technology, noted TNBJ's Managing Director Datuk Shamsul Ahmad adding that Manjung 5 too would also utilise the same technology.

The Ultra Super Critical technology enables clean burning of coal and the use of coal with low sulfur content.

"It creates high temperature and pressure, hence enabling high efficiency combustion at Manjung 4 compared with Manjung 1, 2 and 3," he said during the media visit to TNBJ recently.

MOST EFFICIENT

"This is the most efficient power generation technology utilised in Malaysia and South East Asia at present. It also enables power generation in a safe and environmental friendly manner," he said. The Sultan Azlan Shah Power Station that is being developed in stages since 1999 has provided returns to the state of Perak and boosted the livelihood of the locals.

The Sultan Azlan Shah Power Station has helped to drive growth at the Manjung District. Today, the Manjung district boasts for various facilities that include private hospital, schools, malls, and shipping industry.

Shamsul also pointed out of the 566 employees at TNBJ, 52 per cent are from Perak with 235 of them from Manjung itself.

"We have more than 200 registered suppliers with the contract worth more than RM85 million," he said adding that TNBJ takes seriously its Corporate Social Responsibility by providing RM18 million to the state government since 2014 for education.

LIST OF MARKET REPORTS :

BURSA MALAYSIA

Bursa Malaysia To Trend Higher Towards 1,770 -Point Level
By Niam Seet Wei

KUALA LUMPUR -- Bursa Malaysia is likely to trend higher next week with the benchmark index inching towards the 1,770-level, thanks to positive local economic headlines and strong Wall Street performance.

Affin Hwang Investment Bank Vice-President and Head of Retail Research Datuk Dr Nazri Khan Adam Khan said FTSE Bursa Malaysia KLCI (FBM KLCI) should stabilise and take a higher track next week despite the imminent US Federal Reserve interest rate hike in June against a backdrop of falling crude oil prices.

“The FBM KLCI is holding steady and maintained an impressive uptrend gain of 7.7 per cent for the year-to-date, despite the rolling corrective market,” he told Bernama.

Nazri said positive local economic headlines should cushion any broad market price weakness following the announcement on the termination of the 60 per cent share sale agreement for Bandar Malaysia.

“The local market should welcome 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) Chairman Tan Sri Irwan Serigar Abdullah’s statement which reaffirmed that the Bandar Malaysia project would go ahead after the lapse of the RM7.41 billion deal, “he said.

SPECULATIVE PLAY

However, Nazri indicated that the government’s intention to call for a private sector tender, to establish a privately-financed asset company for the Kuala Lumpur-Singapore High-Speed Rail project, would generate early stock speculative play in the local construction sector.

On the impact from Wall Street, he said global markets, including Bursa Malaysia, should rebound from the subsiding European political risk as the French Presidential Election would be finalised on May 7, 2017.

“With the domestic sentiment being driven by strong Wall Street showing over the last few weeks, we opine that the FBM KLCI will continue to trade higher in the near future,” he said.

For the holiday-shortened week (the market was closed on Monday for the Labour Day holiday), the local bourse was traded range-bound.

The index hit a one-year high on Tuesday, on buying support in finance-linked counters, and fell to a two-week low on Thursday due to the halted Bandar Malaysia share deal issue.

On a week-to-week basis, the FBM KLCI trimmed 5.32 points to 1,762.74 from 1,768.06 last Friday.

Turnover for the shorter week expanded to 14.85 billion units worth RM9.31 billion from 13.76 billion units valued at RM11.90 billion recorded last week.

Main Market volume increased to 9.75 billion shares valued at RM11.22 billion from last week’s 8.93 billion shares worth RM11.19 billion.

FOREX: Positive Export Data To Lift Ringgit

KUALA LUMPUR -- The ringgit will likely be on an uptrend next week, supported by the country's better-than-expected export data.

Forextime Ltd Vice-President for Corporate Development and Market Research Jameel Ahmad said the 24 per cent higher exports for March 2017, over the same month earlier, would provide more encouragement to support the view that the ringgit was oversold, given the country's economic standpoint.

"What this data represents is an excellent economic performance and the Malaysian economy is displaying its robust nature," he said in a note.

The Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) announced on Friday that the country's exports surged to a record high in March, up 24 per cent, from a year earlier, to RM82.63 billion, underpinned by higher demand for manufactured goods, which accounted for 81 per cent of total exports.

While heightened expectations of further interest rate hike by the Federal Reserve would dampen demand for the local note, another dealer said it would not be as bad as envisaged as the factor would have already been 'priced in' by now.

RINGGIT ENDS HIGHER VS US DOLLAR

For the week just-ended, the ringgit moved between 4.3350 and 4.3170 against the US dollar.

On a Friday-to-Friday basis, the ringgit was traded higher at 4.3350/3400 against the greenback from 4.3390/3430 last week. It ended mostly higher against other major currencies.

The local note improved against the Singapore dollar to 3.0856/0896 from 3.1088/1121 last week and advanced against the yen to 3.8616/8671 from 3.8911/8958 last Friday.

It rose against the British pound to 5.6052/6129 from 5.6129/6198 previously but was marginally lower against the euro at 4.7490/7562 from 4.7456/7508 recorded last week.

Money Market To Remain Stable Next Week

KUALA LUMPUR – Short-term interbank rates are expected to remain steady next week with Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) continuing to intervene to stabilise the local money market.

The central bank is set 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 conventional, Qard, repo and range maturity auction tenders.

On Friday, the central bank's action helped to reduce the market's total liquidity surplus to RM32.28 billion in the conventional system and RM7.61 billion in Islamic funds.

The overnight Islamic reference rate stood at 2.96 per cent and the one-week, two and three-week rates stood at 3.02 per cent, 3.06 per cent and 3.11 per cent respectively.
The benchmark three-month interbank rate was unchanged at 3.43 per cent.

KLCI Futures To Trend Higher Next Week

By Niam Seet Wei

KUALA LUMPUR -- The FTSE Bursa Malaysia KLCI (FBM KLCI) futures contract is likely to trend higher next week, reflecting the anticipated stronger performance on the underlying cash market.

Affin Hwang Investment Bank Vice-President and Head of Retail Research Datuk Dr Nazri Khan Adam Khan said the key index was expected to move higher towards the 1,770-point level, supported by positive local economic headlines and the strong Wall Street performance.

"The FBM KLCI is holding steady and has maintained an impressive uptrend gain of 7.7 per cent for the year-to-date, despite the rolling corrective market, " he told Bernama.

Nazri said positive local economic headlines should also cushion any broad market price weakness following the announcement of the termination of the 60 per cent share sale agreement for Bandar Malaysia.

"The local market should welcome 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) Chairman Tan Sri Irwan Serigar Abdullah's statement, which reaffirmed that the Bandar Malaysia project will go ahead after the collapse of the RM7.41 billion deal," he said.

TURNOVER LOWER DURING THE WEEK

On a Friday-to-Friday basis, May 2017 rose 4.5 points to 1,763.5, June 2017 added 7.5 points to 1,762, September 2017 was 10 points better at 1,761 while December 2017 was flat at 1,760.5.

Turnover for the holiday-shortened week was significantly lower at 22,516202 lots from 82,202 lots recorded last Friday while open interest narrowed to 39,275 contracts from 49,079 contracts, previously.

The market was closed on Monday for the Labour Day holiday.

On Friday, the benchmark FBM KLCI ended 4.07 points higher at 1,762.74.

CPO Futures To Trade Slightly Higher Next Week

KUALA LUMPUR -- Crude palm oil (CPO) futures contract on Bursa Malaysia Derivatives is expected to trade slightly higher next week, supported by overseas demand, said a dealer.

Interband Group of Companies Senior Palm Oil Trader Jim Teh said overseas demand would come from the Middle East and Pakistan, ahead of Ramadan, which is expected to be celebrated at end-May.

"However, expectation of higher inventories will likely pressure CPO prices downwards," he said, adding that the industrial regulator, the Malaysian Palm Oil Board, is due to release the official production and export figures on May 11.

Meanwhile, for the just-ended holiday-shortened week, CPO prices settled mostly higher, tracking movements on the ringgit and crude oil.

A survey conducted by a local bank last week showed that the Malaysian CPO output grew nine per cent month-to-month (M-o-M) to 1.59 million tonnes in April 2017.

INVENTORY INCREASE

Analysts are expecting the inventory to increase by seven per cent, M-o-M, to 1.67 million tonnes at end-April.On a Friday-to-Friday basis, spot month May 2017 increased RM81 to RM2,775 a tonne, June 2017 jumped RM82 to RM2,674 a tonne, July 2017 gained RM70 to RM2,578 a tonne and August 2017 added RM62 to RM2,518 a tonne.

Weekly turnover declined to 138,371 lots from 190,325 lots last week while open interest rose to 264,467 contracts from 255,047 contracts previously.

On the physical market, May South was RM70 higher at RM2,790 per tonne.

Rubber Market Likely To Continue Downtrend Next Week

KUALA LUMPUR – The Malaysian rubber market is expected to remain quiet next week on a lack of catalyst, said a dealer, adding that the local market's movement will depend on the performance of rubber futures contract on the Tokyo Commodity Exchange (TOCOM) and the Shanghai Futures Exchange and (SHFE), as well as the ringgit and oil price movements.

"For the holiday-shortened week just ended, the market traded lower to mixed in tracking external factors, mainly the movement of TOCOM, SHFE and the ringgit's performance against the US dollar," the dealer said.

The market was closed on Monday for the Labour Day public holiday.

It was reported that oil prices dropped to a six-month low over concerns of persistent global oil glut.

However, supply disruption following heavy rains in Southern Thailand and in certain parts of rubber growing areas in Malaysia could lend some support to the market next week.

On a Friday-to-Friday basis, the Malaysian Rubber Board's noon price for SMR 20 declined 46 sen to 634.50 sen a kg while latex-in-bulk eased 18 sen to 616 sen a kg.

The 5 pm unofficial closing price for SMR 20 depreciated 70 sen to 625 sen a kg while latex-in-bulk slipped 13 sen to 613 sen a kg.

KLIBOR Futures To Remain Sluggish Next Week

KUALA LUMPUR -- The three-month Kuala Lumpur Interbank Offered Rate (KLIBOR) futures contract on Bursa Malaysia Derivatives will likely remain sluggish next week due to lack of demand given the absence of market catalysts.

For the week just-ended, the market was untraded with open interest at nil.

On a Friday-to-Friday basis, May 2017 stayed at 96.54, June 2017 remained pegged at 96.52, July 2017 was unchanged at 96.50 and September 2017 stood at 96.48.

The underlying three-month KLIBOR on the cash market was also unchanged at 3.43 per cent on Friday.

KLTM To Rebound Next Week On Higher Demand

KUALA LUMPUR -- The Kuala Lumpur Tin Market (KLTM) is expected to rebound next week, after a weaker performance for the week just-ended.

The metal is expected to fetch around US$20,000 a tonne on continued demand.

A dealer said the market would continue to be heavily influenced by the tin price on the London Metal Exchange (LME).

For the holiday-shortened week, the metal was mostly traded lower, up on Tuesday before retreating the next two days and was unchanged on Friday.

The market was closed on Monday for the Labour day holiday.

On a Friday to Friday basis, the KLTM price closed flat at US$19,850 a tonne,

Weekly turnover decreased to 144 tonnes from the 193 tonnes previously while the price differential between the KLTM and London Metal Exchange stood at a discount of US$25 a tonne versus a premium of US$20 a tonne registered last Friday.

Gold Futures To Trade Lower Next Week

KUALA LUMPUR -- Gold futures contract on Bursa Malaysia Derivatives is expected to trade lower next week, in line with the anticipated weaker performance on the New York Commodity Exchange (Comex) gold market.

Forextime Ltd Research Analyst Lukman Otunuga said the zero-yielding metal would continue to be pressured by the prospects of higher interest rates in the United States and receding geopolitical risks as optimism over Emmanuel Macron winning the second round of the French Presidential Election has diminished the attraction for safe-haven investments.

"With gold potentially finding itself dictated by US rate hike expectations, further downside should be expected as the Federal Reserve maintains a hawkish stance on its economy," he said in a note.

On a Friday-to-Friday basis, gold futures on Bursa Malaysia for May 2017 fell 58 ticks to RM173.50 a gramme, June 2017 declined 51 ticks to RM173.85 a gramme while July 2017 and Aug 2017 lost 30 ticks each to RM175.25 and RM175.75 a gramme, respectively.

Turnover for the week was lower at 43 lots worth RM745,670 from 67 lots valued at RM1.192 million recorded last week, while open interest on a Friday-to-Friday basis was lower at 213 contracts from 277 contracts previously.