MALAYSIAeBiz
BERNAMA WEEKLY BUSINESS ROUNDUP 27 - 30 NOV 2017
Edition190
Nov 30, 2017

## This Week's Highlight : More 'Infra Rakyat' Projects Will Be Implemented - PM


Works Minister Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof (right) visiting the site after officially opening the RM628 million Rawang Bypass Tuesday involving the construction of the tallest pole at 58.2 metres above ground level. -- fotoBERNAMA by Muhammad Zulhilmi Daud

KUALA LUMPUR -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said Wednesday, the government will implement more 'infra rakyat' projects such as the Rawang Bypass project in Selangor. "Syabas. The bypass will reduce travel time of motorists and preserve the environment," he tweeted in conjunction with the opening of the 9km stretch costing RM628 million. Works Minister Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof officially opened the stretch Tuesday.

## This Week's Top Stories

MONDAY

### NBOS Helps Optimise Spending - Najib

KUALA LUMPUR -- The implementation of the National Blue Ocean Strategy (NBOS) since 2009 has enabled the government to optimise spending that benefits the people in the most efficient and cost-effective manner, says Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak. The Prime Minister told the Dewan Rakyat Monday that the government was committed to ensuring the well-being of the people and projects were implemented based on three main principles, namely high-impact, low cost and swift implementation, to enable the people enjoy the benefits.

TUESDAY

### Industry 4.0 Blueprint To Be Issued At End-Sept 2018

KUALA LUMPUR -- Malaysia's Fourth Industrial Revolution (Industry 4.0) direction blueprint is expected to be issued at the end of the third quarter of next year, said International Trade and Industry Minister, Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed. "The blueprint will cover the role of the Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) as well as the measures that would be taken to ensure that the SMEs are not left behind to participate in Industry 4.0," he said during the Dewan Rakyat sitting Tuesday.

WEDNESDAY

### Automotive Sector To Undergo Major Changes Under Industry 4.0

SEREMBAN -- The automotive industry is expected to be among industries that will undergo major changes as a result of the fourth industrial revolution (Industry 4.0), Permodalan Usahawan Nasional Bhd (PUNB) Chief Executive Officer Datuk Azhar Ahmad said Wednesday. He said the government expected the sector to continue to be among the most important sectors contributing to the country's economic development, hence entrepreneurs, especially those involved in the automotive sector should capitalise on the growth of Industry 4.0.

THURSDAY

### Najib: Japan Helping Malaysia Prepare For Industrial Revolution 4.0

KUALA LUMPUR -- Japanese companies have contributed to Malaysia's agenda of generating sustainable and inclusive growth, while transforming the country towards being fully prepared for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (Industry 4.0), says Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak Thursday. He said Japan played a significant part in Malaysia's growth, being a top sources of foreign investments since the 1980s and as of September this year, it stood as the second largest foreign investor after Singapore, with investments valued at US$16.6 billion (RM70 billion).

# SMEbrief

## Leap Market Provides SMEs Better Visibility And Profiling

KUALA LUMPUR -- Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) can enjoy benefits such as enhanced visibility and profiling in being listed on the Leading Entrepreneur Accelerator Platform (LEAP) Market on Bursa Malaysia. SME Corporation Malaysia Chairman, Tan Sri Mohamed Al Amin Abdul Majid said Tuesday, the LEAP Market also had facilitative rules and regulations alongside a lower cost compliance, which served as early exposure to prepare for a potential listing on the ACE Market or Main Market.

## Floods-Affected SMEs In Northern Region Get HRDF Levy Exemption

KUALA LUMPUR -- Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) affected by floods in the north of the country have been given an exemption of the levy to the Human Resource Development Fund (HRDF). Human Resources Minister Datuk Seri Richard Riot Anak Jaem told reporters here Tuesday that the exemption would be from Jan 1 - June 30, 2018.

## SMES Need To Adopt Analytic Culture - ADAX

By Muhammad Firdaus Borhan

KUALA LUMPUR -- Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) need to adopt analytic culture as the country is transitioning towards a digital economy, said the Asean Data Analytic Exchange (ADAX), a Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation (MDEC) initiative. ADAX Chief Executive Officer Sharala Axryd (rpt Axryd) said Tuesday, analytics helped businesses to plan and move forward, and most importantly, Big Data helped entrepreneurs to be proactive rather than reactive in their daily business management routine.

## PM Launches SCenIc Integrated Database To Assist SMEs

KUALA LUMPUR -- Datuk Seri Najib Razak has launched the SME Central Incentives System (SCenIc), an online initiative, which serves as a database centre for recipients of aid under the Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) development programmes implemented by various ministries and government agencies. Developed by SME Corp Malaysia, the Prime Minister said Wednesday, SCenIc is an important reference to avoid overlapping of and optimise resources.Meanwhile, SME Corp Malaysia, in a statement, said SCenIc was launched to enable the government to improve the transparency of reporting and coordinating programmes involving SMEs.

## SMEs' GDP To Grow By Between 6.5-7.5 Per Cent

KUALA LUMPUR -- The small and medium enterprises' (SMEs) gross domestic product (GDP) is expected to grow by between 6.5 per cent and 7.5 per cent next year following the higher allocation for the sector in Budget 2018. Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said Wednesday, the government had allocated RM22.2 billion to implement various programmes for SMEs, a significant increase compared to the previous year.

# PropUP

# Property*update*

## Housing Developers Remain Optimistic Of Market For 2018

ISKANDAR PUTERI -- Housing developers remain optimistic over the market for 2018 despite the challenges being faced this year. UEM Sunrise Bhd Managing Director cum Chief Executive Officer, Anwar Syahrin Abdul Ajib said Tuesday, however, spending would be tempered with caution, while admitting that the challenges were due to an imbalance in housing demand and supply.

## Powernet Prop, MyAngkasa Bina To Build Affordable Houses

KUALA LUMPUR -- Powernet Properties Sdn Bhd, a unit of Kumpulan Powernet Bhd, has signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with MyAngkasa Bina Sdn Bhd to collaborate on developing some 30,000 units of affordable houses, including landed housing and apartments. "The proposed selling price per unit is up to RM300,000 and the house sizes are approximately 800 sq ft up to 1,200 sq ft depending on project location and design," it said in a filing to Bursa Malaysia Tuesday.

## 2,300 PGBF Homes In Pahang To Be Completed In 2018

KUANTAN -- Some 2,300 homes under the FELDA New Generation Housing Project (PGBF) with the 'ongoing' status in Pahang are scheduled to be completed at the end of next year, the State Legislative Assembly here was told Tuesday. State Felda Affairs Committee chairman Datuk Abu Bakar Harun said the handing over of house keys for the project in the Rompin district was expected to be held at the end of this year, involving 264 homes in Felda Keratong 4; 480 (Selancar 4 and 5) and 360 (Selendang 2).

## Fiamma's Unit, PHSB To Jointly Develop Batu Pahat Project

KUALA LUMPUR -- Fiamma Holdings Bhd's unit, Pinang Sutera Sdn Bhd, has signed a joint venture agreement with Puncak Hartamas Sdn Bhd (PHSB) for a proposed joint development of some 0.69 hectare of freehold land in Batu Pahat, Johor. In a filing to Bursa Malaysia Tuesday, it said, the proposed joint development would comprise mainly residential properties with potential gross development value of approximately RM12 million, estimated development cost of RM8 million and estimated gross margin of approximately 30 per cent.

## MB World Acquires Land In Johor For RM8.15 Mln

KUALA LUMPUR -- MB World Group Bhd through its wholly-owned subsidiary, MB Max Sdn Bhd (MBM), is acquiring land comprising 252 parcels of freehold residential terrace plots in Johor from Shiya Sdn Bhd for RM8.15 million. The plots, designed for Courtyard 2 terrace type affordable housing, are located along Jalan Persisiran Pulai Perdana 1 within Taman Sri Pulai Perdana, Johor Bahru, Johor, it said in a filing to Bursa Malaysia Wednesday.

BURSA MALAYSIA

## Scoreboard

Gainers - 367

Losers - 500

Not Traded - 608

Unchanged - 403

Value - 6029284600

Volume - 24696796

### BURSA: Weak Sentiment Drags Bursa Malaysia Lower

KUALA LUMPUR -- Share prices on Bursa Malaysia ended November lower in sync with its regional peers as weak market sentiment curbed investors' risk appetite for buying and ahead of long weekend, dealers said. The benchmark FTSE Bursa Malaysia KLCI (FBM KLCI) finished at 1,717.86, down 2.52 points from Wednesday's close of 1,720.38. The market bellwether, which opened 0.76 of-a-point lower at 1,719.62, fluctuated between 1,716.76 and 1,727.62. The overall market breadth was weaker with losers outpacing gainers by 500 to 367, while 403 counters were unchanged, 608 untraded and 66 others suspended. In an active trading, the volume increased to 2.47 billion units worth RM6.03 billion from Wednesday's 1.96 billion units valued at RM2.79 billion. A dealer said despite numerous positive corporate earnings results, interest in the market has been clouded by the unfavourable developments on the external front, pushing investors towards consolidation. He said the sentiment was influenced by the mixed closing of US stock market, which saw investors booked early profits from technology stocks, alongside bullish manufacturing data from China. "We are lacking significant factors to lift Bursa Malaysia, even Sime Darby Bhd's demerged plantation and property arms were also not appealing enough to boost the momentum," he told Bernama. The Main Market volume rose to 1.83 billion units worth at RM5.94 billion from 1.38 billion units worth RM2.7 billion on Wednesday.

## Exchange Rate
(Ringgit : Foreign Currency)

| | Buying | Selling |
|---|---|---|
| USD | 4.0875 | 4.0915 |
| EUR | 4.8355 | 4.8419 |
| GBP | 5.5001 | 5.5072 |
| 100 YEN | 3.6379 | 3. 6424 |
| SGD | 3.0278 | 3.0328 |

CLOSING MALAYSIAN FOREIGN EXCHANGE: Nov 30, 2017

### FOREX: Ringgit Eases Against US Dollar

KUALA LUMPUR -- The ringgit eased slightly against the US dollar as the greenback saw renewed buying support as the US recorded a 3.3 per cent economic growth in the third quarter of this year, a dealer said. At 6 pm, the local unit ended 4.0875/0915 against the US dollar from 4.0800/0830 on Wednesday. The dealer said the greenback rebounded as the US economic growth reached a three-year high since the third quarter of 2014 after trading lower by 0.2 per cent versus a basket of currencies. "Although the US economy posted a significant economic growth, we predicted a cautious market sentiment as the euro held near a two-month high before the European Union release its inflation data. "The greenback is expected to trade lower versus the euro since its July drop and we expect more investors to shift their interest to the Asian currencies, including the ringgit," the dealer said. Against a basket of major currencies, the local note was traded higher except versus the British pound, where it fell to 5.5001/5072 from 5.4660/4716 Wednesday. The ringgit rose against the Singapore dollar to 3.0278/0328 from 3.0330/0364 on Wednesday, strengthened against the euro to 4.8355/8419 from 4.8409/8461 and increased against the yen to 3.6379/6424 from 3.6598/6629.

### Short-Term Rates Close Stable On BNM's Intervention

KUALA LUMPUR -- Short-term interbank rates closed stable Thursday on Bank Negara Malaysia's (BNM) intervention to absorb excess liquidity from the financial system. The liquidity surplus in the conventional system fell to RM31.41 billion from RM43.43 billion this morning, while in the Islamic system, it eased to RM10.21 billion from RM15.55 billion previously. BNM earlier called for a range maturity auction, four Qard tenders and a Commodity Murabahah programme. It also conducted a RM31.4 billion conventional money market tender and a RM10.2 billion Qard money market tender, both for four-day money. The overnight Islamic reference rate stood at 2.97 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. The market will be closed Friday for the Maulidur Rasul holiday.

### KLIBOR Futures Contract Ends Untraded

KUALA LUMPUR -- The three-month Kuala Lumpur Interbank Offered Rate (KLIBOR) futures contract on Bursa Malaysia Derivatives ended untraded Thursday. Both December 2017 and January 2018 stood at 96.50, respectively, while February 2018 remained at 96.48 and March 2018 was pegged at 96.45. Both 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 Firmer

KUALA LUMPUR -- The FTSE Bursa Malaysia KLCI (FBM KLCI) futures contract on Bursa Malaysia Derivatives ended firmer Thursday despite the downtrend in the underlying cash market. November 2017 bagged 1.5 points to 1,724.5, December 2017 advanced 6.5 points to 1,721.5, March 2018 rose three points to 1,719 and June 2018 increased 5.5 points to 1,715.5. Turnover improved slightly to 10,921 lots from Wednesday's 10,597 lots while open interest widened to 51,881 contracts from 50,583 contracts, previously. The underlying benchmark FBM KLCI finished 2.52 points higher at 1,717.86. Bursa Malaysia and its subsidiaries will be closed on Dec 1, 2017 for the Maulidur Rasul holiday. Trading will resume on Dec 4, 2017.

### RHB Bank's Pre-Tax Profit Decreases To RM644.07 Mln

KUALA LUMPUR -- RHB Bank Bhd's pre-tax profit for the third quarter ended Sept 30, 2017 declined to RM644.07 million from RM662.62 million in the same quarter last year. Revenue fell to RM2.62 billion from RM2.65 billion previously, it said in a filing to Bursa Malaysia Monday.

### Ambank Eyes 50 Pct Of Car Finance Applications To Come Via MAT

KUALA LUMPUR -- AmBank (M) Bhd is aiming for 50 per cent of its car finance applications to come via its latest innovation, Mobile Application Terminal (MAT) within one year of its implementation. Currently, the bank received 15,000 manually applications monthly, Group Chief Executive Officer, Datuk Sulaiman Mohd Tahir told reporters Monday.

### MBSB Allocates RM247 Mln For Solar Farm Project

KUALA LUMPUR -- Malaysia Building Society Bhd (MBSB) will allocate up to RM247 million to partly finance the engineering, procurement, construction and commissioning of Solar Management (Seremban) Sdn Bhd's solar farm project. President/Chief Executive Officer, Datuk Seri Ahmad Zaini Othman told reporters Tuesday, the fund would be of the Islamic Financing Facility, comprising RM19 million of a performance guarantee-i under the Kafalah concept and RM228 million of term financing, with sub-limit of RM137 million of a Letter of Credit under the Tawwaruq and Kafalah concepts, respectively.

### AMMB's Q2 Pre-Tax Profit Slips To RM432.18 Mln

KUALA LUMPUR -- AMMB Holdings Bhd's pre-tax profit for the second quarter (Q2) ended Sept 30, 2017 declined to RM432.18 million from RM472.16 million in the same quarter last year. Revenue, however, rose to RM2.13 billion from RM2.10 billion previously, it said in a filing to Bursa Malaysia Tuesday. AmBank Group Chief Executive Officer, Datuk Sulaiman Mohd Tahir, said the group's top-line growth momentum was sustained in transaction banking, business and small and medium enterprise banking and retail banking, while market-based revenue was affected by the volatility in the market.

### AKPK Resolves 14,973 Cases Involving RM600.6 Mln

KUALA LUMPUR -- Debt Management and Counselling Agency, (AKPK) resolved 14,973 cases involving RM600.6 million between 2006 and Oct 31, 2017. Chief Executive Officer, Azaddin Ngah Tasir told reporters Tuesday, since its incorporation in 2006, the agency had counselled over 648,295 cases with the participation of 203,079 individuals in its Debt Management Programme (DMP) to help them regain control of their finances.

### Ministry Yes To Appointment Of Chew As BNM's Deputy Governor

KUALA LUMPUR -- The Minister of Finance has approved the appointment of Jessica Chew Cheng Lian as Deputy Governor for a three-year term effective Jan 1, 2018 following the retirement of Dr Sukudhew (Sukhdave) Singh on Dec 31, 2017. In a statement Tuesday, Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) said, Sukhdave would enjoy the benefits accorded under the bank's terms and conditions.

### CIMB's 3Q17 Pre-Tax Profit Rises To RM1.53 Bln

KUALA LUMPUR -- CIMB Group Holdings Bhd's pre-tax profit for third quarter ended Sept 30, 2017 (3Q17) rose to RM1.53 billion from RM1.36 billion in the corresponding quarter last year. Revenue increased to RM4.42 billion from RM4.12 billion previously. For the first nine months of this year, pre-tax profit rose to RM4.6 billion from RM3.67 billion in the same period last year and revenue increased to RM13.11 billion from RM11.75 billion previously, it said in a statement Tuesday.

### EPF Benefits From Overseas Equities, Records RM12.95 Bln Income In Q3

KUALA LUMPUR -- The Employees Provident Fund (EPF) Wednesday reported an increase in quarterly investment income to RM12.95 billion for the third quarter ended Sept 30, 2017 (Q3 2017), up 5.13 per cent, from RM12.32 billion recorded during the same period last year. "The EPF's overall portfolio performance has benefited from the rally in overseas equities markets in the third quarter of 2017," Investment Performance, Deputy Chief Executive Officer (Investment) Datuk Mohamad Nasir Ab Latif said Wednesday.

### BNM Raids Company Over Illegal Deposit-Taking Activities

KUALA LUMPUR -- Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) led a joint raid on Koperasi Dinar Dirham Bhd which was suspected of having committed an offence under the Financial Services Act 2013 (FSA) and the Anti-Money Laundering, Anti-Terrorism Financing and Proceeds of Unlawful Activities Act 2001 (AMLA). The central bank, in a statement Wednesday, said the joint raid on Nov 28 were carried out on nine premises related to Koperasi Dinar and its affiliates located in Kuala Lumpur and Selangor, where relevant documents were seized to assist in investigations.

**Rev Asia's Q3 Pre-Tax Profit Rises To RM50.31 Mln**

KUALA LUMPUR -- Rev Asia Bhd's pre-tax profit for the third quarter (Q3) ended Sept 30, 2017, rose to RM50.31 million from RM13.50 million recorded in the same period a year ago. Revenue fell to RM1.81 million from RM6.12 million previously, it said in a filing to Bursa Malaysia Monday.

**Mega First's Q3 Pre-Tax Profit Rises To RM54.96 Mln**

KUALA LUMPUR -- Mega First Corporation Bhd's pre-tax profit for the third quarter (Q3) ended Sept 30, 2017, increased to RM54.96 million from RM51.45 million in the same period a year ago. Revenue rose to RM298.17 million from RM215.02 million previously, it said in a filing to Bursa Malaysia Monday.

**Glomac's Q2 Pre-Tax Profit Falls To RM7.52 Mln**

KUALA LUMPUR -- Glomac Bhd's pre-tax profit for the second quarter (Q2) ended Oct 31, 2017, declined to RM7.52 million from RM25.71 million recorded in the same period a year ago. Revenue, however, rose to RM109.93 million from RM83.98 million previously, primarily driven by steady construction progress from key developments in Selangor such as Lakeside Residences in Puchong, Saujana KLIA in Dengkil and Saujana Perdana in Sungai Buloh, it said in a filing to Bursa Malaysia Monday.

**OSK Holdings' Pre-Tax Profit Jumps To RM243.34 Mln In Q3**

KUALA LUMPUR -- OSK Holdings Bhd's pre-tax profit for the third quarter ended Sept 30, 2017 jumped to RM243.34 million from RM64.39 million in the same quarter last year. Revenue increased to RM324.45 million from RM271.17 million previously, representing an increase of RM43.28 million or 16 per cent, the company said in a filing to Bursa Malaysia Monday.

**Malaysia Autoshow 2017 Records Sales Exceeding Target**

KUALA LUMPUR -- The Malaysia Autoshow 2017 has recorded more than RM700 million in sales and potential sales, exceeding its initial sales target this year, Malaysia Automotive Institute (MAI) Chief Executive Officer, Datuk Madani Sahari said Monday. The initial target for this year was RM250 million, and from MAI's early calculation, the exhibition managed to secure more than RM700 million in sales and potential sales.

**Bintulu Port's Pre-Tax Profit Increases To RM49.35 Mln**

KUALA LUMPUR -- Bintulu Port Holdings Bhd's pre-tax profit for the third quarter ended Sept 30, 2017 increased to RM49.35 million from RM48.93 million in the same period last year. Revenue rose to RM178.19 million from RM138.43 million previously, it said in a filing to Bursa Malaysia Monday. "The increase in revenue was mainly from liquefied natural gas, container, bulk fertiliser and base support services," it said.

**Celcom To Launch More Plans In 2018 To Boost Services Revenue**

KUALA LUMPUR -- Celcom Axiata Bhd expects to launch more plans next year to further boost its services revenue, said Chief Executive Officer, Michael Kuehner. He told reporters Monday, for the third quarter ended Sept 30, 2017, services revenue rose by 1.9 per cent to RM1.52 billion from the second quarter.


### UEM Edgenta Posts Higher Q3 Revenue Of RM523 Mln

KUALA LUMPUR -- UEM Edgenta Bhd recorded a higher revenue of RM523 million in the third quarter ended Sept 30, 2017 from RM373 million in the same quarter a year ago. In its filing to Bursa Malaysia Tuesday, the group said however, it posted a slightly lower pre-tax profit of RM32.11 million compared with RM49 million previously.

### Dutch Lady's Q3 Pre-Tax Profit Slips To RM42.75 Mln

KUALA LUMPUR -- Dutch Lady Milk Industries Bhd's pre-tax profit for the third quarter (Q3) ended Sept 30, 2017, slipped to RM42.75 million from RM52.79 million in the same quarter last year. Revenue, however, rose to RM281.84 million from RM279.59 million. "The 19 per cent lower pre-tax profit as compared to last year was due to higher material prices and weaker ringgit," it said in a filing to Bursa Malaysia Tuesday.

### Pos Malaysia's Pre-Tax Profit Surges To RM23.35 Mln For Q2

KUALA LUMPUR -- Pos Malaysia Bhd's pre-tax profit surged to RM23.35 million for the second quarter ended Sept 30, 2017 from RM12.69 million in the same period last year. Revenue also jumped to RM587.16 million from RM395.12 million. For the first half of the financial year, it recorded a higher pre-tax profit of RM66.69 million from RM54.67 million, on the back of higher revenue of RM1.2 billion from RM810.99 million, it said in a filing to Bursa Malaysia, Tuesday.

### Airasia's Q3 Pre-Tax Profit Rises To RM486.03 Mln

KUALA LUMPUR -- AirAsia Bhd's pre-tax profit rose to RM486.03 million for the third quarter (Q3) ended Sept 30, 2017 from RM473.67 million recorded in the same quarter last year. Revenue increased to RM2.45 billion from RM1.69 billion previously, it said in a filing to Bursa Malaysia Wednesday. The low-cost airline said its revenue and expenses had increased significantly due to the consolidation of Indonesia AirAsia and Philippines AirAsia Group during the previous quarter.

### Cahya Mata's Q3 Pre-Tax Profit Increase To RM95.58 Mln

KUALA LUMPUR -- Cahya Mata Sarawak Bhd's pre-tax profit rose to RM95.58 million for the third quarter (Q3) ended Sept 30, 2017 from RM94.74 million registered in the same quarter last year. The group said the better profit before tax (PBT) was attributable to the cement division's lower production costs. Revenue, however, declined to RM347.97 million from RM356.06 million, previously, it said in a filing to Bursa Malaysia Wednesday.

**9 Federal Funds And Trust Accounts Record Revenue Of RM1.5 Bln**

KUALA LUMPUR -- Nine Federal Funds and Trust Accounts in 2016 recorded a revenue of RM1.15 billion, down by 42.1 per cent compared to RM1.99 billion in 2015, according to 2016 Auditor-General's Report released Monday. It said the National Trust Fund recorded the highest revenue of RM712.59 million, followed by the Sewerage Fund Contribution Fund (RM386.38 million), Federal Fund and Other Trust Account (RM54.90 million).

**ETS, KTM Komuter To Resume Normal Services By Sunday**

KUALA LUMPUR -- The KTM Komuter and Electric Train Service (ETS) are expected to resume normal services by Sunday following the disruption caused by the derailment of a goods train near the Bank Negara station last Thursday. Keretapi Tanah Melayu Berhad (KTMB), in a statement Monday, said work to repair the affected stretch of tracks was delayed due to the frequent rain and the difficulty in removing the derailed wagons in a tunnel.

**Industry 4.0 Blueprint To Be Issued At End-Sept 2018 - MITI**

KUALA LUMPUR -- Malaysia's Fourth Industrial Revolution (Industry 4.0) direction blueprint is expected to be issued at the end of the third quarter of next year, said International Trade and Industry Minister, Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed. "The blueprint will cover the role of the Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) as well as the measures that would be taken to ensure that the SMEs are not left behind to participate in Industry 4.0," he said during the Dewan Rakyat sitting Tuesday.

**Only 18.3 Pct Of Malaysians Use Internet To Generate Income - MCMC**

CYBERJAYA -- Only 18.3 per cent of Malaysians have been fully utilising the Internet technology to generate income and enhance their potential in business, according to Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC) Internet Users Survey 2017. MCMC chief operating officer Datuk Dr Mazlan Ismail told reporters Tuesday, the estimated number was still the lowest among other online activities although 76.9 per cent or 24.5 million Malaysians were internet users, surpassing global averages.

**Malaysia Continues To Embrace E-Commerce Culture**

KUALA LUMPUR -- Malaysia continues to embrace the e-commerce culture and is well on its way to creating an innovative and vibrant digital ecosystem by fostering closer partnership with China in efforts to sustain economic growth, HSBC Bank Malaysia Bhd said in a statement Tuesday. Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation (MDEC) and Alibaba Group recently signed a memorandum of understanding to connect e-hubs under the Electronic World Trade Platform (eWTP).

**World Shipping Tonnage In 2016 Up 3 Pct To 1.25 Bln Tonnes - Liow**

KUALA LUMPUR -- The world shipping tonnage has increased by three per cent to 1.25 billion tonnes in 2016, said Transport Minister Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai Tuesday. He said better access to technology worldwide has resulted in a change of consumer behaviour, which also generated greater trade across borders.

**ISG Plans To Woo More Airlines In 2018**

From Leslean Arshad

ISTANBUL (Turkey) -- Istanbul Sabiha Gokcen International Airport (ISG) plans to woo more international airlines next year, including the Dubai-based Emirates. ISG Chief Executive Officer, Ersel Goral said on Monday, ISG, wholly-owned Malaysia Airports Holdings Bhd airport, had 'shaken hands' with Emirates where the airline was scheduled to launch its flights in April 2018.

### MIDA Welcomes More OEMS, Tier 1 Firms To Aerospace Sector

KUALA LUMPUR -- The Malaysian Investment Development Authority (MIDA) welcomes more original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) and Tier 1 companies to be involved in the aerospace industry, said its Chief Executive Officer, Datuk Azman Mahmud said Wednesday. He said Malaysia's aerospace sector has tremendous opportunities and has been identified as a strategic industry under the Malaysian Aerospace Blueprint and 11th Malaysia Plan.

### Gas Tariff Revision For Non-Power Sector Effective Jan 1

KUALA LUMPUR -- Gas Malaysia Bhd Wednesday announced that the revision of the natural gas tariff for the non-power sector in Peninsular Malaysia will be effective from Jan 1, 2018 to June 30, 2018. In a filing to Bursa Malaysia Wednesday, Gas Malaysia said it had received the approval from government via a letter from the Energy Commission dated Nov 28, 2017.

### Serba Dinamik Bags Contracts Worth RM496 Mln

KUALA LUMPUR -- Serba Dinamik Holdings Bhd's wholly-owned subsidiary, Serba Dinamik Sdn Bhd (SDSB), has secured three engineering, procurement, construction and commissioning (EPCC) contracts and an operation and maintenance (O&M) contract from Greenearth Landmark Sdn Bhd with a combined estimated value of RM385 million. Serba Dinamik said SDSB had also secured an additional EPCC contract and three new O&M contracts with a combined estimated contract value of RM111 million from Malaysia LNG Sdn Bhd, JX Nippon Oil & Gas Exploration (Malaysia) Ltd and Petronas Dagangan Bhd, it said in a filing to Bursa Malaysia Wednesday.

### Digital Technologies Must Be Strategically Utilised - Johari

SERDANG -- Digital technologies and data must be strategically utilised to attain inclusive and sustainable growth that is anchored in people. Second Finance Minister, Datuk Seri Johari Abdul Ghani said Wednesday, industry players must also examine how digital technologies could be used in the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Strategic Plan and put into actionable programmes in the final lap towards 2020.

### Black Friday, Cyber Monday Dominates Online Conversations

KUALA LUMPUR -- Global media intelligence company, Meltwater, found that over eight in ten or 82.92 per cent online conversations were focused on Black Friday and Cyber Monday in reactions to and during the Singles' Day, Black Friday and Cyber Monday sales. Meltwater Japan and South East Asia's Area Director, Neil Brennan, said in a statement Wednesday, while Singles' Day hit a record US$25.3 billion in sales, it was Black Friday and Cyber Monday that dominated social media chatter in Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia.

### October Inflation Declines To 3.7 Pct

KUALA LUMPUR -- Headline inflation in October declined to 3.7 per cent compared with 4.3 per cent recorded in the previous month, mainly due to lower transport inflation at 12.1 per cent during the month versus 15.8 per cent in September. In a statement Thursday, Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) said although RON95 petrol averaged only slightly lower at RM2.18 per litre in October compared with RM2.19 per litre in September, the higher base of the RON95 price in October 2016 versus September 2016 resulted in the lower inflation for the transport category.

## Shinsegae-Mamee JV To Market Korean Halal Products Globally

MELAKA -- Mamee Double Decker (M) Sdn Bhd (Mamee) has teamed up with South Korea's Shinsegae Food to produce Korean halal food products for Islamic countries, its Group Chief Executive Officer, Tan Sri Pang Tee Chew told reporters Monday. He described the joint-venture company, Shinsegae Mamee Sdn Bhd as the best platform for both companies to strengthen and expand in the Asia-Pacific region due to its vast market by sharing their expertise in the manufacturing and services of food and beverages.

## More International Flights Set To Boost Johor Tourism, Trade Sectors

JOHOR BAHRU -- The increasing number of international flights to Johor is set to start a new chapter that will make the state's tourism and trade sectors stronger and more competitive. State Tourism, Trade and Consumerism Committee Chairman, Datuk Tee Siew Kiong, citing AirAsia Bhd's inaugural flights to Macau (China) and Kolkata (India) Tuesday, said they would help increase the accessibility to the state. "The Senai International Airport (LTAS) is able to enhance its global competitiveness and help make Johor become one of the key options for air travel for tourists and traders from China and India," he told reporters.

## Starbucks Reserve Opens At JB's Paradigm Mall

JOHOR BAHRU -- Starbucks Malaysia opened its pioneer Starbucks Reserve store in the southern region at the Paradigm Mall here Tuesday. Director of Marketing, Berjaya Starbucks Coffee Company Sdn Bhd, Esther Woo said in offering rare and exotic reserve coffee beans, the attentive skills and passionate delivery of Starbucks coffee masters, also ensures an incomparable coffee experience to customers at Starbucks Reserve.

## MRCB, Gamuda Set Up Consortium To Participate In Kl-Singapore HSR Tender

KUALA LUMPUR – Malaysian Resources Corp Bhd (MRCB) and Gamuda Bhd have entered into an agreement to set up an unincorporated consortium on a 50:50 basis to participate in the tender to be the Project Delivery Partner for the Kuala Lumpur to Singapore High-Speed Rail (HSR). In a separate filings to Bursa Malaysia Tuesday, both companies said, upon securing the tender, the parties shall sign a definitive agreement to further set out the rights and obligations of each party in relation to the project.

## UMW Aerospace Successfully Manufactures Maiden Fan Case

SERENDAH -- UMW Aerospace Sdn Bhd, a subsidiary of UMW Holdings Bhd, Wednesday successfully delivered its first fan case produced for Rolls-Royce's Trent 1000 engine. The fan case, produced for Rolls-Royce's Trent 1000 engine which powers the Boeing 787 Dreamliner, will be delivered to the Roll-Royce engine assembly and test facility at the Seletar Aerospace Park in Singapore.

## 89 Finalists To Compete In ASEAN Startup Awards

KUALA LUMPUR -- Eighty-nine finalists from 10 ASEAN countries will be competing in the ASEAN Rice Bowl Startup Awards (Rice Bowl) finale on Dec 13, 2017 in conjunction with the Global Entrepreneurship Community (GEC) Summit. The New Entrepreneurs Foundation (myNEF) said in a statement Wednesday, the shortlisted regional startups would have a chance to represent Southeast Asia in the upcoming Global Startup Awards next year.

## Hong Leong Bank Gets Nod To Offer WeChat Pay Services

KUALA LUMPUR -- Hong Leong Bank Bhd has received the approval of Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) to enter into an agreement with Tenpay Payment Technology Co Ltd, a subsidiary of Tencent, to provide payment services via WeChat Pay. This collaboration will allow Chinese tourists to continue using their WeChat accounts when visiting Malaysia. "This offering marks the start of business collaborations with the Chinese technology giant and more digital payment solutions in the near future," the bank said in a statement Thursday.

## MNRB Business Transfer To Take Place On Dec 1

KUALA LUMPUR -- MNRB Holdings Bhd (MNRB) Thursday announced that its business transfer will take place Friday, Dec 1, 2017. In a filing to Bursa Malaysia, the company said the transfer was in relation to the group's internal restructuring process involving the transfer of family retakaful and general retakaful businesses from MNRB Retakaful Bhd (MRT) to Malaysian Reinsurance Bhd (Malaysian Re), both wholly-owned subsidiaries of MNRB.

## Orix Leasing Introduces Shariah Compliant Products

KUALA LUMPUR -- Leasing company, Orix Leasing Malaysia Bhd (OLM), has introduced a suite of innovative Islamic products, in line with the strong demand for Shariah compliant offerings. In a statement Thursday, OLM said the products were i-Rental, i-Lease, and i-Hire Purchase, which subscribe to specific Shariah concepts and forms the company's core Islamic finance portfolio.

# Malaysia Airlines On Track With Recovery Plan: Captain Izham

By Norshafawati Ab Wahab

SEPANG (Bernama) -- Malaysia Airlines (MAB) is confident that its five-year MAB Recovery Plan (MRP) was on track and on schedule.

Malaysia Airlines Group Chief Executive Officer Captain Izham Ismail said in line with the MRP plan announced in 2014, MAB's focus was not only to be profitable, but also to make the airline a national icon, alongside being an economic enabler, domestic bond and link to the world.

"We have a lot of work to do and with 14,000 staff, MAB is working very hard on the turnaround. We realise there are slight lapses in our services, but will continue to perform well. In time, MAB will make the nation proud," he added.

Speaking to reporters after the welcoming ceremony of MAB's first A350-900 XWB aircraft at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport here Thursday, Izham said it was also a symbol of a new journey for Malaysia Aviation Group in sprinting towards the completion of the MRP, which was essentially to re-establish the group as a sustainably profitable and financially self-sufficient entity.

The A350 XWB was officially received by Second Finance Minister, Datuk Seri Johari Abdul Ghani, Malaysia Aviation Group Chairman, Tan Sri Md Nor Yusof and Izham.

## TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENTS

"With its technological advancements, the A350 XWB would help boost our competitiveness on long haul flights and underlines our commitment to operate a young and modern fleet," Izham said.

Second Finance Minister (centre) Datuk Seri Johari Abdul Ghani together with Malaysia Airlines Group (MAB) CEO Captain Izham Ismail (second, left) giving the thumbs up to MAB's first A350-900 XWB aircraft at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport in Sepang Thursday. -- fotoBERNAMA by Mazlan Samion

Meanwhile, Johari said MAB would be first company to enjoy the Goods and Services Tax (GST) relief as announced by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak in the 2018 Budget.

Imports of big ticket items such as aircraft and ships by airlines and shipping companies registered in Malaysia would be given GST relief.

The purchase of the aircraft would cost between US$200 million- US$300 million and this is considered a big ticket item for the GST exemption.

The A350 XWB features the latest aerodynamic design, carbon fibre fuselage and wings, plus the new fuel efficient Rolls-Royce Trent XWB engines, with a 25 per cent reduction in fuel burn and emissions and lower maintenance costs.

## IN STAGES

MAB has six A350 XWB on order and would be receiving them in stages by the second quarter of 2018.

All are on lease from Air Lease Corporation (ALC).

The A350 XWB would operate on the Kuala Lumpur-London sector beginning Jan 15, 2018. Prior to that, the airline would be flying a series of endorsement flights to Bangkok, Penang and Singapore.

Configured in a three-class layout with 286 seats, the Malaysia Airlines A350 XWB is the first in Asia to feature a First Class cabin.

## LIST OF MARKET REPORTS :



# BURSA MALAYSIA

### Bursa Malaysia Expected To Rebound Next Week

By Zairina Zainudin

KUALA LUMPUR -- Bursa Malaysia is expected to rebound next week, with the key index moving in firmer territory and backed by bargain hunting activities in bluechips among foreign investors, dealers said.

Malaysian Association of Technical Analysts, President, Nik Ihsan Raja Abdullah told Bernama the benchmark FTSE Bursa Malaysia KLCI (FBM KLCI), is likely to hover between the 1,720 and 1,723 levels next week.

He said should the momentum remain on an upside, the next resistance level would be at 1,751, and the belief that strong demand for Tenaga would continue next week and drive the composite index further.

“Focus would be centred on the steel as well as second- and third-liner stocks, he said.

“Stocks to be watch out for next week include technology-related counters, as sentiment would be clouded with the recent sell-off on Wall Street’s Nasdaq Composite, which declined to almost two per cent on Thursday,” he added.

On a Thursday to Friday comparison, the benchmark FBM KLCI gained 0.63 of-a-point to 1,717.86 on Thursday from 1,717.23 recorded on last Friday, with the market being mostly influenced by external factors.

Bursa Malaysia was closed on Dec 1 in conjunction with Maulidur Rasul.

The FBM Emas Index rose 15.07 points to 12,408.31, the FBMT 100 Index increased 22.57 points to 12,069.46, the FBM Emas Shariah Index soared 80.89 points to 12,920.15 and the FBM 70 climbed 95.97 points to 15,440.48.

The FBM Ace, however, dropped 90.99 points to 6,311.63. On a sectoral basis, the Finance Index trimmed 12.39 points to 15,926.33, the Plantation Index eased 17.8 points to 7,894.19, while the Industrial Index improved 48.8 points to 3,172.89.

Total turnover declined to 7.87 billion units worth RM12.7 billion from 10.41 billion units valued at RM11.51 last Friday.

Main Market volume fell to 5.44 billion shares worth RM12.32 billion from 6.6 billion shares valued at RM10.84 billion.

Warrants turnover weakened to 938.2 million units worth RM102.83 million versus last week’s 1.17 billion units valued at RM142.81 million.

The ACE Market shrank to 1.47 billion shares worth RM275.19 million from 2.6 billion shares valued at RM526.05 million transacted previously.

### Ringgit To Continue Stabilising Next Week Against Greenback

By Nurul Hanis Izmir

KUALA LUMPUR -- The ringgit is expected to continue stabilising and hovering between the 4.0700 and 4.1100 levels against the US dollar next week, said Oanda Corp Head of Trading for Asia Pacific, Stephen Innes.

He said the market would likely enter a consolidation phase and investor optimism may wane due to the holiday season.

“We see some thin liquidity creeping into the picture, which is a bit earlier than usual. and the rising US yields present the most significant obstacle to a stronger ringgit next week.

So, investors will continue to monitor the US yield curve in earnest.

“The US yield curve is very much range bound and we would need a sustained break of 2.4 per cent in the 10-year US treasuries to push the greenback significantly higher,” he told Bernama.

However, Innes noted that this is unlikely to happen, unless there are some definite signs of inflation picking up in the US.

He also said oil prices appear to be moving in the right direction and provided there’s no significant sell off, it would play favourably to the ringgit.

For the holiday-shortened week, the local note was traded mostly higher against the US dollar as the greenback was stuck near a two-month low, pending the announcement of the US tax reform plan and confirmation of the new Federal Reserve chair.

The market was closed on Friday for the Maulidur Rasul holiday.

On a Thursday-to-Friday basis, the ringgit strengthened against the US dollar to 4.0875/0915 from 4.1155/1185 last Friday.

Against other major currencies, the local unit rose against the Singapore dollar to 3.0278/0328 from 3.0553/0584, fell against the British pound to 5.5001/5072 from 5.4839/4895, appreciated versus the Japanese yen to 3.6379/6424 from 3.6927/6964 and improved vis-a-vis the euro to 4.8355/8419 from 4.8835/8887.

## Short-Term Rates To Remain Stable

KUALA LUMPUR -- Short-term rates are expected to remain stable next week with Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) likely to intervene by offering tenders to absorb surplus liquidity from the system.

For the week just ended, the overnight rate was quoted at 2.97 per cent, while 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 central bank intervened on a daily basis to mop up excess liquidity by conducting conventional money market tenders, Qard tenders, reverse repo, repo, range-maturity auction money market tenders, Islamic range-maturity auction money market tenders, Commodity Murabahah Programme tenders, and a BNM Interbank Bill.

The total liquidity surplus in the conventional system for the week just ended narrowed to RM31.41 billion from RM34.7 billion last week.

In the Islamic system, it rose to RM10.21 billion from RM5.02 billion previously. The benchmark three-month interbank rate stood at 3.43 per cent. The market was closed on Friday the Maulidur Rasul holiday.

## FBM KLCI Futures To Trade Higher

By Zairina Zainudin

KUALA LUMPUR -- The FTSE Bursa Malaysia KLCI (FBM KLCI) futures contract is expected to trade higher next week in tracking the positive-forecast performance of the underlying cash market.

Malaysian Association of Technical Analysts, President, Nik Ihsan Raja Abdullah told Bernama the benchmark FTSE Bursa Malaysia KLCI (FBM KLCI) would likely hover between the 1,720 and 1,723 levels next week.

He said should the momentum remain on an upside, the next resistance level would be at 1,751, on the belief that strong demand for Tenaga would continue next week and

drive the composite index further.
For the week just ended, the futures market was mostly higher in tandem with the cash market.

On a Thursday-to-Friday basis, November 2017 rose 8.5 points to 1,724.5, December 2017 advanced 10 points to 1,721.5, March 2018 bagged seven points to 1719 and June 2018 improved six points to 1,715.5. Bursa Malaysia was closed on Dec 1 in conjunction with Maulidur Rasul.

Weekly turnover soared to 80,464 lots from 22,195 lots on the previous Friday, while open interest widened to 51,881 contracts from 32,561 contracts.

The benchmark FBM KLCI gained 0.63 of-a-point to 1,717.86 on Thursday from 1,717.23 recorded on last Friday.

**CPO Futures Likely To See Yo-Yo Trading**

By Siti Noor Afera Abu

KUALA LUMPUR -- The crude palm oil (CPO) futures contract on Bursa Malaysia Derivatives is expected to see yo-yo trading next week in the absence of positive factors, dealers said.

Interband Group of Companies Senior Trader, Jim Teh said the price would likely move between RM2,510 and RM2,530 per tonne next week due to higher CPO inventories.

"The market will probably move like a yo-yo and traders have been speculating about a downtrend in prices in the near term," he told Bernama.

For the week just ended, CPO prices were lower, mainly influenced by a lack of buying interest, coupled with a stronger ringgit against the US dollar.

On a Thursday-to-Friday basis, December 2017 decreased RM50 to RM2,495 per tonne, January 2018 dropped RM34 to RM2,566 per tonne, February 2018 shed RM27 to RM2,603 per tonne and March 2018 declined RM21 to RM2,633 per tonne.

Weekly turnover narrowed down to 148,006 lots from 245,327 lots last Friday, while open interest rose to 279,712 contracts from 271,080 contracts previously.

On the physical market, December South was RM40 easier at RM2,520 per tonne. The market was closed on Friday for the Maulidur Rasul holiday.

**Rubber Market To Trade Cautiously**

KUALA LUMPUR -- The Malaysian rubber market is expected to trade cautiously next week in being influenced by the ringgit's performance against the US dollar and the crude oil price movement, said a dealer.

He said the rubber price would also likely track the performance of other commodities and regional futures markets, namely the Tokyo Commodity Exchange and Shanghai Futures Exchange.

On a Thursday-to-Friday basis, the Malaysian Rubber Board's noon price for tyre-grade SMR 20 declined 7.5 sen to 561.5 sen a kg, while latex-in-bulk gained 8.0 sen to 478.0 sen a kg.

The 5 pm unofficial closing price for SMR 20 was 2.0 sen lower to 576.0 sen a kg and latex-in-bulk added 8.0 sen to 481.0 sen a kg.

The market was closed on Friday for the Maulidur Rasul holiday.

**KLIBOR Futures To Remain Quiet**

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

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

On a Thursday-to-Friday basis, both December 2017 and January 2018 stood at 96.50, February 2018 remained at 96.48 and March 2018 was pegged at 96.45.

The underlying three-month KLIBOR on the cash market remained at 3.43 per cent on Thursday.

The market was closed on Friday for the Maulidur Rasul celebration.

## KLTM Likely To Trend Lower

KUALA LUMPUR -- The Kuala Lumpur Tin Market (KLTM) is expected to trend slightly lower next week on mild profit-taking, said a dealer.

He said as the year end approaches, traders will likely take advantage to sell and take profit as the commodity price reached its peak earlier this year at US$21,100 a tonne on three consecutive days, namely Jan 10, 11 and 12.

“We expect the metal price to move within the range of US$19,500 a tonne, but it could go to as low as US$19,400 a tonne next week,” he told Bernama.

The dealer also said the KLTM would be influenced by the metal’s performance on the benchmark London Metal Exchange (LME), besides the supply and demand situation for the commodity.

On a Thursday-to-Friday basis, the tin price on the KLTM rose by US$110 to US$19,530 per tonne from US$19,420 per tonne last week, while on the LME, it increased US$100 to end at US$19,525 a tonne from US$19,425 a tonne.

Turnover declined to 131 tonnes from 176 tonnes last week.

The differential between the KLTM and LME was at a premium of US$5 a tonne from a discount of US$5 a tonne previously.

The market was closed on Friday for the Maulidur Rasul celebration.

## Gold Futures To Undergo Selling Pressure

By Nurul Hanis Izmir

KUALA LUMPUR -- Gold futures contracts on Bursa Malaysia Derivatives are expected to undergo some selling pressure on the currency factor next week, a dealer said.

He said the ringgit is expected to be traded higher against the US dollar as the greenback’s month-end activity tends to be very messy.

“There is more rebalancing activity than actual market momentum flow and it tends to cloud the big picture on the US dollar.

Therefore, this would likely lift Asian currencies, including the ringgit.

“As Bursa Malaysia gold is denominated in the ringgit, a stronger currency can dampen demand for bullion,” the dealer told Bernama.

For the holiday-shortened week, gold traded mostly lower on the back of a higher ringgit versus the US dollar.

Among others, the greenback weakened and nearly touched a two-month low, pending announcement of the US tax reform plan and confirmation of the new Federal Reserve chair.

The market was closed on Friday for the Maulidur Rasul holiday.

On a Thursday-to-Friday basis, November 2017 fell 54 ticks to RM168.50 a gramme, while December 2017, January 2018 and February 2018 slipped 41 ticks each to RM169.80, RM170.70 and RM171.20, respectively.

Weekly turnover increased to 21 lots worth RM360,415 from 15 lots worth RM257,580 last week, while open interest on Thursday was slightly higher at 104 contracts versus 99 contracts.