MALAYSIAeBiz
WEEKLY BUSINESS ROUNDUP 2-6 JUNE 2014

June 6, 2014

This Week's Highlight :
Tabung Haji An Inspiration To Muslim World - Najib

BOOK OF SUCCESS…Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak (left) holding the coffee-table book on "TH-Malaysia's Success Story" published by Bernama at TH headquarters in Kuala Lumpur Thursday. --fotoBERNAMA

KUALA LUMPUR -- Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said Lembaga Tabung Haji's success in managing haj pilgrims and becoming a leading Syariah-compliant fund manager in the world is an inspiration and example to the rest of the Muslim world. Expressing his pride in Tabung Haji's success, the prime minister congratulated depositors who entrusted Tabung Haji and its employees for the efforts rendered. He said when launching a coffee-table book on Tabung Haji to mark its 50th anniversary here Thursday.

This Week's Top Stories

Monday
Govt To Revise Incentives For Biogas For More Investments

KUALA LUMPUR -- The government intends to revise incentives for biogas to woo more investments in that sector and realise plans to become Asia's biogas hub and channel more energy into the national power grid, the Malaysian Biotechnology Corporation (BiotechCorp) said Monday. This initiative would move the government closer to realising Asia's biogas hub plans and channel more energy into the national power grid, its Chief Operating Officer Razwin Sulairee Hasnan Termizi told reporters at the Third Biogas Asia Pacific Forum here.

Tuesday
Vietnam, M'sia To Benefit Most From TPPA – US Ambassador

KUALA LUMPUR -- Vietnam and Malaysia are expected to benefit most from the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPPA), when it comes to realisation, says US Ambassador to Malaysia Joseph Y. Yun. "The TPPA will provide a higher level of transparency, regulation, labour and trading protection, needed to attract investments," he told reporters after his speech at the opening of a workshop on "Leveraging E-commerce to Help SMEs Reach New Markets", here Tuesday.

Wednesday
Govt Spends RM13 Bln For SME Devt – Najib

KUALA LUMPUR -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak announced that the government was spending RM13 billion for SME development programmes this year compared with RM12 billion last year. Speaking at the opening of SME Annual Showcase (SMIDEX) 2014 here Wednesday, he said: "These funds are not only from the government but the private sector as well".

Thursday
TH Introduces Debit Card Service

KUALA LUMPUR -- Lembaga Tabung Haji (TH) become the first non-banking Islamic institution in the world to introduce a debit card service with the launch of its "Tabung Haji Debit-i MasterCard" Thursday. Speaking at the launching ceremony here, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said the card would allow hajj pilgrims to conveniently withdraw and make purchases in the Holy Land.

Friday
M'sia's Total Trade Reaches RM123.86 Bln In April

KUALA LUMPUR -- Malaysia's total trade in April 2014 rose by 12 per cent year-on-year to RM123.86 billion due to growing trading activities, International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed said. The increase in trade was recorded with China which rose RM1.72 billion, Taiwan (RM1.51 billion), South Korea (RM1.49 billion), Hong Kong (RM1.37 billion), Australia (RM1.25 billion), Singapore (RM1.2 billion) and Japan (RM1 billion), he said in a statement Friday.

SMEbrief

CGC Proposes Initial RM30 Mln For SME Scheme

KUALA LUMPUR -- Credit Guarantee Corporation Malaysia Bhd (CGC) has proposed an initial portfolio of RM30 million for up to 600 Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) as the first tranche of the BizMula-i scheme. The scheme extends financing to new businesses viewed as high-risk within the financial sector and provides an uplift to the development of new businesses devoid of track records or collaterals, it said in a statement Monday.

MDV Allocates RM500 Mln For SMEs In High-Tech

KUALA LUMPUR -- Malaysia Debt Ventures Bhd (MDV) is allocating up to RM500 million in loan facilities for the small and medium enterprises (SMEs) under the sectoral development following a memorandum of understanding (MoU) inked Wednesday. The three-year MoU entered into with SME Corp Malaysia was aimed at enhancing the development and growth of high technology sectors in the country, said MDV in a statement here.

DSM, SME Corp To Enhance SMEs' Global Competitiveness

KUALA LUMPUR -- The Department of Standards Malaysia (DSM) is cooperating with SME Corp Malaysia to enhance the small and medium enterprises' (SMEs) global competitiveness by educating them on quality and standards. In a statement here Wednesday, DSM said both parties would implement the National Standards Compliance Programme (NSCP) which included capacity building and promotional activities in standardisation.

SMEs Given Assistance To Boost GDP Contribution

KUALA LUMPUR -- The small and medium enterprise (SME) sector has been offered various support to increase its contribution to the gross domestic product (GDP) to 41 per cent by 2020 from the current 33 per cent. Some RM13 billion have been allocated to support SME development this year and the establishment of the Malaysia Unlisted Market to facilitate financing opportunities is expected to be rolled out by year-end, said International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed after the opening ceremony of SME Annual Showcase (Smidex) here Wednesday.

GST Software Package Now Opens For SMEs - Najib

KUALA LUMPUR -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak has announced that the RM1,000 Goods and Services Tax (GST) e-voucher by SME Corporation Malaysia (SME Corp) was now open for application. The voucher was meant to be a simple, fast and effective way for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to purchase or upgrade GST-compliant accounting software, said Najib, who is also Finance Minister, at the opening of SME Annual Showcase (SMIDEX) 2014 here, Wednesday.

PropUP Property*update*

Higher GDV For Southville City@KL South Development: Mah Sing

KUALA LUMPUR -- Mah Sing Group Bhd announced an increase in gross development value (GDV) for Southville City@KL South in Bangi to RM8.3 billion from the preliminary RM5.13 billion. The developer attributed the higher GDV to the recently approved township masterplan, which includes a 2km stretch of commercial development fronting the North-South Expressway, it said in a statement here Monday.

M'sian House Prices Up 8 Pct in Q1

KUALA LUMPUR -- The Malaysian house prices rose eight per cent in the first quarter of 2014 compared to the same quarter last year. According to the Knight Frank Global House Price Index released Tuesday, Malaysia was ranked at 15th spot among 54 countries, it said in a research note here.

Tambun Indah To Acquire Land In Seberang Perai

KUALA LUMPUR -- Tambun Indah Land Bhd (Tambun Indah), a leading property developer in mainland Penang, is expanding its landbank with the proposed acquisition of a 84.6 hectare piece of land in Seberang Perai for RM150 million. Palmington Sdn Bhd (PSB), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Tambun Indah, in a statement Wednesday acknowledged a letter of acceptance of offer to acquire 27 parcels adjacent to Pearl City, the group's flagship development in Seberang Perai, Penang.

CapitaLand Owns More Than 90 Pct CapitaMalls Asia

SINGAPORE -- CapitaLand Ltd, one of Asia's largest real estate companies, announced that it now holds more than 90 per cent of the issued shares of CapitaMalls Asia Ltd (CMA). As at 5 pm on Wednesday, CapitaLand and its concert parties owned, controlled or have agreed to acquire (including acceptances of the Offer) an aggregate of 3,614,324,178 CMA shares, representing approximately 92.7 per cent of CMA's issued share capital, it said in a statement here Thursday.

IJM, Amona Devt Unveil Phase 1 Of Pantai Sentral Park

KUALA LUMPUR -- IJM Land Bhd and its joint-venture partner, Amona Development Sdn Bhd Thursday unveiled Phase One of the Pantai Sentral Park development, known as "Inwood Residences". The development comprises 211 units of residential condominiums spread over a 23.5 hectare (58 acre) site and set against the backdrop of the 80.9 hectare (200-acre) forest in Bukit Kerinchi here, said IJM in a statement here Thursday.

Property Expo Focuses On M'sia

SINGAPORE -- The iProperty International Property and Investment Expo, from June 21-22, 2014 here will have a special focus on Malaysia, based on its number one status for Singaporeans' overseas investments. In a statement here Thursday, iProperty.com Singapore General Manager, Sean Tan, said in addition to showcasing the latest and most promising projects, the expo would also feature a line-up of seminars providing valuable tips and strategies to capitalise on market opportunities.

MARKET

Scoreboard

Gainers	323
Losers	397
Not Traded	539
Unchanged	354
Value	1402687149
Volume	12739248

BURSA: KL Shares End Lower As Investors Cut Positions

By Mohd Khairi Idham Amran

KUALA LUMPUR -- Shares on Bursa Malaysia closed lower Friday as investors trimmed their positions ahead of the weekend amid lack of bullish catalysts, dealers said.

The benchmark FTSE Bursa Malaysia KLCI (FBM KLCI) finished at 1,862.7, down 6.3 points, after fluctuating between 1,870.61 and 1,860.2 throughout the day. Losers led gainers 397 to 323, with 354 counters unchanged, 539 untraded and 25 others suspended. Volume declined to 1.27 billion shares worth RM1.4 billion from 1.49 billion shares worth RM1.86 billion transacted on Thursday.

Affin Investment Bank Vice-President/ Head of Retail Research Dr Nazri Khan said the softening market was a sign of tired runaway bullish traders. "As the FBM KLCI failed to exit from its three week consolidation pattern (1,880-1,860 range), this indicates more congestion ahead," he told Bernama.

However, he said despite the lagging equity market, the FBM KLCI is holding up well above the 1,860 support level due to the bourse's high dividend appeal, resilient domestic liquidity and lower vulnerability to foreign investors' withdrawal. Main Market volume contracted to 1.09 billion worth RM1.36 billion from 1.24 billion units worth RM1.81 billion registered on Thursday.

Exchange Rate
(Ringgit : Foreign Currency)

	Buying	Selling
USD	3.2210	3. 2130
EUR	4.3779	4.3812
GBP	5.3967	5.4007
100 YEN	3.1388	3.1414
SGD	2.5639	2.5661

Source: Bank Negara Malaysia

FOREX: Ringgit Closes Higher Against US Dollar

KUALA LUMPUR -- The ringgit closed higher against the US dollar Friday on continued buying momentum for the local unit, a dealer said. At 5pm, the ringgit was quoted at 3.2210/2130 against the US dollar from 3.2275/2295 Thursday.

"Dealers are also now focused on Friday's report on US nonfarm payrolls for an indication of the US job market strength," the dealer told Bernama.

The dealer said the greenback had recently lost some momentum on weaker-than-anticipated US jobs data figures from the Automatic Data Processing Inc National Employment Report. Meanwhile, the ringgit was traded higher against other major currencies.

The local unit was higher against the euro at 4.3779/3812 from Thursday's 4.3936/3970 and gained against the yen to 3.1388/1414 from 3.1553/1585 previously. Against the Singapore dollar, the domestic currency appreciated to 2.5639/5661 from Thursday's 2.5682/5706 and rose against the British pound to 5.3967/4007 from 5.4188/4234.

Money Market: Short-Term Rates Close Stable

KUALA LUMPUR -- Short-term interbank rates closed stable Friday following Bank Negara Malaysia's intervention to absorb excess liquidity from the financial system. The liquidity surplus in the conventional system fell to RM23.04 billion from RM36.307 billion estimated in the morning, while in the Islamic system, the excess reduced to RM2.896 billion from RM10.749 billion. In the morning, the central bank called for a range maturity auction, two repo tenders, an Islamic range maturity auction and a Commodity Murabahah Programme tender.

The central bank conducted a late conventional money market tender for RM23 billion and a RM2.8 billion Al-Wadiah money market tender, both for three-day money. The overnight Islamic reference rate stood at 2.96 per cent while the one-week, two-week and three-week rates stood at 3.05 per cent, 3.09 per cent and 3.13 per cent, respectively.

KLIBOR Futures End Untraded

KUALA LUMPUR --The three-month Kuala Lumpur Interbank Offered Rate (KLIBOR) futures contracts on Bursa Malaysia Derivatives closed untraded Friday. June 2014, July 2014, August 2014 and September 2014 remained pegged at 96.51, 96.40, 96.35 and 96.30 respectively. Open interest totalled 7,240 contracts. At the 11 am fixing, the underlying three-month KLIBOR stood at 3.49 per cent.

KLCI Futures End Lower

KUALA LUMPUR – The FTSE Bursa Malaysia KLCI (FBM KLCI) futures contracts (FKLI) on Bursa Malaysia Derivatives closed slightly lower Friday, tracking the weaker cash market. Phillip Futures Sdn Bhd Dealer, Lim Eng Wee, said FBM KLCI closed lower as traders remained cautious ahead of key employment data from the US amid a weaker regional stock markets performance.

"Asia market closed mostly lower on Friday as traders are cautious over US job data despite record close on Wall Street and stimulus from European Central Bank," he told Bernama.

At the close, June 2014, September 2014 and Dec 2014 slipped one point each to 1,866, 1,867 and 1,865.5 respectively.

July 2014 was flat at 1,868.5. Turnover fell to 4,242 lots from Thursday's 5,846 lots while open interest narrowed to 32,444 contracts from 36,472 contracts previously.

The underlying FBM KLCI closed at 1,862.7, down 6.3 points.

Emerging Markets-Based Banks To Expand In Developed Markets – Deloitte

KUALA LUMPUR -- World trade flows, increased gross domestic product (GDP), a growing middle class and new technologies will help emerging markets-based banks expand into developed markets in the coming year, according to a report. "The weakened economies of the United States and Europe, traditional trading partners with Asia, have led countries in Southeast Asia to look for market opportunities closer to home", Deloitte Southeast Asia Financial Services Industry Leader Ho Kok Yong said in a statement here Monday.

Public Bank Gives Extra Bonus Under FCY FD Campaign

KUALA LUMPUR -- Public Bank Tuesday launched a campaign to reward customers who make new foreign currency fixed deposit (FCY FD) placements with funds converted from ringgit or other foreign currency funds. The 'PB FCY FD Top Up Rates' campaign, from June 1 to Sept 30, 2014, offers an additional rate of one per cent per annum on top of the bank's prevailing FCY FD interest rates for five popular foreign currencies -- US dollar, pound sterling, Australian dollar, New Zealand dollar and Chinese renminbi, it said in a statement here Tuesday.

Maybank's KEC Completes Liquidation Process

KUALA LUMPUR -- Malayan Banking Bhd's (Maybank) indirect subsidiary, Kim Eng Consultant Limited (China) (KEC), which was placed under members' voluntary liquidation on April 23, 2009, completed the process on May 27 this year. "The dissolution of KEC will not have any material effect on the consolidated earnings or net assets of Maybank for the financial year ending Dec 31, 2014," the company said in a filing to Bursa Malaysia here Wednesday.

Takaful Ikhlas To Penetrate European Market

KUALA LUMPUR -- Takaful Ikhlas Bhd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of MNRB Holdings Bhd, plans to penetrate the European market over the next five years, due to the increasing Muslim population in the region. President and Chief Executive Officer Ab Latiff Abu Bakar said demand from Europe is expected to be enormous with infrastructure there being developed by other reinsurance and insurance companies, he told reporters after a MNRB Scholarship presentation ceremony here Wednesday

RAM Projects Corporate Bond Issuance Increases

KUALA LUMPUR -- RAM Holdings Bhd has projected the gross corporate bond issuance this year of between RM90 billion and RM95 billion. The projection was better than 2013's 84 billion, said its Group Chief Executive Officer/Executive Director, Datuk Seri Dr K. Govindan here Wednesday.

Asian High Dividend Equity Fund Remains Investors' Favourite

KUALA LUMPUR -- Asian high-dividend equity funds remain one of the most popular vehicles for Malaysian unit trust investors, with 50 per cent of them owning this asset class, a survey shows. This translates into an increase of five percentage points from last year, says the survey released by Eastspring Investments Bhd here Wednesday. Summit 2014 here Wednesday.

Bank Of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ To Issue US$500 Mln Sukuk

KUALA LUMPUR -- Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ (Malaysia) Bhd (BTMU Malaysia) is setting up the issuance of a US$500 million multi-currency sukuk programme under the Shariah principle of Wakalah Bi Al-Istithmar. The bank was considering the yen as one of the currencies of choice, and if so, it would set a precedent of being the first yen-denominated sukuk issuance in the global market, said BTMU Malaysia President and Chief Executive Officer Naoki Nishida at the signing ceremony of the programme agreement with CIMB and MUSI here on Thursday.

PM Launches Micro Financing For Hawkers, Petty Traders

PUTRAJAYA -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak Thursday launched the Ramadan Bazaar i-Micro Financing scheme, involving a RM45 million allocation, for petty traders and hawkers to carry out business during Ramadan. In his speech when launching the scheme, Najib said under the scheme, which would be managed by Bank Rakyat, petty traders and hawkers could apply for interest-free loan of up to RM3,000 as business capital and the disbursement of the loan for the eligible applicants would be made a week before Ramadan.

Hong Leong Islamic Bank Issues RM400 Mln Sukuk

KUALA LUMPUR -- Hong Leong Islamic Bank Bhd (HLISB), which is focusing on further expansion, has successfully issued the first tranche of its subordinated Sukuk Ijarah amounting to RM400 million under a Subordinated Sukuk Ijarah Programme (Sukuk Programme). In a statement released here Thursday, HLISB said the book was closed within one day of opening at 4.80 per cent per annum with a bid to cover ratio of 2.95 times.

BNM Reserves At RM427.0 Bln As Of May 30

KUALA LUMPUR -- Bank Negara Malaysia's international reserves amounted to RM427.0 billion (equivalent to US$130.9 billion) as at May 30, 2014. The central bank said the reserves position was sufficient to finance 9.1 months of retained imports and was 1.3 times the short-term external debt. The main components of the nternational reserves are foreign currency reserves (US$118.3 billion), International Monetary Fund reserves position (US$1.0 billion), Special Drawing Rights (US$2.0 billion), gold (US$1.5 billion) and other reserve assets (US$8.1 billion).

Federal To Consider Sarawak's Oil Royalties' Request - Najib

MIRI -- The federal government will give utmost consideration to Sarawak's request for higher oil and gas royalties, said Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak. "The federal government will give utmost consideration on this matter (request for higher oil and gas royalties)," he said at the Malaysia Gawai Dayak Open House 2014 at Dataran Kipas here Monday night.

Pacific Mutual Optimistic Of Double-Digit Growth In Equity Portfolios

KUALA LUMPUR -- Pacific Mutual Fund Bhd, an investment management company under the OCBC Group, is optimistic of achieving double-digit annual growth for its local equity portfolios this year. Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer Gary Gan said here Monday, the fund manager has been steadfast in its opportunistic strategy, reflected in returns of three to seven per cent for the first five months into 2014.

Global Airlines Expected To Achieve US$18 Bln Profit

From Joan Santani Santanasamy

DOHA -- The International Air Transport Association (IATA) expects airlines to achieve a collective global profit of US$18 billion this year from US10.6 billion recorded last year. IATA's Director General and Chief Executive Officer Tony Tyler told reporters at the 70th IATA annual general meeting here Monday, the profit was however a slight downgrade from the previous forecast of US$18.7 billion in March.

MATRADE: Sales of RM18.9 Mln Registered in Bangalore

By Saraswathi Muniappan

NEW DELHI -- Sales worth RM18.9 million were registered at Showcase Malaysia held in Bangalore, Karnataka, by the Malaysian External Trade Development Corporation (Matrade). The sales were reported by the 26 participating companies from various sectors such as automotive, furniture, healthcare, wellness products, food and beverages, franchises and business services, Matrade said in a statement here Monday.

TA Investment Declares Income Distribution For Two Funds

KUALA LUMPUR -- TA Investment Management Bhd has declared a gross income distribution of 3.5 sen per unit for TA Islamic Fund to registered unit holders of the fund as at May 30, 2014. "We expect the market to be lethargic in the short term. Our strategy for the fund would be to look beyond May and June to invest for the core portfolio," said TA Investment in a statement here Monday.

AllianceDBS Cuts Star's Fy14-16 Earnings Forecast

KUALA LUMPUR -- AllianceDBS Research has cut its earnings forecast on Star Publications (M) Bhd's financial year 2014-2016 by five to seven per cent, but maintains its "Hold" recommendation with a higher target price of RM2.55. "Star will likely scale down its Sarawak operations by the third quarter of this year as it is loss-making and the circulation figures are not meaningful and the management estimates annual cost savings of between RM5 million and RM6 million." the research firm said in a note Tuesday.

ETCM Eyes Sales Of 3,500 Units Of All-New Teana

KUALA LUMPUR -- Edaran Tan Chong Motor (ETCM) Sdn Bhd aims to sell 3,500 units of its all-new Nissan Teana by year-end, said Executive Director David Chen. The company has received bookings of over 200 units for the car at present and aims to sell 500 units a month to achieve its target of 6,000 units in a year, he told a media briefing after the launch of the car here Tuesday.

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AirAsia India's Maiden Flight Sold Out In 10 Minutes

By M.Saraswathi

NEW DELHI -- AirAsia India entered the Indian market with a bang when tickets for its maiden flight from Bangalore to Goa on June 12 was sold out within 10 minutes of opening for sale. Its 25,000 promotion seats were also taken up within 48 hours of opening for booking on May 30, said Chief Executive Officer Mittu Chandilya in a statement here Wednesday.

RAM Posts After-Tax Profit Of RM8.3 Mln

KUALA LUMPUR -- RAM Holdings Bhd (RAM) registered a strong group profit after tax of RM8.3 million, up 8.5 per cent, for the 2013 financial year (FY2013) on the back of revenue of RM45.68 million. The strong growth in the Group's profit resulted in an increase in earnings per share to 83 sen per share in FY2013 versus 77 sen in the previous fiscal year, the Group said in a statement here Wednesday.

Bousted Plantation's Net Profit Forecast At RM119.9 Mln

KUALA LUMPUR -- Hong Leong Investment Bank (HLIB) expects Boustead Plantations Bhd's (BPB) core net profit to jump 74.7 per cent to RM119.9 million this year on higher average crude palm oil (CPO) price assumption of RM2,700 per metric tonne. HLIB also expects BPB's core net profit in 2015 to remain flattish at RM116.4 million, largely on the back of a slightly higher production cost assumption, it said in a note here Wednesday.

AirAsia's Free Seat Campaigns Gets Great Response

KUALA LUMPUR -- AirAsia's latest free Seats campaign, which was announced on Monday, has received an overwhelming response from air travellers. AirAsia Group Chief Commercial Officer Siegtraund Teh said in a statement Wednesday 2.5 million promo seats have been made available until June 8 for travel period between Jan 5, 2015 and July 31, 2015, upon the launch of the campaign on Monday, he said here.

Msia's Sukuk Market To Grow 10 Pct
KUALA LUMPUR -- Hua Yang Bhd posted a pre-tax profit of RM112.4 million for the financial year ended March 31, 2014, up from RM95.3 million registered a year ago. Revenue rose to RM509.9 million for the same period from RM408.7 million chalked up previously, it said in a filing to Bursa Malaysia Wednesday.

M'sia Targets 2 Mln Tourists From China In 2014
PETALING JAYA -- Tourism Malaysia targets to draw two million tourists from China this year compared to 1.7 million last year. Malaysia was confident that more tourists from China would visit Malaysia this year due to the various promotional efforts carried out, its deputy director-general (Promotions), Datuk Azizan Noordin said after launching the 'Hong Kong's Evolving Harbour' photo exhibition, here, Wednesday.

RM130 Mln Aid For Smallholders After Falling Rubber Price
PUTRAJAYA -- The government has approved an allocation of RM130 million to assist 260,000 smallholders affected by the fall in rubber price. Rural and Regional Development Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Shafie Apdal told reporters Wednesday that with the allocation, a one-off payment of RM500 be would be credited into the smallholders' accounts starting the middle of this month and they would be informed about this via a letter.

TIME Optimistic Of Continued Growth
KUALA LUMPUR -- TIME dotCom Bhd (TDC) is optimistic of continued growth in the current financial year given its steady performance, says Chief Executive Officer Afzal Abdul Rahim. The company has strategies lined up to maintain growth, including strengthening domestic network, building global bandwidth and boosting data centre businesses, he said at a media briefing after the company's annual general meeting here Thursday.

MAEI See Positive Growth In Export Value
KUALA LUMPUR -- The Malaysian American Electronics Industry (MAEI) expects positive growth in export value this year driven by smart mobile devices and consumer electronics segments. Initially the committee expected export value to decline by 4.7 per cent due to a drop in demand in the computing market, said Chairman Datuk Wong Siew Hai at a joint press conference with Malaysian Investment Development Authority (Mida) on the MAEI annual survey 2013/2014 here Thursday.

Sona Petroleum To Acquire SEBG For RM903.64 Mln
KUALA LUMPUR -- Sona Petroleum Bhd has proposed to acquire Salamander PLC's wholly-owned subsidiary, Salamander Energy (Bualuang) Ltd (SEBG), for a value of about RM903.64 million. In a filing to Bursa Malaysia here Thursday, Sona Petroleum said the acquisition would result in the group owning an effective working interest of 40 per cent in the Thai oil and gas blocks owned by SEBG.

Koguru To Pay Out RM1.8 Mln In Dividends
BESUT -- Koperasi Warga Pendidikan Terengganu Bhd (Koguru) chalked up a net profit of RM2.8 million for its 2013 financial year, the highest ever earnings recorded by the cooperative to date. Its chairman Alias Yahya said the cooperative would pay out dividend of 14 per cent totalling RM1.8 million, consisting of 10 per cent based on share capital and four per cent based on fees capital account," he told Bernama here Friday.

RHB Banking Expands To Laos
KUALA LUMPUR -- The RHB Banking Group Thursday extended its regional presence with the establishment of RHB Bank Lao Limited in Vientiane, Lao PDR. RHB Bank Lao will offer customers in that country a full range of banking facilities including deposit products, various loan facilities and foreign exchange and retail product offerings include housing loan, overdraft facility, term loan, revolving credit facility, savings and current accounts, and fixed deposits, it said in a statement Friday.

M'sian Fashion, Lifestyle Products Create A Stir In France
KUALA LUMPUR -- Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (Matrade)'s specialised marketing mission comprising 18 local firms to France has generated an initial business outcome of RM4.23 million for Malaysian fabrics, designer clothes and shoes. Matrade said the objective of the mission was to promote Malaysia's creativity and ideas in transforming Malaysian traditional fabrics -- batik, songket and tenun into beautiful stylish collections, creating an elegant blend by taking unique elements of the East to the West, it said in a statement here Friday.

BSN Eyes 19 Mln Transactions Via Agents
KUALA LUMPUR -- Bank Simpanan Nasional (BSN) is targeting to achieve 19 million transactions this year through its nationwide network of registered banking agents (EBB). Since EBB's inception in January 2012 until May this year, the bank has recorded about 20.2 million transactions amounting to more than RM1.69 billion, its Deputy Chief Executive of Community Banking, Yunos Abd Ghani said after the signing of a memorandum of agreement with Singer Malaysia Sdn Bhd here Friday.

Inflation To Stay Elevated In 2014 - RHB Research

KUALA LUMPUR -- Inflation is expected to stay elevated in the next few months due to a change in administrative pricing by the government, with average rate between 3.0 per cent 3.4 per cent in 2014, said RHB Research. However, the government launched nationwide 'Price Reduction' campaign on Jan 29 involving 10 selected supermarket chains, offering 15 per cent to 70 per cent discounts on 4,000 selected products, to lessen the impact of the rising cost of living, it said in a note Monday.

Celcom Selects Nokia Optimisation Services To Enhance Network

KUALA LUMPUR -- Celcom Axiata Bhd has selected Nokia's optimisation services to enhance its network, voice and data quality in the Klang Valley and Kuala Lumpur. The partnership would enhance Celcom's overall network performance by addressing issues that affected its quality of services, said its Chief Executive Officer, Datuk Seri Shazalli Ramly in a statement here Monday.

Boeing, Japan Transocean Air Finalise Order For 737s

By Tengku Noor Shamsiah Tengku Abdullah

SINGAPORE -- Boeing and Japan Transocean Air (JTA) finalised an order for 12 Next-Generation 737-800 airplanes. "This order is a key part of our strategy to bring the highest levels of comfort, amenity and convenience to the people of Okinawa, by continuing to operate the most reliable and fuel-efficient aircraft available today and in the future," said Manabu Sato, President of Japan Transocean Air and Executive Officer at Japan Airlines in a statement released by Boeing here Monday.

Prices Will Remain Unchanged After GST Imposition - Mydin

SUBANG JAYA -- Mydin, the largest and most popular supermarket chain, has assured that store-wide prices will not be raised after the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) on April 1, 2015. Managing Director of Mydin Mohamed Holdings Bhd Datuk Ameer Ali Mydin said after launching the Touch 'N Go Electronic Payment System at Mydin USJ here Monday, that a consultant has been appointed to look into all processes related to GST implementation and that prices remain unchanged

AirAsia To Spend RM2.1 Bln On Fleet Expansion

By Siti Radziah Hamzah

KUALA LUMPUR -- AirAsia X Bhd will allocate at least RM2.1 billion in 2014 as capex (capital expenditure) to acquire seven new Airbus A330-300 aircraft, said Chief Executive Officer Azran Osman Rani. "We are on track to settling the aircraft orders that we have committed to. Each of the aircraft will cost more than RM300 million and financing is through debt financing and operating leases, to maintain AirAsia X's cashflow," he told Bernama here Tuesday.

1MDB's Debts No Risk On M'sia's Sovereign Rating

KUALA LUMPUR -- Government-owned 1MDB said on Tuesday its debts do not pose any significant risk to the sovereign rating and stability of the country. It has never missed any payment schedule, adding that all of 1MDB's debts are backed by the group's operational assets, with healthy cash flow and strong growth potential beyond their finite life, the company said in a statement here.

M'sian Luxury Car Segment Resilient – Jaguar Land Rover

KUALA LUMPUR -- The demand for luxury cars in the local market is still strong, says Jaguar Land Rover (M) Sdn Bhd Managing Director Syed Mudzhar Syed Ali. "We see the market maintaining its positive momentum, driven by Malaysians' financial capabilities," he told reporters after the launch of the new Range Rover Sport here Wednesday.

M'sia Rises 10 Notches In Global Investor Confidence Survey

KUALA LUMPUR -- Malaysia has surged 10 rungs to No. 15 in the 2014 Foreign Direct Investment Confidence Index (FDICI) released by Global management consulting firm, A.T. Kearney. It said in a statement here Wednesday, Malaysia benefited from the strong inbound regional FDI flows and good performance in financial services, heavy industry and primary industry.

Form M'sia – French Virtual Associations, Entrepreneurs Urged

PARIS -- The Malaysian Prime Minister's wife, Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, has urged Malaysian and French women entrepreneurs to form virtual associations to strengthen relations and leverage on new technologies. In building and strengthening networks, women entrepreneurs should make the most of information and communications technology (ICT) to connect, network and internationalise their businesses, she said at the Business Networking Session of Malaysian and French Women in Business here on Wednesday.

Google M'sia Eyes Penang SMEs For AdWords Platform

GEORGE TOWN -- Google Malaysia targets about 40,824 small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in Penang to join its online advertising platform AdWords, which is now available in Malay. Penang SMEs represent only six per cent of total SMEs in Malaysia and can use the platform to reach out to new markets overseas as well as refine their reach locally, said its Head of Marketing Matthew Zaheen after launching Google AdWords in Malay for the northern region here Thursday.

MIDA, InvestHK Sign MoU To Reaffirm Relationship

KUALA LUMPUR -- The Malaysian Investment Development Authority (MIDA) and Invest Hong Kong (InvestHK), department of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government that seeks foreign direct investment and expansion in Hong Kong, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to reaffirm the existing strong relationship of their two-way investment promotion. The signing ceremony was held in conjunction with the "Hong Kong-Asean Regional Cooperation Forum" that took place here Thursday, said MIDA in a statement.

Mercedes Warehouse For Pekan Automotive Park

KUALA LUMPUR -- The ground-breaking ceremony for Mercedes Benz's design-and-build completely knocked down warehouse in the Pekan Automotive Park Thursday is a strong vote of confidence for the park and East Coast Economic Region (ECER). "The ECERDC facilitates the allocation of the project area within the park, as well as coordinates with the relevant governmental departments and agencies from the federal and Pahang state governments to ensure the successful implementation of this project," ECER Development Council (ECERDC) Chief Executive Officer, Datuk Jebasingam Issace John, said in a statement here Thursday.

M'sia Needs To Upscale Aerospace Industry - BAE Systems

KUALA LUMPUR -- Malaysia needs to upscale its aerospace industry by moving into avionics maintenance technology from its niche market of aviation composite manufacturing and maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO). BAE Systems Director of Offset Programme, Group Business Development Richard McKie told Bernama Thursday that the industry was now moving into designing which sees huge opportunities for Malaysia to go forward and to get ahead, he added, Malaysia needs to expand into the systems side of the business such as systems integration and upgrading and aeroplane system maintenance.

ICT Roadshow To Boost Taiwan-M'sia Collaborations

KUALA LUMPUR -- Taiwan's Innovative ICT Solution and Business Opportunity Sharing Roadshow aims to foster greater understanding and collaborations between the Taiwanese and Malaysian information and communications technology (ICT) industries. In a statement here Thursday, organiser, Taiwan's Institute for Information Industry said the one-day roadshow today was filled with activities, in which representatives of nine Taiwanese ICT industry leaders met with more than a hundred Malaysian businesses.

MMC-Gamuda To Establish Tunnelling Academy In New Delhi

SHAH ALAM -- MMC-Gamuda Sdn Bhd plans to establish a tunnelling training academy (TTA) in New Delhi, India, soon to meet the requirements for onsite-training for workers undertaking public transportation projects in the country. The idea was mooted following the exchange of expertise and training with Delhi Metro Rail Corporation Ltd (DMRC) which is upgrading India's transportation system, Gamuda Bhd Group Managing Director Datuk Lin Yun Ling told reporters after signing a memorandum of agreement with DMRC here Thursday.

CIPAA 2012 Pivotal For Construction Industry - Nancy

KUALA LUMPUR -- The Construction Industry Payment and Adjudication Act (CIPAA) 2012 is pivotal for the national construction industry, which is a significant contributor to Malaysia's booming economy. The new Act, which came into operation on April 15 this year, is a timely resolution to delayed payments, non-payment and disputes in the construction sector, the Minister in Prime Minister's Department Nancy Shukri said at the "Construction Industry Payment and Adjudication Act (CIPAA) 2012" conference, here Thursday.

Rapid Bus Buys Tow Trucks To Reduce Maintenance Cost

KUALA LUMPUR -- Rapid Bus Sdn Bhd, the bus operating arm of Syarikat Prasarana Negara Bhd, has spent RM3 million to purchase three recovery trucks to reduce its maintenance cost and to overcome time consumption faced by the company in sourcing private tow trucks. Rapid Bus Chief Executive Officer Datuk Zohari Sulaiman said two of the trucks would be stationed here for RapidKL and one would be despatched to Penang for Rapid Penang, he told reporters after the official handover ceremony of the MAN recovery trucks here Thursday.

Guidance, Mentoring Vital For Women Entrepreneurs - Rosmah

PARIS -- Continuous guidance and mentoring are vital for turning young women into successful entrepreneurs, said Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, wife of the Malaysian prime minister. Young women should get exposure to the dynamics of entrepreneurship and be ready to take risks and do things differently, she told Malaysian journalists at the 2014 Global Summit of Women (GSW) here on Thursday.

MPOB Seminar In Kuching Next Week

KUCHING -- The Malaysian Palm Oil Board (MPOB) is organising a seminar on "Palm Industry Labour: Issues, Performance and Sustainability" (PILIP 2014) in Kuching on June 9. MPOB Director-General Datuk Dr Choo Yuen May in a statement here Monday said the seminar, themed "Labour Rationalisation for the Sustenance of the Malaysian Oil Palm Industry", would be officiated by Minister Of Plantation Industries and Commodities Datuk Douglas Uggah Embas.

OCBC Al-Amin Named Islamic Bank Of The Year

KUALA LUMPUR -- OCBC Al-Amin Bank Bhd has been named Islamic Bank of the Year 2014 for Malaysia by the London-based "The Banker", a monthly international financial magazine. The award is the world's longest running international banking title and marks the first time a foreign-owned Islamic bank has won the award in Malaysia, said Al-Amin Director and Chief Executive Officer Syed Abdull Aziz Syed Kechik in a statement here Monday.

M'sia To Showcase Architectural Designs & Artworks In Italy

KUALA LUMPUR -- Malaysia will showcase the finest of architectural designs and artworks at the 14th International Architecture Exhibition of the La Biennale Di Venezia, Italy. The exhibition, from June 7 to Nov 23 and the preview on Thursday and Friday is the oldest and the most prestigious architecture event, Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE) said in a statement here Tuesday.

Maybank's John Lee Named 'Risk Manager Of The Year'

KUALA LUMPUR -- Maybank Group Chief Risk Officer, John Lee, has been named 'Risk Manager of the Year', which recognizes emerging best practices and the best run risk management teams in financial institutions, by The Asian Banker at the 15th Asian Banker Summit here Tuesday. Maybank said this was Lee's second major award for excellence in risk management after he was named 'Bank Risk Manager of the Year' by Asia Risk last year.

Another Opportunity for M'sian Exporters In Cambodia

KUALA LUMPUR -- The Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (Matrade) is lining up another opportunity for Malaysian exporters in Cambodia by organising the Malaysia Services Exhibition (MSE) and Showcase Malaysia 2014 in Phnom Penh from 10-12 June. In a statement here Wednesday, it said 62 Malaysian companies will participate in events to showcase their capability and expertise as service providers and also products.

Over 10,000 Participants To Attend 8th Edition Of IPTC

KUALA LUMPUR -- Over 10,000 participants from around the globe are expected to attend the eighth edition of the International Petroleum Technology Conference (IPTC). In a statement here Wednesday, IPTC said the conference, from Dec 10-14, 2014, will be held at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre and the participants will comprise industry leaders, professionals, decision-and policy-makers, as well as senior government officials and non-governmental organisation representatives.

BNM, MyCC SIGN MoU

KUALA LUMPUR -- Bank Negara Malaysia and the Malaysia Competition Commission (MyCC) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) Thursday to formalise the intent of the bank and the commission to collaborate and cooperate in areas of common regulatory objectives. This is to facilitate the efficient implementation of the Competition Act 2010, and its intended objectives to promote and protect the process of competition, while ensuring that the overall stability of the financial sector is preserved, Bank Negara said in a statement here Thursday.

Badlisham Succeeds Bashir As MAHB MD

KUALA LUMPUR -- Datuk Mohd Badlisham Ghazali will succeed Tan Sri Bashir Ahmad bin Abdul Majid as Managing Director of Malaysia Airports Holdings Bhd (MAHB), effective June 23. Badlisham is currently the Chief Executive Officer of the Multimedia Development Corporation (MDeC) and MAHB in a statement here Thursday said Bashir's term expires on Friday.

Energy Commission Wins Award For Government Procurer

KUALA LUMPUR -- The Energy Commission of Malaysia has received the "PFI Asia Best Practice Citation" in recognition of its outstanding achievement and success in the government procurer category in the region. The award was presented by the Chairman of Temasek Holdings and the Editor of PFI in Singapore on Tuesday, the commission said in a statement here Thursday.

Invest Malaysia To Showcase M'sia's Unique Advantage

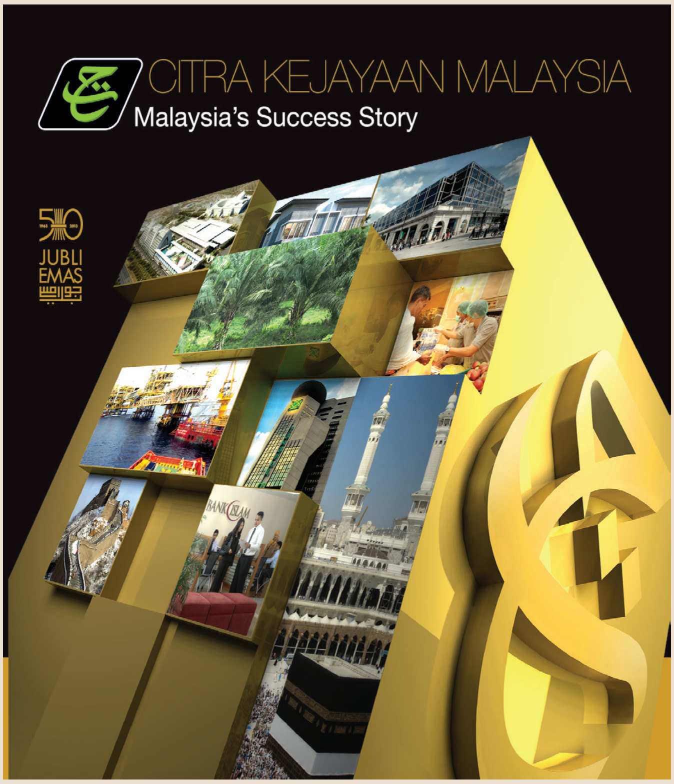
KUALA LUMPUR -- The upcoming 10th Invest Malaysia institutional investment conference will showcase the country's unique advantage as Asean's Multinational Marketplace. The public listed companies on showcase at Invest Malaysia highlighted the diversity and sustainability of the exchange as a highly competitive marketplace in the region, Bursa Malaysia Chief Executive Officer Datuk Tajuddin Atan said in a joint-statement between Bursa Malaysia and CIMB here Thursday.

Westports Appoints Lim Beng Keem As Acting CFO

KUALA LUMPUR -- Westports Holdings Bhd (Westports) has appointed Lim Beng Keem as its Head of Finance and Acting Chief Financial Officer, effective Friday. Lim, who has spent 13 years with Westports as General Manager for Finance, has extensive experience in accounting, finance and internal audit, said Westports in a statement here.

Tabung Haji - Malaysia's Success Story

By Salbiah Said



KUALA LUMPUR: As it turns 50, Tabung Haji (TH) has evolved into Malaysia's iconic institution. Its success and experience in managing the hajj and Islamic fund have become a source of inspiration and model for various institutions across the globe. The tremendous growth in deposits over the past eight years reflects the confidence of Malaysian Muslims in TH's ability to manage the fund and assist in uplifting their economy. Depositors' funds have surged from RM14.7 billion in 2006 to RM45.7 billion as at December 2013. As of May 2014, TH recorded 8.4 million depositors with savings of more than RM48 billion.

This is very encouraging and with aggressive efforts from all parties, TH is confident that it can continue this streak of excellence In addition, the steady growth in TH's revenue since 2006 through profits from investments in the stock market, equities, funds, fixed income, property and other services sectors, has also enabled TH to provide competitive returns to its depositors each year. For the year 2012, TH declared annual bonus of 6.5 per cent and a special bonus of 1.5 per cent in conjunction with TH Golden Jubilee celebration on Sept 30, 2013.

TH An Inspiration To Muslim World

For 2013, TH annual bonus was at 6 per cent and it also paid an additional 2 per cent of hajj bonus targeted only to depositors who have not performed their hajj yet as indicated in their account. Over the past eight years, TH gave an average annual bonus of 5.4 per cent to its depositors in appreciation of their support and faith in the group.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak says TH's success in managing hajj pilgrims and becoming a leading Syariah-compliant fund manager in the world is an inspiration and example to the rest of the Muslim world. Expressing his pride in Tabung Haji's success, the prime minister congratulated depositors who entrusted Tabung Haji and its employees for the efforts rendered.

"Without the efforts and contributions of its employees, Tabung Haji will not be a great Islamic institution as can be seen today," he said when launching a coffee-table book to mark Tabung Haji's 50th anniversary at its headquarters here Thursday.

Coffee-Table Book on TH's Evolution

Published with the cooperation of the Malaysian National News Agency (Bernama), the 197-page book entitled "TH - Citra Kejayaan Malaysia" ("TH-Malaysia's Success Story") documented Tabung Haji's evolution and achievements since its inception in 1963.

Published in Malay and English, the book is written by a team of Bernama journalists headed by its Editor-in-Chief Datuk Zulkefli Salleh and aided by a translator, five researchers, six page designers, a photo editor, and a project manager.

At Thursday's event, TH became the first non-banking Islamic institution in the world to introduce a debit card service with the launch of the Tabung Haji Debit-i MasterCard by the prime minister. The card allows hajj pilgrims to conveniently withdraw and make purchases in the Holy Land. At the ceremony, Najib also launched the Islamic Financial Services Centre (IFiC). It would house four agencies under the same premise providing various services and products for the convenience of TH depositors and Muslims in general.

TH Broadens Investment Portfolio Abroad

Over the last seven years, TH achieved a net profit exceeding RM1 billion annually and a revenue of RM2 billion in 2010 despite the uncertainties in the global economy and the challenge of managing a large fund.

Total income for 2013 reached RM3.7 billion, up 34 per cent from RM2.8 billion in 2012. Net profit after zakat amounted to RM2.6 billion in 2013 from RM2.1 billion in 2012.

To ensure the pilgrims and depositors continue to reap benefits, TH says it is always exploring and expanding its areas of investment to diversify its strong, sustainable and low-risked source of income. It also aims to widen its investment portfolio overseas, especially in property and equity. Towards this end, TH has made investments into the property markets in Saudi Arabia, London and Australia as well as investing in regional stock markets through appointed foreign fund managers.

Until May this year, a total of 1.5 million Muslims had registered to perform hajj via TH. TH says it will maintain the hajj fee at RM9,980 this year involving total cost of more than RM130 million.

LIST OF MARKET REPORTS :

BURSA MALAYSIA

BURSA Likely To Be Calm, Profit Taking Continues

By Mohd Khairi Idham Amran

KUALA LUMPUR -- Trading on Bursa Malaysia is expected to be subdued next week with intermittent short-term profit taking but the key barometer will be well supported at the 1,860 points level, a dealer said.

Vice-President/Head of Retail Research Dr Nazri Khan said given the improved external market, foreign institutional funds were expected to switch their focus from outperformed markets like Malaysia and the Philippines to more underperformed markets such as India, Brazil and Taiwan.

“While we expect sideways short term profit-taking to continue at the 1,860-1,870 resistance level, eventually the local market should trend higher, pricing in reduced risk premium as the US and European economies recover and the European Central Bank (ECB) monetary stimulus takes off,” he told Bernama.

He said more global funds positioning was expected ahead after the ECB moved aggressively to boost a tepid economic recovery and ward off the threat of deflation by cutting its main interest rate to a record low of 0.15 per cent.

On the domestic front, he said rising economic momentum, improved external situation, rising exports and stronger private investment in the Economic Transformation Programme (ETP) would yield positive results and improve Malaysia’s fundamentals.

“Stronger external front and diminishing macro risk should help accelerate Malaysia’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth on a stronger contribution from net exports and rising commodity prices to offset the slower expansion in domestic demand,” he said.

“Our top ten featured stocks for quick play next week include IJM, MRCB, WCT, Mudajaya, Muhibah, Kimlun, Pintaras, Mitra, Benalec and Melati,” he added.

Weekly turnover fell to 6.31 billion shares worth RM8.01 billion from last week’s 7.56 billion shares worth RM13.62 billion.

Main market volume was down at 5.29 billion shares valued at RM8.38 billion from 5.96 billion shares valued at RM13.21 billion recorded last week.

FOREX: Ringgit To Hold Steady Against US Dollar

By Azizul Ahmad

KUALA LUMPUR -- The ringgit is likely to hold steady between 3.10 and 3.23 against the US dollar next week amid lack of market moving factors, said dealers.

"Expect trading to be confined within the 3.10 and 3.23 range next week with ongoing mild profit taking activities.

"US non-farm payrolls data, released on Friday, shall determine the movement of the US dollar as it would indicate the strength of the US job market," a dealer told Bernama.

He said the greenback lost some momentum on weaker-than-anticipated US jobs data figures.

On a weekly basis, the ringgit ended easier at 3.2210/2130 against the US dollar from last Friday's 3.2110/2130.

It, however, ended the week mixed against other major currencies.

The local unit decreased slightly against the Singapore dollar to 2.596/5738 from last Friday's 2.5606/5632 but rose against the yen to 3.1388/1414 from 3.1586/1615 on Friday.

It slipped against the British pound to 5.3967/4007 from 5.3714/3757 and eased against the euro to 4.3779/3812 versus 4.3686/3723 previously.

Money Market: Short-Term Rates To Remain Stable

KUALA LUMPUR -- Short-term rates are expected to remain steady next week as Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) continues to intervene to siphon off excess funds from the interbank system, said a dealer.

The dealer said BNM would call for several money market tenders in the conventional, Islamic and repo systems on a daily basis in line with the amount of liquidity surplus. During the week just-ended, the central bank entered the money market daily as the system was flushed with funds from the money market, range maturity auction tenders, Islamic range maturity auction and repo tenders.

The closing liquidity surplus in the conventional system amounted to RM19.731 billion while in the Islamic system it totalled RM3.808 billion.

The overnight rate was 2.96 per cent, while the one-week, two and three-week rates were 3.05 per cent, 3.09 per cent and 3.13 per cent respectively.

KLCI Futures Expected To Be Calm

By Mohd Khairi Idham Amran

KUALA LUMPUR -- The FTSE Bursa Malaysia KLCI (FBM KLCI) futures contract (FKLI) on Bursa Malaysia Derivatives is expected be calm next week due to the lagging cash market.

Affin Investment Bank Vice-President/Head of Retail Research Dr Nazri Khan said the FBM KLCI was likely to remain subdued next week before setting the stage for a potential upside.

"Despite the lagging equity market, the FBM KLCI is holding up well above 1,860 points support level due to Bursa Malaysia's high dividend appeal, resilient domestic liquidity and its lower vulnerability to foreign investor withdrawals," he told Bernama.

Nazri said buying momentum was expected to eventually materialise riding factors including Bursa Malaysia's safe haven status and defensive appeal amid mid-year volatility.

He said more rotation play towards large cap stocks and portfolio rebalancing with institutional funds positioning would contribute to the buying momentum.

For the week just-ended, the benchmark index fell 6.3 points to 1,862.7.

On a Friday-to-Friday basis, June 2014 fell 11 points to 1,866, September and December 2014 declined 6.5 points each to 1,867 and 1,865.5 respectively.

Turnover for the week fell to 27,734 lots from last week's 82,762 lots, while open interest narrowed to 32,444 contracts from 42,444 contracts last Friday.

CPO Futures To Trade Lower On High Stocks

By Zarul Effendi Razali

KUALA LUMPUR -- Crude palm oil (CPO) futures contract on Bursa Malaysia Derivatives is likely to trade lower next week due to high inventories, a dealer said.

Interband Group of Companies Senior Palm Oil Trader Jim Teh told Bernama that higher stocks in Indonesia and Malaysia could result in the market being discounted next week.

He said demand was also expected to weaken as the Middle East, India and Pakistan have already stocked up for Ramadan.

"I expect the market to be traded mixed next week, in the range of between RM2,300-RM2,400 per tonne," he said.

On a Friday-to-Friday basis, June 2014 decreased RM6 to RM2,420 per tonne, July 2014 lost RM4 to RM2,422 per tonne, August 2014 fell RM9 to RM2,414 per tonne while September 2014 slipped RM8 to RM2,414 per tonne.

Weekly turnover rose to 228,272 lots from 173,997 lots last week while open interest increased to 225,272 contracts from 215,052 contracts last Friday.

On the physical market, June South eased RM20 to RM2,440 per tonne.

Rubber Market To Recover

KUALA LUMPUR -- The outlook for the Malaysian rubber market may rebound next week, tracking the positive cue from the steadier ringgit, dealers said.

The local unit would be confined within the RM3.10 and RM3.23 range next week with mild profit taking impacting positively on the rubber market.

One dealer said the US non-farm payrolls data, released on Friday, should determine the movement of the greenback as it would indicate the strength of the US job market.

For the week just-ended, rubber prices were traded mostly lower, tracking losses on the ringgit despite positive performance on the Tokyo Commodity Exchange.

On a Friday-to-Friday basis, the Malaysian Rubber Board's official physical price for tyre-grade SMR 20 at noon declined 7.5 sen to 529.5 sen a kg while latex-in-bulk lost 5.5 sen to 457.5 sen a kg.

The 5 pm closing price for tyre-grade SMR 20 decreased eight sen to 528 sen a kg while latex-in-bulk erased 5.5 sen to 457 sen a kg.

KLIBOR Futures Expected To Remain Subdued

KUALA LUMPUR -- The three-month Kuala Lumpur Interbank Offered Rate (KLIBOR) futures contract on Bursa Malaysia Derivatives is expected to remain subdued next week in the absence of fresh leads, dealers said.

For the week just-ended, the KLIBOR futures remained flat with no contract months traded.

Turnover was nil with open interest unchanged at 7,240 contracts.

On a week-to-week basis, June 2014, July 2014, August 2014 and September 2014 remained pegged at 96.51, 96.40, 96.35 and 96.30 respectively.

The underlying three-month KLIBOR stood at 3.49 per cent.

Consumer Buying To Keep Tin Price At US$23,300

KUALA LUMPUR -- Tin price on the Kuala Lumpur Tin Market (KLTM) is expected to hover around US$23,300 per tonne next week, supported by consumer buying.

A dealer said the local tin market would be supported with sustained demand, especially from European traders.

“Sellers are also not keen to sell below this level,” he added.

For the week just-ended, the metal finished US$110 lower at US$23,290 per tonne against US$23,400 per tonne recorded last Friday.

Trading was dominated by Japanese, European and local buyers.

Weekly turnover fell to 155 lots from 248 lots last week.

The premium between the KLTM and the London Metal Exchange widened to US$455 per tonne from US$315 per tonne last Friday.

Gold Futures Likely To Trade Higher

By Farhana Poniman

KUALA LUMPUR -- Gold futures contract on Bursa Malaysia Derivatives are expected to trade higher next week amid anticipation of the weakening US dollar.

A dealer said the greenback-denominated metal would ultimately react inversely to the dollar movements.

“Recent jobless claims data and the weaker-than-expected private sector employment report indicated some softness in the US labour market.

“Market players are also expecting weaker US non-payroll data, whereby consensus forecast is at 213,000 jobs after April’s unexpectedly strong showing of 288,000 jobs,” he added.

On a Friday-to-Friday basis, June 2014, July 2014 and August 2014 fell one tick each to RM129.55, RM129.85 and RM130.25 respectively.

Volume rose to 2,981 lots worth RM38.7 million from 2,850 lots worth RM38 million recorded last week.

Open interest on Friday stood at 5,554 contracts compared with last week’s 4,026 contracts.