BERNAMA
MALAYSIAeBiz
WEEKLY BUSINESS ROUNDUP 24 - 28 NOVEMBER, 2014

This Week's Highlight :
Over 90 Pct Of M'sians Have Savings - Zeti

MISLEADING REPORT..."The report probably looked at savings in the banking system but they don't look at savings like Tabung Haji and Koperasi," -- Tan Sri Dr Zeti Akhtar Aziz. --fotoBERNAMA

KUALA LUMPUR -- Governor Tan Sri Dr Zeti Akhtar Aziz Thursday clarified that over 90 per cent of Malaysians have some form of savings. She described 'as partial information' a recent report on household income, which revealed that more than 80 per cent of Malaysians had no savings. Speaking at a media workshop organised by the central bank here Thursday, she said the report did not really reflect the entire perspective of the population and could be translated as 'misleading'.

NOVEMBER 28, 2014

Wednesday
Oil Revenue Drop Has Minimal Impact On Govt Finances
KUALA LUMPUR -- The impact of the drop in world crude oil prices on government revenues and finances is relatively minimal, considering that the government has gradually reduced its dependency on oil and gas revenues, said Datuk Seri Abdul Wahid Omar. The Minister in the Prime Minister's Department said one of the sustainability elements in government finances was to reduce its reliance on oil and gas revenues. "It is hoped that the dependency would be reduced to below 30 per cent," he told reporters on the sidelines of the ACCA's Malaysia Sustainability Reporting Awards 2014 here Wednesday.

Thursday
BNM To Accelerate M'sia's Migration To E-Payment
KUALA LUMPUR -- Six strategic measures will be undertaken by Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) to accelerate the pace of the country's migration to e-payments and in a move to reduce the usage of cash and cheques in the financial system. An additional 50,000 Point-of-Sale terminals would be deployed in 2015, targeting the lower-tier merchants to promote the acceptance and usage of debit cards among consumers, BNM Deputy Governor Datuk Muhammad Ibrahim said at the Payment System Forum and Exhibition 2014 here Thursday.

This Week's Top Stories

Monday
RON95 & Diesel Subsidy Removal Won't Have Inflationary Consequences - Zeti
KUALA LUMPUR -- The removal of subsidies for RON95 petrol and diesel will not have any inflationary consequences to the country's economy as global crude oil prices are softening, says Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) Governor, Tan Sri Dr Zeti Akhtar Aziz. She described the move as a "very positive development" for the economy as consumers will benefit from lower prices. "Obviously, this is a very positive development. It also helps the government in terms of the burden of the subsidy in the budget," she told reporters, after the launch ceremony of the expansion of SWIFT's Kuala Lumpur Corporate Services Centre, here Monday.

Tuesday
M'sia's Unemployment Rate Stays At 2.7 Pct In Sept
KUALA LUMPUR -- Malaysia's unemployment rate in September 2014 stayed at 2.7 per cent from the previous month, the Statistics Department said. In a statement on "Labour Force Statistics Malaysia" Tuesday, it said the year-on-year comparison showed a change of negative 0.4 per cent from 3.1 per cent in September 2013. The labour force participation rate increased to 67.9 per cent in September as compared to 67.1 per cent in the previous month.

Friday
M'sia's Reserves Remain Usable & Unencumbered - BNM
KUALA LUMPUR -- Malaysia's reserves remain usable and unencumbered as at end-October 2014, based on the detailed breakdown of international reserves under the International Monetary Fund's Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) format, said Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM). In a statement here Friday, BNM said official reserve assets amounted to US$128.123 million, while other foreign currency assets amounted to US$4.512 million. For the next 12 months, the central bank said the predetermined short-term outflows of foreign currency loans would amount to US$1.504 million arising from scheduled repayments of external borrowings by the government.

SMEbrief

MAI Targets 250 BWTP Participants Next Year

KOTA KINABALU -- The Malaysia Automotive Institute (MAI), an agency under the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI), expects to attract about 250 participants to join the Bumiputera Workshop Transformation Programme (BWTP) next year. MAI Chief Executive Officer M Madani Sahari said the programme, introduced under the Malaysia Automotive Bumiputera Development Roadmap (MABDR), is aimed at enhancing Bumiputera participation in the automotive sectors, M Madani told reporters at the 'Chit Chat With CEO of MAI' session here Monday.

TPP Cost-Benefit Study Covers All SMEs - Hamim

By Rosmalis Anuar

KUALA LUMPUR -- Deputy Minister of International Trade and Industry, Datuk Hamim Samuri, has denied that the government only studied the impact of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) agreement on bumiputera Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). "The cost-benefit study undertaken by the ministry took into consideration the pact's impact on all SMEs in the country," he told Bernama at Parliament lobby here Monday.

TNB To Award More Contracts To Bumiputera Vendors

KUALA LUMPUR -- Utility giant Tenaga Nasional Bhd (TNB) will step up its contract awarding programme to nurture Bumiputera Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). Chief Procurement Officer Syed Abu Hanifah Syed Alwi said the new approach would ensure Bumiputera companies are not jeopardised but are awarded contracts on a direct negotiation basis and not through the tender process. "When they enter the programme, TNB will give them guidance to ensure their success," he told reporters after the signing of a memorandum of understanding on the Bumiputera Vendor Development Programme between five companies and the International Trade and Industry Ministry here Tuesday.

Asean Launches Directory Of Outstanding SMEs 2015

By Minggu Simon Lhasa

BANGKOK --An Asean publication entitled "Directory of Outstanding Asean Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) 2015" was officially launched on the sidelines of the Public Private Dialogue for the Post-2015 Asean Strategic Action Plan for SME Development (2016-2025) in Siem Reap, Cambodia. The directory updates the series of publications on outstanding and innovative SMEs in Asean and complements the recently published SME Guidebook Towards the AEC 2015, according to the Asean Secretariat.

PropUP Propertyupdate

M'sia Biennial 2015 To Bring Together Experts In Various Fields

From Noor Soraya Jamal

VENICE (Italy) -- The inaugural Malaysia Biennial 2015 will bring together more than 500 global experts in various fields to submit new concepts and ideas on improving and addressing contemporary challenges faced by the People's Housing Programme (PPR). Spearheaded by three entities, namely, Gain Green Corp Sdn Bhd, property marketing consultancy firm, Nextdor Property Communications Sdn Bhd and architecture firm Betty and Wolff, the Malaysia Biennial is an international multi disciplinary collaborative research project, designing visionary ideas for future evolution of cities and communities.

Setia Sky Vista Expected To Be Completed In 2019

GEORGE TOWN -- Setia Sky Vista, a RM600 million luxury condominium project being undertaken by S P Setia Bhd in Relau, is expected to be completed in 2019. Group General Manager Ng Han Seong said 426 residential units with 11 different designs would open for booking from Dec 1. "The A, B and C type units will vary between 910 square feet to 1,490 square feet in size. Each unit comes with a parking lot depending on the unit type purchased. This type of condominium is suitable for newly married couples starting a family or singles who prefer a green environment," he told a press conference here Monday.

Total Investment To Build Retirement Home In Ipoh

IPOH -- Total Investment Sdn Bhd will build a 4.04-hectare retirement home, GreenAcres, in Taman Meru here. Its Executive Director, John Chong, said the project, the country's first, was expected to be completed by 2016. "GreenAcres, which will have 170 houses, is targeting the retirees who are still active and healthy," he told reporters after the groundbreaking ceremony here Monday.

MK Land Plans RM2.2 Bln New Launches In 2 Years

PETALING JAYA -- MK Land Holdings Bhd plans new launches worth RM2.2 billion over the next two years in Damansara Perdana, Damansara Damai and Ipoh. "The launches are currently awaiting approval from local authorities," Group Chief Executive Officer Lau Shu Chuan told reporters at the company's annual general meeting here Thursday. He said MK Land is still focusing on the Klang Valley, with semi-detached residential projects Rafflesia@Park, Rafflesia@Hill and Rafflesia@Peak in Damansara Perdana.

MARKET

BURSA MALAYSIA

Scoreboard
Gainers - 241
Losers - 609
Not Traded - 562
Unchanged - 292
Value - 1994178009
Volume - 18673821

BURSA: KL Shares Down For Second Consecutive Day

KUALA LUMPUR -- The benchmark FTSE Bursa Malaysia KLCI (FBM KLCI) ended lower for the second consecutive day Friday, dragged down by oil and gas-related heavyweights.

The index was 9.02 points easier at 1,820.89 at 5 pm. Petronas Dagangan and SapuraKencana Petroleum were among the top ten losers, declining 52 sen to RM16.08 and 29 sen to RM2.80 respectively.

A dealer said the local bourse was influenced by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) meeting Thursday, which decided not to cut production.

"This pushed the price for Brent crude to hover near a four-year low with SapuraKencana and Petronas Dagangan being among the companies affected by it," he added.

Market breadth was negative with losers outpacing gainers by 609 to 241 with 292 counters unchanged, 562 untraded and 26 others suspended.

Total volume was up at 1.87 billion units worth 1.99 billion from 1.55 billion units worth RM1.36 billion on Thursday. Main Market volume increased to 1.35 billion units worth RM1.89 billion from 1.06 billion units worth RM1.24 billion, Thursday.

Exchange Rate
(Ringgit : Foreign Currency)

	Buying	Selling
USD	3.3810	3. 3840
EUR	4.2053	4. 1100
GBP	5.3075	5. 2125
100 YEN	2.8614	2.8644
SGD	2.5932	2. 5963

Source: Bank Negara Malaysia

FOREX: Ringgit Ends Lower Against US Dollar

KUALA LUMPUR -- The ringgit ended at a near five-year low against the US dollar Friday in the face of a slump in oil prices, a dealer said.

He said the tumble in oil prices prompted investors to dump the local currency and shift to the greenback. The weak performance of the local and regional bourses also influenced the downtrend in the local unit, he added.

At 5pm Friday, the ringgit was quoted at 3.3810/3840 against 3.3450/3480 on Thursday. The ringgit also traded mostly lower against other major currencies. It fell against the Singapore dollar at 2.5932/5963 from 2.5764/5805 on Thursday and eased against the yen at 2.8614/8644 from 2.8468/8506. The local unit slid against the British pound to 5.3075/2125 from 5.2771/2835 and declined against the euro to 4.2053/1100 from 4.1766/1806.

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

KUALA LUMPUR -- Short-term interbank rates closed stable Friday on Bank Negara Malaysia's (BNM) intervention to mop up excess liquidity from the financial system.

The liquidity surplus in the conventional system fell to RM15.47 billion from the RM23.31 billion estimated in the morning, while in the Islamic system, it dropped to RM6.12 billion from RM10.92 billion.

In the morning, the central bank called for a conventional money market tender, a repo tender, a Commodity Murabahah Programme tender as well as Al-Wadiah tender. BNM also conducted a late conventional money market tender for RM15.5 billion and a RM6 billion Al-Wadiah money market tender, both for three-day money.

The overnight Islamic reference rate stood at 3.22 per cent, while the one-week,two and three-week rates stood at 3.27 per cent, 3.31 per cent and 3.35 per cent, respectively.

KLIBOR Futures End Untraded

KUALA LUMPUR -- The three-month Kuala Lumpur Interbank Offered Rate (KLIBOR) futures contracts closed untraded Friday.

December 2014, January 2015, February 2015 and March 2015 were at 96.22, 96.18, 96.19 and 96.20 respectively. Open interest totalled 2,970 contracts. At the 11 am fixing, the underlying three-month KLIBOR stood at 3.82 per cent.

KLCI Futures End Lower

KUALA LUMPUR -- The FTSE Bursa Malaysia KLCI (FBM KLCI) futures contracts on Bursa Malaysia Derivatives ended lower Friday, pulled down by the weaker cash market.

Phillip Futures Sdn Bhd dealer, Ahmad Danial Zainudin, said investors reacted to the sharp fall in global oil prices, which affected energy shares on Bursa Malaysia.

"Currently, the market players are watching both external and internal factors. The index may remain weak until the arrival of fresh catalysts to spark buying interests," he said.

November 2014 fell 12.50 points to 1,820.5, December 2014 lost 16 points to 1,816.5 while March 2015 fell 14 points to 1,817. June 2015 was pegged at 1,817.5.

Turnover eased to 9,647 lots from Thursday's 12,840 lots while open interest narrowed to 33,169 contract from 39,671 contracts previously. The underlying FBM KLCI ended 9.02 points lower at 1,820.89.

Takaful Ikhlas Eyes 2,000 Participants For Mega Takaful Entrepreneur

KUALA LUMPUR -- Takaful Ikhlas Bhd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of MNRB Holdings Bhd, is eyeing 2,000 participants for the Mega Takaful Entrepreneur Programme in the 2014/2015 financial year. The programme, conducted in three different states, is aimed at providing insights and training for aspiring entrepreneurs in promoting the company's products under the Family Takaful segment, President and Chief Executive Officer Ab Latiff Abu Bakar said in a statement here Tuesday.

Al Rajhi Bank To Issue 45,000 Musafir Prepaid Card-i For Pilgrims

KUALA LUMPUR -- Al Rajhi Bank plans to issue 45,000 Musafir Prepaid Card-i next year for pilgrims going to Mecca to perform the Hajj and Umrah. Selamat Sirat, Chief Executive Officer Al Rajhi Bank Malaysia, said the card offers a cheaper service charge of four Saudi Riyals (RM3.20) for each withdrawal, as compared to RM10 to RM12 for transactions via a visa credit card. "We are working with 14 members of the Bumiputera Travel and Tour Agents' Association of Malaysia to introduce the cards to Tabung Haji and agencies organising Haj and Umrah packages to the Holy Land," he told reporters after the Al Rajhi Musafir Card-i launch here, Tuesday.

Belgium Aims To Make Brussels A Shariah-Compliant Investment City

By Nuramalina Ebrahim

KUALA LUMPUR -- Belgium aims to explore more potential opportunities with Malaysia to help make its capital, Brussels, become one of the shariah-compliant investment cities in Europe. Secretary of State for Foreign Trade and Investment for the Brussels-Capital Region, Cecile Jodogne, said the two-day seminar of the Belgian Economic Mission to Malaysia, which ended Tuesday, would help Belgium explore more on Islamic finance sector. "Choosing Malaysia is one of our aims because its Islamic financial sector seen as one of the most progressive and attractive in the world," she said in her closing speech at the seminar themed, 'Shariah-Compliant Investment in Belgium: Scope and Opportunities' here Tuesday.

Hong Leong Islamic Bank Bags Best Sukuk Award

KUALA LUMPUR -- Hong Leong Islamic Bank Bhd (HLISB) was announced as the winner for the Best Sukuk Deal 2014, as part of the Global Islamic Finance Awards 2014 held in Dubai recently. HLISB said in a statement Tuesday that the nomination was based on its involvement as Joint Principal Adviser in an innovative cross-border Sukuk Wakalah programme, the first Sukuk structure of its kind in Malaysia combining Wakalah and Ijarah contracts under separate jurisdictions.

ASNB Announces 6.20 Sen Income Distribution For ASN 3

KUALA LUMPUR -- Amanah Saham Nasional Bhd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Permodalan Nasional Bhd (PNB), Tuesday announced an income distribution of 6.20 sen per unit for Amanah Saham Nasional 3 Imbang (ASN 3) for the year ending Nov 30, 2014. The income distribution, involving a payout of RM51.24 million, will benefit 30,710 unitholders who hold a combined 826.51 million units of ASN 3, said PNB Chairman Tun Ahmad Sarji Abdul Hamid here Tuesday. He said the income distribution will be reinvested into additional units of ASN 3 and automatically credited into unitholders' accounts on Dec 1, 2014, based on ASN 3's Net Asset Value on Nov 30, 2014.

Investment Suite To Help Investors Capture Market Opportunities

KUALA LUMPUR -- Standard Chartered Bank Malaysia (Stanchart) Tuesday launched a new wealth management product, Investment Suite, to help investors capture market opportunities. The product offered a wide range of high quality global and local funds to suit different risk profiles, it said in a statement here Tuesday. "To help investors lower their break-even cost, the bank would pay a fixed cash reward of up to 4 per cent of the total investment amount," it said.

Hong Leong Bank Sees Exponential Growth In Digital Banking

KUALA LUMPUR -- Hong Leong Bank (HLB) says it may experience another exponential growth in numbers of new users embracing its digital banking platform, the Hong Leong Connect. Chief Operating Officer, Digital Innovation & Transactional Banking Raja Teh Maimunah Raja Abdul Aziz said the number of users jumped 302 per cent from 14,000 when the service was introduced in March to 60,000 users presently. "We will soon start marketing efforts to promote this service, first within our 3.5 million current account, savings account (CASA) and 14.3 million online customers," she said after launching the digital brand here Wednesday.

Bursa M'sia To Implement Straight Through Processing On Dec 1

KUALA LUMPUR -- Bursa Malaysia will implement Straight Through Processing (STP) for the registration of individuals such as dealer's representatives, futures brokers representatives and directors of brokers, effective Dec 1, 2014. In a statement here Wednesday, it said STP would enable a seamless registration process for registering the relevant individuals. This initiative was undertaken in line with Bursa's continuing effort to reduce cost and regulatory friction for its participants, as well as, improve efficiency of its services and time to market by leveraging on technology.

M'sia To Improve Renmimbi Usage

KUALA LUMPUR -- Malaysia is expected to grow its Renmimbi (RMB) usage from 48 per cent following the signing of an agreement and a memorandum of understanding on a currency swap with the People's Bank of China. In a statement here Wednesday, SWIFT RMB Tracker in Brussels said 50 countries were using the RMB and since April 2013, an additional 15 countries were using the RMB for more than 10 per cent of their payments with China and Hong Kong. Swift RMB Tracker provides monthly reporting on key statistics related to the use of the RMB as an international currency.

Axiata Q3 Pre-Tax Profit Falls To RM747.19 Mln

KUALA LUMPUR -- Axiata Group Bhd recorded a lower pre-tax profit of RM747.19 million for the third quarter (Q3) ended Sept 30, 2014, compared with RM918.06 million in the same quarter last year. Revenue fell to RM4.65 billion from RM4.75 billion previously, the group said in a filing to Bursa Malaysia here Monday. President and Group Chief Executive Officer, Datuk Seri Jamaludin Ibrahim said systems related issues in Celcom and foreign exchange (FOREX) losses in XL, although mostly unrealised, did have an impact on the financial performance.

EPF's Investment Income Rises To RM10.32 Bln In Q3

KUALA LUMPUR -- The Employees Provident Fund (EPF) registered RM205.58 million higher investment income to RM10.32 billion for the third quarter ended Sept 30, 2014 from RM10.11 billion in the same period last year. In a statement here Monday, the fund attributed the quarter's performance to equity investments, which contributed 61 per cent to the total quarterly investment income. "Investment income from equities amounted to RM6.34 billion, an increase of RM637.05 million year-on-year, contributed by both the domestic and global portfolios which benefited from better market conditions," it said.

WCT Pre-Tax Profit Falls To RM32.37 Mln In Q3

KUALA LUMPUR -- WCT Holdings Bhd's pre-tax profit for the third quarter ended Sept 30, 2014 fell to RM32.37 million from RM59.89 million in the same period last year. Revenue, however, rose to RM471.11 million from RM418.51 million previously. In a filing to Bursa Malaysia here Monday, the company said operational profit from its property development, investment, civil engineering and construction segments posted lower operational profit mainly due to lower project margin.

United Plantation's Pre-Tax Profit Up 52.5 Pct In Q3

KUALA LUMPUR -- United Plantations Bhd registered a 52.5 per cent higher pre-tax profit of RM96.11 million for the third quarter ended Sept 30, 2014 from RM63.66 million recorded in the same period last year. Revenue grew to RM280.69 million from RM212.35 million previously. In a filing to Bursa Malaysia here Monday, the plantations company attributed the improvement to higher production of crude palm oil and palm kernel, as well as, lower production costs. "The better performance was also due to higher contribution from the refinery unit in the current quarter and a RM1.4 million unrealised foreign exchange gain," it added.

TDM Q3 Pre-Tax Profit Falls To RM13.07 Mln

KUALA LUMPUR -- TDM Bhd's pre-tax profit for the third quarter ended Sept 30, 2014 fell to RM13.07 million from RM19.55 million in the same period of 2013. Revenue declined to RM98.31 million from RM101.20 million previously, it said in a statement here Monday. TDM said the lower revenue was due to the lower revenue and pre-tax profit recorded by the group's plantation division: RM66.7 million and RM10.6 million compared with RM73.5 million and RM17.3 million recorded in the same quarter last year.

Parkson Pre-Tax Profit Declines To RM50.05 Mln In Q1

KUALA LUMPUR -- Parkson Holdings Bhd's pre-tax profit declined to RM50.05 million for the first quarter ended Sept 30, 2014 from RM79.28 million chalked up in the same period last year. Revenue, however, increased to RM848.62 million, during the period under review, from RM831.32 million recorded previously. In a filing to Bursa Malaysia here Monday, the company attributed the weaker performance to lower contribution from its operations in Malaysia, China, Vietnam and Myanmar.

UMW O&G Pre-Tax Profit Increases 39.1 Pct In Q3

KUALA LUMPUR -- UMW Oil and Gas Corp Bhd's (UMW O&G) pre-tax profit increased 39.1 per cent to RM75.85 million for the third quarter ended Sept 30, 2014 from RM54.45 million recorded in the same period last year.
Revenue rose 23.9 per cent to RM254.32 million during the period under review from RM205.34 million chalked up in the corresponding period in 2013. In a filing to Bursa Malaysia here Monday, UMW O&G attributed the higher profit contributions from its drilling services segment, as well as, additional investment income from others segment.

Affin Holdings Posts Lower Pre-Tax Profit In Q3

KUALA LUMPUR -- Affin Holdings Bhd's pre-tax profit fell to RM189.43 million for its third quarter ended Sept 30, 2014, from RM221.56 million in the same period last year. Revenue for the quarter was higher at RM937.16 million compared with RM764.09 million previously while earnings per share was at 7.36 sen against 11.57 sen before, said the group in a filing to Bursa Malaysia here Monday. Affin Holdings has proposed an interim single-tier dividend of 15 sen per share. For the nine months period, the group's pre-tax profit eased to RM536.80 million versus RM634.81 million in the same period a year ago while revenue rose to RM2.60 billion from RM2.25 billion previously.

UOA Devt Chalks Up RM159.49 Mln Pre-Tax Profit In Q3

KUALA LUMPUR -- UOA Development Bhd chalked up a pre-tax profit of RM159.49 million in the third quarter ended Sept 30, 2014 versus RM111.17 million registered in the same period last year. Revenue increased to RM349.86 million during the period under review compared with RM215.99 million recorded in the corresponding quarter, the company said in a filing to Bursa Malaysia here Tuesday.

BIMB Holdings Posts Lower 9-Month Pre-Tax Profit

KUALA LUMPUR -- BIMB Holdings Bhd (BHB) reported a consolidated pre-tax profit of RM595.5 million for the nine months ended Sept 30, 2014, down 0.5 per cent from RM598.7 million during the corresponding period last year. The decrease was mainly due to financing cost of the sukuk raised by BHB to partly fund the acquisition of a 49 per cent equity interest in Bank Islam Malaysia Bhd in December 2013, it said in a statement here Tuesday. Revenue rose to RM2.205 billion as compared to RM2.080 billion registered for the same period last year.

HLFG Pre-Tax Profit Falls To RM746.99 Mln

KUALA LUMPUR -- Hong Leong Financial Group Bhd's (HLFG) pre-tax profit for the three months ended Sept 30, 2014 fell by 8.1 per cent to RM746.99 million from RM812.58 million previously. Revenue fell to RM1.08 billion from RM1.17 billion previously, it said in a statement here Tuesday. HLFG said the lower revenue was mainly due to lower insurance earnings as a result of higher actuarial reserves. This was due to lower interest rates in the quarter versus last year, it said.

Dutch Lady Q3 Pre-Tax Profit Falls To RM38.58 Mln

KUALA LUMPUR -- Dutch Lady Milk Industries Bhd's pre-tax profit for the third quarter ended Sept 30, 2014 fell to RM38.58 million from RM57.08 million in the same period a year ago. Revenue declined to RM240.49 million from RM263.76 million previously, it said in a filing to Bursa Malaysia here Tuesday. Dutch Lady said said lower pre-tax profit was due to lower sales as well as increase in dairy-based commodity prices that had reduced product margin.

IGB Corp Q3 Pre-Tax Profit Falls To RM90.92 Mln

KUALA LUMPUR -- IGB Corporation Bhd registered a lower pre-tax profit of RM90.92 million for its third quarter ended Sept 30, 2014 (Q314), from RM117.44 million in the corresponding quarter last year. The company said its revenue rose by three per cent to RM291.40 million from RM281.83 million last year due to higher contributions from all operating divisions. In a filing to Bursa Malaysia here Tuesday, IGB said the decrease of pre-tax profit by 23 per cent in the quarter under review was mainly due to provisions taken up in the quarter.

IJM Corp Q2 Pre-Tax Profit Rises To RM237.99 Mln

KUALA LUMPUR -- IJM Corp Bhd's pre-tax profit for the second quarter ended Sept 30, 2014 rose to RM237.99 million from RM207.55 million in the same period last year. Revenue decreased to RM1.29 billion from RM1.41 billion previously. In a filing to Bursa Malaysia here Tuesday, the company said the higher pre-tax profit was due to the higher profits recorded by the construction and plantation divisions.

Bintulu Port Rakes In Lower Profits For Q3

KUALA LUMPUR -- Tan Chong Motor Holdings Bhd's pre-tax profit for the third quarter ended Sept 30, 2014 fell to RM10.19 million from RM49.66 million in the same period last year. Revenue declined to RM1.15 billion from RM1.27 billion previously, it said in a filing to Bursa Malaysia here Wednesday. Going forward, Tan Chong said, the automotive division was expected to claw back market share in the fourth quarter on the back of aggressive marketing efforts in a seasonally slower year-end for total industry volume.

Petronas 9-Month Pre-Tax Profit Rises To RM78 Bln

KUALA LUMPUR -- Petronas' pre-tax profit for the nine months ended Sept 30, 2014 was marginally higher at RM78 billion against RM76.7 billion in the same period last year. The national oil company's revenue grew to RM249.78 billion for the period under review from RM232.51 billion previously. Executive Vice-President/Group Chief Financial Officer, Datuk George Ratilal said the better performance was due to higher production volume, higher liquefied natural gas sales volume and favourable exchange rate.

MNRB's 6-Month Pre-Tax Profit Rises To RM98.07 Mln

KUALA LUMPUR -- Key reinsurance player MNRB Holdings Bhd's pre-tax profit for the first six months ended Sept 30, 2014 rose to RM98.07 million from RM94.98 million in the same period last year. In a filing to Bursa Malaysia here Thursday, the company said revenue slipped to RM1.15 billion from RM1.16 billion previously. "The marginally lower revenue was a result of the reduction in gross premiums and contributions by its reinsurance and retakaful subsidiaries respectively," it said. For the second quarter ended Sept 30, 2014, its pre-tax profit declined to RM39.96 million from RM44.76 million in the same quarter last year, while revenue decreased to RM571.62 million from RM574.61 million previously.

DRB-Hicom's Q2 Pre-Tax Profit Falls To RM176.13 Mln

KUALA LUMPUR -- DRB-HICOM Bhd's pre-tax profit for the second quarter ended Sept 30, 2014 declined to RM176.13 million from RM227.62 million in the same period last year.Revenue fell to RM3.22 billion from RM3.65 billion previously, the company said in a statement here Thursday. For the first half of the year, the company's pre-tax profit rose 11.5 per cent to RM361.19 million, as compared to RM323.84 million in the corresponding period last year. Revenue increased by 3.7 per cent to RM6.95 billion from RM6.70 billion last year.'

M'sia Should Look Beyond 2020 For Sustainable Growth - Rafidah

KUALA LUMPUR -- Malaysia, which is almost certain to attain the developed nation status by 2020, should now focus on the new generation being productive, innovative and efficient says AirAsia X Bhd Chairman Tan Sri Rafidah Aziz. She said looking at the population structure today, those below 30 years of age made up almost 56 per cent of the population and fell within the Gen-Y category. "As such, productivity, innovativeness and efficiency in the workforce as well as, consumption must focus and bear in mind Gen-Y traits," Rafidah told reporters on the sidelines of the Annual Productivity and Innovation Conference and Exposition (APIC) held in conjunction with the 20th Asia Pacific Quality Conference (APQC) here Monday.

Auto Industry Must Improve Competitiveness - Mustafa

KUALA LUMPUR -- The national automobile industry needs to step up its competitiveness, particularly in the export market, given the rising intense competition from global players, says International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed. He said the ministry was not happy with the current export performance of the industry unlike the offtake of auto-components which was performing well. Mustafa said the local industry would have to be mindful of the fact that in the next few years China would slowly, but surely, emerge as an important exporter, he told a press conference after witnessing the signing of a vendor development programme by five companies here Tuesday.

M'sians To Enjoy EV Prices Below RM100,000 In 2017

KUALA LUMPUR -- Malaysians can look forward to electric vehicles (EVs) priced below RM100,000 when new models are unveiled in 2017. Malaysian Automotive Institute Chief Executive Officer Mohamad Madani Sahari said the EV prototype was being developed and expected to be completed in September 2015. "The production and selling of the EV's are projected in 2016 and 2017, respectively. "There will be two sedan models with four seating capacity and can reach a maximum speed up to 300km per hour," he told reporters here Tuesday.

ERL Expects 50 Pct Additional Capacity With 6 New Trains

KUALA LUMPUR -- Express Rail Link Sdn Bhd (ERL), the operator of KLIA Ekpres and Transit high-speed train services, expects a 50 per cent additional capacity with the purchase of six new trains. Executive Chairman Tan Sri Mohd Nadzmi Mohd Salleh said the trains, purchased from China-based Changchun Railway Vehicles Co Ltd (CRC), would add to its existing fleet of 12 trains. "This is a natural cost of doing business because we are seeing a pick-up in demand since klia2 started operating," he told a press conference after signing an acquisition agreement here here Tuesday.

Boeing Delivers First 737-700 Aircraft To Ruili Airlines

KUALA LUMPUR -- Aircraft manufacturer Boeing has delivered Ruili Airlines' first of 14 orders for next-generation 737-700 airplanes. Ruili is a newly established private airline based at Changshui International Airport in Kunming, the capital city of China's Yunnan province. In a statement here Tuesday, Boeing said the 14 aircraft orders comprise eight 737-700s and six 737 MAXs. The carrier currently operates two 737-700s and one 737-800, serving seven domestic routes in China.

Outsourcing M'sia, MDeC & Talentcorp Team Up To Tackle Graduate Unemployment

KUALA LUMPUR -- Outsourcing Malaysia, an initiative under the National Information and Communications Technology Association of Malaysia, has joined hands with Multimedia Development Corp (MDeC) and Talent Corporation Malaysia Bhd (TalentCorp) to address the unemployment rate in shared services outsourcing industry in Malaysia. The three parties have initiated "The Graduates Employability Programme" in response to the Ministry of Higher Education Graduate Tracer Study 2012, which revealed that 51,835 out of 202,328 local graduates were unemployed. Outsourcing Malaysia Chairman David Wong Nan Fay said under the programme, 200 students had been selected to undergo a 10-day training with specialisation in human resource or finance business process outsourcing.

Outsourcing M'sia, MDeC & Talentcorp To Tackle Graduate Unemployment

KUALA LUMPUR -- The Malaysia Competition Commission (MyCC) and the Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers (FMM) Tuesday jointly hosted a briefing and launch on competition law compliance and a compliance checklist. The briefing, titled "Better Business With Competition Compliance", attended by 120 FMM members, followed after the launch of the Compliance Checklist. The MyCC additionally reintroduced its Compliance Guidelines handbook, first launched during the nation's first Competition Law Conference last year, said MyCC in a statement here Tuesday.

M'sia's Deficit Could Dip Below 3 Pct With Fuel Subsidy - IMF

KUALA LUMPUR -- With fuel subsidy removal locking in the impact of lower oil prices, Malaysia's deficit could decline below three per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2015, said the International Monetary Fund. Its Mission Chief for Malaysia Alex Mourmouras said the overall fiscal strategy should bolster equality, with budgeted cash transfers tightly targeted at low-income groups. "The mission welcomes the move toward performance-based budgeting, and the plans to introduce accrual accounting," he said in a statement here Tuesday.

IATA Announces New Scheme To Help Passengers Hit By Airline Bankruptcy

KUALA LUMPUR -- The International Air Transport Association (IATA) has announced a new arrangement to help passengers impacted by airline bankruptcy. A voluntary agreement on behalf of its members flying to, from and within Europe will cover the repatriation of passengers unable to return home due to an airline ceasing operations as a result of financial failure, IATA said in a statement here Tuesday. "I am delighted to say that passengers left stranded in the rare and unfortunate event of an airline bankruptcy will be offered 'rescue fares' from airlines to ensure they can get home, " said Tony Tyler, IATA's Director General and CEO.

RM9.7 Bln Spent On Line 1 So Far - MRT Corp CEO

PETALING JAYA -- Mass Rapid Transit Corp (MRT Corp) has to date spent RM9.7 billion on the MRT Sungai Buloh-Kajang Line (Line 1) project, said Chief Executive Datuk Wira Azhar Abdul Hamid. He said the RM23 billion allocation for the Line 1 project was given by the government in stages and not a lump sum payment. "The government-funded project, which is expected to be completed by July 2017, is running progressively, and given the timeline for the completion, the allocation will be fully used," he said at a media briefing on the progress of the MRT project here Wednesday.

Pensonic Exploring Internet-Connected Appliances

GEORGE TOWN -- Homegrown electrical appliance company, Pensonic Holdings Bhd is exploring a new growth area of lifestyle products namely Internet of Things (IoT), connected and wearable technology devices. Group Chief Executive Officer, Dixon Chew said the company was likely to introduce the first product -- bluetooth connected smartphone -- in the first quarter of next year to tap the growing Internet-connected appliance market. "We will continue to innovate to face challenges by involving in new technology appliances including the IoT, wearable technology and smart devices," he told reporters after Pensonic's annual general meeting, here Wednesday.

Brahim's Invests RM95 Mln In Burger King Franchise

KUALA LUMPUR -- Brahim's Holdings Bhd via its subsidiary Brahim's Trading Sdn Bhd and Quantum Angel Sdn Bhd have undertaken an investment of RM95 million in the Malaysian and Singaporean franchise of Burger King. The investment in the Burger King brand in Malaysia and Singapore involves the acquisition of the entire 100 per cent equity interest in Rancak Selera Sdn Bhd, an investment holding company of Ekuiti Nasional Bhd. "A special purpose vehicle (SPV) would be incorporated post-acquisition of Rancak Selera whereby Brahim's would hold 80 per cent equity interest in the SPV while Quantum Angel will hold the remaining 20 per cent," Brahim's said in a statement here Wednesday.

Facility Enhancement At Klia2 Not Passed To Low Cost Carriers

SEPANG -- Facility enhancement undertaken at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport 2 (Klia2) will not be passed on to the low-cost carriers. "It is up to them (budget airlines) to use the facilities," commented Malaysia Airports Holdings Bhd Managing Director Datuk Badlisham on a Public Accounts Committee report tabled in Dewan Rakyat on Nov 25. The report claimed that the airport operator has failed to take into consideration Klia2 status as an low-cost airport which led to an increase in operating costs for carriers.

RON95 Oil Price Likely To Fall By 3-4 Sen A Litre

PUTRAJAYA -- The global crude oil price trend since Nov 1 is expected to result in between three and four sen cut in RON95 on Dec 1 from the current price. Secretary-General of Ministry of Domestic Trade, Cooperatives and Consumerism, Datuk Seri Alias Ahmad, said the crude oil prices were falling and the recent three-day increase would not affect the average price for November. "I did not say it would fall, but if we follow the trend, it would. We have seen between three and four sen fall in the pump price now," Alias told reporters here Thursday when asked whether RON95 price would fall on Dec 1.

M'sia's Deficit To Dip Below 3 Pct With Subsidy Removal - IMF Smartphone Subscriptions Set To Soar In M'sia - Ericsson

PETALING JAYA -- Ericsson expects smartphone subscriptions to increase 10 per cent over the next six months in Malaysia after a research revealed a tremendous rise of smartphone users. Its Malaysia and Sri Lanka president, Todd Ashton, said the rise was due to the application of social media and instant messaging services such as Facebook, WhatsApp and YouTube."Smartphone has become an important tool for accessing online services as more consumers in urban areas are using mobile data services," he said at a media briefing on 'Ericsson Mobility Report' here Thursday.

SapuraKencana Set To Be Back On SC's Syariah Compliance List By End-Jan 2015

KUALA LUMPUR -- SapuraKencana Petroleum Bhd expects to be back on the Securities Commission's list of Syariah-compliant stocks as early as Jan 31, 2015 as steps have been and are being taken to ensure restoration of Syariah compliance for the company as required by the regulator, sources familiar with the matter said Friday. Today, the company was not included in SC's Syariah compliant list of companies trading on Bursa Malaysia when the commission published the list on its website. SapuraKencana was taken off the list because one of the three compliance requirements was that conventional debt cannot be more than two-thirds of the total assets of a company.

Hartalega Bags HR Asia Award

KUALA LUMPUR -- Nitrile gloves manufacturer, Hartalega Holdings Bhd, has received the 'HR Asia Best Companies to Work for in Asia 2014' award for the second consecutive year from HR Asia. The award was hosted by regional human resources magazine, HR Asia. Hartalega was the only rubber gloves manufacturer to receive the award, out of 40 Malaysian companies selected this year, it said in a statement here Tuesday.

Proton Offers 20 Pct Discount For Car Repairs Of Flood Victims

KUALA LUMPUR -- Proton Holdings Bhd will offer a 20 per cent discount to the total repair cost of customers who suffered damages to their cars due to flooding. In a statement here Wednesday, the national car maker said it reactivated the 'ROTON We-Care Prihatin Banjir' programme to alleviate programme to alleviate concerns of flood victims throughout the country. "The programme, which will run from today until March 15, 2015, will also include free inspection service, valuation of damages and towing assistance from the affected location to the selected 67 Proton service centres nationwide," said Proton Edar Sdn Bhd Chief Executive Officer Norzahid Mohd Zahudi.

Hershey Announces Leadership Team For M'sia's Confectionery Plant

KUALA LUMPUR -- The Hershey Co Wednesday announced the new leadership team for its new manufacturing plant in Johor, Hershey's second largest in its global manufacturing network. In a statement here Wednesday, it said seven experienced leaders joined Malaysian Subas Visvalingam who was announced as the plant's Site Director earlier this year. They are Suraiza Abdullah (Head of Government Relations), Dionella Diosa S.Bautista (Head of Logistics), Kamala Kannan (Head of Operations), Lee Ling Khoo (Plant Controller), Hew Soon Kiong (Head of Human Resources), Phang Wee Lee (Head of Technical Assurance) and Shukrizah Zainuddin (Head of Quality Regulatory Compliance).

Maybank Clinches ACA MaSRA 2014 Award For 2nd Consecutive Year

KUALA LUMPUR -- Malayan Banking Bhd (Maybank) beat 55 companies to emerge winner of the ACCA Malaysia Sustainability Reporting Awards (ACCA MaSRA) for the second consecutive year. The bank also bagged the Best Workplace Practices Award following its extensive discussion in their sustainability report of workplace best practices and diversity, as well as, inclusion initiatives, which engaged talent across key markets and demographics. In a statement here Wednesday, the Association of Chartered Accountants (ACCA) said Axiata Group Bhd came in as the runner-up in the Best Sustainability Report Award category.

M'sia Bags 2 Awards At Top Asia Corporate Ball 2014

KUALA UMPUR -- Malaysia was honoured as 'Asia's Most Liveable Nation' and 'Asia's Top Country for New Opportunities in Foreign Investment' at the 2nd Top Asia Corporate Ball 2014. The first award, received by Datuk Abdul Khani Daud on behalf of the Tourism and Culture Ministry, recognises the country's culture, affordability and friendliness, a statement said here Wednesday. The second award, which honours Malaysia's progressive government policies and conducive business environment, was received by Malaysian Investment Development Authority Executive Director Ahmad Khairuddin Abdul Rahim.

M'sians Win 'Top Outstanding Leaders In Asia' Award

By Tengku Noor Shamsiah Tengku Abdulllah

SINGAPORE -- Kulim Malaysia Bhd's Managing Director, Ahmad Mohamad, and Hatten Group Sdn Bhd's group managing director, Collin Tan June Teng, were named Top Outstanding Leaders in Asia along with Steven Tham of Leeden National Oxygen Ltd at the inaugural Asia Corporate Excellence and Sustainability (ACES) Awards 2014 here Wednesday night. ACES Awards 2014, organised by the MORS Group Malaysia, showcased some of Asia's finest and best corporate leaders. The six-person Jury Panel comprised corporate leaders, consultants and experts. Hemant Batra, chairman of jury panel, said : "Corporate Sustainability signifies a viable future and passing on a better world to our children. It is a multi-dimensional holistic approach expected from the corporate world to grow but not to the detriment of future generations."

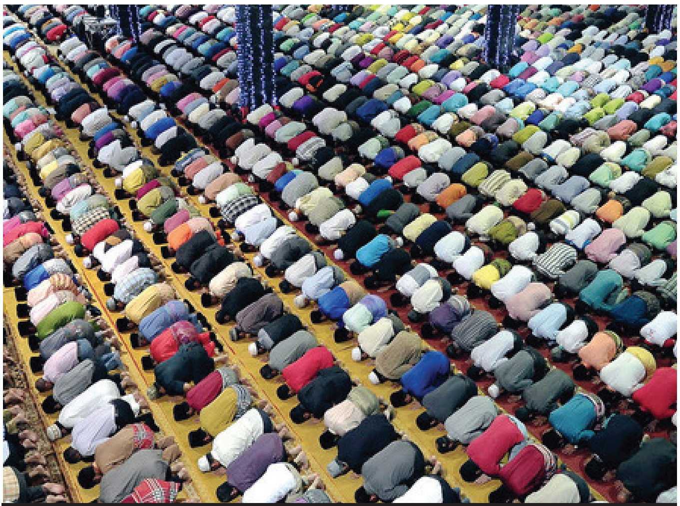
Xaxis Appoints Mickey Zhang As Managing Director In China

KUALA LUMPUR -- Xaxis, the world's largest programmatic media and technology platform, has appointed Mickey Zhang as Managing Director for China. A statement issued Thursday in Shanghai, China said Zhang's 10 years of digital advertising experience on both the agency and publisher sides would bring deep expertise in the China ad market. China represents one of the world's largest and fastest growing digital markets to-date, with half a billion users and advertising growth rates averaging 30 to 40 percent per year. In this capacity, Zhang will oversee the expansion of programmatic offerings in the China market.

Proton Offers Five-Year Warranty, Cash Rebates Of Up To RM5,000

KUALA LUMPUR -- Proton Holdings Bhd is giving special rebates for its year-end promotions where customers will get to enjoy many offers, including cash rebates of up to RM5,000 on selected models. The promotions that are ongoing at all Proton showrooms nationwide also offer selected variants of Saga, Persona, Satria Neo, Exora, Preve, Suprima S and Inspira with three years of free service as well as a Yes 4G high-speed mobile broadband of 20 Mbps. In conjunction with the promotions, Proton is also extending the most awesome deal on its newest model, the Proton Iriz, it said in a statement here Thursday.

Sedition Act - A Shield For Malaysians



UNITED...Umno delegates perform their Friday prayers at the PWTC in conjunction with Umno's 68th General Assembly. --fotoBERNAMA

KUALA LUMPUR -- The decision by the government to maintain the Sedition Act 1948, with improvements to include two special provisions to further strengthen the act, is in line with the aspiration of the majority.

All three Umno wings concurred that the decision to maintain the Sedition Act would make the law a shield for Malaysians in addressing issues on national unity.

Wanita Umno chief Datuk Seri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil said Najib listened to the voice of the people at the grassroots level and believed that the move would restore unity among the people.

“Najib's openness is clear and we want it to be done wisely. What we want to ensure is there is no sedition, no violation of the federal constitution, and even the state constitution.

“If there is a need for a clause on freedom of speech on government policies, there is no objection (from us),” she told a media conference here on Thursday.

Not Against Critics Of Govt Policies

Umno President Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, when opening the 2014 Umno general assembly, said the Sedition Act 1948 was maintained with a proposal to include two special provisions to strengthen the act.

The new provisions, he said, were aimed at preserving the sanctity of Islam and all other religions and to prosecute those who called for the separation of Sabah and Sarawak from Malaysia.

Umno Youth leader Khairy Jamaluddin said the government had never used the law to stop anyone from criticising government policies.

“This is not about curbing freedom of speech, but to protect the country. If you want to criticise KJ, or policies, that's fine, but if you cross the line, there is insult against religion, the race, not just Malay or Islam, any religion, race (action should be taken).

“(For example) effort to separate Sabah and Sarawak from the federal government, that is not acceptable. I believe majority of the Malaysian people, especially the young generation, supports this because in Malaysia, there has to be limitations and restrictions,” he added.

Unanimous Decision

Puteri Umno leader Datuk Mas Ermieyati Samsudin said the decision to maintain the Sedition Act was in line with the provisions in the Federal Constitution which had all the while protected Islam and guaranteed freedom of religion to believers of other religious faiths.

The issue on the Sedition Act 1948 dominated the assemblies of the three Umno wings which unanimously wanted the act to be maintained, enhanced and improved.

Former Court of Appeal judge Datuk Mohd Noor Abdullah suggested that the government amend the Sedition Act 1948 by imposing mandatory imprisonment on offenders as a lesson to them for creating racial tensions.

He said that offenders under the act should be punished with a jail term of not less than three years and not exceeding 10 years.

Currently, the penalty for offenders under the Sedition Act is a fine of RM5,000 or a maximum jail term of three years, or both.

Mandatory Imprisonment

“Don't fine (offenders), but send them straight away to jail because the fine does not scare anyone,” he told a media conference at the Putra World Trade Centre here.

He said the announcement by Najib was appropriate in the present situation in view of the increasing challenges to racial harmony in the country.

He said the definition for sedition should not be confined to acts of questioning issues on the position of Islam and privileges of the Malays, but also on any acts that caused fear to the Malays.

BERNAMA
MALAYSIAeBiz
November 29, 2014
Market Outlook

LIST OF MARKET REPORTS :

BURSA MALAYSIA

BURSA: KL Shares To Stage Rebound Next Week

By Nurul Hanis Izmir

KUALA LUMPUR -- Shares on Bursa Malaysia are likely to regain an upward momentum next week in tandem with regional peers.

Affin Hwang Investment Bank Vice-President and Head of Retail Research, Datuk Dr Nazri Khan Adam Khan said positive liquidity from external markets including China and Europe could help boost the local market sentiment.

“This is despite the local market being under pressure on falling crude oil and crude palm oil prices,” he told Bernama.

Nazri Khan expects global stocks to strengthen due to a flurry of mega merger and acquisition activities and some encouraging German and Chinese economic data.

On the domestic front, he said the ongoing Umno convention should also provide stronger near-term catalysts for local sentiment. “Any positive surprises in the convention should draw more bulls back into Bursa Malaysia.

“We expect potential (Umno) announcement, especially on Bumiputera Economic Empowerment Agenda for rural areas and Sabah/Sarawak, to provide catalysts to local construction/infrastructure government-linked companies,” he added.

For the week-just-ended, the benchmark index closed 15.06 points lower at 1,809.13, mostly influenced by the performance of regional markets well as local economic data.

The FBM Emas Index was 61.17 points higher at 12,539.10, the FBMT100 Index rose 73.12 points to 12,227.59, the FBM 70 increased 58.47 points to 13,582.18 but the FBM Ace lost 232.58 points to 6,319.75.

Sector-wise, the Industrial Index slid 58.31 points to 3,331.68, the Finance Index garnered 82.69 points to 16,275.66 and the Plantation Index rose 138.14 points to 8,333.51.

Weekly turnover increased to 9.49 billion shares worth RM9.20 billion from 8.68 billion shares worth RM8.30 billion last week.

Main market volume rose to 6.64 billion units valued at RM8.53 billion from 5.19 billion units valued at RM7.36 billion previously.

The ACE market volume however declined to 2.56 billion units worth RM633.43 million from 3.28 billion units worth RM916.63 million.

Warrants turnover improved to 229.69 million units valued at RM25.67 million versus last week’s 199.88 million units worth RM18.83 million.

FOREX: Ringgit Expected To Improve Against US Dollar

KUALA LUMPUR -- The ringgit is expected to extend its recovery next week, lifted by a bullish outlook on the local stock market and signs of recovery in regional currencies, a dealer said.

The dealer, who forecasts the ringgit to strengthen, said the local unit would be supported by a batch of positive global economic releases after the recent drop on oil prices.

"The ringgit led losses among regional currencies and ended a near five-year low as oil prices slumped. It has lost 2.4 per cent so far in November, which would also be its third straight monthly drop," he said.

For the week just ended, the ringgit traded easier against the US dollar at 3.3810/3840 from last Friday's 3.3520/3570.

The local unit also traded lower against other major currencies.

It weakened against the Singapore dollar to 2.5932/5963 from 2.5806/5847 on Friday, slid against the yen to 2.8614/8644 from 2.8424/8461, and depreciated against the British pound to 5.3075/2125 from 5.2450/2514.

It also fell against the euro to 4.2053/1100 from 4.1808/1855 previously.

Money Market: Short-Term Rates Likely To Remain Stable

KUALA LUMPUR -- Short-term rates are expected to remain stable next week on Bank Negara Malaysia's (BNM) intervention in the money market to absorb surplus liquidity, a dealer said.

The dealer said the central bank was expected to continue to call for money market tenders of conventional and Islamic, including commodity murabahah programme, range maturity auctions and repo tenders, on a daily basis.

For the week just ended, BNM intervened daily to flush the system of surplus.

On a weekly basis, the liquidity surplus in the conventional system increased to RM15.47 billion from RM12.55 billion last Friday, while the excess in the Islamic system rose to RM6.12 billion from RM2.23 billion.

The overnight Islamic reference rate stood at 3.22 per cent, while the one-week, two and three-week rates stood at 3.27 per cent, 3.31 per cent and 3.35 per cent respectively.

The benchmark three-month KLIBOR was unchanged at 3.78 per cent from last week.

KLCI Futures Likely To Recover Next Week

KUALA LUMPUR -- The FTSE Bursa Malaysia KLCI (FBM KLCI) futures contracts (FKLI) on Bursa Malaysia Derivatives are expected to rebound next week, spurred by buying rush especially for airline stocks.

A dealer said these stocks were among the bright spots at the moment amid falling fuel cost.

"The momentum may lend support to the index based on the earnings growth outlook," he added.

On Thursday, the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries meeting decided not to cut production, pushing the price for brent crude to hover near a four-year low.

On a Friday-to-Friday basis, November 2014 rose 21 points to 1,833, December 2014 added 20 points to 1,833.50, March 2015 improved 19 points to 1,831, while June 2015 expanded 20.5 points to 1,831.50.

Turnover for the week almost doubled to 73,896 lots from 39,671 lots recorded last week, while open interest was up to 39,671 contracts from 30,621 contracts previously.

For the week just ended, the benchmark FBM KLCI fell 9.02 points to finish at 1,820.89.

CPO Futures To See Range-Bound Trading Next Week

By Rosemarie Khoo Mohd Sani

KUALA LUMPUR -- Crude palm oil (CPO) futures contracts on Bursa Malaysia Derivatives are expected to see range-bound trading next week, as the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) meeting decided to keep its output target unchanged, a dealer said.

Interband Group of Companies Senior Palm Oil Trader Jim Teh said this would influence traders to move their funds around from one commodity to another commodity futures market for profit-taking.

“Whichever price goes lower in the market, traders will park their funds there and this will certainly affect the CPO market,” he told Bernama.

He said the CPO physical prices would likely move between RM2,100 and RM2,220 a tonne for the week.

On a Friday-to-Friday basis, December 2014 went down RM68 to RM2,147 a tonne, January 2015 fell RM52 to RM2,174 a tonne, February 2015 declined RM63 to RM2,172 a tonne, and March 2015 slipped RM68 to RM2,176 a tonne.

Weekly turnover rose to 204,080 lots from 161,143 lots last week, while open interest widened to 256,209 contracts from 243,074 contracts previously.

On the physical market, December South fell RM50 to RM2,190 per tonne from last week’s RM2,240 per tonne.

Rubber Market To Trade Cautiously Next Week

KUALA LUMPUR --The Malaysian rubber market is likely to see range-bound trading next week due to the rainy season, a dealer said.

He said the raining season would affect the production of natural rubber, hence resulting in a higher price in the market.

“However, the Tokyo Commodity Exchange (TOCOM) rubber futures’ drop to a three-week low and the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) decision to hold back from cutting output to support the oil prices might also affect the local market,” he added.

On a Friday-to-Friday basis, the Malaysian Rubber Board’s official physical price for tyre-grade SMR 20 declined 5.5 sen to 502.00 sen a kg and latex-in-bulk fell 12 sen to 379.00 sen a kg.

The unofficial closing price for tyre-grade SMR 20 decreased one sen to 502.00 sen a kg and latex-in-bulk slipped 13 sen to 376.00 sen a kg.

KLIBOR Futures Likely To See Minimal Change

KUALA LUMPUR -- The three-month Kuala Lumpur Interbank Offered Rate (KLIBOR) futures contracts on Bursa Malaysia Derivatives are expected to see minimal change next week amid stable interest rates, a dealer said.

During the week, the KLIBOR futures market was untraded. Open interest was unchanged from last week at 2,970 contracts.

On a Friday-to-Friday basis, December 2014, January 2015, February 2015 and March 2015 stood at 96.22, 96.18, 96.19 and 96.20, respectively.

The underlying three-month KLIBOR inched up 0.01 per cent to 3.78 per cent.

KLTM To Continue Uptrend Next Week

KUALA LUMPUR -- The Kuala Lumpur Tin Market (KLTM) is expected to continue its uptrend next week following encouraging overseas demand, said a dealer.

He said the market was likely to see active overseas bidding especially from the Japanese and European traders.

“The market is likely to trade between US$20,100 and US$21,400 a tonne next week,” he said.

The dealer added that the local tin market would also take the cue from the London Metal Exchange’s (LME) movements.

The LME usually influences the direction of the local market.

For the week just-ended, tin prices on the KLTM moved between US$20,000 and US$20,250 a tonne, mostly influenced by the trend on the LME with trading dominated by Japanese, European and local buyers.

Weekly turnover rose to 302 lots from 281 lots recorded last week.

The premium between the KLTM and the LME widened to US$318 a tonne from a premium of US$115 a tonne last Friday.

Gold Futures To Trade Higher Next Week

KUALA LUMPUR -- Gold futures contracts on Bursa Malaysia Derivatives are likely to trade higher next week on short-covering and bargain hunting, said a dealer.

Phillip Futures Sdn Bhd dealer Ahmad Danial Zainudin said investors were looking to a referendum on the management of Swiss bullion reserves on Sunday.

“Buying momentum will resume if the Swiss National Bank raises its gold holdings to 20 per cent of its foreign exchange reserves,” he said.

The gold futures market was traded mixed throughout the week.
On a Friday-to-Friday basis, November 2014 went up 13 ticks to RM128.80 a gramme and December 2014 rose six ticks to RM128.85 a gramme.

January 2015 and February 2015 both added five ticks to RM129.10 and RM129.40 a gramme, respectively.

Total volume declined to 652 lots worth RM8.847 million from 1,247 lots worth RM16.162 million transacted last week.

Open interest on Friday rose to 2,148 contracts from 2,083 contracts previously.