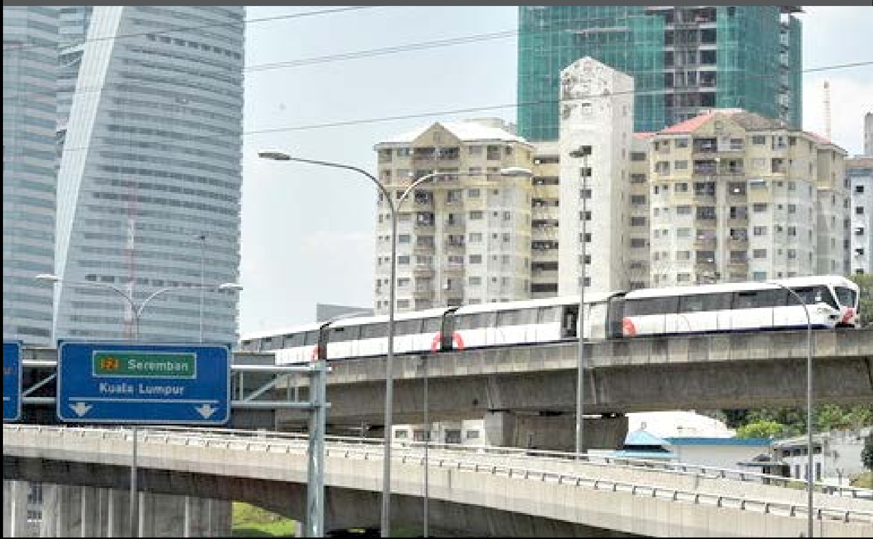
BERNAMA MALAYSIAeBiz
WEEKLY BUSINESS ROUNDUP JULY 20 - JULY 24, 2015
July 24, 2015

This Week's Highlight :
Najib Wants Safety Audit On LRT Services



BREAKDOWN..Second LRT incident took place at 12.18 pm near the University station (Pix). Both incidents caused service disruptions and resulted in both trains to be enveloped in smoke. --fotoBERNAMA

KUALA LUMPUR -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak wants safety auditing to be carried out on LRT services following the faulty brake incidents at two locations, here Wednesday. "I am thankful that no one was injured in the incident involving the LRT at the Setiawangsa and University stations. "A safety audit must be carried out so that the safety of passengers is always given priority," he said in his Facebook and Twitter websites.

This Week's Top Stories

MONDAY

BBDO: Consumer Spending Stabilises A Month After GST

By Siti Radziah Hamzah

KUALA LUMPUR -- Consumer spending somewhat stabilised a month after the Goods and Services Tax (GST) was introduced on April 1 and is expected to further improve over the next six months, says advertising and marketing company, BBDO (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd. Chief Innovation and Strategy Officer Anirban Ganguly told Bernama, consumers had adjusted their spending accordingly after the GST implementation.

TUESDAY

Boeing: World Commercial Airlines Need 558,000 New Pilots

KUALA LUMPUR -- The world commercial airlines will require 558,000 new pilots and 609,000 new maintenance technicians over next 20 years, according to a Boeing forecast. In its 2015 Pilot and Technician Outlook, Boeing said, almost half of the projection was for Asia-Pacific, whereby it will need 226,000 pilots and 238,000 technicians.

WEDNESDAY

Survey: Rising Investor Interest In Corporate Sustainability Practices

KUALA LUMPUR -- A World Federation of Exchanges (WFE) survey shows investors are increasingly studying the sustainability practices and policies of companies as a factor in their investment decisions. In a statement here Wednesday, the WFE's Sustainability Working Group, which was set up in March 2014, said its finding showed that ESG (Environment, Social and Corporate Governance) concerns were becoming widespread among global capital market participants.

THURSDAY

ASEAN Finalising Livestock Sector Action Plan

By Minggu Simon Lhasa

BANGKOK -- ASEAN member countries, in collaboration with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), are finalising an ASEAN strategic plan of action for livestock sector 2016–2020, says FAO Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative Hiroyuki Konuma. "We anticipate that in 10 years, the majority of ASEAN countries will graduate to middle income status and this will mean that demand for meat, milk and eggs will also rapidly increase. We anticipate the demand will grow 40 per cent by 2025, he added.

FRIDAY

1MDB - Steering The Ship Against High Waves

KUALA LUMPUR -- While much flak and focus have been drawn towards the issues surrounding 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB), work is still progressing on the ground at Tun Razak Exchange (TRX). And so are the corporate exercises for Edra Global Energy and expression of interests for Bandar Malaysia. At the end of the day, the expected end-result is for these three to be stand-alone companies with full autonomy and accountability for their operational and financial performances.

SMEbrief

SMEs Refuse To Register Business For Fear Of Being Taxed

By Harizah Hanim Mohamed

KUALA LUMPUR -- Some small and medium entrepreneurs opt not to register their business for fear of being taxed, says SME Corporation Malaysia Chief executive Datuk Hafsah Hashim. "Corporate tax and the Goods and Services Tax will not be imposed on SMEs and they must be made aware of this or else they will lose out," she told Bernama recently.

Alliance To Focus On Higher Interest Margin Products

KUALA LUMPUR -- Alliance Financial Group Bhd (AFG) will focus on higher interest margin loan products such as lending to small and medium enterprises (SMEs), personal segment and credit cards to boost revenue for the financial year ending March 31, 2016 (FY16). The group expects to accelerate its SME lending activities as well as credit facilities for industrial hire purchase, credit cards and personal loans," Group CEO Joel Kornreich said after the company's AGM here Tuesday.

GHL, Globe Telecom To Widen Reach To Philippine SMEs

KUALA LUMPUR -- GHL Systems Bhd has teamed up with the Philippines' mobile brand, Globe Telecom, to widen its reach to the small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the Philippines via its pioneering mobile point-of-sale service, Globe Charge. In a statement Wednesday, GHL said the Globe Charge could be attached to any Android or IOS smartphone or tablet, turning them into credit card terminals.

Companies Told To Hedge Against Ringgit Volatility

By Azizul Ahmad

KUALA LUMPUR -- Malaysian exporters have been urged to consider hedging the current level of ringgit, which is said to be the best level for export, against the US dollar, besides increasing productivity by using local raw materials. "We suggest small and medium enterprises (SMEs) boost their production capacity so that they can improve productivity and become more competitive," Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (Matrade) CEO Datuk Dzulkifli Mahmud told Bernama here recently.

Matrade's Home Improvement Business Meetings Reap RM100 Mln Potential Sales

KUALA LUMPUR -- Business meetings organised recently to introduce US-based Lowe's to local companies supplying home improvement and building material products, generated potential sales of RM100 million. The Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (Matrade) said in a statement Thursday, the programme from July 7-8 here, involved 20 Malaysian companies and showcased the capabilities of Malaysian small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to Lowe's, the second largest home improvement retailer in the US.

PropUP — Property update

Property Mart Set To See Interest From Investors

KUALA LUMPUR -- Malaysia's property market is poised to see interests not only locally but from foreign parties capitalising on the weak ringgit, said global property consultant, Knight Frank Malaysia. In a statement Tuesday, Managing Director Sarkunan Subramaniam, said this was evidenced by recent activities in major commercial property investment transactions such as the acquisitions of Integra Tower and DoubleTree by Hilton among others.

Second Home Lifestyle Trend To Rise Next Five Years

KUALA LUMPUR -- The concept of a second home, or lifestyle purchase, in Asia is slowly becoming more established and is expected to increase significantly in the next five years with major repercussions for global markets. In a statement Tuesday, global property consultancy firm, Knight Frank, said the long-term prospects for capital appreciation could be positive if supply was constrained either due to strict planning controls or there was a sustained economic growth period.

13,660 Hotel Rooms To Meet Growing Demand

By Suhainie Mohd Khalid

JOHOR BAHARU -- Johor currently has 13,660 hotel rooms to meet the needs of the rapidly growing tourists, said State Consumerism, Domestic Trade and Tourism Committee Chairman, Datuk Tee Siew Kiong. Tee said the rooms were available in 107 hotels state-wide, with 91 of them with one- to five-star rankings. "Based on the statistics provided by the Ministry of Tourism & Culture, room supply for Johor is adequate," he told Bernama.

TAHPS Shares Up On RM10 Bln Township Plan

KUALA LUMPUR -- TAHPS Group Bhd's shares rose in the morning session Friday after it unveiled plan to develop a 283-hectare township in Bukit Puchong, Selangor with a total gross development value of RM10 billion. At 12.20 pm, its shares rose 25 sen to RM7.85 with 11,300 shares traded. Chief Executive Officer, Tan Seng Chye, told reporters after the annual general meeting Thursday the development of the township would keep the company busy for the next decade. As of March 31, 2015, TAHPS' unbilled sales stood at RM40 million while its cash position at RM132 million.

Mah Sing Eyes RM300 Mln Sales From Penang Properties

GEORGE TOWN -- Property developer, Mah Sing Group Bhd, is eyeing sales target of RM300 million for this year from its Penang properties. "We are optimistic of the Penang projects and we believe they will be able to contribute about 11 per cent to our group total sales this year," Group Chief Operating Officer Teh Heng Chong said after the launch of its new lifestyle show gallery here Friday.

MARKET

BURSA MALAYSIA

Scoreboard

Gainers - 424

Losers - 416

Not Traded - 666

Unchanged - 305

Value - 1502304803

Volume - 17496083

Bursa Malaysia Ends Marginally Lower In Sync With Poor Regional Performance

By Mohd Khairi Idham Amran

KUALA LUMPUR -- Bursa Malaysia closed slightly lower Friday amid a sluggish performance in line with the poor performance on regional markets. At 5 pm, the FTSE Bursa Malaysia KLCI (FBM KLCI) finished at 1,720.76, down 1.68 points, after fluctuating between 1,712.49 and 1,721.45 throughout the day. Affin Hwang Investment Bank Vice-President and Head of Retail Research Datuk Dr Nazri Khan Adam Khan said the local benchmark had fallen below the crucial 20-, 50- and 200-day moving average as the regional markets continued to be dampened by the uninspiring performance on Wall Street. "The lack of domestic catalyst had led the trading volume to decline, implying that most retail investors preferred to remain on the sidelines," he told Bernama. Gainers edged losers by 424 to 416, with 305 counters unchanged, 666 untraded and 19 others suspended. Total volume slipped to 1.74 billion units valued at RM1.50 billion from Thursday's 1.76 billion units valued at RM1.68 billion. Main Market volume fell to 1.05 billion shares worth RM1.33 billion from Thursday's 1.18 billion shares worth RM1.53 billion.

FOREX: Ringgit Ends Lower Against Greenback

KUALA LUMPUR -- The ringgit ended lower against the US dollar Friday on buying interest for the greenback, dealers said. At 5 pm, the ringgit was quoted at 3.8080/8100 against the US dollar from 3.8045/8065 Thursday. A dealer said growing anticipation of an increase in the US interest rate boosted demand for the US currency and weakened other currencies. However, the ringgit was traded broadly higher against other major currencies. It rose against the Singapore dollar to 2.7763/7798 from 2.7849/7872 on Thursday and up against the yen to 3.0715/0733 from 3.0731/0760 Thursday. The local unit appreciated against the pound sterling to 5.8978/8017 from Thursday's 5.9327/9374 and strengthened against the euro to 4.1652/1678 from 4.1811/1841 previously.

Exchange Rate
(Ringgit : Foreign Currency)

	Buying	Selling
USD	3.8080	3.8100
EUR	4.1652	4.1678
GBP	5.8978	5.8017
100 YEN	3.0715	3.0733
SGD	2.7763	2.7798

Source: Bank Negara Malaysia

Money-Market: Short-Term Rates Close Stable

KUALA LUMPUR -- Short-term interbank rates closed stable Friday on Bank Negara Malaysia's (BNM) intervention to absorb surplus liquidity from the financial system. The liquidity surplus in the conventional system fell to RM27.57 billion from RM35.47 billion earlier, while in the Islamic system, it dropped to RM5.44 billion from RM8.22 billion. In the morning, BNM called for four tenders -- one conventional money market, one Qard and two repos. The central bank also conducted a late conventional money market tender for RM28.1 billion and a RM5.5 billion Qard tender, both for three-day monies. The overnight Islamic reference rate stood at 3.21 per cent, while the one-and two-week rates stood at 3.27 per cent and 3.32 per cent respectively. However, the three-week rate decreased 0.03 per cent to 3.36 per cent.

KLIBOR Futures Ends Untraded For 31th Consecutive Day

KUALA LUMPUR -- The three-month Kuala Lumpur Interbank Offered Rate (KLIBOR) futures contracts on Bursa Malaysia Derivatives finished untraded for the 31th consecutive day. At the close, August 2015, September 2015, October 2015 and December 2015 remained pegged at 96.32, 96.33, 96.33 and 96.33, respectively. Open interests stood at 944 contracts. At the 11 am fixing, the underlying three-month KLIBOR stood at 3.69 per cent.

KLCI Futures Contract Ends Lower

KUALA LUMPUR -- The FTSE Bursa Malaysia KLCI (FBM KLCI) futures contract (FKLI) on Bursa Malaysia Derivatives closed lower despite the uptrend in the cash market. At 5 pm, July 2015 eased 5.0 points to 1,724, August 2015 decreased 6.0 points to 1,719, September 2013 shed 7.0 points to 1,715.50 and December 2015 slid 4.5 points to 1,712. Turnover increased to 7,792 lots from 7,257 lots on Thursday while open interest rose to 42,482 contracts from 41,247 contracts Thursday. At 5 pm, the benchmark FBM KLCI ended 0.36 points higher at 1,734.24.

KLCI Futures Close Lower

By Mohd Khairi Idham Amran

KUALA LUMPUR -- The FTSE Bursa Malaysia KLCI (FBM KLCI) futures contracts (FKLI) on Bursa Malaysia Derivatives closed lower Friday following a sluggish cash market. Affin Hwang Investment Bank Vice-President and Head of Retail Research Datuk Dr Nazri Khan Adam Khan said the weak FBM KLCI was in line with the poor regional markets' performance on the back of an uninspiring weekly performance on Wall Street. "The FBM KLCI has fallen 1.2 per cent week-on-week led by Trading Services stocks after the index hit a two-week high of 1,736.19 on Wednesday," he told Bernama. Nevertheless, he said given the deep price correction over the last four months, the benchmark index should be more attractive to long-term investors as the discount to consensus' year-end index target had widened significantly. He added that the FBM KLCI premium had also been narrowed against Asian regional peers. July 2015 eased three points to 1,716, August 2015 and September 2015 decreased 3.5 points each to 1,707 and 1,700 respectively and December 2015 fell six points to 1,695. Turnover rose to 6,786 lots from 6,337 lots on Thursday while open interest increased to 48,009 contracts from 46,405 contracts Thursday. The benchmark FBM KLCI ended 1.68 points lower at 1,720.76.

Hong Leong Islamic Bank Wins Digital Innovation Award

KUALA LUMPUR -- Hong Leong Islamic Bank Bhd (HLISB) recently bagged 'The Asset Triple A Islamic Finance Awards 2015' for best bank for digital innovation. In recent times, HLISB had actively increased its focus towards digital banking and this award recognised its overall strategy in the digitisation of banking operations, it said in a statement here Monday. eXPRE$$ REMIT is one such innovative solution which had recently been introduced. It provides hassle-free cash remittance from Malaysia to Indonesia and is the first in the country to utilise self-service terminals for conversion and remittance. Earlier in the year, HLISB also unveiled a new branch concept in high pedestrian traffic areas which utilises state-of-the-art infrastructure and IT systems such as Touch Screen PCs, iPads and real-time video conferencing facilities to further strengthen its digital banking platform.

Public Bank Unit Launches Equity Fund

KUALA LUMPUR -- Public Bank's wholly-owned unit, Public Mutual Bhd, Tuesday launched the Public Select Treasures Equity Fund (PSTEF). In a statement, the private unit trust company said the fund will focus on small- and medium-sized companies listed on Bursa Malaysia. "The PSTEF will invest between 75 and 98 per cent of its net asset value (NAV) in equities. "Up to 25 per cent of the fund's NAV may also be invested in foreign markets to offer investors wider diversification opportunities," it said. It said the fund was positioned to achieve high capital growth over the medium to long term by investing in a portfolio of investments comprising small-and medium-sized companies in terms of market capitalisation from diversified economic sectors.

Maybank IB Named Best Investment Bank In Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR -- Maybank Investment Bank (Maybank IB) has been named 'Best Investment Bank in Malaysia' at the Euromoney Awards for Excellence 2015. In a statement here Tuesday, Maybank IB said, according to Euromoney, the award was given in recognition of the investment bank boosting its revenues in a period when others fell back. Euromoney also said this particularly strong showings in equity capital markets and debt capital markets were backed up by a decent performance in mergers and acquisitions, it said. Maybank IB Chief Executive Officer, John Chong, said the bank was extremely honoured to receive these awards and would like to thank clients for their continued support and trust. "This recognition reaffirms our belief that consistent, long-term growth comes from building sustainable relationships with our clients by continuing to deliver the best for them," he said.

Affin Hwang Asset Mgmt's Partner Still Positive On China Market

By Mohd Khairi Idham Amran

KUALA LUMPUR -- Affin Hwang Asset Management Bhd's partner, Value Partners Group Ltd, is still optimistic on the China market to provide long-term returns despite the world's second largest economy seeing its super-normal growth starting to fade away. Hong Kong-based Value Partners recently collaborated with Affin Hwang Asset Management to establish Affin Hwang Dividend Value Fund, a wholesale feeder fund for Value Partners High-Dividend Stock Fund, of which 56 per cent of the fund will be invested in China and Hong Kong. Value Partners' Singapore unit Managing Director, Chuck Ng Chek Siang, said China's decades of double-digit economic growth has come to a single digit of close to seven per cent in recent times but was still double the expected growth of the US at 3.5 per cent or even the European Union's. "You may say that China's growth is diminishing but what is there is that different industries are enjoying different growth rates. There is always an area and sector in China that is going to be attractive and because the size is so big, you can always find sectors that are attractive," he told Bernama.

Park Savings In Several Products For Children's Education - HSBC

KUALA LUMPUR -- HSBC Bank Malaysia Bhd, a wholly-owned unit of Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corp Ltd, has suggested parents park their savings in several products, including fixed deposits and insurance, for their children's future education. Head of Retail Banking and Wealth Management, Lim Eng Seong, told reporters fixed deposits could give up to 3.5 per cent returns and parents could later invest in other products. Lim was sharing a research report on 'Learning for Life', which showed that 88 per cent of Malaysian parents would consider sending their children abroad for either an undergraduate or post-graduate education. According to the report, it is higher compared to the global average of 77 per cent, while Singapore accounted for 81 per cent, China (88 per cent) and India (92 per cent). Lim said local parents were willing to make sacrifices to fund their children's education to prepare them for the increasingly competitive job market.

Maybank Sees ASEAN As Next Growth Area For Tech Start-Ups

KUALA LUMPUR -- Malayan Banking Bhd (Maybank) is confident ASEAN will be the next growth area for technology start-ups as more businesses seek to expand their digital presence and grow their revenue by using non-traditional channels. In a statement here Thursday, Maybank said this will also be boosted by the increasing interest among financial institutions and venture capital companies to fund tech start-ups. Its Group Chief Strategy Officer, Michael Foong, said this was evident by the overwhelming response of ASEAN tech start-ups which participated in the MaybankFintech programme. MaybankFintech is the first of its kind programme by a bank in South-East Asia which seeks to support start-ups to generate ideas in the financial technology sphere.Foong said global investment in Fintech ventures has tripled from around US$4.05 billion (RM15.41 billion) in 2013 to nearly US$12.2 billion (RM46.41 billion) in 2014.

CIMB Group On Track To Meet 10 Pct ROE Target

KUALA LUMPUR -- CIMB Group Holdings Bhd is on track to achieve its 10 per cent Return on Average Equity (ROE) target for 2015, despite anticipating a tougher business climate in the second half of the year. Group Chief Executive Officer Tengku Datuk Zafrul Tengku Abdul Aziz said the second half would be tougher due to the weaker performance of its Indonesian and Thailand units. "We expect conditions to not be as bad as the first half though. Elsewhere, our operations in Malaysia and Singapore will remain stable. "However, we would rather focus on things we can control, which is why we embarked on the cost-saving measures recently," he told a press conference after launching CIMB's Bumiputera Vendor Development Programme here Thursday. CIMB Group announced plans to reduce the operational costs of its investment banking business across the Asia-Pacific by 30 per cent in 2015.

Volkswagen Group Delivers Five Mln Vehicles In 1st Half

KUALA LUMPUR -- Volkswagen Group's vehicle deliveries in the first half of this year continued at a high level and remained virtually stable, again topping the five million mark. In a statement here Monday, Volkswagen Group Malaysia Sdn Bhd said from January to June, vehicle deliveries were down 0.5 per cent to 5.04 million vehicles compared with 5.07 million units last year. Volkswagen said the situation in June 2015 was tense as deliveries fell 4.3 per cent to 840,400 units from 877,900 units chalked up last year. The carmaker said overall it recorded satisfactory development in the first half of the year in what has in some cases been a difficult market environment. "The developments in South America, Russia and China remained tense, where growth on the overall market has been shrinking steadily since the beginning of this year and became negative in June for the first time in several years. Group Board Member for Sales, Christian Klingler, said as the market leader, the Volkswagen passenger car brand was not immune to these changes currently affecting the market.

KKB Engineering Secures Projects Worth RM14.6 Mln

KUALA LUMPUR -- KKB Engineering Bhd has secured two projects, namely to supply fabricated steel structures and gas cylinders, worth RM14.6 million, it said in a filing to Bursa Malaysia. One of the two purchase orders is from JGC (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd for the supply of fabricated steel structures for Tank 7 New Jetty-PAF Project for Petronas LNG Train 9 Project and another from Petron Malaysia Refining & Marketing Bhd for the supply of 14kg LP gas cylinders, respectively. "Completion date for the supply of fabricated steel structures to JGC is progressive until the third quarter of 2016 where else the completion date for the supply of LP gas cylinders is October 2015," it said in the filing. The purchase order is expected to contribute positively to the earnings and net assets of the KKB Group for the 2015 and 2016 financial years.

AmInvest Declares Income Distribution For FBM KLCI etf, ABF Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR -- AmInvest has declared an interim distribution of 0.50 sen per unit for FTSE Bursa Malaysia KLCI etf (FBM KLCI etf) and 1.68 sen per unit for ABF Malaysia Bond Index Fund (ABF Malaysia). In a statement here Monday, AmInvest said for the financial year ended Dec 31, 2014, FBM KLCI etf and ABF Malaysia paid out a total of two income distribution of 2.85 sen and six sen respectively. "For the past five years, FBM KLCI etf has registered total returns of 47 per cent, which translated into annualised returns of eight per cent "ABF Malaysia has clocked positive returns of 18.66 per cent over the period of five years, or 3.48 per cent per annum," it said. FBM KLCI etf and ABF Malaysia are the country's first equity and bond exchange-traded funds.

Felda Positive On FGV's Investment In Indonesia

PORT DICKSON -- The Felda Land Development Authority (Felda) is positive of the prospects of the collaboration between its corporate entity, Felda Global Ventures Holdings Bhd (FGV), via the proposed acquisition of a 37 per cent equity stake in PT Eagle High Plantations (EHP). Felda Chairman, Tan Sri Mohd Isa Abdul Samad, said EHP acknowledged that Felda has the expertise in oil palm plantation. "If we can work with EHP, it means that we can collaborate with them on the development of their 420,000 hectares," he told reporters after the Hari Raya Aidilfitri open house here Monday. Isa was commenting on FGV's proposed acquisition in 37 per cent stake in EHP that is involved in oil palm planting from the Rajawali Group. The acquisition will also pave the way for FGV to enter into the sugar industry in Indonesia. The deal, according to Isa, will provide the avenue for the marketing of FGV products such as cooking oil. "We are waiting for the views from third parties on this matter which would be brought up in the extraordinary general meeting next month for approval for the purchase of EHP equity stake," he said.

May Passenger Travel On Int'l Marts Up 6.2 Pct - IATA

KUALA LUMPUR -- Passenger travel on international markets for May rose 6.2 per cent compared to a year ago, beating the 3.8 per cent increase in April, the International Air Transport Association (IATA) said. In a statement here Tuesday, IATA said economy class travel grew at a stronger rate than premium international air travel, and although the growth was spread across most key markets, it was largely driven by the within Europe market. Economy class travel rose 6.4 per cent in May year-on-year, a pick-up on April growth of 4.2 per cent, it said. "The strong growth in economy class leisure travel -- the more price-sensitive travel market -- is being supported by lower fares," it said. IATA said premium travel also rose in May, but at a slower (4.1 per cent) rate.

BMW M'sia Eyes Higher Sales With Opening Of Two Dealerships

KOTA BAHARU -- BMW Group Malaysia aims for higher sales with the opening of a dealership each in Kelantan and Johor this year. Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Alan Harris, said BMW Malaysia sold 7,500 vehicles last year. "By the end-June this year, we have sold 3,900 vehicles, including BMW, MINI and Motorrad," he told reporters after launching the new dealership, Raza Premium Auto, here Wednesday. He said two more dealerships will be opened in the country within the next three years. Right now we have 28 BMW dealerships in the country and the biggest one is in the Klang Valley," he said. Harris said dealerships in Kelantan also provided 4S services (sales, service, system and spare parts) to customers in the area and the East Coast of Peninsular Malaysia.

Boeing Q2 Revenue Up 11 Pct To US$24.5 Bln

KUALA LUMPUR -- Aircraft manufacturer, Boeing recorded an 11 per cent rise in revenue to US$24.5 billion for its second quarter (Q2) ended June 30, 2015 backed by record commercial deliveries. "Record commercial airplane deliveries to customers worldwide drove solid revenue growth, and the strength of our overall portfolio and diligent focus produced significant operating cash flow during the quarter," said its President and Chief Executive Officer Dennis Muilenburg. He said strong operating performance across the commercial and defence production programmes partially offset the tanker charge and enabled Boeing to maintain its commitments to return cash to the shareholders. The Q2 2015 results included the previously announced US$536 million after-tax charge (US$0.77 per share) on the KC-46 Tanker programme reflecting higher estimated costs. Core earnings per share guidance for 2015 has been adjusted to between US$7.70 and US$7.90 per share, from US$8.20 and US$8.40, to reflect the impact of the Q2 2015 KC-46 Tanker charge.

Ikhmas Jaya Q1 Profit, Revenue Up Spurred By Railway Project

KUALA LUMPUR -- Ikhmas Jaya Group Bhd saw its pre-tax profit and revenue for its first quarter (Q1) ended March 31, 2015 increase due to a railway track project. The company, which is predominantly involved in civil and building construction, chalked up a pre-tax profit of RM11.33 million as compared with RM5.55 million in the same quarter of last year. Revenue jumped to RM75.34 million from RM56.16 million previously, the company said in a filing to Bursa Malaysia here Wednesday. On outlook, the company said it expected performance in 2015 to improve on the back of the continued growth from the piling and foundation services markets in Malaysia. “Revenue from bore piling is expected to grow in view of our future plan to enhance our bore piling capabilities by expanding our fleet of bore piling machinery,” it said.

Better Profit For MRCB-Quill REIT In Q2

KUALA LUMPUR -- MRCB-Quill REIT (MQREIT) registered a 59.2 per cent increase in pre-tax profit to RM13.63 million for the second quarter (Q2) ended June 30, 2015 from RM8.56 million in the same quarter last year, mainly due to higher net property income. This was achieved on the back of an 85.5 per cent increase in revenue to RM32.17 million against RM17.35 million previously. In a filing to Bursa Malaysia here Wednesday, it said additional revenue arising from the acquisition of Platinum Sentral, higher revenue from Plaza Mont’ Kiara and rental rate increases for some properties, had contributed to the better overall turnover. On a cumulative six months basis, MQREIT reported a pre-tax profit of RM21.91 million on a revenue of RM50.78 million. MQREIT’s Manager said it would continue to focus on its active asset management programme as part of its tenant retention strategy as well as to continue to explore acquisition opportunities to grow the fund.

U Mobile Eyes 30 Pct Sales Growth, Prepaid Take-Up Rate

KUALA LUMPUR -- Telco operator, U Mobile Sdn Bhd, is eyeing an up to 30 per cent hike in sales growth and prepaid take-up rate respectively by year-end. This follows the launch of its latest product, the POWER Prepaid Pack here Thursday. Chief Marketing Officer Jasmine Lee said the growing usage of data among Malaysian would drive the growth. “We expect most of our customers to move forward by upgrading to this new product. We also want to take the market share of other operators as it is a very practical product. A lot of customers will see value in this product,” she told reporters after launch. Also present was U Mobile Chief Executive Officer Wong Heang Tuck. The new starter pack POWER Prepaid Pack is already available in the market at all U Mobile channels nationwide and retails at RM8.50. It offers 200MB high speed mobile internet, 150 minutes of free calls, RM5 mobile credit, 10-day validity period, the lowest call rate of 5 sen to all networks and free basic internet. In addition, customers get to enjoy a 1GB high speed mobile internet monthly and free for life, as long as their prepaid SIM card remains active.

BMW Motorrad Eyes Four-Figure Sales For 2015 With New Models

KUALA LUMPUR -- BMW Group Malaysia is eyeing four-figure sales for its motorcycles segment this year, fuelled by the two latest additions to its BMW Motorrad line-up. Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Alan Harris said BMW Motorrad Malaysia delivered 600 motorcycles as of July, surpassing the 581 for 2014. BMW Motorrad Malaysia Thursday unveiled the two new premium motorcycles, the BMW S 1000 XR and BMW R 1200 RS. “We are confident that with the new models, sales growth will exceed 1,000 units for this year. BMW’s bikes are competitively priced,” he said at the launch. As the fourth variant of BMW Motorrad’s performance motorcycles featuring the straight four-cylinder engines, the new BMW S 1000 XR by dynamic traveling and touring features. The BMW R 1200 RS, meanwhile, is of the sports tourer genre and essentially created with the R 100 RS of 1976 in mind.

C&C Bintang Q2 Pre-Profit Rises To RM26.34 Mln

KUALA LUMPUR -- Cycle & Carriage Bintang Bhd’s (C&C Bintang) pre-tax profit for the second quarter (Q2) ended June 30, 2015 rose to RM26.34 million from RM3.04 million in the same period a year ago. Revenue doubled to RM472.36 million versus RM231.16 million previously, the distributor for Mercedes-Benz brand in Malaysia said in a filing to Bursa Malaysia. Chairman Alex Newbigging said the group performed considerably better in the first half of 2015 due to strong sales of popular models, improved margins and recognition of Mercedes-Benz Malaysia dividend income. “The outlook for the rest of the year is expected to be satisfactory although there will be challenges due to tougher trading conditions and model life cycle issues,” he said.

Affin Hwang: MAHB’s Q2 Results Likely To Remain In The Red

KUALA LUMPUR -- Affin Hwang Capital expects Malaysia Airports Holdings Bhd (MAHB) to continue registering a core net loss in the second quarter results due to softer passenger movement growth in the first half 2015 (1H15). The projection was also based on high operating cost from the Kuala Lumpur International Airport 2 (klia2) and Istanbul’s Sabiha Gocken Airport due to a longer gestation period. “We expect MAHB to remain in the red,” the research house said in a note Friday. It said the number of passenger traffic handled by MAHB was flat in 1H15. Passenger traffic in Kuala Lumpur International Airport contracted by eight per cent year-on-year. However, this was mitigated by a 5.2 per cent growth in passenger traffic in KLIA2, as well as, other MAHB domestic airports. Affin Hwang attributed the drop in KLIA traffic to the impact from Malaysia Airlines’ restructuring exercise, which included many route cuts, as well as, the shift of Malindo Air to KLIA2.

Restrained Attitude Results In Companies Facing Cyber Threats

By Nurunnasihah Ahmad Rashid

KUALA LUMPUR -- Taking a restrained attitude towards cyber security investment and lack of awareness have been cited as the main reasons why many companies are not well prepared for cyber threats. CyberSecurity Malaysia (CSM) Chief Executive Officer Dr Amirudin Abdul Wahab said companies always viewed cyber security as a cost rather than a business investment. He said cyber security was not only a technical issue but should be viewed as a broad level of matters as it involved the organisation and nation. "Cyber security needs to be seen as an important asset that should be integrated into the whole company or nation's online ecosystem. Cyber security should be part of the routine. But sadly, companies still view it (cyber security) as a type of cost rather than business enabler that could help prevent damage to the companies performance," he told Bernama.

Local Ports Urged To Prepare For Ultra-Large Vessels

By Harizah Hanim Mohamed

KUALA LUMPUR -- Local port operators have been urged to upgrade their port capacity and infrastructure to accommodate ultra-large vessels in two years' time when shipping companies are expected to take delivery of these behemoths of the sea. Making the call, NCB Holdings Bhd Group Managing Director Abi Sofian Abdul Hamid said a port's success is very much influenced by giant global shipping companies such as Maersk-Link, Mediterranean Shipping Co (MSC), CMA-CGM, United Arab Shipping Co (UASC) and China Shipping Container Lines, which dominate the long-distance routes such as Asia-Europe. Through alliances such as Ocean 3 and 2M, the position of international shipping companies that already have ultra-large vessels is expected to be stable until a time when other shipping firms take delivery of their own ultra-large vessels, Abi Sofian told Bernama here recently.

PTP Up The Ante, To Expand Capacity In Five Years

By Nor Baizura Basri

JOHOR BAHARU -- Port of Tanjung Pelepas (PTP) is raising its ante by planning to expand its capacity from the current 12.5 million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) to 15 million TEUs in the next five years. Continuous capacity expansion is vital to ensure that PTP is able to handle future growth while offering key valuable business propositions to new and potential customers. Recognising continuous changes in the port industry landscape, PTP Deputy Chief Executive Officer Hanif Hamid said PTP is looking at expansion in order to be able to head-on competition when the time comes. "We have submitted our papers to the government to gain their support financially in terms of capital dredging to expand our current channel," he told Bernama in an interview, recently.

Boeing, EVA Air Finalise Order For Five 777 Freighters

KUALA LUMPUR -- Boeing and EVA Air have finalised an order for five 777 Freighters valued at more than US$1.5 billion. It would represent the first 777 Freighters to join EVA Air's fleet and the first to be delivered to a Taiwanese airline, said Boeing which first announced the airline's intent to order the five freighters at the 2015 Paris Air Show last month. "Airfreight is an important link in global trade. We are investing in the most advanced aircraft and committing ourselves to continuing to ensure efficient and reliable service. Quality service and flight safety are our top priorities at EVA and we apply the same high standards to cargo services. We are determined to make EVA the world's best airline for both passenger and cargo services," said EVA Air Chairman K.W. Chang in a statement here Monday.

Pikom Projects Average Monthly Salary To Grow 7.4 Pct

KUALA LUMPUR -- The National Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Association of Malaysia (Pikom), expects the average monthly salary for ICT professionals this year to increase by 7.4 per cent to RM8,278 from RM7,706 last year. Its Chairman Cheah Kok Hoong said the association also expected the average monthly salary to grow by 7.6 per cent in 2016 with the stabilisation of the global economy. The local ICT industry would still remain robust, driven by the intensification of digitisation processes in transformation projects, capital intensive corridor projects, investment and ICT products and services trading, he added. "Despite the slower economic growth anticipated this year, the industry is expected to continue registering double-digit growth of 14.2 per cent or RM70.9 billion from 12.5 per cent or RM62.1 billion in 2014. We believe ICT sector will continue to be a major job market in the country in the next five years," Cheah told reporters here Monday.

China Consumers Can Use Website To Find M'sian Products

KUALA LUMPUR -- Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (Matrade) expects 300 million consumers in the Western and Central China to use www.zhongdamen.com as a platform to source Malaysian products. The website, based in Henan Province, China and owned by Henan Central China Logistic Co. Ltd, a China state-owned enterprise, is a collaboration between Matrade and zhongdamen.com. In a statement here Tuesday, Matrade said Malaysia was the only Asian country being given the privilege to have a virtual pavilion for Malaysian products on the website. Other pavilions in zhongdamen.com are dedicated to the US, United Kingdom, New Zealand, Canada and Australia. "This initiative is in line with the strategy to enhance exports to China and it complements Matrade's eTRADE programme, which is created to promote exports through emarketplaces. This is one of our efforts to realise the Malaysia-China bilateral trade target of US$160 billion by 2017," said Matrade Director of Building Materials and Business Services Section Ong Yew Chee.

FedEx To Acquire 50 Additional Boeing 767-300f Aircraft

KUALA LUMPUR -- FedEx Express has agreed to buy 50 additional 767-300F aircraft from The Boeing Co as it continues to modernise its aircraft fleet to more effectively serve its customers. In addition to the 50 confirmed orders, it also has options to buy a total of 50 767F aircraft, said FedEx, a wholly-owned unit of FedEx Corp, in a statement here Tuesday. It said the 50 firm-order aircraft will be delivered from fiscal 2018 through fiscal 2023 while total capital spending for fiscal 2016 remained at US$4.6 billion. With this order, FedEx Express now holds a total of 106 firm orders for 767Fs from Boeing through fiscal 2023. The impact to capital spending in fiscal 2017 from this new order is immaterial. “Acquiring additional 767F aircraft is a continuation of our very successful air fleet modernisation programme and will enable us to reduce structural costs, improve our fuel efficiency and enhance the reliability of our global network,” said David J. Bronczek, President and Chief Executive Officer of FedEx Express.

Taiwan To Make M’sia Testing Ground For Its Halal Products

KUALA LUMPUR -- Taiwan intends to make Malaysia its testing ground for its halal products due to the high demand worldwide, said Director of Taiwan Trade Centre, Kuala Lumpur, Jessie Tseng. She said the Taiwanese government has encouraged more companies to get the halal certificates for their food products. “This year, we brought in 23 companies to participate in Malaysia International Halal Showcase (MIHAS 2015), one of the largest number of participants,” she told reporters here Thursday. Deputy Representative of Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Malaysia, Moses Cheng Shyang-Yun, said Malaysia was Taiwan’s eighth largest trading partner. “Last year, two-way trade amounted to US$17.4 billion,” he said. Cheng said for food trading the challenge was to get the halal certification.

Destini’s Unit To Acquire Everyday Success For RM90 Mln

KUALA LUMPUR -- Destini Bhd’s wholly-owned unit, Destini Armada Sdn Bhd, will acquire the entire issued and paid-up capital of Destination Marine Services (DMS) Sdn Bhd’s wholly-owned subsidiary, Everyday Success Sdn Bhd, for RM90 million. In a filing to Bursa Malaysia Thursday, Destini said it has entered into a conditional share sale agreement with DMS for the proposed acquisition. “The purchase consideration will be satisfied via a combination of cash payment of RM15 million and the remaining balance of RM75 million will be satisfied via the issuance of 107,142,857 ordinary shares of 10 sen each in Destini” it said. Destini said following the signing of the agreement, DMS will inject several identified/agreed assets into Everyday Success to enable the latter to operate as a shipbuilding company. DMS, on June 15, 2015, has received a RM381.30 million contract from Maritime Enforcement Agency (APMM) for the supply, delivery, testing and commissioning of six patrol vessels to APMM for a contract period of thirty five months, it said.

MESB To Acquire Active Fit For RM19 Mln

KUALA LUMPUR -- MESB Bhd Thursday entered into a shares sales agreement to acquire the entire 2.5 million shares in Active Fit Sdn Bhd for RM19 million. MESB said the exercise was arrived at on a “willing-buyer willing-seller” basis, after taking into consideration the historical profit track and prospective earnings potential of Active, among others. “The purchase consideration shall be fully satisfied in cash and be financed by internally generated funds and/or bank borrowings,” it said in a filing to Bursa Malaysia. The proposed acquisition will enable the group to expand into the retailing of casual apparel and accessories, being a segment within the retail fashion industry, for which the group has experience and expertise.

Bursa Malaysia Is Looking At More Companies To Be Listed On FTSE4Good

KUALA LUMPUR -- Bursa Malaysia is looking at more local companies to be listed on the FTSE4Good Bursa Malaysia (F4GBM) Index which demonstrates strong Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) practices. Director of Securities Market Ong Li Lee said the index was developed in collaboration with FTSE as part of the globally benchmarked FTSE4Good Index Series. “It is aligned with other leading global ESG frameworks such as the Global Reporting Initiatives and the Carbon Disclosure Project. “So far, there are only 24 stocks that have been identified and included as a constituent of the FTSE4Good Bursa Malaysia Index. Companies evaluated to be included, comprised the top 200 Malaysian stocks in the FTSE Bursa Malaysia Emas Index, and all companies are screened in accordance to well-defined ESG criteria, she added. She said of the 200 on the watch list, Bursa Malaysia is looking at more companies from all sectors to come on board.

Domino’s Pizza Allocates RM12.5 Mln On Capex

SHAH ALAM -- Domino’s Pizza will spend RM12.5 million on capital expenditure (capex) this year, said Senior Marketing Manager for Malaysia and Singapore, Linda Hassan. She said as of June 2015, RM5 million had been spent. “This is expected to result in double-digit growth in revenue. Our sales come from two platforms -- online and over-the-counter. A big portion of it comes from delivery. “In terms of pizza delivery, our market share is over 50 per cent,” she told reporters at the launch of two new Cheese Burst Crust flavor here Friday. The new Chilli Cheese Burst Crust and BBQ Cheese Burst Crust are in addition to six other existing crust available. “The launch of these new products is in line with Domino’s Pizza’s continuous efforts in providing more varieties while creating value to customers,” she said.

AIMS Group Acquires Jaring Network & Customer Assets

KUALA LUMPUR -- AIMS Group has secured the bid to acquire the data centre and network-related customer assets of Jaring Communications Sdn Bhd. Under the acquisition, AIMS, South-East Asia’s leading carrier-neutral data services provider, will also attain the rights to Jaring’s IPv4 Addresses. It will also attain all of Jaring’s existing customers related to data centre, broadband and access, cloud and managed services, the group said in a statement here Friday. The estimated total value of these unexpired contracts is over RM50 million. “AIMS was awarded Jaring’s assets based on a balance of many factors -- in terms of price, product portfolio, experience and skilled resources to fast-track the necessary migrations between AIMS and the acquired Jaring operations,” said Chief Operating Officer Mohammad Azman. He also highlighted the data centre would leverage on its unique ‘carrier neutral’ position to ensure smooth migration of services for Jaring’s customers.

AirAsia To Start KL-Maldives Direct Flights Oct 22

KUALA LUMPUR -- AirAsia will commence the thrice-weekly Kuala Lumpur-Maldives direct flights starting Oct 22, 2015. In a statement here Monday, the airline said the seats were now available for online booking at airasia.com with all-in-fare from as low as RM169 one way. “The promotion is ongoing until July 26, 2015 for travel period of Oct 22, 2015 until Aug 31, 2016,” it said. AirAsia Bhd Head of Commercial, Spencer Lee, said the flight schedules for this route would allow travellers from all other regions such as South Korea, Japan, China, Hong Kong, Thailand, Australia to connect easily using AirAsia’s Fly-Thru service. “AirAsia is the only airline that flies direct to Maldives from here, offering three times weekly flights to this island destination. “Among the destinations which offer Fly-Thru connectivity to Maldives include Incheon, Osaka, Hong Kong, Shenzhen, Bangkok, Penang and Gold Coast,” he said.

BASF PETRONAS’ HR-PIB Plant To Start Production In 2017

KUALA LUMPUR -- BASF PETRONAS Chemicals Sdn Bhd’s world-scale production plant for highly reactive polyisobutene (HR-PIB) in Kuantan is expected to start production in the fourth quarter of 2017. The plant, the first of its kind in Southeast Asia, will have a total annual capacity of 50,000 metric tons of HR-PIB, the company said in a statement here Monday. HR-PIB is an important intermediate product for the manufacturing of high performance fuel and lubricant additives, including additives for sludge prevention. “Leveraging excellence in technology will be an important factor in accelerating future profitable growth globally and especially in Asia,” Dr Christian Fischer, President of BASF’s Performance Chemicals Division said. BASF has over seventy years of experience in the manufacturing of HR-PIB.

DiGi To Expand 4G Coverage In Sarawak

MIRI -- Digi Telecommunications Sdn Bhd will expand its high-speed broadband 4G coverage to Samarahan and Sibu by year-end, said Head of Sarawak Region, Benny Wee. Wee said at the moment the coverage was available in Kuching City, Bintulu and Miri City. “We are confident that with the expanding of the 4G coverage in the state our subscriber base will continue to grow,” he told reporters after the opening of Digi store here by Miri City Mayor, Lawrence Lai, here Wednesday. He said the store was the fourth in the state after Kuching City, Sibu and Bintulu. “We are looking into the possibility of opening the second store in Kuching City and Miri City respectively if there is a growing demand,” he said.

More Walkalators At klia2 - MAHB

KUALA LUMPUR -- Malaysia Airports Holdings Bhd (MAHB) will increase the number of new walkalators installations in klia2 to 25 units, more than originally planned, thus bringing the total number to 41 units. “We had announced in 2014 that we will be installing an additional 16 units. Nevertheless, based on customer feedback, we have decided to increase it to 25 units,” said the airport operator in a statement here Wednesday. MAHB has already installed 16 walkalators. “We hope that with the coming installation of new walkalators, it will address the comments that we have received on the walking distance at klia2. It will also enable the passengers to have more convenient travelling experience,” said MAHB. Meanwhile, its buggy service will continue to run as normal.

SIRIM Appoints Three New Directors

KUALA LUMPUR -- SIRIM Bhd has appointed Datuk Mohd Nasir Ahmad, Datuk Dr Ir. Andy Seo Kian Haw and Saji Raghavan as members of its board of directors, effective July 1, 2015. The three new directors have vast corporate experience between them in the fields of finance and accounting, as well as, engineering which would further strengthen SIRIM’s position in quality and technology innovation, said SIRIM in a statement here Wednesday.

Ricoh Malaysia Receives Green Leadership Award

KUALA LUMPUR -- Ricoh Malaysia bagged the Green Leadership Award at the Asia Responsible Entrepreneur Awards (AREA) 2015 in Macau, recently. In a statement here Wednesday, Ricoh said the award bore testament to its status as a leader in green practises with its relentless pursuit and commitment towards incorporating sustainable programmes and strategies within its business processes. “Sustainability has always been at the heart of the Ricoh Group. Our business operations are undeniably dependent on our earth’s ecological resources. To have our efforts recognised with the award is truly an honour. We are encouraged and inspired to continue our green efforts to further expand our green footprint in the region,” said Ricoh Malaysia Managing Director Peter Wee.

Dr Mohd Akbar Md Said Appointed MRB D-G

KUALA LUMPUR -- The Malaysian Rubber Board (MRB) has appointed Dr Mohd Akbar Md Said as Director-General, effective July 24, 2015. Prior to his appointment, Dr Mohd Akbar was the Deputy Director-General (Research & Innovation) responsible for MRB’s direction, planning and strategies of research and innovation. He also worked closely with the Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities, the Malaysian rubber industry and other agencies. Dr Akbar’s expertise in research and development is related to latex harvesting technologies which include areas such as latex stimulant (chemical and bio-based latex stimulant, and gaseous stimulant) and low intensity tapping systems.

Ng Brothers Still Reign In Forbes 2015 S’pore Rich List

By Tengku Noor Shamsiah Tengku Abdullah

SINGAPORE -- Robert and Philip Ng retained their six-year hold of the top spot in the latest Forbes Singapore Rich List, with a combined net worth of US$8.7 billion. The Ng siblings, whose family controls Singapore’s Far East Organisation and Hong Kong’s Sino Group, saw their wealth decline amid the property slowdown in Singapore and slowing sales in Hong Kong. Their collective net worth is US$92.3 billion, down from US$96.9 billion a year ago. Several tycoons in the Singapore rich list have fortunes tied to the troubled real estate industry. They include Kwek Leng Beng (2), the Khoo family (4), Kwee brothers (7) and Ho Bee Land’s Chua Thian Poh (26).

Unravelling Dilemmas in Critical Illness Insurance

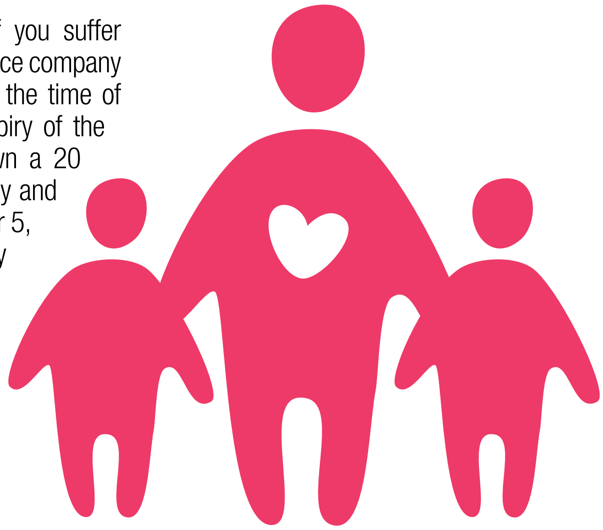
Are you insured? Or over-insured? Or you're unsure of your life insurance situation? Here, we provide frank insights on medical insurance, focussing on various aspects of critical illness insurance that could help to unravel your dilemma and discover solutions in medical insurance.

Q1: I am interested to purchase a critical illness policy. Which company provides the best and widest cover for critical illness?

A: All critical illness policies sold in Malaysia cover 36 critical illnesses, irrespective of which life insurance company is selling it. There is a mutual understanding and agreement amongst all life insurance companies in Malaysia to offer a maximum of 36 critical illnesses only, to avoid any misunderstanding and mis-selling based on 'number of critical illnesses'. However, there are some differences in the critical illnesses offered as insurance companies can choose any 36 out of 42 critical illnesses that has been agreed upon for any of their products. In Malaysia, the definitions for critical illnesses are standardised. All life insurance companies are using the same definitions of critical illness for their products. This is to avoid any confusion amongst the companies should any claim arises for the same critical illness.

Q2: I am the main income earner in my family. My wife is not working as she is looking after my 3 children. My concern is that if I suffer a critical illness, my income may be greatly affected as my work is very strenuous and requires me to travel a lot. I may have to slow down and may not be able to put in the same amount of energy as before. Is there a critical illness plan that can protect my loss of income?

A: Most critical illness plans provide for payment of a lump sum if you suffer from a critical illness. This lump sum payment will come in handy to pay for immediate upfront costs, like treatments and follow-up expenses, purchases of medical equipment and tools to support any disability, etc. However, there are also critical illness plans that are structured to pay out as regular income. This form of payments will help to provide protection against the loss of income which is important to help meet daily expenses. For such policies, if you suffer from a critical illness, the insurance company will pay a regular income from the time of your critical illness until the expiry of the policy. For example, if you own a 20 year Critical Illness Income policy and you suffer a critical illness in year 5, the insurance company will pay you regular incomes for the remaining 15 years until the expiry of the policy.



Q3: I had a heart attack recently and my cardiologist found that 2 of my arteries were blocked while another was partially blocked. Under which critical illness should I claim on my policy?

A: For heart conditions involving arterial blockages, there are 4 critical illnesses you can consider for making a claim. They are Heart Attack, Coronary Artery Disease requiring Surgery, Other Serious Coronary Artery Disease and Angioplasty. If you had a heart attack you can make a claim under 'Heart Attack'.For your claim to be admitted, you must satisfy the insurance company that the following conditions are fulfilled:

1. You must have a typical history of chest pain prior to your admittance to hospital

2. ECGs will normally be done once you are in the hospital. These ECGs must show changes reflective of a heart attack.

3. The hospital should also be monitoring the rise and fall of your serum biomarkers such as creatine kinase-MB and troponin.

Otherwise, if you have narrowing of at least 3 major arteries of your heart of more than 60 per cent, you can consider making a claim under the critical illness 'Other Serious Coronary Artery Disease'.

If you had undergone a coronary artery by-pass surgery, you can make a claim under 'Coronary Artery Disease Requiring Surgery'. This is open heart surgery in which by-pass grafts are inserted to circumvent the clogged arteries. If an angioplasty was done instead of an open heart surgery, some critical illness policies will pay for such an event. The angioplasty done can either be balloon angioplasty or the insertion of stents. However, only a percentage of the sum assured will be payable for claims made under 'Angioplasty' and you can only make one claim under 'Angioplasty'.

Q4: I have bought an education policy for my child. How can I ensure that this policy can continue to provide the necessary funds for my child's education if I suffer a critical illness?

A: Most education policies do provide a waiver of premium benefit insuring the life of the parent who owns that policy. This benefit can either be purchased by the payment of additional premium or it comes together with the education plan as a package. If the parent suffers from a critical illness, all future premiums shall be waived. The education policy will continue to enjoy all the benefits it is entitled to until it reaches maturity. The sum assured plus whatever bonus accumulated will then be paid for the education of your child. The article is written courtesy of Life Insurance Association of Malaysia. For further information, please log on to www.liam.org.my.

LIST OF MARKET REPORTS :

BURSA: KL Shares Likely To Be On Downtrend

By Mohd Khairi Idham Amran

KUALA LUMPUR -- Bursa Malaysia is forecast to continue its downtrend next week due to a softer ringgit, a dip in commodity prices, lack of catalysts post-Hari Raya and a possible hike in interest rates by the US Federal Reserve. Affin Hwang Investment Bank Vice-President and Head of Retail Research Datuk Dr Nazri Khan said local stocks continued to be trapped within the 1,740-1,680 range over the past six weeks and have struggled for traction, as participants digested a heavy calendar of second quarter corporate earnings. "The lack of domestic catalysts led to a decline in trading volume, implying that most retail investors preferred to remain on the sidelines. It looks certain that the local bourse is losing upside momentum and on course for a longer consolidation phase," he told Bernama. He said another drag on local stocks came from rising geopolitical tension following the Iran nuclear deal and softer commodity bulls as crude oil, palm oil, copper and even gold, touched a two-week low after a corrective bounce last week. "Nevertheless, Bursa Malaysia is expected to be cushioned by the Malaysia-Turkey Free Trade Agreement (MTFTA) which comes into effect on Aug 1," he added. Nazri said the listing of engineering firm Ikhmas Jaya, scheduled for July 27, would boost near term retail trading appetite, after the company posted a 93.4 per cent jump in first quarter net profit. Weekly turnover rose to 8.35 billion units worth RM7.93 billion from last week's 5.13 billion units worth RM5.87 billion. Main market volume expanded to 5.34 billion shares valued at RM7.07 billion from 3.09 billion units valued at RM5.17 billion registered in the previous week.

FOREX: Ringgit Likely To Trade Sideways To Greenback

By Zairina Zainudin

KUALA LUMPUR -- The ringgit is expected to trade sideways against the US dollar next week in anticipation of a stronger US dollar, dealers said. This, however, will benefit local exporters and attract foreign importers. A dealer said the ringgit would continue to hover around the 3.80 level next week amid the lack of local catalysts to drive the currency higher. "The ringgit has fallen nine per cent against the US dollar since the start of the year, dipping above the crucial 3.8000 psychological level in early July, but benefiting local exporters," he told Bernama. For the week just-ended, the ringgit traded firmer against the US dollar but contracted from

Thursday on the back of growing optimism over higher US interest rates later of this year. It ended the week easier at 3.8080/8100 from the 3.8060/8080 recorded on last Thursday. Meanwhile, the local currency was traded mixed vis-a-vis other major currencies. It rose against the Singapore dollar to 2.7763/7798 from 2.7844/7879 last Thursday and strengthened against the pound sterling to 5.8978/8017 from 5.9431/9473. However, the ringgit was easier against the yen at 3.0715/0733 from 3.0708/0737, and fell against the euro to 4.1652/1678 from 4.1501/1534 previously.

Money-Market: Short-Term Rates Likely To Remain Stable

KUALA LUMPUR -- Short-term interbank rates are expected to remain stable next week as Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) continues to intervene to stabilise the money market. The central bank is expected to continue its intervention with daily tenders to mop up excess funds in the market, said a dealer. For the week just-ended, BNM intervened daily to flush the system of surplus funds by conducting conventional, range maturity auction, Qard and repo tenders. On Friday, the central bank's action helped reduce the market's total liquidity surplus to RM27.57 billion in the conventional system and RM5.44 billion in Islamic funds. The overnight Islamic reference rate stood at 3.21 per cent, while the one-week, two and three-week rates stood at 3.27 per cent, 3.32 per cent and 3.36 per cent respectively. Meanwhile, the benchmark three-month interbank rate stood at 3.69 per cent.

KLCI Futures Likely To Trend Lower

By Mohd Khairi Idham Amran

KUALA LUMPUR -- The FTSE Bursa Malaysia Kuala Lumpur Composite Index (FBM KLCI) futures contract (FKLI) on Bursa Malaysia Derivatives is expected to trend lower next week. This is in line with the cash market but its long-term outlook remains upbeat. Affin Hwang Investment Bank Vice-President and Head of Retail Research Datuk Dr Nazri Khan said the benchmark index is anticipated to continue its downtrend due to a softer ringgit, a dip in commodity prices, lack of catalysts post-Hari Raya and a possible hike US interest rate hikes. "However, given the deep price correction over the last four months, the FBM KLCI should be more attractive to long term investors as the discount to consensus year-end index target has widened significantly," he told Bernama.

He added that the FBM KLCI premium has also been narrowing against Asian regional peers. For the week just-ended, the FKLI was mostly lower weighed by the weaker cash market on the lack of local catalysts and amid adverse external sentiment. On week-to-week basis, July 2015 declined 11.5 points to 1,716, August 2015 eased 12.5 points to 1,707, while September 2015 and December 2015 decreased 15 points each to 1,700 and 1,695 respectively. Turnover for the week rose to 31,861 lots from 23,118 lots, while open interest increased to 48,009 contracts from 43,607 contracts previously.

CPO Futures Likely To Trade Between RM2,100 And RM2,200 A Tonne

By Azizul Ahmad

KUALA LUMPUR -- Crude palm oil (CPO) futures contracts on Bursa Malaysia Derivatives are expected to be more active next week, with prices ranging between RM2,100 and RM2,200 a tonne. Interband Group of Companies senior palm oil trader Jim Teh said he expects more players to return to the market after being away on an extended Hari Raya holiday break. “A lot of speculative positions could emerge from both buyers and sellers next week, at the range of between RM2,100 and RM2,200,” he told Bernama. Another local dealer said traders might trade on a “sell on rallies” bias, next week. “Regional futures markets may turn bearish in taking cue from US crude prices sentiment, which closed below the key US$50 a barrel mark, raising concerns that the market now is entering a long period of oversupply,” he added.

Meanwhile, Phillip Futures Sdn Bhd Derivative Product Specialist David Ng said expectations of higher production and stock levels would continue to weigh heavily on prices. “The anticipation of lower exports and higher inventories due to rising production in coming months led to lower prices. Traders are also cautious ahead of key export estimates due to be released by cargo surveyors next week,” he added. On a weekly basis, August 2015 slipped RM9 to RM2,180 a tonne, September 2015 and October 2015 declined RM13 each to RM2,178 a tonne, while November 2015 fell RM19 to RM2,187 a tonne. Weekly turnover shrank to 143,491 lots from 187,552 lots last week, while open interest climbed to 205,458 contracts against 205,046 contracts previously. On the physical market, August South shed RM15 lower to RM2,185 per tonne from the RM2,200 a tonne recorded last week.

Rubber Mart Likely To Be Well Supported

KUALA LUMPUR -- The Malaysian rubber market is expected to be well supported next week, driven by a weaker ringgit factor and renewed demand for the commodity, a dealer said. “Rubber prices will also be propped up by the weaker ringgit, making the commodity attractive to international buyers holding other currencies. Thus, any downside in prices will be limited,” he told Bernama. He said demand from China, being the largest consumer of natural rubber in the world, is expected to return and influence the overall buying sentiment. “Sentiment in the local rubber market is also likely to be shaped by ongoing talks by stakeholders on propping up prices and ensuring long-term price stability,” he added. The dealer said regional futures markets, namely the Tokyo Commodity Exchange and Shanghai Futures Exchange, would continuously influence trading on the local rubber mart which was mixed amid a quiet mood for the week just ended.

Trading was limited with many investors still away on an extended Hari Raya holiday break. On a weekly basis, the local mart traded mixed with the Malaysian Rubber

Board's noon price for tyre-grade SMR 20 easing eight sen to 535 sen a kg, while latex-in-bulk advanced 6.5 sen to 442 sen a kg. The 5 pm unofficial closing price for SMR 20 declined 9.5 sen to 528.50 sen a kg, while latex-in-bulk gained eight sen to 441 sen a kg.

KLIBOR Futures Likely To Hover Around Current Levels

KUALA LUMPUR -- The three-month Kuala Lumpur Interbank Offered Rate (KLIBOR) futures contract on Bursa Malaysia Derivatives is likely to hover around current levels next week. For the week just ended, the contract was untraded for the 31st consecutive session with open interest remaining at 944 contracts. August 2015, September 2015, October 2015 and December 2015, all stood unchanged at 96.32, 96.33, 96.33 and 96.33, respectively. The underlying three-month KLIBOR was pegged at 3.69 per cent.

KLTM Likely To Trade Around US$15,000 A Tonne

KUALA LUMPUR -- The Kuala Lumpur Tin Market (KLTM) is expected to see active trading next week with the metal price hovering at around the US$15,000 per tonne level, supported by foreign and local buyers, a dealer said. He said firmer US economic data alongside the stronger Japanese and European economies would contribute positively to the tin price. "The improved performances will influence demand for tin, and the price is expected to be at around the US$15,000 level," he added. For the week just-ended, the KLTM was mostly higher and moved between US$14,700 and US$15,600 a tonne, mostly influenced by the performance on London Metal Exchange. European, Japanese and local traders accounted for this week's turnover of 276 tonnes against last week's 269 tonnes. The premium between the KLTM and the LME on Friday widened to US$350 a tonne from US$315 a tonne previously.

Gold Futures To Continue Downtrend

KUALA LUMPUR -- The gold futures contract on Bursa Malaysia Derivatives is expected to extend its downtrend next week. This is due to demand from India and China, the world's top gold buyers, remaining lacklustre, despite the recent slump in gold prices. Phillip Futures Sdn Bhd dealer Chan Pek Man also said strong selling pressure after the prices broke below the key support level at the 200-day moving average, amid a looming US interest rates hike for the first time in eight years, contributed to the market sentiment. July 2015 and August 2015 were down 156 ticks each to RM132.85 and RM133.40 a gramme, respectively. September 2015 lost 163 ticks to RM133.60 a gramme and October 2015 decreased 165 ticks to RM134.00. Weekly turnover was higher at 2,256 lots worth RM30.09 million from the 113 lots worth RM1.59 million traded last week. On a Friday-to-Thursday basis, open interest rose to 4,041 contracts from 1,713 contracts recorded previously.