MALAYSIAeBiz
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WEEKLY BUSINESS ROUNDUP 17 - 21 AUGUST, 2015

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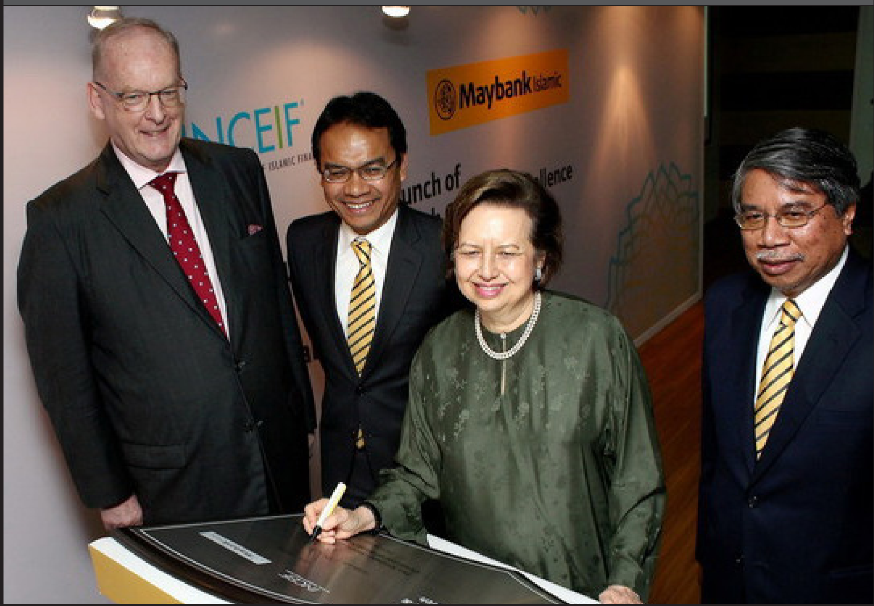
This Week's Highlight : Rising Renminbi Brings Significant Impact To Many Countries



Bank Negara Governor (second, right) signs a plaque to mark the launch of the Syariah Centre of Excellence (SCOE) at INCEIF in Kuala Lumpur on Feb 24. -- FotoBERNAMA

KUALA LUMPUR -- The impact of the Chinese economy on Asia has been significant with many countries now counting China as their largest trading partner, and in some cases among the largest foreign investors, says Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) Governor Tan Sri Dr Zeti Akhtar Aziz. "Given this, Asia, including Malaysia, must be ready for the increased internationalisation of the renminbi and its potential role in Asia's integration path and thus contributing towards further unlocking of the potential of the region," she said at the HSBC Renminbi Forum here Monday.

This Week's Top Stories

Monday

Pemudah Spurs Transformation Programmes Via Public-Private Partnership

PUTRAJAYA -- The Special Task Force to Facilitate Business (Pemudah) has delivered sterling services in expediting the public-private sector initiatives in tandem with the Economic and Government Transformation Programmes, Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said. "The ideas introduced by them are integral to the policies and processes of the government to maintain Malaysia's economic trajectory," the prime minister said when launching the Pemudah Annual Report 2014 here Monday.

Tuesday

M'sia Can Withstand Current Economic Challenges - Wahid

KUALA LUMPUR -- Malaysia is able to withstand current economic challenges due to its strong fundamentals, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Abdul Wahid Omar said. "Back in 1997/98, Malaysia's international reserves were below US$30 billion, which were sufficient to cover only 3.2 months of retained imports," he said when launching the Innovate Malaysia Design Competition 2015 here Tuesday.

Wednesday

PM Seeks Economists' Views On Current Economy

KUALA LUMPUR -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak Wednesday conducted a roundtable meeting with several economists, from both local and financial institutions, to seek their views on the country's current economic condition. "I appreciate their candid views on various aspects of our capital and people economies," he posted on his official Facebook page.

Thursday

M'sia On Track For 4.5-5 Pct GDP Growth - Wahid

By Siti Radziah Hamzah

KUALA LUMPUR -- The country's economy is on track to achieve a Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth of between 4.5 per cent and 5.0 per cent this year. "The world economy is going to moderate in the second half of 2015. On average, we will be in the range of 4.5 per cent and 5.5 per cent," said Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Abdul Wahid Omar on the sidelines of the South-East Asia Summit 2015 organised by British-based 'The Economist' publication Thursday.

Friday

Negative Perception Against M'sia Must Be Corrected Fast - Mustapa

KOTA BAHARU -- The negative perception over the country's current economic status must be corrected fast to overcome the confusion among the people, said International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed. "For example, the perception that the country has been over dependent on crude oil is not true as 77 per cent of our exports are made up of manufactured goods. Our dependence on crude oil, palm oil and natural rubber only accounts for 23 per cent," he told reporters here Thursday night.

SMEbrief

Success Of SMEs Crucial For Regional Integration

KUALA LUMPUR -- The success of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) is crucial for ASEAN to be truly integrated, says Deputy Minister of International Trade and Industry Datuk Lee Chee Leong. Lee said resilient SMEs should start to have a global mind-set. “They should explore opportunities from liberalisation under the ASEAN Economic Community and expand their trade and investments,” he said at the launch of I-Score credit risk management tool Tuesday.

SEDIA-TERAJU Entrepreneurship Programmes For Bumi SMEs

KOTA KINABALU -- The Sabah Economic Development and Investment Authority (SEDIA) will collaborate with the Bumiputera Agenda Steering Unit (TERAJU) to implement entrepreneurship development programmes for Bumiputera small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and start-ups in Sabah. In a statement, SEDIA said Datuk Seri Musa Aman, Sabah Chief Minister and also SEDIA Chairman, witnessed the exchange of agreement here Tuesday.

Govt Strives To Create Tenacious Bumi Entrepreneurial Community

KUALA LUMPUR -- The government will continue to introduce and implement various programmes to create a group or class of tenacious and resilient Bumiputera entrepreneurs in the march towards a developed-country status by 2020, Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said Wednesday. The prime minister said although efforts carried out to achieve the goal made some headway, it was not a total success in terms of number and stature in the competitive market.

MITI Provides RM10 Mln Fund For Bumi ICT Entrepreneurs

KUALA LUMPUR -- The International Trade and Industry Ministry (MITI) is providing a RM10 million fund to enable Bumiputera entrepreneurs in information and communications technology (ICT) to expand their businesses, Deputy Minister Datuk Ahmad Maslan said. The fund will be channelled through SME Bank under the Online Business Financing (OBF) programme, he said after launching the scheme here Friday.

ASEAN SMEs Urged To Venture Into Online Trading

By Nurul Hanis Izmir

KUALA LUMPUR -- ASEAN small and medium enterprises (SMEs) have been urged to venture into e-commerce or online trading to extend the reach of their products or services. ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ABAC) chairman Tan Sri Munir Majid said Friday, this was the future and currently in ASEAN, only one per cent of the total retail business turnover was being conducted via the Internet.

PropUP — Property update

UMLand Eyes Land Buy In Iskandar Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR -- United Malayan Land Bhd (UMLand) is exploring opportunities to acquire land in Iskandar Malaysia as part of its future plan, said Chief Executive Officer, Datuk Charlie Chia Tuesday. He said company was in the midst of talks to buy a piece of land, between 80.937 hectares to 121.406 hectares, in the Iskandar region.

Eco World’s RM8.7 Bln BBCC Project Kicks Off 2016

KUALA LUMPUR -- Eco World Development Group Bhd is expected to start construction of the RM8.7 billion Bukit Bintang City Centre (BBCC) project by the first quarter of next year. Its Chief Executive Officer Datuk Chang Khim Wah said Wednesday, upon getting the development approval from the Kuala Lumpur City Hall, the company would prepare the pre-marketing for the launch of the project by year-end.

UEM Sunrise Expects Full Take-Up For Latest Condo

KUALA LUMPUR -- UEM Sunrise Bhd has targeted a full take-up rate for its latest condominium project, Residensi Sefina Mont’ Kiara by early next year, driven by strong interest shown by the public. Acting Chief Marketing Officer Zadil Hanief Mohamad Zaidi said Wednesday, to date, the development received up to a 60 per cent take-up rate, consisting of local and foreign buyers.

Compugates Unit Inks JV For Mixed Devt In Dengkil

KUALA LUMPUR -- Compugates Holdings Bhd’s unit, Compugates Development and Mining Sdn Bhd, has entered into a joint venture (JV) agreement with Main Uptown Sdn Bhd to jointly develop a parcel of land in Dengkil, Selangor. In a filing to Bursa Malaysia Thursday, Compugates said the land, measuring 154,990 square metres, was to be developed into a mixed development comprising serviced apartments, small office home office, virtual office and flexible office or other accommodations that have similar characteristics.

AMMB To Strengthen 5 Main Portfolios In FY16

KUALA LUMPUR -- AMMB Holdings Bhd will focus on strengthening its five main portfolios, namely loan, retail, wholesale, general insurance and life insurance in its 2016 financial year (FY16). This is amid the moderate gross domestic product growth, rising cost of living, weakening ringgit and slower export growth, Acting group managing director Datuk Mohamed Azmi Mahmood said after AMMB’s 24th AGM Thursday.

MARKET

Scoreboard
Gainers - 330
Losers - 470
Not Traded - 674
Unchanged - 326
Value - 2126354532
Volume - 17888428

Exchange Rate
(Ringgit : Foreign Currency)

	Buying	Selling
USD	4.1800	4. 1880
EUR	4.7033	4.7132
GBP	6.5672	6. 5814
100 YEN	3.3981	3. 5814
SGD	2.9694	2.9753

Source: Bank Negara Malaysia

BURSA Malaysia Ends Week On Negative Note

KUALA LUMPUR -- Bursa Malaysia, which closed mixed Friday, ended the week on a negative note weighed by last-minute selling in selected index-linked stocks led by Petronas Chemicals, dealers said. At 5 pm, the FTSE Bursa Malaysia KLCI (FBM KLCI) stood at 1,574.67 points, down by 2.74 points, after hovering between 1,557.01 and 1,583.38 throughout the day. A dealer said the local bourse was traded lower in the earlier session but rebounded towards the end of the morning session, boosted by gains in selected heavyweights. It ended lower on last-minute selling. Market sentiments remained fragile as Asian stock markets tumbled further on mounting concerns over China's slowing economy, sparking jitters across global markets, said the dealer. Market breadth was negative with losers leading gainers by 470 to 330, while 326 counters remained unchanged, 674 untraded and 18 others suspended. Total volume was unchanged at 1.79 billion units, valued at RM2.13 billion compared with RM1.77 billion on Thursday. Main Market volume fell to 934.92 million units worth RM1.92 billion from 959.79 million units worth RM1.57 billion on Thursday.

FOREX: Ringgit Closes Lower Against US Dollar

KUALA LUMPUR -- The ringgit closed 1.11 per cent lower Friday, breaching the 4.18 level against the US dollar Friday on the fall in the global crude oil prices. At 5 pm, the local note was quoted at 4.1800/1880 against the greenback from 4.1350/1400 Thursday. Intra-day, the ringgit hit the 4.1840 level to the dollar for the first time since the Asian financial crisis 17 years ago. A trader said Friday's decline in the global crude oil benchmark – West Texas Intermediate (WTI) and Brent -- triggered another sell-off in the ringgit and currencies of other emerging economies linked to crude oil exports. He said concerns over global crude oil oversupply and uncertainty on the impact from the likely US Federal Reserve's interest rate increase could extend further ringgit weakness. The ringgit was also traded lower against a basket of major currencies Friday.

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

KUALA LUMPUR -- Short-term interbank rates closed stable Friday on Bank Negara Malaysia's (BNM) intervention to absorb surplus liquidity from the financial system. The liquidity surplus in the conventional system eased to RM31.01 billion from RM48.48 billion earlier while in the Islamic system, it fell to RM6.60 billion from RM8.59 billion. In the morning, BNM called for five tenders -- two conventional money market tenders, one Qard, one Commodity Murabahah Programme and a repo. The central bank also conducted a late conventional money market tender for RM31.0 billion and a RM6.50 billion Qard tender, both for three-day money. The overnight Islamic reference rate.

KLIBOR Futures End Untraded

KUALA LUMPUR -- The three-month Kuala Lumpur Interbank Offered Rate (KLIBOR) futures contracts on Bursa Malaysia Derivatives closed untraded Friday. September 2015, October 2015, November 2015 and December 2015 was unchanged at close at 96.29, 96.29, 96.29 and 96.29, respectively. Open interest stood at 964 contracts. At the 11 am fixing, the underlying three-month KLIBOR stood at 3.69 per cent.

KLCI Futures Close Mostly Higher

KUALA LUMPUR -- The FTSE Bursa Malaysia KLCI (FBM KLCI) futures contracts (FKLI) on Bursa Malaysia Derivatives closed mostly higher Friday amid a mixed performance on the underlying cash market. Spot month August 2015 was up 3.5 points to 1,564, September 2015 rose 2.5 points to 1,545.5, December 2015 added two points to 1,517 while March 2016 dropped 4.5 points to 1,508. Turnover increased to 16,914 lots from 12,369 lots on Thursday while open interest improved to 66,257 contracts from 61,168 contracts Thursday. The benchmark FBM KLCI ended 2.74 points lower at 1,574.67.

Banking Sector Not Badly Affected By Economic Slowdown

PETALING JAYA -- The performance of the banking sector is not badly affected by the slowdown of the country's economy, which was mostly due to external factors, says Malayan Banking Bhd Group (Maybank) President/Chief Executive Officer, Datuk Abdul Farid Alias. He told reporters here Monday, the sector remained well-capitalised with the total capital ratio at 15.2 per cent currently compared with 14.8 per cent in December 2010.

Life Insurance Industry Remains Steady In 1st Half

KUALA LUMPUR -- The life insurance industry remained steady in the first half of 2015 amidst the challenging business environment, the Life Insurance Association of Malaysia (LIAM) said. It said new business weighted premiums declined 0.7 per cent to RM2.024 billion compared with RM2.040 billion in the same period a year ago. "Gross sum assured for all new individual policies (insurance protection) recorded an increase of 8.1 per cent to RM45.2 billion compared with RM41.8 billion previously," it said in a statement here Monday.

Pegging Ringgit Costly For Malaysia - S&P

By Tengku Noor Shamsiah Tengku Abdullah

SINGAPORE -- Pegging the ringgit to counter the weakening currency trend using Bank Negara Malaysia's (BNM) reserves will be expensive for Malaysia, according to Standard & Poor's Ratings Services. Its Asia-Pacific Economist Vincent Conti said: "The global economy is in a strong dollar environment, and will be for some time as the US Federal Reserve normalises monetary policy. "This means that emerging market currencies are all likely to face a weakening trend over the next few years." In Malaysia's case, Conti said, this will be amplified by the low commodity prices, given its status as a net energy exporter and key supplier of other commodities like palm oil.

Asian Banking School To Transform M'sian Banking Landscape

KUALA LUMPUR -- The just-established Asian Banking School will help transform Malaysia's banking workforce into one which is highly skilled and qualified over the new few years, says Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) Deputy Governor Datuk Muhammad Ibrahim. He said the quality of the banking workforce was fundamental to the industry's success. "It is envisioned that the school will assume a key role in raising the bar for professional certification and capability development that will meet the higher standards and demands of the banking industry," he told reporters here Tuesday.

Stanchart M'sia Mandates For 1st Shariah-Compliant ASEAN Passport Fund

KUALA LUMPUR -- Standard Chartered Bank Malaysia Bhd has been mandated as trustee for the newly-launched Maybank Bosera Greater China Asean Equity-I Fund. The fund, the first Shariah-compliant ASEAN Passport Fund approved by the Securities Commission of Malaysia, was launched by Maybank Asset Management Sdn Bhd, a subsidiary of Maybank Asset Management Group Bhd (Maybank AM), it said in a joint-statement here Tuesday.

HLBB To Transform Digital Transaction Banking Services Platform

KUALA LUMPUR -- Hong Leong Bank Bhd (HLBB) is keen to retain the contribution of its wholesale banking segment to the group's bottomline. In this regard, the group Wednesday entered into a partnership with Intellect Design Arena Ltd to help transform its digital transaction banking services platform. Hong Leong Islamic Bank Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Raja Teh Maimunah said currently, wholesale business banking, contributed about 30 per cent to the group.

AmInvest Launches Global Equity Fund

KUALA LUMPUR -- AmInvest Wednesday launched the Advantage Global Equity Volatility Focused, a fund which aims at providing a long-term total return from a combination of income and capital growth by investing in a portfolio of global equities. In a statement here Wednesday, Chief Executive Officer, Datin Maznah Mahbob, said the new fund will allow investors to invest in a combination of lower- and higher-volatility securities that were less correlated, resulting in diversification to reduce overall portfolio risk.

No Circular On Fixing Orders From Offshore Banks - Zeti

KUALA LUMPUR -- Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) has not issued any circular to banks to stop them from taking fixing orders from offshore banks, said its Governor Tan Sri Dr Zeti Akhtar Aziz. "BNM did not issue such circular. We just reinforced all the rules that we have in place. There is nothing specific. We reminded players in the market of whatever rules that we have in place," Zeti told reporters here Thursday.

Ringgit Should Be At About 3.70 To US Dollar - Nazir

KUALA LUMPUR -- The ringgit should be trading at about 3.70 to the US dollar based on current fundamentals but investor sentiment has derailed the local currency beyond that level, said CIMB Chairman, Datuk Seri Nazir Razak. He said the bank's research analysts thought that based on the recent trade-weighted basis, the ringgit should settle at 3.70 (per US dollar) or so. "If our economists are correct, there is about 10 per cent undervaluation of ringgit possibly caused by sentiments," he told reporters at The Economist magazine South-East Asia Summit here Thursday.

Pharmaniaga Q2 Pre-Tax Profit Rises To RM25.06 Mln

KUALA LUMPUR -- Pharmaniaga Bhd's pre-tax profit for the second quarter ended June 30, 2015 increased to RM25.06 million from RM24.62 million in the same quarter last year. Revenue, however, declined to RM512.85 million from RM525.07 million previously, the company said in a filing to Bursa Malaysia here Monday. "The improved profits are attributed to the reduced manufacturing costs as a result of our continuous efficiency improvement initiatives, it said.

UEM Sunrise Q2 Pre-Tax Profit Rises To RM105.32 Mln

KUALA LUMPUR -- UEM Sunrise Bhd posted a higher pre-tax profit of RM105.32 million for the second quarter ended June 30, 2015 from RM91.23 million in the same quarter last year. Revenue, however, decreased to RM372.32 million from RM447.64 million previously, the company said in a filing to Bursa Malaysia here Monday. In a separate statement, the developer said the decline in revenue was due to lower development revenue resulting from the completion of Summer Suites, as well as various phases of completion in East Ledang, Nusa Bayu and Symphony Hills.

Affin Holdings Q2 Pre-Tax Profit Rises To RM177.65 Mln

KUALA LUMPUR -- Affin Holdings Bhd's pre-tax profit for the second quarter ended June 30, 2015 rose to RM177.65 million from RM155.02 million in the same quarter last year. Revenue, however, decreased to RM447.06 million from RM467.08 million previously, the company said in a filing to Bursa Malaysia here Monday. In a separate statement, Affin Holdings said its commercial banking arm, Affin Bank Bhd, recorded a profit before tax and zakat of RM153.4 million for the quarter under review, up 17.7 per cent compared with the previous year's corresponding quarter.

OYLM Eyes RM1.5 Bln Sales This Year

SHAH ALAM - O.Y.L. Manufacturing Company Sdn Bhd (OYLM), a wholly-owned unit of Daikin Industries Ltd, Japan, aims to achieve RM1.5 billion in sales this year, buoyed by upcoming products for markets in Europe, West Asia and Southeast Asia. Last year, the company recorded sales of RM1.3 billion. Group Chief Operating Officer Ooi Cheng Suan said here Monday, the company had always introduced new products every year to reinforce its performance and keep abreast of the trends in the industry.

Insas FY15 Pre-Tax Profit Falls To RM100.3 Mln

KUALA LUMPUR -- Insas Bhd's pre-tax profit for the financial year ended June 30, 2015 (FY15) fell to RM100.3 million from RM171.2 million last year. Revenue however rose to RM412.8 million from RM276.5 million previously, the company said in a filing to Bursa Malaysia here Monday. Insas said despite the higher revenue, the company reported a lower pre-tax profit due to lower profit reported by the stock broking, structured finance and investment units for FY15.

Moody's Sees Muted Global Growth Over Next 2 Years

KUALA LUMPUR -- Global economic growth will be muted over the next two years with the outlook at further risk from Chinese asset price deflation, US interest rate increase and Greece's possible Euro exit, says Moody's Investors Service. Moody's has maintained its baseline forecast for G20 Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth at 2.7 per cent this year, rising to around three per cent in 2016, compared with 2.9 per cent in 2014. However, these 2015-16 growth forecasts are still below the G20's average growth rate before the financial crisis, and Moody's does not expect growth in the G20 to return to those pre-crisis averages within the next five years.

Alliance Q1 Pre-Tax Profit Declines To RM160.66 Mln

KUALA LUMPUR -- Alliance Financial Group Bhd's pre-tax profit declined to RM160.66 million for the first quarter ended June 30, 2015 from RM173.32 million recorded in the same period last year. Revenue, however, was higher at RM344.35 million from RM336.74 million, it said in a filing to Bursa Malaysia here Tuesday. In a separate statement, Group Chief Executive Officer Joel Kornreich said the group was pleased with the early results of the roll-out of its 2016 financial year strategy to improve the risk adjusted return on assets and the focus on quality of deposits and fee income.

SGCM Eyes Over 50 Pct Export Sales In Two Years

KUALA LUMPUR -- SCGM Bhd is eyeing over 50 per cent in revenue contribution from export markets within two years. In a statement here Tuesday, the vacuum plastic packaging manufacturer said for financial year ended April 30, 2015, 46 per cent of the group's revenue was derived from overseas markets. It said exports increased at a quicker pace compared to local sales, expanding from RM29.6 million to RM49.2 million between financial years ending April 30 2011 to 2015.

Inno Bio Expects Revenue Growth From Biosimilar Products

KUALA LUMPUR -- Inno Bio Ventures Sdn Bhd expects to generate revenue growth of between 60 and 80 per cent yearly once it starts to commercialise its first Malaysian-made biosimilar drugs in 12 to 14 months. Its President, Datuk Dr Ahmed Tasir Lope Pihie, said here Tuesday, the company would be able to achieve the revenue growth as biosimilar products had been accepted in South Korea, Japan, Canada, Europe and the US.

IGB Corp's Q2 Pre-Tax Profit Declines To RM108.66 Mln

KUALA LUMPUR -- IGB Corporation Bhd posted a lower pre-tax profit of RM108.66 million for the second quarter ended June 30, 2015 from RM112.83 million in the corresponding quarter last year. Revenue also declined to RM271.91 million from RM290.84 million previously. In a filing to Bursa Malaysia here Tuesday, the company attributed the decline to lower contributions from the property development and hotel divisions.

Star Media Q2 Pre-Tax Profit Slips To RM42.93 Mln
KUALA LUMPUR -- Star Media Group Bhd posted a lower pre-tax profit of RM42.93 million for the second quarter (Q2) ended June 30, 2015 compared with RM52.78 million in the corresponding quarter last year. Revenue declined to RM266.31 million from RM274.53 million previously. In a filing to Bursa Malaysia here Tuesday, the group attributed the decline to lower contributions mainly from the print segment.

Kian Joo Q2 Pre-Tax Profit Increases To RM42.43 Mln
KUALA LUMPUR -- Kian Joo Can Factory Bhd's pre-tax profit for the second quarter ended June 30, 2015 rose to RM42.43 million from RM36.98 million in the corresponding quarter last year. Revenue increased to RM391.80 million from RM333.34 million previously, it said in a filing to Bursa Malaysia here Tuesday.

Malaysia Yields RM42 Mln From German Trade Fair
KUALA LUMPUR -- Malaysia's participation in the recently concluded Global Destination for Shoes (GDS) and Tag It! International trade fair in Dusseldorf, Germany had yielded sales of RM42 million. Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (Matrade) coordinated the participation of 10 Malaysian companies in the event including Sakura Malaysia Sdn Bhd, Holmen (M) Sdn Bhd and Jimmy Couture Trend Sdn Bhd. Matrade Trade Commissioner to Frankfurt S.Jai Shankar said foreign buyers were still open to sourcing from Malaysia as the range of products offered by Malaysian exporters remained wide.

MSM Malaysia Q2 Pre-Tax Profit Up At RM105.52 Mln
KUALA LUMPUR -- MSM Malaysia Holdings Bhd recorded a higher pre-tax profit of RM105.52 million for the second quarter ended June 30, 2015 against RM102.94 million registered in the same period last year. Revenue, however, eased to RM588.32 million from RM595.43 million. In a filing to Bursa Malaysia here Wednesday, MSM Malaysia said the lower revenue was due to the one per cent reduction in the overall tonnage of sugar sold in the local market.

AMMB Q1 Pre-Tax Profit Dips To RM482.40 Mln
KUALA LUMPUR -- AMMB Holdings Bhd's pre-tax profit for the first quarter ended June 30, 2015 fell to RM482.40 million from RM725.79 million recorded in the corresponding quarter last year. Revenue eased to RM2.11 billion from RM2.58 billion previously due to lower operating income, net interest income and net income from Islamic banking business, the bank said in a filing to Bursa Malaysia here Wednesday.

ASEAN's Real GDP Grows 4.6 Pct In 2014
By Minggu Simon Lhasa

BANGKOK -- ASEAN's real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew 4.6 per cent to reach US$2.57 trillion in 2014. The sustained growth in GDP led to an increase in the GDP per capita from US$3,908 in 2013 to US$4,130 in 2014, ASEAN Secretariat said in a statement here Wednesday. It said the services sector continued to be the biggest contributor to growth at 50.1 per cent of the region's total GDP in 2014.

Magna Prima Q2 Pre-Tax Profit Surges To RM31.77 Mln
KUALA LUMPUR -- Magna Prima Bhd's pre-tax profit for the second quarter ended June 30, 2015 surged to RM31.77 million from a mere RM2.86 million in the same quarter last year. Revenue jumped to RM71.63 million from RM6.69 million previously. In a filing to Bursa Malaysia here Wednesday, the property developer said the better financial results were mainly contributed by the completion and settlement of "The Istana" project in Melbourne.

AirAsia X Posts RM162 Mln Pre-Tax Loss In Q2
KUALA LUMPUR -- Long-haul low-cost airline AirAsia X Bhd's pre-tax loss widened to RM162 million for the second quarter ended June 30, 2015 from RM132.3 million last year. Revenue stood at RM653 million, a decrease of 3.0 per cent from RM672 million in the same quarter a year ago. The drop was primarily due to a reduction of scheduled-flight revenue resulting from lower load factor due to a halt in marketing activities, the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) outbreak in South Korea and a massive earthquake in Kathmandu.

Goldis Q2 Pre-Tax Profit Drops To RM97.46 Mln
KUALA LUMPUR -- Goldis Bhd's pre-tax profit fell to RM97.46 million in the second quarter ended June 30, 2015 from RM119.60 million in the same period last year. Revenue for the quarter decreased to RM294.54 million from RM317.77 million previously. In a filing to Bursa Malaysia here Wednesday, it said the revenue of the group for the six-month period rose 3.2 per cent to RM660.0 million compared with RM639.8 million in the corresponding period of the preceding year.

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Survey: Malaysian Brands Are Tops In Singapore

KUALA LUMPUR -- Malaysian brands have gained a strong brand recall among Singapore consumers. This is according to the list of top Asian brands in Singapore announced by Brands Alliance, which used Influential Brands, a fast growing brand leadership platform for the survey. Brand Alliance, with more than 17 years in the industry, in a statement here Monday also revealed that Malaysian brands that topped the list were largely from the Fast-Moving Consumer Brands (FMCG) such as Julie's Biscuits, Ah Huat White Coffee and Hup Seng. From the Food and Beverage Industry, it was The Manhattan Fish Market and PappaRich.

92 Pct Of GST Refunds Disbursed To Registered Traders

KUALA LUMPUR -- The Royal Malaysian Customs Department has disbursed 92 per cent of the goods and services tax (GST) refunds to the registered traders for the period April to June, 2015 within 14 days as stipulated. Deputy Finance Minister Datuk Johari Abdul Ghani told reporters here Monday, for the rest, the companies made a few mistakes when making their refunds like in filling up the tax return forms and the department failed to contact the them.

AKPK Settled 8,321 Debt Cases As Of July This Year

KUALA LUMPUR -- The Credit Counselling and Debt Management Agency (AKPK) settled nearly 6.2 per cent or 8,321 cases under its debt management programme (DMP) as of July this year. Deputy Finance Minister Datuk Chua Tee Yong told reporters here Monday, with cases amounting to RM345.6 million settled, the government expects the success rate to continue improving.

Telent To Set Up Retail Point-Of-Sale In KL By Q3

From Nurunnasihah Ahmad Rashid

XIAMEN (China) -- China-based Telent Outdoor (Hong Kong) Technology Co Ltd plans to set up a retail point-of-sale (POS) in Kuala Lumpur as a springboard to penetrate other South-East Asian markets by the third quarter of this year. According to the Independent Market Research report, Telent, which specialises in design, manufacture, marketing, brand management and distribution of its branded outdoor apparel, footwear and equipment, is ranked second in the China outdoor outfits market in terms of retail sales value.

Govt To Assist Biotech Entrepreneurs Via RM30 Mln Grant

KUALA LUMPUR -- The government is ready to assist entrepreneurs in the biotechnology industry via its RM30 million facilitation grant, Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation Datuk Madius Tangau told reporters here Monday. He said the grant, which was approved in April this year, will help to commercialise industry players' products, hence meeting the government's target commercialisation rate of 10 per cent by 2020 from eight per cent currently. The benchmark international commercialisation rate is 15 per cent.

Free Flow Of Skilled Labour In AEC Gets Positive Response

By Harizah Hanim Mohamed

KUALA LUMPUR -- The proposal to introduce a free flow of skilled labour in the Asean Economic Community (AEC), which will be set up this year, has received a positive response from member countries. However, the members said it was crucial to have a mutual skills recognition schemes across ASEAN to ensure its success. Singapore Human Capital Leadership Institute Chief Executive Officer, Wong Su-Yen told Bernama in an interview here Monday, the move will help expand the talent pool to some extent. "However, a lot of efforts are required to get us from where we are today, to the future state."

Greentech To Roll Out 25,000 ChargEV Stations By 2020

KUALA LUMPUR -- Malaysian Green Technology Corp (GreenTech Malaysia) will roll out 25,000 ChargEV stations by 2020 to encourage uptake of electric vehicles (EVs) and improve air quality. In a statement here Monday, GreenTech Malaysia said the plan aimed to support Malaysia's target of deploying 100,000 EVs in the next five years, along with the 2,000 electric busses and 100,000 electrical scooters and motorcycles. Chief Executive Officer, Ir Ahmad Hadri Haris, said with the wide adoption of EVs, which emitted zero tailpipe emissions, it will continue to reduce Malaysia's carbon emissions by 6.4 million tonnes of carbon emission equivalent by 2030.

MITI Monitors Trade Performance Closely – Mustapa

SUNGAI BULOH -- The government is monitoring the trade performance over the next two or three months before deciding to revise this year's trade figures amid the challenging global economic environment. International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri

Mustapa Mohamed Monday said the export performance has been challenging with sluggish growth seen in many parts of the world. "We're in a challenging environment. We'll monitor closely the economic environment in the two or three months (before revising trade growth)," he told reporters here.

AirAsia Sees US$160 Mln Savings From Lower Fuel Prices

KUALA LUMPUR -- AirAsia Bhd foresees US$160 million in cost savings next year from weakening crude oil prices as the group's hedging tenure ends in 2015. "Sixty per cent of the AirAsia fleet is hedged. Oil is a very big component of our costs and that has tumbled. No hedge next year," said Group Chief Executive Officer Tan Sri Tony Fernandes. Currently, the group's hedging level is about US$80 per barrel, which is about 50 per cent higher than the market price. "From the financial point, the currency devaluation is nothing compared to the oil devaluation. (The devaluation of) oil has a much bigger impact for us (in foreign exchange terms)," he told reporters here Tuesday.

Malaysia To Gain Global Market Access Via Trading Arrangements

KUALA LUMPUR -- Malaysia needs to pursue bilateral and regional trading arrangements, including the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) to gain market access internationally and remains an attractive location for foreign investments. Malaysian International Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MICCI) President Datuk Jalilah Baba said free trade agreements (FTAs) played a key role in regional integration.

Malaysia's Kids Wear Brand Poney To Expand In India

KUALA LUMPUR -- Malaysia-based children's wear brand Poney is expanding its presence in the lucrative Indian market by partnering with Franchise India, an integrated franchise solutions company. Through this partnership, Poney had signed a master franchise contract with the Ajanta International Group, a Delhi-based firm, said in a statement here Wednesday.

Petronas Unveils Euro 4M Primax 97

KUALA LUMPUR -- Petronas Dagangan Bhd (PDB) Wednesday unveiled its Petronas Primax 97 with an improved advanced energy formula, the first RON 97 fuel that meets Euro 4M specifications, ahead of the gazetted Sept 1, 2015 implementation date. The fuel comes with lower benzene, sulphur and Reid vapour pressure levels, making it a greener fuel that produces fewer emissions and pollutants than the previous Euro 2M RON 97.

Revised Container Tariff At Port Klang Takes Effect Oct 1

KUALA LUMPUR -- Phase one of the revised container tariff at Port Klang will take effect on Oct 1, 2015 instead of Sept 1, 2015, according to Westports Holdings Bhd. In a filing to Bursa Malaysia here Thursday, Westports said it received a letter notifying about the date changes from Port Klang Authority. "All other details of the (previous) announcement remain unchanged," the port operator said.

MyTeksi Raises US$350 Mln In Additional Funding

KUALA LUMPUR -- GrabTaxi Holdings Pte Ltd, known as MyTeksi in Malaysia, has received over US$350 million in additional funds, making it one of the best funded startups in Southeast Asia. In a statement here Thursday, GrabTaxi said the funds were from Coatue Management LLC, a US investment firm that invests in technology worldwide.

Boeing Delivers 2 Next-Gen 737-900ers To Sriwijaya Air

KUALA LUMPUR -- Boeing has successfully delivered two new Next-Generation 737-900ER (Extended Range) airplanes, the first all-new airplane delivery for Sriwijaya Air, Indonesia's third largest carrier. The Jakarta-based airline operates an all-Boeing fleet of 737 airplanes and offers flights to various Indonesian destinations and a select few international cities.

Modernise & Improve Production Methods In Agro Sector - Husni

PUTRAJAYA -- Efforts must be strengthened to modernise and improve production methods in the agro-food sector to meet future challenges such as the rising demand for affordable, health and safe food, says Second Finance Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Husni Hanadzlah. "We need to modernise the agro-food sector basically, because in Malaysia, 90 per cent of the producers use semi automated machines and production methods are out dated. "So, we have to look at modernisation," he told reporters here Friday.

Petronas President To Speak At Singapore Energy Summit

By Tengku Noor Shamsiah Tengku Abdullah

SINGAPORE -- Petronas President and Group Chief Executive Datuk Wan Zulkiflee Wan Ariffin will be among top energy leaders to speak at the upcoming Singapore Energy Summit in October. The summit will be held in conjunction with Singapore International Energy Week (SIEW) 2015 slated for Oct 26-30 at the Marina Bay Sands Expo and Convention Centre here.

Malindo Introduces No Fee For Flight Changes

KUALA LUMPUR -- Malindo Air has removed charges on flight changes for the business and economy classes in conjunction with the "No Change Fee" campaign, starting Monday. In a statement here Monday, Malindo Air said passengers could change their flight dates and time up to 24 hours prior to their departure to their convenience as there was no limit to the permissible changes.

Matrade Organises Specialised Marketing Mission To Kuwait

KUALA LUMPUR -- The Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (Matrade) is organising a Specialised Marketing Mission (SMM) for the oil & gas (o&g) industry to Kuwait in conjunction with the Kuwait O&G Show and Conference (KOGS) 2015 from Oct 11 to 14. This is Matrade's first specialised mission to Kuwait for the O&G industry and KOGS, it said in a statement here Monday. Companies interested in joining the mission can register at http://www.matrade.gov.my/en/online-applications/specialised-marketing-mission.

KUB Appoints Abdul Rahim Group MD

KUALA LUMPUR -- KUB Malaysia Bhd has appointed Datuk Abdul Rahim Mohd Zin as Group Managing Director effective Monday. In a statement here Monday, KUB said Abdul Rahim brought over 25 years of experience and leadership in banking and finance, oil and gas, shipping and food and beverage. "I am confident he will make a significant contribution to the success of KUB," said KUB's Director, Tunku Alizan Raja Muhammad Alias. Prior to joining KUB, Abdul Rahim was Group Chief Executive Officer of Radimax Group Sdn Bhd.

MIDA Is Official Supporting Partner Of ASEAN-EU Business Summit

KUALA LUMPUR -- The Malaysian Investment Development Authority (MIDA) has become an official supporting partner of the ASEAN-EU Business Summit 2015 to be held here this Sunday. Its Chief Executive Officer Datuk Azman Mahmud said in a statement here Tuesday, the partnership was an ideal platform for MIDA to promote private investments by engaging key industry players and senior officials from the European Union (EU) and ASEAN in discussions on the opportunities and challenges in new growth areas.

McDonald's Malaysia Appoints Azmir Managing Director

KUALA LUMPUR -- McDonald's Malaysia has appointed Azmir Jaafar as Managing Director, effective Aug 15, 2015 to replace his predecessor, Stephen Chew. In a statement here Tuesday, McDonalds said prior to Azmir's return, he was Managing Director of McDonald's Middle East Development Co since January 2015. Azmir joined McDonald's Malaysia as a management trainee in 1993 and a year later moved to restaurant development, where he led the team until 2004.

Dagang Net Is NSW Service Provider For Customs Dept

KUALA LUMPUR -- Dagang Nexchange Bhd's (DNeX) unit, Dagang Net Technologies Sdn Bhd has been appointed as the National Single Window (NSW) Service Provider for the Royal Malaysian Customs Department. In a filing to Bursa Malaysia here Tuesday, the company said the contract entailed designing, developing, installing, configuring, testing, commissioning and provisioning of support and maintenance services for the department's Trade Facilitation Portal.

MAS To Offer 30-50 Pct Discounts At MATTA Fair

KUALA LUMPUR -- Malaysia Airlines (MAS) will offer discounts of between 30 and 50 per cent on promotion tickets purchased during the Malaysian Association of Tour and Travel Agents (MATTA) Fair in September. MAS Senior Manager Regional Sales, Kathleen Leong told reporters here Wednesday, the national carrier will have a big presence via the travel agents at the fair and the discounts will be offered to all MAS destinations.

Weststar Maxus To Take Part In Indonesia Auto Show

KUALA LUMPUR -- Weststar Maxus Sdn Bhd, a member of The Weststar Group, will participate at the 2015 Gaikindo Indonesia International Auto Show (GIIAS) at the Indonesia Convention Exhibition (ICE) on Aug 20-30. The group will be presenting a cohesive combination of its Weststar Maxus range of commercial vehicles to spread its reach to a larger business and individual Indonesian demographics, Weststar Group Managing Director Tan Sri Syed Azman Syed Ibrahim said in a statement here Wednesday.

A Rough Week But We Made It Through

By Siti Hawa Othman

Minister of International Trade and Industry Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed inspecting the preparations of the 47th ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM) Meeting and related meetings Thursday. Also present his deputy Datuk Ahmad Maslan (second,right) and ASEAN Economic Integration MITI, Datuk P. Ravindran (right). -- fotoBERNAMA

KUALA LUMPUR (Bernama) -- Phew, the previous week has been a rough one with too much in store to be digested.

Too many developments taking place, the ringgit and the stock market which went southward, the gross domestic product (GDP) and Petronas results with declining growths. But it's not only the local sentiment, the pressure has been regional and global, and it hurts.

So Malaysians had to brace themselves, and move forward with all these headwinds, aided by our economic fundamentals which were still very much intact.

No pegging, no capital controls, as some economists are of the view that the financial institution is sound with an adequate foreign reserves buffer, and that the focus should be on addressing the underlying problems.

GOVT ASSURANCE

The guarantee given by the government to address the current situation that has been affecting the local currency, to ensure a stable economy, is welcoming as there is this need to restore investors' confidence and quash negative perceptions about the country.

What more since Malaysia is this year's ASEAN chair and will in fact be hosting the ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM) meeting this week.

Malaysians also need to hold their spirits up in celebrating the country's 58th year of Independence this month.

As for the week that was, the inevitable happened when the ringgit breached the 4.0 level against the US dollar as the devaluation of the yuan coupled with volatile commodity prices prompted selling in regional currencies including the local note.

China's surprising move on Tuesday to devaluate its tightly-controlled currency, the renminbi, saw the Singapore dollar dropping to a five-year low or 1.4 per cent against the greenback, the Korean won by two per cent while also affecting the Baht and peso.

MANAGEABLE

Well, the ringgit is not falling alone as traders said other emerging Asian currencies are also affected by the same external drags.

The dwindling crude oil prices, uncertain policy direction in major economies particularly that of United States' Federal Reserve's interest rate decision and China's yuan devaluation, will continue to have an impact.

A local research house said the ringgit has not entered a freefall state and its impact on the economy would likely be manageable.

It said the country's foreign reserves at US$96.7 billion were still sufficient to finance 7.6 months of retained imports, a level still considered high by international standards.

Compare this to 1998, when foreign reserves were only US$20 billion with trade running in deficit.

-- BERNAMA

LIST OF MARKET REPORTS :

BURSA Likely To Extend Downward Trend Next Week

By Sharifah Pirdaus Syed Ali

KUALA LUMPUR -- Share prices on Bursa Malaysia is expected to extend its downward trend next week brought about by weak investors' sentiment on the back of impending interest hike by the US Federal Reserve, the volatility of the Chinese yuan, softer ringgit, weaker commodity prices and increasing geopolitical tension in North Korea. Affin Hwang Investment Bank Vice-President and Head of Retail Research Datuk Dr Nazri Khan Adam Khan said following the bearish performance of the global stocks, the FTSE Bursa Malaysia KLCI (FBM KLCI) could test the next support level of 1,560 points and 1 550 points. "Asian stocks and currencies continue to slide and under extensive pressure following disappointing manufacturing data from China which has added to fears about global economic growth, he said. China's Purchasing Managers' Index showed that Chinese manufacturing activity shrank for a sixth straight month in August, falling to 47.1 from July's final reading of 47.8 and remained below the threshold of 50 that separated expansion from contraction. "The market is now under a defensive environment with investors dumping risk assets from their portfolios to grab more dividend stocks, core government bonds, the yen and gold. "Overall, it is believed that the recent sell down on the local as well as regional bourses might not be over and the downside could continue," he told Bernama. However, this could be a good opportunity for investors to start accumulating quality counters.

"Most KLCI-linked counters look attractive now. Investors may want to accumulate and lock in their positions now for attractive counters like SKPetro, Tenaga Nasional, Telekom Malaysia, Public Bank, IOICorp and Axiata," he added. Weekly turnover fell to 9.79 billion units, worth RM9.74 billion, from last week's 10.26 billion units worth RM10.76 billion. Main market volume reduced to 5.04 billion units, valued at RM8.61 billion, from 5.80 billion units, valued at RM9.75 billion, recorded last week.

FOREX: Ringgit Likely To Remain Under Pressure Next Week

By Azizul Ahmad

KKUALA LUMPUR -- The ringgit is likely to remain under pressure next week and could test the 4.20 level against the US dollar, say commercial banks. Hong Leong Bank, in its weekly research report, said the ringgit will continue to be dominated by the greenback's performance next week. "Unless there is significant weakness in the greenback, we opine that it would be safe to assume the ringgit would remain pressured. "It could very well challenge the 4.25 level next week," it said. Nonetheless, the bank said the US$-ringgit pair is overbought and has shown signs of upside fatigue, therefore a reversal, if any, could be strong. Meanwhile, Standard Chartered Bank, in its latest research report, also expected further ringgit weakness. "While one can argue that much of the negative news is already priced in, we expect more upside in US$-ringgit from current levels. "We expect US$-ringgit to be driven by three key factors in the short term; the impact from the likely US Federal Reserve rate hike, potential portfolio outflows and Bank Negara Malaysia's response to currency weakness," it said. In terms of flow dynamics, the bank expected further portfolio outflows from both the bond and equity markets to weigh on the currency.

"We forecast US$-ringgit at 4.20 by the third quarter and at 4.05 by end-2015," it said. For the week just-ended, the ringgit extended its weakness on continued downbeat regional sentiment and sliding crude oil prices as it depreciated 2.6 per cent or 1,050 basis points lower against the US dollar at 4.1800/1880 from 4.0750/0800 recorded last Friday. The ringgit hit an intraday level of 4.1880 to the dollar on Friday last week for the first time since the Asian financial crisis 17 years ago. The local unit continued its decline against the Singapore dollar to 2.9694/9753 from 2.9037/9087 last Friday and fell against the yen to 3.3981/4060 from 3.2784/2837 previously. It depreciated further against the pound sterling to 6.5672/5814 from 6.3603/3693 last week and weakened against the euro to 4.7033/7132 from 4.5424/5496 previously.

Money-Market: Interbank Money Market To Remain Steady

By Azizul Ahamd

KUALA LUMPUR -- The Malaysian interbank money market is expected to remain steady next week as Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) is expected to continue to intervene to manage excess liquidity and stabilise the market. "Short-term interbank rates are expected to stay stable. "The Overnight Policy Rate (OPR) is expected to remain around 3.25 per cent making both deposit and borrowing costs to the economy broadly stable," a treasury dealer told Bernama. Meanwhile, Standard Chartered Bank, in its latest research report, said Malaysia's growth momentum remained strong and expected the central bank to keep its monetary policy unchanged in 2015.

"Fundamentally, with a first half Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth of 5.3 per cent, year-on-year, and a current account surplus of 3.1 per cent of GDP, Malaysia ranks better than many other countries in the region. "With growth still strong and inflation manageable, we expect BNM to keep its monetary policy stance unchanged for the rest of the year. "We maintain our view that it will not use the interest rate policy to bolster the ringgit's performance unless it is clear that the ringgit's weakness is affecting growth fundamentals," it said. For the week just-ended, BNM intervened daily to flush the system of surplus funds by conducting conventional, Commodity Murabahah Programme, Qard, range-maturity auction and repo tenders.

On Friday, the central bank's action helped reduce the market's total liquidity surplus to RM31.01 billion in the conventional system and RM6.60 billion in Islamic funds. On a week-to-week basis, the overnight Islamic reference rate was unchanged at 3.21 per cent, the one-week rate inched up a tick to 3.28 per cent while the two- and three-week rates were unchanged at 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 To Trend Lower Next Week

By Sharifah Pirdaus Syed Ali

KUALA LUMPUR -- The FTSE Bursa Malaysia KLCI (FBM KLCI) futures contract (FKLI) on Bursa Malaysia Derivatives is expected to trend lower next week. Affin Hwang Investment Bank Vice-President and Head of Retail Research Datuk Dr Nazri Khan Adam Khan told Bernama that the FBMKLCI failed to build on its uptrend momentum as it has gone below the 1,600 psychological level. "The market remained in the selling zone and with no convincing signs of reversal play in the near-term despite being deeply oversold," he said. Nazri Khan said a weak catalyst and negative market sentiment driven by China's slowing economy, Federal Reserve impending Interest hike and other local issues were not supporting the market. For the week just-ended, the FKLI was traded mixed in choppy trading amid the fragile market sentiment which saw the futures market trade between 1,505 and 1,582. On a week-to-week basis, August 2015 declined 18.5 points to 1,564, September 2015 dropped 24.5 points to 1,545.5, December 2015 decreased 36 points to 1,517 while March 2016 fell 35 points to 1,508. Turnover for the week rose to 80,030 lots from 70,697 lots while open interest on Friday stood at 6,257 contracts from 60,658 contracts previously.

CPO Futures To Trade Cautiously Next Week

By Nurunnasihah Ahmad Rashid

KUALA LUMPUR -- Crude palm oil (CPO) futures contracts on Bursa Malaysia Derivatives are likely to trade cautiously next week. Interband Group of Companies Senior Palm Oil Trader, Jim Teh, said the prices are expected to range between RM1,850 and RM1,920 a tonne due to higher production expectations for September. He said the weaker performance of South-East Asia's stock markets, coupled with the downtrend in crude oil prices, had also contributed to the fragile market sentiment. "We are going through a mild recession as the other commodities also registered slower performance, amid weaker currencies," he told Bernama. On a weekly basis, September 2015 and October 2015 was down RM73 each to RM1,913 and RM1,961 a tonne respectively, November 2015 fell RM41 to RM1,986 a tonne, while December 2015 slipped RM15 to RM2,032 a tonne. Turnover for the week was lower at 246,551 lots compared with 250,172 lots last week, while the open interest climbed to 265,705 contracts from 262,679 contracts. On the physical market, September South ended the week at RM1,930 a tonne.

Rubber Market To Trade Mixed Next Week

KUALA LUMPUR -- The Malaysian rubber market is likely to trade mixed next week, tracking the trend in crude oil prices as well as the ringgit's movements, dealers said. A dealer said traders also remained cautious over the economic uncertainty in China, which is the world's top buyer of natural rubber. "Rubber prices are also likely to track the movements on the Tokyo Commodity Exchange and Shanghai Futures Exchange," the dealer added. On a weekly basis, the local market traded lower with the Malaysian Rubber Board's noon price for tyre-grade SMR 20 easing eight sen to 528 sen a kg while latex-in-bulk added 4.5 sen to 421 sen a kg. The 5 pm unofficial closing price for SMR 20 declined 8.5 sen to 529.50 sen a kg while latex-in-bulk rose 2.5 sen to end the week at 420.5 sen a kg.

KLIBOR Futures Likely To Hover Around Current Levels

KUALA LUMPUR -- The three-month Kuala Lumpur Interbank Offered Rate (KLIBOR) futures contracts on Bursa Malaysia Derivatives are likely to hover around current levels next week There was only one transaction, with a volume of 100 lots, for the week just ended. September 2015 fell one tick to 96.29, while October 2015, November 2015 and December 2015 were traded unchanged throughout the week and remained pegged on Friday at 96.29, 96.29 and 96.29 respectively. Open interest stood at 964 contracts. The underlying three-month KLIBOR was pegged at 3.69 per cent.

Tin Price Likely To Stay At Current Level

By Azlee Nor Mahmud

KUALA LUMPUR -- Tin price on the Kuala Lumpur Tin Market (KLTM) is likely to stay at the current level next week on consistent buying support, said a dealer. The dealer said the local tin price was likely to move between US$15,500 per tonne next week. “The KLTM tin price is higher than the London Metal Exchange (LME) and traders will be observing the latter’s efforts to catch up amid low warehouse stock,” he told Bernama. On Friday, the KLTM tin price closed marginally lower in tandem with the metal’s performance on the LME. On a Friday-to-Friday basis, the KLTM tin price finished at US$15,449 per tonne from US$15,100 per tonne last Friday. Total turnover on the KLTM increased to 299 tonnes from last week’s 264 tonnes, with trading dominated by European, Japanese and local traders. The price differential between the KLTM and LME widened to a premium of US$505 per tonne from US$405 per tonne previously.

Gold Futures Likely To Strengthen Further

By Azlee Nor Mahmud

KUALA LUMPUR -- Gold futures contracts on Bursa Malaysia Derivatives are likely to strengthen further next week on the back of global economic woes, dealers said. Phillip Futures Sdn Bhd Dealer, Leo Goh Boon Hao told Bernama the uncertainty would culminate in the interest for the precious metal, which was considered as safe-haven asset during challenging times. He said for the week just-ended, the gold prices were traded at a seven-month high, since Jan 21, 2015.

“Bursa Malaysia gold futures rallied, tracking weak global economy amid stumble in global stocks and weaker-than-expected China’s manufacturing data,” he added. On a Friday-to-Friday basis, August 2015 rose 167 ticks to RM155.20, September 2015 gained 154 ticks to RM155.50, October 2015 soared 156 ticks to RM156.20 while November 2015 was 155 ticks higher to RM157.35 a gramme. Volume for the week declined to 858 lots worth RM12.79 million from 1,822 lots worth RM26.19 million last week. Open interest was lower at 1,486 contracts from 2,009 contracts last Friday.