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Bursa Malaysia ends mixed

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KUALALUMPUR: Bursa Malaysia ended mixed yesterday with the barometer index declining for three straight days during the holiday-shortened week, bucking the strong performance of key regional indices, said a dealer.

At 5 pm, the benchmark FTSE Bursa Malaysia KLCI (FBM KLCI) eased 0.84 of-a-point to 1,497.55 from Thursday's close of 1,498.39.

The market bellwether opened 1.58 points higher at 1,499.97 and moved between 1,493.07 and 1,500.91 throughout the session.

However, on the broader market, gainers outpaced losers 542 to 385, while 403 counters were unchanged, 917 untraded and 49 others suspended.

Turnover rose to 4.62 billion units worth RM2.42 billion against Thursday's 3.75 billion units worth RM2.03 billion.

Rakuten Trade Sdn Bhd vice-president of equity research Thong Pak Leng told Bernama the local bourse was stuck in a consolidation mode for the holiday-shortened week as sentiments were still cautious from the lack of buying catalysts despite the persistent buying from local institutions and retail.

"We noticed that buying activities have shifted to smaller cap stocks, particularly in the construction, transportation and energy sectors. The performance of the benchmark index remained lagging compared to its regional peers, at the same time providing cheaper valuations, hence providing buying opportunities for investors.

Regionally, he said key indices trended higher as investors digested Tokyo's consumer price index (CPI) which rose 4.3 per cent, growing faster than estimates nearing the highest for Japan's capital since mid-1981.

Meanwhile, the Hong Kong market continued to rise as investors remain optimistic about the reopening of China's economy, he noted.

Japan's Nikkei 225 added 0.07 per cent to 27,382.56, Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index climbed 0.76 per cent to 22,688.90, South Korea's Kospi increased 0.62 per cent to 2,484.02 and Singapore's Straits Times Index added 0.34 per cent

to 3,388.58.

Back home, Bursa heavyweights Maybank shed four sen to RM8.74, Public Bank and Petronas Chemicals slipped three sen each to RM4.25 and RM8.48 respectively, while CIMB added two sen to RM5.74 and **Tenaga Nasional gained three sen to RM9.55.**

As for the actives, MMAG edged up half-a-sen to 2.5 sen, ATA IMS rose earned one sen to 40.5 sen, Nylex rose 11.5 sen to 54.5 sen, Velesto eased half-a-sen to 22 sen and Sapura Energy was flat at five sen.

On the index board, the FBM Emas Index bagged 12.44 points to 10,893.36, the FBM 100 Index added 9.81 points to 10,563.91, and the FBM Emas Shariah Index climbed 28.42 points to 11,177.55.

The FBM 70 Index surged 80.37 points to 13,759.84 and the FBM ACE Index advanced 43.64 points to 5,731.23. — Bernama