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Higher on persistent buying

THE FTSE Bursa Malaysia KLCI (FBM KLCI) closed higher yesterday on persistent buying interest in selected blue-chips and key heavyweights.

The FBM KLCI rose by 8.61 points to settle at 1,844.1 after moving between 1,828.48 and 1,846.49 throughout the day. Market breadth was positive with 414 gainers against 338 losers.

Volume declined to 905.01 million shares worth RM818.25 million compared with 925.20 million shares worth RM758.92 million on Tuesday.

The Finance Index rose 70.199 points to 16,907.67, the Industrial Index firmed 8.63 points to 3,134.72 and the Plantation Index added 44.21 points to 8,761.7.

The FBM Emas Index improved 47.32 points to 12,706.57, the FBMT100 Index gained 47.05 points to 12,443.88 and the FBM 70 rose 9.13 points to 14,052.59. The FBM ACE Index, however, eased 5.15 points to 5,590.07.

Among the actives, Asian Pac added 1.5 sen to 18 sen and BIMB Holdings rose four sen to 86.5 sen.

Sumatec and Nextnation were flat at 27.5 sen and half-a-sen, respectively.

Of the heavyweights, Maybank surged nine sen to RM10.04, TNB jumped six sen to RM11.14 and Axiata advanced five sen to RM6.80.

FBM KLCI futures contracts on Bursa Malaysia Derivatives also closed higher yesterday.

December 2013 rose nine points to 1,848.5, January 2014 added 7.5 points to 1,851.5, March 2014 advanced 8.5 points to 1,849.5 and June 2014 gained eight points to 1,843.5.

Turnover declined to 11,259 lots from 11,866 lots on Tuesday, while open interest increased to 60,728 contracts from 56,385 contracts previously. **Bernama**