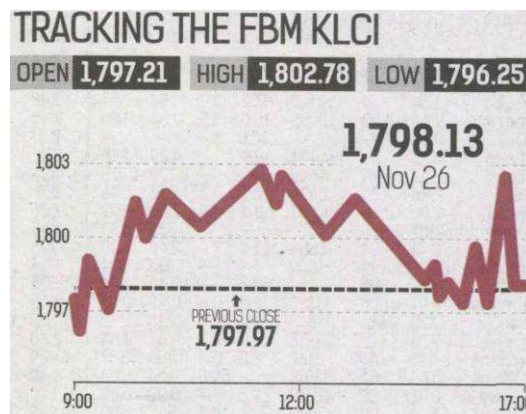
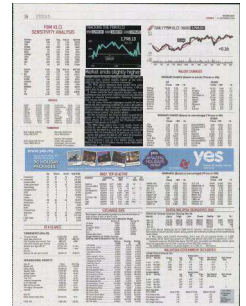


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Market ends slightly higher

SHARE prices on Bursa Malaysia, which got off to a cautious start, inched slightly higher at the close, reflecting the lacklustre market sentiments.

The FTSE Bursa Malaysia KLCI ended 0.16 point higher at 1,798.13 after hovering between 1,796.25 and 1,802.78 during the entire trading session.

A dealer said the local equities market was seen battling to stay above the 1,800 level and was lifted by gains in selected heavyweights, Petronas Dagangan and Tenaga Nasional.

"At the close, Petronas Dagangan soared 90 sen to RM31.04, after opening at RM30.10, with 1.46 million shares transacted, while Tenaga Nasional chalked up 21 sen to RM9.85, after opening at RM9.65, with 10.47 million shares traded," the dealer added.

On the scoreboard, the Finance Index surged 88.16 points to 16,596.65, while the Industrial Index fell 15.92 points to 3,115.15, and the Plantation Index dipped 21.80 points to 8,786.37.

The FBM Emas Index was 11.55 points lower at 12,501.87, the FBMT100 Index fell 13.99 points to 12,223.39, the FBM Ace shed 28.07 points to 5,665.78 and the FBM 70 dwindled 78.26 points to 14,172.93.

Losers led gainers by 466 to 347, with 314 counters unchanged, 473 untraded and 34 suspended.

Total turnover rose to 2.12 billion shares worth RM2.67bil from 1.74 billion shares worth RM1.88bil on Monday. — Bernama