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## Mild profit-taking sees Bursa close lower

KUALA LUMPUR: Bursa Malaysia ended lower yesterday on mild profit-taking in selected blue chips, a dealer said.

The benchmark FBM KLCI closed 3.4 points lower at 1,847.5, after fluctuating between 1,841.66 and 1,849.43 throughout the day.

Among actives, Xidelang Holdings inched up half-a-sen to 38.5 sen while Tiger Synergy slipped 2.5 sen to 20 sen.

Of heavyweights, TNB rose eight sen to RM10.94 while Sime Darby was flat at RM9.56. Volume on the Main Market expanded to 866.17 million units, worth RM1.574 billion, from 837.447 million units, worth RM1.473 billion, recorded on Tuesday.

Turnover on the ACE market declined to 142.174 million shares, valued at RM40.245 million, from yesterday's 201.64 million shares valued at RM59.834 million. Warrants widened to 62.585 million units, worth RM12.623 million, from 34.358 million units, worth RM6.208 million, registered on Tuesday.

Consumer products accounted for 87.082 million shares on the Main Market, industrial products 111.173 million, construction 23.054 million, trade and services 286.837 million, technology 34.669 million, infrastructure 20.423 million, SPAC 18.283 million, finance 67.515 million, hotels 177,500, properties 179.92 million, plantations 27.739 million, mining 27,500, REITs 9.312 million and closed/fund 34,000.

Thailand's SET index, outperforming the region, gained 1% led by information technology shares, while the Philippines ended 0.6% firmer. Indonesia's Jakarta Composite Index edged up 0.3% to a near one-week high.

"Market is slowing down and foreign investors are reluctant to make a big move before hearing when the Fed will begin curbing its asset purchases," said John Teja, a director of Jakarta-based Ciptadana Securities.

Other markets ended weaker with Malaysia's share index ending 0.2% weaker, from a record closing high in the previous session, with a US\$43.73 million foreign outflow. Singapore's benchmark index closed 0.2% down.

Investors have been nervous about when the Fed will start tapering its US\$85 billion-a-month bond-buying programme. A majority of economists polled earlier expected the taper to start in March, but a recent run of upbeat economic data from the US has shortened the odds on an announcement to this week's two-day meeting which concluded yesterday, or in January. — *Bernama*