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Lower on late buying

BURSA Malaysia pared earlier losses in the last 10 minutes of the trading session to finish slightly lower on bargain hunting.

The benchmark FTSE Bursa Malaysia KLCI slid 2.04 points to close at 1,672.72 from Thursday's close of 1,674.76.

It opened 3.24 points weaker at 1,671.52 and moved between 1,660.92 and 1,672.72 throughout the day.

Market breadth was negative with losers leading gainers by 438 to 347 with 359 counters unchanged, 580 counters untraded and 36 others suspended.

Total volume decreased to 1.50 billion shares worth RM2.09bil, from Thursday's 1.78 billion shares valued at RM2.31bil.

A dealer said the local market tracked its regional peers, which remained subdued with negative sentiment brought about by the Bank of Japan's (BOJ) unexpected decision to hold its monetary policy.

Of the heavyweights, Maybank added three sen to RM8.93, TNB rose 16 sen to RM14.36, Petronas Chemicals gained one sen to RM6.71, IHH declined seven sen to RM6.55 and Public Bank was flat at RM18.70.

Sector-wise, the Finance Index reduced 48.98 points to 14,587.30, the Industrial Index slipped 33.11 points to 3,174.10 and the Plantation Index slid 2.05 points to 7,710.85. — Bernama