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RINGGIT REGAINS STRONG MOMENTUM

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 31 (Bernama) -- Ringgit regained its strong momentum to close slightly higher against the US dollar today, as traders lock in profit to adjust their long and overbought positions, dealers said.

The local unit finished at 2.5233/40 against the greenback from Wednesday's close of 2.5235/40.

Ringgit's uptrend was also following a statement made by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at midday today regarding the local unit's constant fall for the past few weeks against the US dollar.

Dr Mahathir had said that the fall was not due to the US threat to take action against Petronas' investment in Iran.

He said it was the dollar that had gone up due to anticipation that President Bill Clinton would be re-elected in the November elections in the US.

The current downtrend of the ringgit was expected as the dollar was experiencing a big seasonal demand due to profit repatriation by almost all American and European corporations, as well as servicing of offshore loans in the local market.

Against the Singapore dollar, ringgit was weaker at 1.7898/12 from yesterday's close of 1.7859/75, easier against the Japanese yen at 2.2243/59 from 2.2068/82, lower against deutschemark at 1.6779/87 from 1.6683/98, and weaker against pound sterling at 4.1062/91 from 4.0752/80.

On the money market, the Kuala Lumpur interbank rates for one-month to six month monies were almost flat, but the rates were expected to be easier tomorrow.

The one-month Kuala Lumpur Interbank Offer Rates (KLIBOR) today was at 7.31 percent against yesterday's 7.30 percent while the three-month money was at 7.34 percent from 7.33 percent previously. -- BERNAMA

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