

Daily Newswatch

Market Review

Yesterday Monday, the FBM KLCI ended at an intra-day high (+1.8%), supported by broad-based buying interest and in line with the upbeat performance of its regional peers.

The positive momentum was driven by improved investor sentiment across Asia, following the U.S. decision to exclude smartphones and other electronics from steep tariffs. Among key index constituents, PMETAL led the rally (+7.0%), followed by MRDIY (+6.9%) and GAMUDA (+4.8%). Similarly, the positive gains were reflected in most of the sectors, with Technology (+3.8%), Construction (+3.4%), and Industrial Products & Services (+2.9%) being the top three gainers. Overall, the market breadth turned more bullish, with 798 gainers significantly outpacing 248 decliners.

Also yesterday, the Asian markets ended in bullish note, driven by the shift in the US tariff policy regarding certain consumer electronics. Hong Kong stocks led the regional gain, with the HSI rallied 2.4% to 21,417.4, while the SHANGHAI CI inched up 0.8% to 3,262.8. The US administration's decision to temporarily defer the imposition of tariffs on select consumer electronics imported from China has been perceived by the market as a potential de-escalation in trade tensions. This move further boost investor sentiments which drive buying strength across sectors and markets in the region.

This morning for Monday's closing, US stock market indexes finished solidly higher as Wall Street responded positively to more conciliatory signs from the Trump administration on trade, including exemptions for key electronics, which eased fears of a full-blown trade war. As a result, all three major indices posted gains with the S&P 500 and Dow Jones rose 0.8% each, while the Nasdaq gained 0.6%. Specifically, US auto companies, including General Motors and Ford, also saw significant gains after Trump stated he was "looking at something to help some of the car companies" affected by the 25% tariff on all auto imports.

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- **Pestec:** Fails to block arbitration over its guarantee in terminated Gemas-JB rail project subcontract
- **Cahaya Mata:** Awaiting Sarawak govt nod for second clinker line

Key Indices	Last Close	Daily chg %	YTD chg %
FBM KLCI	1,480.9	1.8	(9.8)
Dow Jones	40,524.8	0.8	(4.7)
Nasdaq CI	16,831.5	0.6	(12.8)
S&P 500	5,406.0	0.8	(8.1)
FTSE 100	8,134.3	2.1	(0.5)
Nikkei 225	33,982.4	1.2	(14.8)
Shanghai CI	3,262.8	0.8	(2.7)
HSI	21,417.4	2.4	6.8
STI	3,548.9	1.0	(6.3)

Market Activities	Last Close	% Chg
Vol traded (m shares)	2,987.6	6.8
Value traded (RM m)	2,064.3	(16.2)
Gainers	798	
Losers	248	
Unchanged	359	

Top 5 Volume	Last Close	Daily chg %	Vol (m)
MYEG	0.925	2.8	81.4
T7Global	0.285	9.6	40.3
INARI	1.780	7.2	40.0
EKOVEST	0.325	14.0	34.0
NATGATE	1.250	1.6	32.8

Top 5 Turnover	Last Close	Daily chg %	Val (RM m)
CIMB	6.730	1.2	133.0
MAYBANK	9.890	0.7	106.0
PBBANK	4.310	1.7	82.9
MYEG	0.925	2.8	75.4
INARI	1.780	7.2	71.5

Currencies	Last Close	% Chg
USD/MYR	4.4130	0.2
USD/JPY	143.05	0.0
EUR/USD	1.1346	(0.0)
USD/CNY	7.3095	(0.2)
US Dollar Index	99.72	(0.4)

Commodities	Last Close	% Chg
Brent (USD/barrel)	64.9	(4.3)
Gold (USD/troy oz)	3,210	1.9
CPO (MYR/metric t)	4,354	(3.1)
Bitcoin (USD/BTC)	77,289.9	0.3



Macro News

Singapore: Overnight Rate Average (ORA)

The Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) eased its monetary policy for the second straight time, following a similar move in January—the first since 2020—amid weaker-than-expected Q1 GDP growth of 3.8% and a deteriorating global economic outlook. The central bank said on Monday it would maintain a modest and gradual appreciation of the Singapore dollar nominal effective exchange rate (S\$NEER) band but at a slightly reduced rate. The width and center of the band remain unchanged. “Amid the weakening external outlook, Singapore’s output gap will turn negative,” the central bank noted, adding that cost pressures will stay low and “MAS Core Inflation is forecast to stay well below 2%.” It also said, “The risks to inflation are tilted towards the downside.” (*Trading Economics*)

China: Balance of Trade

China’s trade surplus surged to USD 102.6bn in March 2025, up from USD 58.7bn in the same period a year earlier. The sharp increase was largely driven by a 12.4% year-on-year surge in exports, the fastest rise since last October, as factories rushed to ship goods ahead of U.S. President Trump’s upcoming tariffs. Imports fell by 4.3%, due to weak domestic demand. The trade surplus with the US stood at USD 27.6bn in March. For the first quarter of the year, the country posted a USD 273bn surplus, with exports rising 5.8% while imports falling 7%. During the period, the trade surplus with the US reached USD 76.7bn, as exports advanced 4.5% while imports declined 1.4%. (*Trading Economics*)

US: Trump’s tangled tariffs sow confusion as negotiators line up

President Trump’s recent tariff exemptions for consumer electronics like smartphones and computers have added confusion to an already unpredictable trade strategy, temporarily benefiting U.S. tech firms such as Apple and Nvidia. While the exemptions shielded over \$100bn in imports from China, Trump signaled these products may still face future sector-specific tariffs. The administration’s shifting positions are causing uncertainty for global companies and financial markets, with some businesses pausing investments amid fears of sudden policy changes. Meanwhile, upcoming national security investigations may target semiconductors and AI hardware, raising concerns over the broader economic impact and complicating international negotiations. (*Bloomberg*)

US: The Fed can do is keep inflation anchored

Federal Reserve (Fed) Bank of Minneapolis president Neel Kashkari signalled confidence that markets will remain orderly as investors sort through US President Donald Trump’s shifting trade policies, and said the central bank must stay focused on keeping inflation expectations anchored. Kashkari who signalled last week that they are prepared to hold the Fed’s policy rate steady to minimise the risk that Trump’s tariffs trigger a persistent rise in inflation, even if the labour market softens further. (*Bloomberg*)

Japan: No plan for big concessions in talks on US tariffs

Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba said on Monday his country does not plan to make big concessions and won’t rush to reach a deal in upcoming tariff negotiations with US President Donald Trump’s administration. Japan, has been hit with 24% levies on its exports to the United States though these tariffs have, like most of Trump’s sweeping “reciprocal” tariffs, been paused for 90 days. “I’m not of the view that we should make big concessions for the sake of wrapping up negotiations quickly,” Ishiba said in parliament. (*Reuters*)

Malaysia: Races to expand €2tn trade network as US links sour

The national gas roadmap is currently being finalised and is scheduled to be launched this year, said Economy Minister Datuk Seri Rafizi Ramli. The plan is aimed at boosting the domestic gas value chain as Malaysia needs to import more liquefied natural gas (LNG) due to declining gas production for the peninsula market. “When more companies venture into gas trading and import LNG for supply, Petroliam Nasional Bhd (Petronas) and the country are better off in several ways,” he said in a post on his official X page on Monday. (*Bernamea*)

Malaysia: Reaffirms non-retaliatory trade policy, export diversification amid US tariffs

Malaysia will not resort to retaliatory tariffs and reaffirms its commitment to open trade in response to the US latest move to impose tariffs on certain imports, including goods from the country, according to the Minister of Investment, Trade and Industry (Miti). Malaysia will instead focus on its approach involving reform, engagement, and trade diversification during these tariff headwinds, its minister Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Abdul Aziz said after the National Geoeconomics Coordination Council (NGCC) meeting with ministers on Monday. (*The Edge*)



Corporate News

Jentayu: Signs 40-year power purchase agreement for RM2.8bn 162MW Sabah hydropower project

Jentayu Sustainables Bhd's 70%-owned subsidiary Oriole Hydro Padas Sdn Bhd has signed a 40-year power purchase agreement with Sabah Electricity Sdn Bhd (SESB) for a 162-megawatt run-of-river hydroelectric project at Hulu Sungai Padas, Sipitang, Sabah. Jentayu said all necessary land and resource approvals for the RM2.8bn project have been obtained from the state government. The project — a private domestic direct investment — represents one of the largest renewable energy initiatives in Sabah to date. *(The Edge)*

IJM: Operate Penang Waterfront Convention Centre ahead of October opening

IJM Perennial Development Sdn Bhd, a joint venture between IJM Corporation Bhd and Perennial Holdings Pte Ltd, has formalised a strategic partnership with Korea International Exhibition Center through its Malaysian subsidiary, KinMalaysia Management Sdn Bhd, to operate the upcoming Penang Waterfront Convention Centre (PWCC). This collaboration comes ahead of PWCC's official opening in October 2025. *(The Edge)*

DKSH: Launches RM300m medium-term notes to fuel sustainable growth

DKSH Holdings (Malaysia) Bhd, via its subsidiary DKSH Malaysia Sdn Bhd, has successfully debuted its medium-term notes (MTN) issuance of RM300m under its newly established commercial papers and MTN programmes, totalling RM800m. In a joint statement on Monday, OCBC Bank (Malaysia) Bhd said the bank acted as the sole principal adviser, lead arranger, lead manager, sustainability structuring adviser and facility agent for the programmes. *(Bernama)*

Maybank: CEO's term extended, lender to move to Merdeka 118 from 2Q2026

Malayan Banking Bhd (Maybank) president and group CEO Datuk Khairussaleh Ramli's contract has been extended by another three years. The extension allows him to see through the bank's ongoing corporate strategy — known as M25+ — which ends this year, and to craft a new mid-term strategy for the next few years. He took the group's helm on May 1, 2022, succeeding Tan Sri Abdul Farid Alias who stepped down after almost nine years in the position. *(The Edge)*

Bina Puri: Majujaya files petition to wind up Bina Puri for failure to pay RM30m awarded by court

Wisma Majujaya Sdn Bhd (Wisma Majujaya) has filed a winding up petition against Bina Puri Holdings Bhd at the High Court here over the latter's failure to pay RM30m that was awarded by the court in a summary judgment earlier this year. In the winding up petition sighted by The Edge and signed by Wisma Majujaya director Datuk Tan Hock Kien, Wisma Majujaya sought to wind up Bina Puri under the provisions of the Companies Act 2016. *(The Edge)*

Pestec: Fails to block arbitration over its guarantee in terminated Gemas-JB rail project subcontract

Pestec International Bhd (Pestec) said it has failed to stop an arbitration over a guarantee it gave for a now-terminated subcontract won by its unit for the Gemas-Johor Bahru double-track rail project. In a filing with Bursa Malaysia on Monday, the company said its wholly owned unit Pestech Technology Bhd's bid to stop arbitration proceedings was dismissed by the High Court. The court instead favoured Syarikat Pembinaan Yeoh Tiong Lay Sdn Bhd's YTL Construction application to stay arbitration proceedings. *(The Edge)*

Cahaya Mata: Awaiting Sarawak govt nod for second clinker line

Cahaya Mata Sarawak Bhd (Cahaya Mata) said its wholly owned subsidiary Cahya Mata Cement Sdn Bhd is still awaiting regulatory approval from the Sarawak government to proceed with the construction of a second clinker production line in Mambong. The group said in a brief update to Bursa Malaysia on Monday that further announcements on the matter will be made in due course. Cahya Mata group general counsel Izzam Ibrahim said in Kuching two days ago the group is preparing to strengthen its position as the largest clinker producer in Borneo through the Clinker Line 2 project. *(The Edge)*

Upcoming key economic data releases

Date

US – March 2025 's Retail Sales	Apr 16
US – Fed Chair Powell Speech	Apr 17
Malaysia – Q1 GDP Growth Rate	Apr 18



Stock Selection Based on Dividend Yield

	Sector	Price (RM)	Dividend/Share (RM)	Dividend Yield (%)
Bermaz Auto	Consumer	1.11	0.15	13.78
Amway (M)	Consumer	5.07	0.47	9.27
British American Tobacco (M)	Consumer	6.21	0.54	8.70
Sentral REIT	REIT	0.78	0.06	8.26
YTL Hospital REIT	REIT	1.04	0.08	7.98
REXIT	Technology	0.63	0.05	7.94
KIP REIT	REIT	0.87	0.07	7.75
Hektar REITS	REIT	0.49	0.04	7.63
CapitaLand Malaysia Trust	REIT	0.64	0.05	7.56
Paramount Corporation	Property	1.03	0.07	7.28
MBM Resources	Consumer	5.43	0.39	7.24
Taliworks Corporation	Utilities	0.70	0.05	7.14
MAG Holdings	Consumer	1.23	0.08	6.67
Magnum	Consumer	1.23	0.08	6.67
Ta Ann Holdings	Plantation	3.92	0.26	6.58

Source: Bloomberg

User guide: Mercury Securities compiles a list of dividend-yielding stocks for conservative long-term passive investors looking for regular income whilst capping downside risk of their investment.

Methodology: The list above includes stocks that have a high dividend yield, estimated to be greater than 4% per annum. These stocks also have a history of paying dividends consistently, having paid dividends for the past 3 years.

IPO Tracker

Company	Listing Sought	Issue Price (RM/Share)	No. Of Shares (m)		Closing Date	Listing Date
			Public Issue	Offer for Sale		
WTEC Group Berhad	ACE Market	0.25	90.2	43.2	15 Apr	29 Apr
Reach Ten Holdings Berhad	Main Market	0.52	200.0	100.0	18 Apr	2 May
West River Berhad	ACE Market	0.39	71.5	35.8	17 Apr	5 May
Fibromat (M) Berhad	ACE Market	0.55	32.3	24.8	25 Apr	8 May
Cuckoo International (Mal) Bhd	Main Market	1.29	143.3	222.1	5 Jun	24 Jun

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