



Daily Newswatch

Market Review

The FBM KLCI closed higher (+1.0%) on Wednesday, driven by optimism over US-China tariff negotiations. Investor sentiment improved further after US President Trump assured, he would not fire Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell, and easing of trade tariffs with China. Market were also lifted by latest inflation data which showed inflation eased for March. Among key index constituents, PCHEM led the gains (+7.1%), followed by MRDIY (+3.7%) and AXIATA (+3.6%). Gains were seen across most sectors, led by Technology (+3.6%), Telecommunications & Media (+2.2%) and Industrial Products & Services (+1.9%). Market breadth turned positive, with 716 gainers significantly outpacing 264 losers.

Asian stocks closed higher on Wednesday, fuelled by Trump's remarks that tariffs on China would be "nowhere near" the current 145%, easing trade tensions and that he would not dismiss Fed Chair Powell, indicating stability in US monetary policy to curb inflation. Consequently, the HSI rose 2.4% to 22,072.6. However, the SHANGHAI CI slipped 0.1% to 3,296.4, weighed down by a lowered growth forecast for China's economy, from 4.6% to 4% this year and from 4.5% to 4% next year.

This morning, for Wednesday's closing, US stocks closed higher after reassurance that the US central bank's independence was upheld to maintain interest rates to curb inflation. Investor sentiment further improved as Trump softened his tone on tariffs, hinting that eye-popping duty levels on Chinese imports would ultimately be scaled back. Consequently, the Dow Jones edged up 1.1%, the Nasdaq increased 2.5%, and the S&P 500 increased 1.7%.

On Wednesday, European stock closed higher, with investors regaining their risk appetite in anticipation that an all-out trade war between the US and China could be averted. Consequently, this translated into a 2.8% gain in the EURO STOXX 50.

Macro News

- Malaysia:** Trade Minister to meet US Trade Chief Greer on tariffs
- Malaysia:** March CPI rises 1.4% year-over-year, below forecast
- China:** Says plan to boost cross-border financial services will boost yuan usage amid trade tensions
- Indonesia:** Central bank holds policy rates to keep rupiah stable
- US:** Trump says he has no intention of firing Fed Chief Powell
- US:** Trump floats 'substantial' China tariffs cuts in trade deal

Corporate News

- Ramssol:** Eyes RM130m potential revenue from AI solutions roll-out in Thailand
- EG Industries:** Poised to surpass RM2bn revenue despite global turmoil
- GDEX:** Pandemic-induced tech pivot showing results, eyes more partnerships
- MCE Holdings:** Wins RM121m in contracts, including US deal, ahead of auto parts tariffs
- Iconic:** Wins RM10.1m award in legal dispute with glove machine supplier
- MN Holdings:** Undertake interconnection job for solar power plants in Sungai Petani

Key Indices	Last Close	Daily chg %	YTD chg %
FBM KLCI	1,501.2	1.0	(8.6)
Dow Jones	39,606.6	1.1	(6.9)
Nasdaq CI	16,708.1	2.5	(13.5)
S&P 500	5,375.9	1.7	(8.6)
FTSE 100	8,403.2	0.9	2.8
Nikkei 225	34,868.6	1.9	(12.6)
Shanghai CI	3,296.4	(0.1)	(1.7)
HSI	22,072.6	2.4	10.0
STI	3,832.3	1.0	1.2

Market Activities	Last Close	% Chg
Vol traded (m shares)	2,990.7	(12.7)
Value traded (RM m)	2,078.6	24.9
Gainers	716	
Losers	264	
Unchanged	404	

Top 5 Volume	Last Close	Daily chg %	Vol (m)
MYEG	0.890	0.0	75.4
RTECH	0.270	45.9	45.9
PERTAMA	0.135	8.0	38.9
NATGATE	1.210	4.3	34.1
CIMB	6.850	1.5	31.8

Top 5 Turnover	Last Close	Daily chg %	Val (RM m)
CIMB	6.850	1.5	216.6
TENAGA	13.500	0.7	80.7
GAMUDA	3.890	1.0	78.5
MAYBANK	9.950	0.0	76.9
MYEG	0.890	0.0	67.6

Currencies	Last Close	% Chg
USD/MYR	4.3903	(0.1)
USD/JPY	142.93	0.4
EUR/USD	1.1341	0.2
USD/CNY	7.2871	0.3
US Dollar Index	99.84	0.9

Commodities		
Brent (USD/barrel)	66.1	(2.0)
Gold (USD/troy oz)	3,313	0.8
CPO (MYR/metric t)	4,133	(0.2)
Bitcoin (USD/BTC)	93,736	0.1



Macro News

Malaysia: Trade Minister to meet US Trade Chief Greer on tariffs

Malaysia's Trade Minister Zafrul Aziz will meet US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer in Washington as the Southeast Asian country seeks relief from the Trump administration's reciprocal tariffs. The meeting, the first official one between both countries since the US announced higher duties on trade partners, is scheduled to take place on Thursday, according to a spokesperson from the Investment, Trade and Industry Ministry. Zafrul had met Matt Murray, US Senior Official for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, shortly after his arrival in Washington, the minister said in a post on Wednesday. *(Bloomberg)*

Malaysia: March CPI rises 1.4% year-over-year, below forecast

Malaysia's consumer price index rose 1.4% in March from a year earlier, government data showed on Wednesday. The rise was less than the 1.6% increase forecast in a Reuters poll of economists. In February, the index rose 1.5%. *(Reuters)*

China: Says plan to boost cross-border financial services will boost yuan usage amid trade tensions

China's plan to facilitate cross-border financial services will help promote greater international usage of the yuan, a senior central bank official said on Wednesday, at a time global trade tensions have intensified. The central bank published a plan earlier this week encouraging state-owned enterprises to prioritise yuan usage in payment and settlement as they expand overseas expansion. The announcements come after U.S. President Donald Trump launched so-called "reciprocal" tariffs, which have shaken up global trade and roiled financial markets. *(Reuters)*

Indonesia: Central bank holds policy rates to keep rupiah stable

Indonesia's central bank held policy rates steady for a third consecutive review on Wednesday, as expected, aiming to maintain rupiah exchange rate stability amid global trade tensions. Bank Indonesia kept the benchmark 7-day reverse repurchase rate, known as BI Rate, unchanged at 5.8%, as expected by all but two of 26 economics polled by Reuters. It also kept its two other policy rates steady. *(Reuters)*

US: Trump says he has no intention of firing Fed Chief Powell

President Donald Trump said he had no intention of firing Federal Reserve Chair, Jerome Powell despite his frustration with the central bank not moving more quickly to slash interest rates. "Never did," Trump told reporters on Tuesday. "The press runs away with things. No, I have no intention of firing him. I would like to see him be a little more active in terms of his idea to lower interest rates." *(Bloomberg)*

US: Trump floats 'substantial' China tariffs cuts in trade deal

President Donald Trump said he plans to be "very nice" to China in any trade talks and that tariffs will drop if the two countries can reach a deal, a sign he may be backing down from his tough stance on Beijing amid market volatility. "It will come down substantially but it won't be zero," Trump said Tuesday in Washington, following earlier comments from Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent that the standoff was unsustainable. Trump added that "we're going to be very nice and they're going to be very nice, and we'll see what happens." *(Bloomberg)*

Corporate News

Ramssol: Eyes RM130m potential revenue from AI solutions roll-out in Thailand

Ramssol Group Bhd is eyeing potential revenue of 1bn Thai baht, or about RM131.6m, over the next three years from artificial intelligence (AI) solutions in Thailand. Geekstart Co Ltd, a Thailand-based software company in which Ramssol has 51% stake, signed a partnership agreement with King Mongkut's Institute of Technology Ladkrabang to roll out AI solutions to both the private and public sectors in Thailand, according to a statement. *(The Edge)*

EG Industries: Poised to surpass RM2bn revenue despite global turmoil

EG Industries Bhd is confident of breaching the RM2bn revenue mark for the first time in the financial year ending June 30, 2025 (FY2025), despite the market turmoil caused by US President Donald Trump's sweeping tariff announcements earlier last week. According to the electronic manufacturing services provider's largest shareholder and group CEO Datuk Alex Kang Pang Kiang, EG Industries has received many inquiries from customers in countries where Trump is imposing higher reciprocal tariffs than Malaysia. *(The Edge)*

GDEX: Pandemic-induced tech pivot showing results, eyes more partnerships

GDEX Bhd is beginning to see "a light at the end of the tunnel" following the company's diversification into the information technology (IT) services sector, according to its managing director and group CEO Teong Teck Lean. GDEX has made some bold moves, including shifting its focus from a pure play express delivery provider to a company with a portfolio of services that includes express delivery, logistics and IT services, with the latter providing better margins. *(The Edge)*

MCE Holdings: Wins RM121m in contracts, including US deal, ahead of auto parts tariffs

Auto parts supplier MCE Holdings Bhd's has bagged new supply contracts worth RM120.7m, including one to a Michigan, US-based company, JVIS USA, LLC, ahead of a 25% tariff on certain automobile parts. According to a filing with Bursa Malaysia, the 60-month RM69.6m mechatronics components supply contract to JVIS USA for a car model in the US will only begin in the first quarter of MCE Holdings' financial year ending July 31, 2027 (1QFY2027). *(The Edge)*

Iconic: Wins RM10.1m award in legal dispute with glove machine supplier

Penang-based property developer Iconic Worldwide Bhd on Wednesday announced that the Penang High Court ruled in favour of its medical unit, Iconic Medicare Sdn Bhd (IMED), in a dispute with its glove machine supplier, Latex Form Sdn Bhd's (LFSB). The court dismissed LFSB's RM15m claim and partially approved IMED's counterclaim. LFSB has been ordered to pay RM10.1m to IMED within 21 days, with 5% annual interest, and RM50,000 in legal costs. *(The Edge)*

MN Holdings: Undertake interconnection job for solar power plants in Sungai Petani

MN Holdings Bhd said it has been appointed by Sunview Group Bhd to supply interconnection facilities for two solar power plant projects in Sungai Petani, Kedah. The two contracts, worth a total of RM29.7m, cover the establishment of new solar power plant interconnection facilities and the extension of two bays at the existing 132 kilovolt Aman Jaya transmission main intake, said MN Holdings in a bourse filing on Wednesday. *(The Edge)*

<u>Upcoming key economic data releases</u>	<u>Date</u>
US – March's Durable Goods Orders	Apr 24
Malaysia – March's PPI	Apr 28



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
Peoplelogy Berhad	ACE Market	0.25	105.0	0.0	6 May	20 May
Cuckoo International (Mal) Bhd	Main Market	1.29	143.3	222.1	5 Jun	24 Jun



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