



Daily Newswatch

Market Review

The FBM KLCI continued its steady upward momentum (+0.2%) last Friday, supported by positive foreign net inflows and stronger regional market sentiment amid growing hopes of a potential de-escalation in trade tensions between the US and China. That said, this week will be a shortened trading week, with Bursa Malaysia closed on Thursday for Labour Day, which could dampen liquidity and cap further upside. Among key index constituents, YTL led the gains (+3.9%), followed by PCHEM (+3.3%) and PMETAL (+2.1%). Gains were seen across most sectors, led by Technology (+4.5%), Industrial Products & Services (+1.9%) and Telecommunications & Media (+1.7%). Market breadth remained positive, with 651 gainers outpacing 325 losers.

Across the region, Asian stocks ended mixed last Friday. Markets initially rose after US President Donald Trump signalled a softer stance on China and Beijing showed conditional openness to resuming trade talks. However, gains were limited after Beijing denied claims of ongoing talks with Washington, calling them "groundless." As a result, the SHANGHAI CI slipped 0.1% to 3,295.1, while the HSI managed to edge up 0.3% to 21,980.7.

Last Friday, European markets closed higher, buoyed by growing hopes for a de-escalation in US-China trade tensions. This translated into a 0.8% gain in the EURO STOXX 50.

In the US, stocks also ended last Friday higher, fuelled by strong gains in mega cap tech names. The positive trading action comes as investors digested more tariff-talk optimism, with deals with India and South Korea reportedly on the table even as progress on negotiations with China remains unclear. Consequently, Dow Jones edged up 0.1%, Nasdaq increases 1.3% and S&P 500 increased 0.7%.

Macro News

- Malaysia:** PM claimed Malaysia must strengthen alliance within Asean, global partners to build domestic resilience
- China:** Xi calls for self-sufficiency in AI development amid U.S. rivalry
- China:** Quietly exempts some U.S.-made products from tariffs
- US:** Officials adopt 'organized' framework to handle trade talks
- US:** Trump doubtful on another tariff pause, wants China concessions
- US:** Treasury's Bessent urges Asian Development Bank to move towards ending China loans

Corporate News

- Taghill:** Bags RM494m construction contract in Bandar Sri Damansara
- Malakoff:** Rooftop solar portfolio hits 60MW
- IWCity:** Seeks another six-month extension to deliberate IWH merger
- LYC Healthcare:** Settles RM600,000 outstanding payment with winding-up petitioner
- Bioalpha:** Plans RM110m share capital reduction to eliminate losses
- Reach Energy:** Bursa reprimands, fines six directors over PN17 disclosure delay
- Catcha Digital:** Makes cash call to raise RM35.3m for acquisitions and reserves
- TCS Group:** New executive director Frankie Ng rises to second-largest shareholder after another share buy from founder
- CTOS Digital group:** CEO Erick Hamburger to step down in September, 1Q net profit falls 31%

Key Indices	Last Close	Daily chg %	YTD chg %
FBM KLCI	1,509.2	0.2	(8.1)
Dow Jones	40,113.5	0.1	(5.7)
Nasdaq CI	17,382.9	1.3	(10.0)
S&P 500	5,525.2	0.7	(6.1)
FTSE 100	8,415.3	0.1	3.0
Nikkei 225	35,705.7	1.9	(10.5)
Shanghai CI	3,295.1	(0.1)	(1.7)
HSI	21,980.7	0.3	9.6
STI	3,823.8	(0.2)	1.0
Market Activities		Last Close	% Chg
Vol traded (m shares)		3,099.1	0.5
Value traded (RM m)		1,947.6	(9.2)
Gainers		651	
Losers		325	
Unchanged		434	
Top 5 Volume	Last Close	Daily chg %	Vol (m)
BPURI	0.265	(29.3)	54.2
RTECH	0.275	12.2	43.2
MYEG	0.905	1.1	42.4
NATGATE	1.300	10.2	42.3
TANCO	0.860	0.6	36.0
Top 5 Turnover	Last Close	Daily chg %	Val (RM m)
CIMB	6.990	0.1	115.4
GAMUDA	3.990	1.5	97.6
MAYBANK	9.870	(0.8)	91.0
NATGATE	1.300	10.2	52.9
RHBBANK	6.520	(0.3)	52.9
Currencies		Last Close	% Chg
USD/MYR		4.3737	(0.0)
USD/JPY		143.67	(0.7)
EUR/USD		1.1365	(0.2)
USD/CNY		7.2868	0.0
US Dollar Index		99.47	0.1
Commodities		Last Close	% Chg
Brent (USD/barrel)		66.9	0.5
Gold (USD/troy oz)		3,320	(0.9)
CPO (MYR/metric t)		4,139	0.1
Bitcoin (USD/BTC)		94,330	0.2



Macro News

Malaysia: PM claimed Malaysia must strengthen alliance within Asean, global partners to build domestic resilience

Malaysia needs to strengthen its alliances, particularly within Asean and with other international partners, in order to enhance domestic capacity and build public confidence in the country's ability to be self-reliant, despite facing tariffs imposed by the United States, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said. He pointed out that Malaysia's strength and resilience should be built on the growing networks and relationships between regional countries, Asia, and emerging European markets. *(The Edge)*

China: Xi calls for self-sufficiency in AI development amid U.S. rivalry

China's President Xi Jinping pledged "self-reliance and self-strengthening" to develop AI in China, state media reported on Saturday, as the country vies with the U.S. for supremacy in artificial intelligence, a key strategic area. Speaking at a Politburo meeting study session on Friday, Xi said China should leverage its "new whole national system" to push forward with the development of AI. *(Reuters)*

China: Quietly exempts some U.S.-made products from tariffs

China's government has exempted some U.S. imports that the country would struggle to immediately source from elsewhere from its retaliatory tariffs, people familiar with the matter said. Chinese authorities have told some importers of American goods that they would waive the most recent 125% increases in tariff rates for certain U.S. imports. Those products include certain semiconductors and chipmaking equipment, medical products and aviation parts, the people said. *(Bloomberg)*

US: Officials adopt 'organized' framework to handle trade talks

President Donald Trump's administration has drafted a framework to handle negotiations with trading partners rushing to secure deals to avert tariff hikes, according to people familiar with the matter. Under the blueprint, US negotiators will use a template that lays out common areas of concern to help guide the discussions, the people said, speaking on condition of anonymity to detail the plan. Among those categories are tariffs, non-tariff barriers, digital trade, economic security and commercial concerns. *(Bloomberg)*

US: Trump doubtful on another tariff pause, wants China concessions

President Donald Trump suggested another delay to his higher so-called "reciprocal" tariffs was unlikely, raising pressure on nations to negotiate trade deals with his administration. Asked about the possibility of granting another 90-day pause, Trump cast that scenario as "unlikely," while speaking to reporters aboard Air Force One on Friday. Trump also said that he would not drop tariffs on China, the world's second largest economy, unless Beijing offers "something substantial" in return. *(Bloomberg)*

US: Treasury's Bessent urges Asian Development Bank to move towards ending China loans

U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent urged Asian Development Bank President Masato Kanda to take concrete steps towards ending loans to China, the Treasury said on Friday. During a bilateral meeting, Bessent also emphasized the need for an "all-of-the-above energy strategy" and exchanged views with Kanda on financing civilian nuclear energy. *(Reuters)*

Corporate News

Taghill: Bags RM494m construction contract in Bandar Sri Damansara

Taghill Holdings Bhd formerly known as Siab Holdings Bhd, announced on Friday that it has secured a RM494m construction contract in Bandar Sri Damansara, Selangor. In a filing with Bursa Malaysia, it said Taghill Projects Sdn Bhd, a subsidiary of Taghill, has received a letter of award from Indo Aman Bina Sdn Bhd to construct two 55-storey serviced apartment blocks, a 14-storey parking podium and shared facilities. *(The Edge)*

Malakoff: Rooftop solar portfolio hits 60MW

Malakoff Corp Bhd's commercial and industrial rooftop solar portfolio has reached 60MW, with its latest signing involving rubber processor Mardec Bhd totalling 3.5-megawatt peak across five facilities, the company said. The group last year secured 22.1MWp of rooftop solar projects, said Malakoff managing director and group chief executive officer Anwar Syahrin Abdul Ajib in a statement announcing the project with Mardec. *(The Edge)*

IWCity: Seeks another six-month extension to deliberate IWH merger

YTL Hotels has expanded its hospitality portfolio with the opening of two new properties — Moxy Kuala Lumpur Chinatown and AC Hotel by Marriott Ipoh. Moxy Kuala Lumpur Chinatown is located in a restored 1970s-era Oriental Bank building on Jalan Hang Lekiu, and features 320 rooms across 21 storeys. The hotel is positioned as the first Moxy hotel in KL, according to a press release dated April 22. *(The Edge)*



LYC Healthcare: Settles RM600,000 outstanding payment with winding-up petitioner

ACE-Market listed LYC Healthcare Bhd has made the full payment of RM600,000 to SOG Mummy & Baby Centre Pte Ltd, which had served a winding-up petition to the company. In a bourse filing on Friday, LYC Healthcare said that the outstanding claim was paid in full on April 24. As such, there is no longer an outstanding claimed amount. *(The Edge)*

Bioalpha: Plans RM110m share capital reduction to eliminate losses

Bioalpha Holdings Bhd has proposed a share capital reduction to offset RM110m in accumulated losses. The exercise will allow the health supplement company to rationalise its financial position by eliminating accumulated losses, thereby enhancing its credibility with bankers, customers, suppliers and investors, the group said in a filing with Bursa Malaysia on Friday. *(The Edge)*

Reach Energy: Bursa reprimands Reach Energy, fines six directors over PN17 disclosure delay

Bursa Malaysia Securities Bhd has publicly reprimanded Reach Energy Bhd and seven directors, for failing to promptly announce that the company had triggered the Practice Note 17 criteria under listing rules, after its auditor's raised concerns about its ability to continue as a going concern. Six of the directors have also been fined RM50,000 each, according to Bursa in a statement on Friday. *(The Edge)*

Catcha Digital: Makes cash call to raise RM35.3m for acquisitions and reserves

Catcha Digital Bhd is raising up to RM35.3m through a renounceable rights issue and private placement to partially fund around RM111m worth of acquisitions and strengthen its financial reserves. In a filing with Bursa Malaysia, the company said the renounceable rights issue aims to raise RM25.2m, while the private placement will generate RM10.1m. *(The Edge)*

TCS Group: New executive director Frankie Ng rises to second-largest shareholder after another share buy from founder

TCS Group Holdings Bhd's new executive director Datuk Frankie Ng Kwang Hua rose to become the second-largest shareholder in the ACE Market-listed construction firm after buying another 8.5% stake from the company's founder and managing director Datuk Tee Chai Seng. Bourse filings showed that Tee's spouse, Koh An Nee, disposed of her entire direct holding of 50.9m shares in TCS on April 22 via a direct business transaction to Ng. *(The Edge)*

CTOS Digital: CEO Erick Hamburger to step down in September, 1Q net profit falls 31%

CTOS Digital Bhd announced that its group chief executive officer Erick Hamburger will be stepping down in September, while it reported a 30.6% decline in net profit for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025. CTOS' non-independent non-executive director Loh Kok Leong will become interim GCEO starting May 1, as Hamburger will be on leave until his employment ends on Sept 30. *(The Edge)*

<u>Upcoming key economic data releases</u>	<u>Date</u>
Malaysia – March's PPI	Apr 28
US – Q1's GDP Growth Rate	Apr 30
EU – GDP Annual Growth Rate	Apr 30
US – April's Unemployment Rate	May 02
US – Non Farm Payrolls	May 02
EU – April's Inflation Rate	May 02



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
Oasis Home Holding Berhad	ACE Market	0.28	100.0	50.0	9 May	28 May
Cuckoo International (Mal) Bhd	Main Market	1.29	143.3	222.1	5 Jun	24 Jun

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Published & Printed By:

MERCURY SECURITIES SDN BHD
Registration No. 198401000672 (113193-W)
L-7-2, No 2, Jalan Solaris, Solaris Mont' Kiara,
50480 Kuala Lumpur
Telephone: (603) - 6203 7227
Website: www.mercurysecurities.com.my
Email: mercurykl@mersec.com.my