



# Daily Newswatch

## Market Review

The FBM KLCI closed higher (+1.6%) on Wednesday, supported by resilient local market performance and an influx of foreign capital. Market sentiment improved amid signs of easing trade-related anxieties. However, trading volume may be subdued for the remainder of the week, as Bursa Malaysia is closed on Thursday for Labour Day. Among key index constituents, PCHEM led the gains (+5.8%), followed by GAMUDA (+4.7%) and SDG (+4.2%). Gains were seen across most sectors, led by Construction (+2.2%), Industrial Products & Services (+1.7%) and Energy (+1.5%). Market breadth turned positive, with 559 gainers outpacing 364 losers.

Across the region, Asian stocks ended mixed on Wednesday as investors weighed China's renewed pledges to support domestic businesses amid uncertainty over ongoing trade negotiations between the US and regional partners. As a result, the SHANGHAI CI slipped 0.2% to 3,279.0, while the HSI edged up 0.5% and ended at 22,119.4. Chinese markets were closed on Thursday in conjunction with the May Golden Week holiday.

European equities ended lower on Wednesday as persistent tariff-related uncertainties continued to weigh on investor sentiment. The EURO STOXX 50 posted a marginal decline in response to the cautious trading environment. On Thursday, markets across the region were closed for International Labour Day celebration.

US stocks closed higher on Thursday, underpinned by strong corporate earnings and a temporary tariff reprieve for automakers despite volatile trading sparked by data showing the US economy contracted at an annualised rate of 0.3% in Q1 2025, heightening recession concerns. In Consequence, the Dow Jones edged up 0.2%, the S&P 500 rose 0.6%, while the Nasdaq increased 1.5%.

## Macro News

- Malaysia:** To end price control on eggs effective May 1
- China:** Pivots to Europe for used cooking oil exports as tariffs hit shipments to US
- Thailand:** Cuts rates again, could face recession as US tariffs loom
- Japan:** Aims for steady progress as automakers' losses balloon, top negotiator says
- US:** Trump signs order to prevent his auto tariffs from stacking on top of each other
- US:** Has reached out to China to initiate tariff talks, CCTV says
- US:** Trump says 'be patient' as US economy contracts on tariff disruption
- US:** Jobless claims jump on spike in New York during spring recess

## Corporate News

- Maybank:** Appoints Shafiq Abdul Jabbar as group CFO, effective July 7
- Bursa:** Launches expanded research incentive scheme to also cover private and pre-IPO companies
- Nestle:** To limit price hikes in 2025 despite commodity cost pressures — analysts
- WTK:** Sells its logging business to an individual for RM23.5m
- Vizione:** Terminates RM750m related-party contract
- HCK Capital:** To launch RM2bn sukuk programme
- Carimin Petroleum:** Secures work order from Petronas Carigali

Key Indices	Last Close	Daily chg %	YTD chg %
FBM KLCI	1,540.2	1.6	(6.2)
Dow Jones	40,753.0	0.2	(4.2)
Nasdaq CI	17,710.7	1.5	(8.3)
S&P 500	5,604.1	0.6	(4.7)
FTSE 100	8,496.8	0.0	4.0
Nikkei 225	36,452.3	1.1	(8.6)
Shanghai CI	3,279.0	(0.2)	(2.2)
HSI	22,119.4	0.5	10.3
STI	3,832.5	0.7	1.2

Market Activities	Last Close	% Chg
Vol traded (m shares)	2,566.3	(15.7)
Value traded (RM m)	2,250.2	24.0
Gainers	559	
Losers	364	
Unchanged	459	

Top 5 Volume	Last Close	Daily chg %	Vol (m)
NATGATE	1.360	6.3	51.8
MYEG	0.895	(0.6)	42.9
VELESTO	0.155	3.3	41.4
RTECH	0.310	10.7	39.1
SUMI	0.190	8.6	35.8

Top 5 Turnover	Last Close	Daily chg %	Val (RM m)
CIMB	7.120	1.4	170.5
TENAGA	13.860	1.6	140.7
MAYBANK	9.990	0.4	139.1
GAMUDA	4.240	4.7	92.5
TM	6.800	0.1	77.0

Currencies	Last Close	% Chg
USD/MYR	4.3158	0.3
USD/JPY	145.34	0.0
EUR/USD	1.1288	(0.0)
USD/CNY	7.2713	0.0
US Dollar Index	100.19	0.7

Commodities	Last Close	% Chg
Brent (USD/barrel)	61.9	1.3
Gold (USD/troy oz)	3,238	(1.5)
CPO (MYR/metric t)	3,971	(1.0)
Bitcoin (USD/BTC)	96,681	0.2



## Macro News

### Malaysia: To end price control on eggs effective May 1

Malaysia will end price control on eggs effective on May 1 as part of the government's phased subsidy retargeting, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security said on Wednesday. Subsidies on eggs will be reduced to 5 sen from 10 sen per unit before being fully scrapped on August 1, 2025, the ministry said in a statement. The decision was made after considering industry commitment to ensure "sufficient and guaranteed" supply as production costs stabilised, it noted. *(The Edge)*

### China: Pivots to Europe for used cooking oil exports as tariffs hit shipments to US

China's used cooking oil (UCO) exports to the United States, its largest buyer, are set to plunge in coming months due to steep tariffs, forcing sellers to divert shipments to Europe and elsewhere, industry players said. With Trump administration is now charging 125% import tariff on Chinese UCO from this month. Shipments to the U.S., valued at \$1.1bn last year, are tumbling with the last cargoes sailing around late March and early April before trade grinds to a halt, said three China-based UCO traders. *(Reuters)*

### Thailand: Cuts rates again, could face recession as US tariffs loom

Thailand's central bank cut its key interest rate by a quarter point for a second consecutive meeting on Wednesday, as expected, seeking to support the underperforming economy which is facing fresh pressure from steep U.S. tariffs. The Bank of Thailand's monetary policy committee voted 5-2 to reduce the one-day repurchase rate by 25 basis points to 1.8%, the lowest level in two years. That followed a similar reduction at the previous meeting in February. *(Reuters)*

### Japan: Aims for steady progress as automakers' losses balloon, top negotiator says

Japan's top trade negotiator Ryosei Akazawa said on Wednesday that he aims for steady but quick progress in tariff negotiations with the United States as losses at the country's automakers from the tariffs constantly increase. "The head of an automaker we spoke to told us that his company is suffering a \$1m loss every hour," Akazawa told reporters in Tokyo just before he headed to Washington for a second round of negotiations. *(Reuters)*

### US: Trump signs order to prevent his auto tariffs from stacking on top of each other

President Donald Trump signed a pair of directives easing the impact of his tariffs on the automotive industry, yielding to weeks of intense lobbying from automakers, parts suppliers and dealers who warned excessive levies could push up car prices, triggering plant shutdowns and job losses. Under the first executive order, signed aboard Air Force One, imported automobiles were given a reprieve from separate tariffs on aluminium and steel, an effort to prevent multiple levies from piling on top of each other. *(Bloomberg)*

### US: Has reached out to China to initiate tariff talks, CCTV says

US President Donald Trump's administration has been seeking contact with Beijing to initiate talks on the massive tariffs Washington has imposed on China, according to a state-run media outlet. The US government recently reached out to China through various channels, Yuyuantian, a Weibo account affiliated with China Central Television that regularly signals Beijing's views on trade, said in a post. It cited unidentified people with knowledge of the matter, providing no further details. *(Bloomberg)*

### US: Trump says 'be patient' as US economy contracts on tariff disruption

US President Donald Trump said on Wednesday that Americans should be patient in the face of a first quarter economic contraction, arguing that his tariffs would eventually lead to a boom in the US economy. The economy shrank in the first quarter, weighed down by a deluge of goods imported by businesses eager to avoid higher costs, underscoring the disruptive nature of Trump's often chaotic tariff policy. Republican Trump blamed his Democratic predecessor, Joe Biden, for the poor showing. *(Reuters)*

### US: Jobless claims jump on spike in New York during spring recess

Applications for US unemployment benefits rose to the highest level since February during the week that followed Easter and spring recess at New York City public schools. Initial claims increased by 18,000 to 241,000 in the week ended April 26, according to Labor Department data released on Thursday. The median forecast in a *Bloomberg* survey of economists called for 223,000 applications. Before adjusting for seasonal factors, initial claims increased about 12,900 last week. Applications in New York alone rose more than 15,500. In New York City, some school workers are allowed to apply for benefits during winter and spring breaks, which could account for the large gain in the state's unemployment claims. *(Bloomberg)*



## Corporate News

### **Maybank: Appoints Shafiq Abdul Jabbar as group CFO, effective July 7**

Malayan Banking Bhd (Maybank) has appointed Shafiq Abdul Jabbar as group chief financial officer (CFO), effective July 7, 2025. Shafiq will join Maybank after completing his notice period at AMMB Holdings Bhd (AMMB), where he stepped down as group CFO on April 9. He is currently on garden leave until July 1. Prior to his time at AMMB, he was group CFO of pay-TV provider Astro Malaysia Holdings Bhd. He has also served as the group financial controller and CFO of CIMB Bank Bhd. *(The Edge)*

### **Bursa: Launches expanded research incentive scheme to also cover private and pre-IPO companies**

Bursa Malaysia Bhd (Bursa) said on Wednesday that it is expanding its research incentive scheme to also cover private companies, to boost the profile of select firms and promote better price discovery. The scheme, now known as Bursa Research Incentive Scheme Plus, or Bursa Rise+, will include pre-initial public offering (pre-IPO) firms en route to listing, Bursa said in a statement. The two-year initiative covers 60 listed companies and 40 private companies or pre-IPO firms each year, it said. *(The Edge)*

### **Nestlé: To limit price hikes in 2025 despite commodity cost pressures — analysts**

Nestlé (Malaysia) Bhd has committed to limiting price hikes in 2025 to maintain its market position, despite rising commodity costs. Analysts said while the company aims to avoid increasing prices this year, it may need to do so if costs stay high. Hong Leong Investment Bank in its note said that post-results announcement, the company plans to avoid price hikes this year to protect consumer affordability and competitiveness. *(The Edge)*

### **WTK: Sells its logging business to an individual for RM23.5m**

WTK Holdings Bhd is selling its loss-making Sarawak unit Song Logging Company Sdn Bhd, which holds a logging contract for a 114,804-hectare forest area in Kapit, Sarawak, to Huang Qian Wen for RM23.5m. Song Logging has been the main logging contractor for Perbadanan Perusahaan Kemajuan Kayu Sarawak, the timber licence holder, since 1976. The licence is valid until March 24, 2030. *(The Edge)*

### **Vizione: Terminates RM750m related-party contract**

Vizione Holdings Bhd (Vizione) said on Wednesday that a RM750m construction contract awarded by a related party has been terminated, effective immediately. The decision to call off the deal was mutual, said the construction outfit in a bourse filing, without disclosing the reason. Vizione was awarded the contract by property developer Fields of Forest Sdn Bhd on May 30, 2024, to undertake the construction of serviced apartment blocks, shoplots and a parking complex in Gombak, Selangor. *(The Edge)*

### **HCK Capital: To launch RM2bn sukuk programme**

Property developer HCK Capital Group Bhd (HCK Capital) said it has lodged the necessary documents with the Securities Commission Malaysia to establish a sukuk wakalah programme of up to RM2bn in value. In a bourse filing on Wednesday, HCK Capital said the programme, undertaken by its wholly owned subsidiary HCK Cap Access Bhd, will involve the issuance of senior sukuk and perpetual sukuk. *(The Edge)*

### **Carimin Petroleum: Secures work order from Petronas Carigali**

Carimin Petroleum Bhd has received a work order award from Petronas Carigali Sdn Bhd for the provision of anchor handling tug supply services. In a bourse filing Wednesday, the oil and gas engineering support services provider said its wholly owned Carimin Marine Services Sdn Bhd accepted the award on Feb 28 for the provision of the services under the panel contractor contract for offshore support vessel services. The job will span 235 days from the vessel's on-hire date, with an optional 30-day extension. The contract value was not disclosed. *(The Edge)*

<u>Upcoming key economic data releases</u>	<u>Date</u>
<b>Euro – Inflation Rate YoY</b>	May 02
<b>US – Non – Farm Payrolls</b>	May 02
<b>US – Unemployment Rate</b>	May 02
<i>Source: Bloomberg</i>	



## 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		
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
Eco-Shop Marketing Berhad	Main Market	1.21	347.0	515.1	7 May	23 May
Oasis Home Holding Berhad	ACE Market	0.28	100.0	50.0	9 May	28 May
Hartanah Kenyalang Berhad	ACE Market	0.16	120.9	77.5	27 May	9 Jun
<a href="#">Cuckoo International (Mal) Bhd</a>	Main Market	1.29	143.3	222.1	5 Jun	24 Jun



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