



Daily Newswatch

Market Review

The FBMKLCI closed flat on last Friday, capping the week on a cautious tone as investors remained sidelined ahead of key developments, particularly the ongoing trade negotiations between Malaysia and the U.S. The index briefly tested an intraday high of 1,541 before paring gains in the afternoon session, reflecting mild profit-taking and a lack of fresh catalysts amid persistent external policy uncertainty. From a valuation standpoint, the index continues to trade at undemanding multiples relative to 2024 levels, offering room for upside re-rating once macro clarity improves. Among key FBMKLCI constituents, YTLP (-4.2%) and YTL (-2.0%) emerged as the top laggards, weighed down by broad-based profit-taking in utility-linked counters. On the flip side, AXIATA (+8.9%) led the gainers, while MRDIY (+1.2%) also posted modest gains. At the sector level, Technology (+1.9%) outperformed, followed by Telecommunication (+1.3%) and Industrial (+0.4%). Utilities (-1.0%) was the notable underperformer, largely dragged by weakness in YTL-related names. Overall market breadth remained subdued, with 510 advancers versus 450 decliners.

Asian markets closed mostly lower on Friday as investor sentiment turned cautious following U.S. President Donald Trump's announcement of a 35% tariff on Canadian goods, effective August 1, and signals of broader 15–20% blanket tariffs on remaining trading partners not yet formally notified. The potential for further geopolitical escalation also rose after Trump hinted at an imminent announcement regarding Russia, fuelling speculation over additional sanctions on the key oil exporter. SHANGHAI CI erased early gains to close flat at 3,510.2, as trade-related risks tempered initial optimism. Conversely, the HSI advanced 0.5% to 24,139.6, lifted by strength in EV and technology counters, following Beijing's renewed stimulus pledge ahead of the upcoming Politburo meeting, which is expected to outline further pro-growth measures.

European stocks closed lower on Friday as trade war fears resurfaced after U.S. President Donald Trump announced a 35% tariff on Canadian goods, effective August 1, 2025, and warned of a blanket tariff of 15-20% on most trading partners. Trump also said he would make an announcement regarding Russia, raising the prospect of more sanctions on the major oil producer. Weak GDP data weighed on the British market. EURO STOXX 50 slipped 1.0% to 5,383.5.

After coming under pressure early in the session, stocks regained some ground over the course of the trading day on Friday but still closed modestly lower. The DOW slid 0.6% to 44,371.5, the NASDAQ slipped 0.2% to 20,585.5 and the S&P 500 fell 0.3% to 6,259.8. The weakness on U.S. came amid renewed concerns about President Donald Trump's escalating trade battles. In a letter to Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney posted on Truth Social, Trump announced a 35% tariff on Canada imports effective August 1st. Trump said the tariffs were partly due to Canada's failure to stop fentanyl from "pouring" into the U.S. and threatened to raise tariffs further if Canada retaliates. "If Canada works with me to stop the flow of Fentanyl, we will, perhaps, consider an adjustment to this letter," Trump said.

Macro Snapshots

- MY:** UK-Malaysia trans-Pacific trade deal to unlock opportunities for SMEs in UK
- US:** Trump's 50% copper import tariff said to cover refined metal
- CN:** Wang urges US to adopt pragmatic approach, chart new path in bilateral ties
- EU:** Waits on Trump letter as markets digest latest tariff salvo
- EU:** Keen to broaden trade with Asean — Kallas
- UK:** Malaysia a strong regional convener, key voice in Global South, says British High Commissioner

Key Indices	Last Close	Daily chg %	YTD chg %
FBM KLCI	1,536.1	(0.0)	(6.5)
Dow Jones	44,371.5	(0.6)	4.3
Nasdaq CI	20,585.5	(0.2)	6.6
S&P 500	6,259.8	(0.3)	6.4
SX5E	5,383.5	(1.0)	10.0
FTSE 100	8,941.1	(0.4)	9.4
Nikkei 225	39,427.8	(0.4)	(1.2)
Shanghai CI	3,510.2	0.0	4.7
HSI	24,139.6	0.5	20.3
STI	4,087.8	0.3	7.9

Market Activities	Last Close	% Chg
Vol traded (m shares)	3,373.1	3.7
Value traded (RM m)	2,298.3	(5.9)
Gainers	510	
Losers	450	
Unchanged	451	

Top 5 Volume	Last Close	Daily chg %	Vol (m)
ZETRIX	1.000	0.0	77.3
TANCO	0.905	0.0	53.9
NEXG	0.450	0.0	53.7
DNEX	0.320	0.0	33.2
SAPNRG	0.035	0.0	33.1

Top 5 Turnover	Last Close	Daily chg %	Val (RM m)
MAYBANK	9.690	0.0	137.0
GAMUDA	5.100	0.0	104.5
CIMB	6.680	0.0	102.6
TENAGA	13.960	0.0	101.4
ZETRIX	1.000	0.0	77.0

Currencies	Last Close	% Chg
USD/MYR	4.252	(0.0)
USD/JPY	147.050	0.3
EUR/USD	1.169	0.0
USD/CNY	7.170	0.1

US Dollar Index	97.840	(0.0)
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Commodities	Last Close	% Chg
Brent (USD/barrel)	70.5	0.3
Gold (USD/troy oz)	3,369.6	0.4
CPO (MYR/metric t)	4,070.0	0.8
Bitcoin (USD/BTC)	119,371.9	0.2

Corporate Snapshots

- **Econpile:** Wins RM98m bored piling job for industrial project in Kapar
- **Hektar REIT:** To buy 42 acres of land in Melaka for RM40m
- **Meta Bright:** Divests Australian machinery leasing unit
- **BTM:** Scraps another power plant project amid financing, cost challenges
- **Greatech:** Largest shareholder GTech transfers stake to its two owners
- **MRCB:** Firms up deal to jointly develop RM6.3bn GDV Ipoh Sentral
- **Jasa Kita:** Robert Tan, son get RM68.9m offer for Jasa Kita stake, conditional on related-party land deal
- **SkyGate Solutions:** Ups stake in automation unit to 95% via share deal

Macro News

MY: UK-Malaysia trans-Pacific trade deal set to unlock opportunities for SMEs in UK market — Zafrul

The first Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) between the UK and Malaysia is expected to unlock vast opportunities for Malaysian exporters, especially small and medium enterprises (SMEs), to penetrate the UK market. Investment, Trade and Industry Minister Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Abdul Aziz said the matter was among those discussed during his meeting with UK Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs David Lammy, recently. "Together, we could drive economic growth, which is resilient and innovative," he said in a post on X on Saturday. On Friday, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim received a courtesy call from Lammy to strengthen bilateral relations, which have now been upgraded to a strategic partnership since his meeting with UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer last January. *(Bernama)*

US: Trump's 50% copper import tariff said to cover refined metal

US President Donald Trump's promised 50% copper tariffs are set to include all refined metal, indicating the president's far-reaching efforts to bolster American production of one of the world's most ubiquitous materials. Trump's announcement of the levy, which he said would begin Aug 1, was devoid of much detail, but refined copper will be included, according to people familiar with the matter. Refined copper represents the biggest category of the metal that is imported by the US, and including it in the tariff list will have widespread impacts. The metal is vital for electric grids, construction, automaking and consumer electronics. *(Bloomberg)*

CN: Wang Yi urges US to adopt pragmatic approach, chart new path in bilateral ties

China's Foreign Minister, Wang Yi, has called on the US to adopt an objective, rational and pragmatic stance towards China, urging both sides to chart a constructive path for their relationship in the new era. According to the Chinese Foreign Ministry, Wang made the remarks during a bilateral meeting with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, held on the sidelines of the 58th Asean Foreign Ministers' Meeting and related meetings on Friday. Both sides exchanged views on China-US relations and key shared concerns. Wang firmly outlined Beijing's core principles on advancing China-US relations, urging both sides to translate top-level consensus into concrete actions. *(Bernama)*

EU: Waits on Trump letter as markets digest latest tariff salvo

The European Union (EU) braced on Friday for a possible letter from US President Donald Trump, outlining planned duties on his largest trade and investment partner after a broadening of his tariff war in recent days. The EU initially hoped to strike a comprehensive trade agreement, including zero-for-zero tariffs on industrial goods, but months of difficult talks have led to the realisation it will probably have to settle for an interim agreement and hope something better can still be negotiated. The 27-country bloc is under conflicting pressures as powerhouse Germany urged a quick deal to safeguard its industry, while other EU members, such as France, have said EU negotiators should not cave into a one-sided deal on US terms. *(Reuters)*

UK: Malaysia a strong regional convener, key voice in Global South, says British High Commissioner

The UK has lauded Malaysia as a key regional convener and an influential voice in the Global South, affirming its intent to deepen ties with both Malaysia and Asean. British High Commissioner to Malaysia Ajay Sharma said the UK views Malaysia as an important partner in Southeast Asia, particularly as the country plays a key role as this year's Asean chair and continues to be a strong voice in the Global South. As such, Sharma said the UK and Malaysia are now focused on modernising their longstanding relationship to reflect current global priorities and the aspirations of their people. "Our relationship is deep and historic, but we're always looking at ways to modernise it. *(Reuters)*

EU: Keen to broaden trade with Asean — Kallas

The European Union (EU) is keen to develop and diversify trade portfolios with Asean, recognising the increasing importance of the bloc,



said Kaja Kallas, the EU's High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. She emphasised that the EU-Asean partnership is strategic, particularly in today's turbulent global environment, and described it also as a security partnership. "EU is the stability factor in Europe whereas Asean I think it is in this region," she told selected media on the sidelines of the 58th Asean Foreign Ministers' Meeting and related meetings on Friday. According to Kallas, EU and Asean should collaborate closely, as they believe in free trade. (*Bernama*)

Corporate News

Econpile: Wins RM98m bored piling job for industrial project in Kapar

Econpile Holdings Bhd has secured a RM98.2m contract to undertake bored piling works for a proposed industrial development in Kapar, Klang. The contract was awarded by Eastmont Sdn Bhd to Econpile's wholly-owned subsidiary, Econpile (M) Sdn Bhd. The scope of work includes bored piling for Blocks C and D, basement construction for Block C, and pile cap works for Block D, according to the group's filing with Bursa Malaysia. The project is scheduled to be completed within 13 months, starting from July 30, and is expected to contribute positively to Econpile's revenue and earnings from the financial year ending June 30, 2026 onwards. (*The Edge*)

Hektar REIT: To buy 42 acres of land in Melaka for RM40m

Hektar Real Estate Investment Trust said it has entered into a deal to buy two parcels of leasehold land in Melaka, totalling 41.8 acres, for RM40m. In a filing with Bursa Malaysia, the REIT said its trustee, MTrustee Bhd, is purchasing the land located in the Durian Tunggal sub-district from KYS College Sdn Bhd. MTrustee has also entered into 30-year lease agreements with KYSA Education Sdn Bhd, the operator of Kolej Yayasan Saad (KYS), a fully residential private school in Melaka founded by businessman Tan Sri Halim Saad. (*The Edge*)

Meta Bright: Divests Australian machinery leasing unit

Meta Bright Group Bhd said it is divesting its Australian machinery leasing unit, Meta Bright Australia Pty Ltd, for RM25.4m. The group decided to dispose of the Australian unit to mitigate cross-border operational risks and to enable the reallocation of capital towards its core business segments in Malaysia and the broader Asean region, said Meta Bright in its bourse filing. The buyer is Amber International Sdn Bhd, which is involved in the leasing of agricultural and forestry machinery. Amber International's shareholders are Liew Cheng Tong and Foo Yew Kok. (*The Edge*)

BTM: Scraps another power plant project amid financing, cost challenges

BTM Resources Bhd has scrapped its 7MW renewable energy power plant project, citing difficulties in securing financing and rising project costs. This is the second power plant project it has cancelled since the 10MW biomass power plant it called off in May. In a bourse filing on Friday, the loss-making sawmill operator said its wholly-owned subsidiary, BTM Land Sdn Bhd (BTML), received a letter dated July 7 from the Sustainable Energy Development Authority Malaysia (SEDA), confirming the acceptance of its request to relinquish the Feed-in Approval for the planned project. The project, originally approved by SEDA in 2022, was intended to supply renewable electricity to Tenaga Nasional Bhd under the Feed-in Tariff (FIT) mechanism. (*The Edge*)

Greatech: Largest shareholder GTech transfers stake to its two owners

Greatech Tech Bhd said GTech Holdings Sdn Bhd has transferred its 57.7% stake in the automated machinery group to GTech's two shareholders. GTech is Greatech's largest shareholder. It is the private vehicle of Greatech's co-founders, CEO and executive director Datuk Seri Tan Eng Kee and chief project officer Khor Lean Heng. The transfer was in accordance with the pair's respective stake in the vehicle. Tan owns a 90% stake in GTech, while Khor has 10%, according to Greatech's bourse filing on Friday. (*The Edge*)

MRCB: Firms up deal to jointly develop RM6.3bn GDV Ipoh Sentral

Malaysian Resources Corp Bhd has firmed up the partnership to jointly develop Ipoh Sentral, a transit-oriented development project in the Perak capital with a gross development value of RM6.3bn. The group on Friday inked an agreement with Ipoh Sentral Sdn Bhd (ISSB), following the memorandum of agreement signed between the parties in January, according to a bourse filing. ISSB is a 50:50 joint venture between Railway Assets Corporation and Silver Smart Sdn Bhd, owned by the Perak State Secretary (Incorporated). MRCB said an unincorporated joint venture between the group and ISSB will be established, under which MRCB will be wholly responsible for developing Ipoh Sentral. (*The Edge*)

Jasa Kita: Robert Tan, son get RM68.9m offer for Jasa Kita stake, conditional on related-party land deal

Power tool and industrial equipment maker Jasa Kita Bhd on Friday announced that its two largest shareholders, executive chairman Tan Sri Robert Tan Hua Choon and son, executive director Datuk Seri Tan Han Chuan, have received a conditional buyout offer at 38 sen per share, valuing their entire stake in the company at RM68.9m. The offer comes from an oil and gas veteran with over 40 years' experience, Abd Azis Mohamad and his investment firm Kintan Prima Sdn Bhd. Abd Azis is working with his wife, former Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation chief executive officer (CEO) Datuk Yasmin Mahmood (who owns 20% of Kintan Prima), and his brother-in-law, Bousteard Holdings Bhd executive director Datuk Iskandar Mizal Mahmood (who recently bought a 5% stake) for the deal. The offer covers Hua Choon's 31.9% and Han Chuan's 8.44% interests, and is slightly above the last traded price of 36.5 sen. The deal depends on the sale of



four industrial land plots in Jalan Batu Caves for RM38m to Hua Choon's company, Logik Damai. *(The Edge)*

SkyGate Solutions Ups stake in automation unit to 95% via share deal

SkyGate Solutions Bhd said it is raising its stake in SkyGate Integration Sdn Bhd (formerly Leader Range Technology Sdn Bhd) to 95% by acquiring another 44% stake for RM9.8m via a share issuance deal. The group had previously acquired a 51% stake in SkyGate Integration for RM10.7m in cash. This transaction was completed on May 19. In a bourse filing on Friday, SkyGate said it is buying the additional 44% stake, comprising 219,999 shares, from SkyGate Integration's founder Ong Chee Fui. The acquisition will be satisfied through the issuance of 14.6m new SkyGate shares at 67 sen per share, representing a 1.3% premium to the five-day volume-weighted average price (VWAP) of the company's shares prior to the deal. *(The Edge)*

Upcoming key economic data releases	Date
US – Core inflation rate (June)	July 15
US – Inflation rate (June)	July 15
US – PPI (June)	July 16
EU – ECB Interest rate decision	July 24
<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		
ICents Group Holdings Berhad	ACE Market	0.24	112.5	30.0	02 July	17 July
Enproserve Group Berhad	ACE Market	0.24	210.0	105.0	08 July	18 July
Oxford Innotech Berhad	ACE Market	0.29	143.5	50.0	16 July	29 July



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Published & Printed By:

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