



Daily Newswatch

Market Review

The FBM KLCI closed lower on Thursday at 1,581.1, weighed down by profit-taking in heavyweights despite improved global market sentiment following the United States' decision to extend its 90-day tariff truce with China until Nov 10. Sentiment was further tempered by caution ahead of the meeting between US President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin in Alaska on Friday to discuss the war in Ukraine. Among the index constituents, the top three decliners were MRDIY (-3.8%), PETDAG (-3.6%) and YTLPOWR (-1.6%). Sector-wise, Transportation & Logistics (-1.1%) led the laggards, while Technology (-0.9%) and Consumer Products & Services (-0.8%) also recorded losses. Overall, market breadth turned negative with 409 gainers versus 620 losers.

Asian stocks slipped on Thursday as investors turned cautious ahead of a key U.S. inflation report that could influence the future policy-rate path, offsetting optimism from the extension of the tariff truce between the U.S. and China. The Shanghai Composite fell 0.5% to 3,666.4 while Hong Kong's Hang Seng dropped 0.4% to 25,519.3, with losses in financial and property stocks outweighing advances in technology and consumer counters.

The Euro Stoxx 50 rose on Thursday, supported by stronger-than-expected corporate earnings from major European companies and resilient service-sector data that lifted investor sentiment. Additional gains came as easing energy prices and hopes that upcoming central bank meetings might signal a slower pace of policy tightening bolstered confidence, with the index climbing 0.9% to close at 5,434.7.

US equities ended little changed on Thursday as early optimism over progress in US-China trade talks faded, despite President Trump signing a last-minute executive order extending the tariff pause on Chinese goods by 90 days. Gains in technology and industrial shares were offset by profit-taking and caution ahead of upcoming inflation data, leaving the Dow, Nasdaq and S&P 500 each closing marginally at 0.0%.

Macro Snapshots

- US:** Fed can wait to adjust policy because job market is near full employment, Bostic says
- US:** Chipmaker AMD opens new Penang facility to strengthen AI, semiconductor capabilities
- MY:** Deputy plantation minister says over 34,000 foreign worker quotas approved to address sector's shortage
- CN:** To send top envoy to India as ties warm after US tariffs
- IN:** Rupiah leads Asian FX higher as dollar stays weak on Fed rate-cut bets
- UK:** Economy grows by stronger-than-expected 0.3% in 2Q

Corporate Snapshots

- SIMEPROP:** To launch Phase 2 of The Reya at KL East on Aug 16, following 80% take-up of Phase 1
- IBHD:** 2Q net profit more than doubles on stronger contributions across all businesses

Key Indices	Last Close	Daily chg %	YTD chg %
FBM KLCI	1,581.1	(0.3)	(3.7)
Dow Jones	44,911.3	(0.0)	5.6
Nasdaq CI	21,710.7	(0.0)	12.4
S&P 500	6,468.5	0.0	10.0
SX5E	5,434.7	0.9	11.0
FTSE 100	9,177.2	0.1	12.3
Nikkei 225	42,649.3	(1.4)	6.9
Shanghai CI	3,666.4	(0.5)	9.4
HSI	25,519.3	(0.4)	27.2
STI	4,256.5	(0.4)	12.4

Market Activities	Last Close	% Chg
Vol traded (m shares)	2,404.8	(11.1)
Value traded (RM m)	2,664.4	(13.2)
Gainers	409	
Losers	620	
Unchanged	547	

Top 5 Volume	Last Close	Daily chg %	Vol (m)
TWL	0.025	0.0	53.2
TANCO	0.720	2.1	50.2
OXB	0.410	7.9	36.6
PHARMA	0.175	(5.4)	34.3
MRDIY	1.540	(3.8)	32.1

Top 5 Turnover	Last Close	Daily chg %	Val (RM m)
CIMB	7.200	0.1	222.9
TM	7.130	(1.4)	186.4
GAMUDA	5.610	0.0	155.4
MAYBANK	9.840	(0.2)	111.3
YTLPOWR	4.220	(1.6)	101.9

Currencies	Last Close	% Chg
USD/MYR	4.212	(0.1)
USD/JPY	147.780	(0.0)
EUR/USD	1.165	0.0
USD/CNY	7.182	(0.1)
US Dollar Index	98.254	0.4

Commodities	Last Close	% Chg
Brent (USD/barrel)	66.8	1.8
Gold (USD/troy oz)	3,334.1	(0.0)
CPO (MYR/metric t)	4,338.0	(0.7)
Bitcoin (USD/BTC)	118,125.1	0.1



- **BURSA:** Artificial intelligence tools to help with sustainability reporting
- **SWIFT:** 2Q net profit drops 19% on cost, tax pressure
- **AEMULUS:** Acquires Chinese group's camera sensor testing business for RM19m
- **MNRB:** 1Q net profit surges 83% on strong underwriting, lower expenses

Macro News

US: Fed can wait to adjust policy because job market is near full employment, Bostic says

Atlanta Federal Reserve president Raphael Bostic on Wednesday said a US job market holding near full employment offers the central bank the "luxury" of being able to avoid rushing to make any policy adjustments. The Fed should avoid policy volatility that can be troublesome to the public, Bostic said at an event in Alabama, adding that his "predisposition is to try not to do that" and to wait for "a little more clarity on where things are going". "Now I feel we have the luxury to do that today because the labour market has been pretty much at full employment," Bostic said. *(Reuters)*

US: Chipmaker AMD opens new Penang facility to strengthen AI, semiconductor capabilities

US-based chipmaker AMD has expanded its operations in Malaysia by opening a new office and engineering lab in Bayan Lepas, Penang, on Thursday. Located at GBS by the Sea, the 209,000 sq ft facility is designed to support more than 1,200 employees and features open workspaces alongside state-of-the-art engineering labs, according to a joint statement by AMD, Invest-in-Penang Bhd (InvestPenang), and the Malaysian Investment Development Authority (Mida). InvestPenang is the state-level investment promotion agency, while Mida is the national-level agency. *(The Edge)*

MY: Deputy plantation minister says over 34,000 foreign worker quotas approved to address sector's shortage

A total of 434 companies, involving more than 34,000 quotas, have been recommended for approval until July 9 for the recruitment of foreign workers, the Plantation and Commodities Ministry said. Deputy Minister Datuk Chan Foong Hin said the special approvals aim to address labour shortages and boost national productivity and output. "To tackle the shortage, the government has granted special quota approvals for foreign worker recruitment in the plantation sector on a case-by-case basis," he told the Dewan Rakyat during question-and-answer time on Thursday. *(Bernama)*

CN: To send top envoy to India as ties warm after US tariffs

China will send a top official to New Delhi next week, as Beijing steps up efforts to ease long-standing tensions with India amid US President Donald Trump's global trade overhaul. Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi will likely travel to New Delhi on Aug 18 — his first trip to the country in over three years — and is expected to meet India's National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, according to people familiar with the matter. A key agenda item will be discussing ways to reduce troop levels along the disputed Himalayan border, the people said, asking not to be identified as the discussions are still private. Such a step would mark significant progress toward restoring trust between the two countries, they added. *(Bloomberg)*

IN: Rupiah leads Asian FX higher as dollar stays weak on Fed rate-cut bets

The Indonesian rupiah led gains in Asian currencies on Thursday, as the US dollar languished near multi-week lows on growing expectations that the Federal Reserve will cut interest rates next month. The rupiah strengthened as much as 0.6% to a seven-month high of 16,090 per US dollar, extending its recovery from March when it hit its lowest level since June 1998. It currently trades about 1% below 2024-end levels. Jakarta stocks rose nearly 1%, advancing for a fifth straight session. Analysts attribute the rally to optimism surrounding Bank Indonesia's recent rate cut and clarity on US tariffs, and say easing policy risks and attractive valuations are helping the country stand out regionally. *(Reuters)*

UK: Economy grows by stronger-than-expected 0.3% in 2Q

Britain's economy grew by a faster-than-expected 0.3% in the second quarter of 2025 after growth of 0.7% in the first three months of the year, offering a boost to finance minister Rachel Reeves, official figures showed on Thursday. Economists polled by Reuters, as well as the Bank of England, had forecast 0.1% growth in gross domestic product for the April-June period. Thursday's data from the Office for National Statistics showed British GDP rose by 0.4% in June alone after a 0.1% fall in output in May due to surprisingly strong growth across services, industrial output and construction. *(Reuters)*



Corporate News

SIMEPROP: To launch Phase 2 of The Reya at KL East on Aug 16, following 80% take-up of Phase 1

Sime Darby Property Bhd will launch Phase 2 of The Reya at its 159-acre KL East masterplan in Desa Melawati on Aug 16, Saturday, following the 80% take-up of Phase 1, according to a press statement on Thursday. Situated on a 6.4-acre freehold tract and with a gross development value of RM475m, The Reya offers one tower comprising two wings, namely Wing A (30 storeys) and Wing B (32 storeys), which are also known as Phases 1 and 2 respectively. Phase 1 offers 233 units, while Phase 2 offers 247 units. These units have built-ups ranging from 1,350 to 2,210 sq ft with configurations of three to five bedrooms and selling prices from RM899,000. The entire project is expected to be completed in July 2029. (*The Edge*)

IBHD: 2Q net profit more than doubles on stronger contributions across all businesses

Property developer I-Bhd more than doubled its net profit in the second quarter ended June 30, 2025 (2QFY2025), driven by stronger contributions across all business segments, namely leisure and hospitality, property development, and property investment. Net profit came in at RM11.5m, up 110% from RM5.5m a year ago. Earnings per share for 2QFY2025 surged to 0.6 sen from 0.3 sen a year earlier, its bourse filing showed on Thursday. Revenue for the quarter rose 12% to RM62.3m from RM55.5m in 2QFY2024. No dividend was declared during the quarter under review. (*The Edge*)

BURSA: Artificial intelligence tools to help with sustainability reporting

Artificial intelligence-powered (AI) tools can help companies with their sustainability reporting process, and free up resources for them to spend on decarbonisation initiatives, said speakers at an event organised by BoardRoom and Bursa Malaysia Bhd on Wednesday. The event, entitled 'Game-changer: AI tech to elevate sustainability reporting and advisory', was held at Bursa Malaysia. Earlier this year, corporate services provider BoardRoom partnered Bursa Malaysia to promote adoption of the Centralised Sustainability Intelligence (CSI) solution, which is Bursa's official sustainability reporting channel. (*The Edge*)

SWIFT: 2Q net profit drops 19% on cost, tax pressure

Freight and logistics company Swift Haulage Bhd's second quarter net profit was down 19.0% from a year ago, hit by higher administrative and operating expenses, finance cost and tax expenses, despite higher revenue. Net profit came in at RM6.7m in the financial year ended June 30, 2025 (2QFY2025), compared to RM8.3m in 2QFY2024. Earnings per share was lower at 0.7 sen in 2QFY2025, down from 0.9 sen previously. Its administrative and operating expenses climbed 23.6% year-on-year (y-o-y) to RM36.1m in 2QFY2025 from RM29.2m, while finance costs rose 4.7% to RM9.4m from RM9m. (*The Edge*)

AEMULUS: Acquires Chinese group's camera sensor testing business for RM19m

Automated test equipment maker Aemulus Holdings Bhd entered into a deal on Thursday to acquire the camera sensor testing business of China-based Revotronix group for 32.5m yuan (RM19.1m). Aemulus said the deal, undertaken by its wholly-owned subsidiaries Tangming Shengshi Technology Precision Instrument (Suzhou) Co Ltd (TMSS) and Aemulus Corporation Sdn Bhd, covers the transfer of intellectual property, technology roadmap, customer and supplier relationships, sales contracts, selected employees, inventories and fixed assets. Revotronix, which develops and sells semiconductor and electronic equipment for CMOS image sensors (CIS) in China, has partnered with TMSS since 2021, said Aemulus in a filing with Bursa Malaysia, adding that the acquisition will give TMSS direct access to one of the world's largest CIS makers, boosting its average selling prices and order volumes. (*The Edge*)

MNRB: 1Q net profit surges 83% on strong underwriting, lower expenses

Insurer and reinsurer MNRB Holdings Bhd reported an 82.7% jump in net profit for the first quarter ended June 30, 2025 (1QFY2026), boosted by higher revenue across all business segments. In a filing with Bursa Malaysia on Thursday, the group attributed the stellar earnings performance to stronger underwriting, higher net investment income and higher share of profits from its associates, as well as lower operating expenses. Its net profit for 1QFY2026 was RM168.4m or 21.5 sen per share, up from RM92.2m or 11.8 sen per share in the same quarter a year earlier. (*The Edge*)



Upcoming key economic data releases	Date
US – Core Retail Sales (Jul)	Aug 15
EU – CPI (Jul)	Aug 20
Source: Bloomberg	

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		

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