



# Daily Newswatch

## Market Review

The FBM KLCI slipped -0.2% to 1,612.8 points to start the week on Monday, as investors turned cautious ahead of the US Fed meeting. Across the broader sector, most sectors saw contraction with Transportation & Logistics (-1.0%), Utilities (-0.9%) and Plantation (-0.8%) leading declines. Meanwhile, Petronas Chemicals suffered the most loss by 3.4%, followed by IOI Corp and MISC, dropping 2.2% and 1.9% respectively. Overall market breadth remained in red, with losers outweighing gainers 740 to 329, with 584 unchanged.

Asian stocks ended mixed on Monday, driven by China's tech optimism and incoming economic data later in the week. The Shanghai Composite rose 0.5% to 3,924.1 points, Taiwan's TAIEX advanced 1.2% to 28,303.8 points and the KOSPI jumped 1.3% to 4,154.9 points. Meanwhile, the Hang Seng declined 1.2% to close at 25,75.4 points. In China, Information Technology (+2.6%) continue to thrive as the top performer, followed by Real Estate and Financials gaining 0.6% and 0.5% respectively. Notable gainers included Zhongji Innolight (+6.1%), Eoptolink Tech (+7.2%), Suzhou TFC (+19.2%), Victory Giant (+5.5%) and Foxconn Industrial (+3.8%). On the other hand, Hong Kong's market saw weakness weighed by Financials, Property and Consumers. Among losers were Pop Mart (-8.4%), followed by Zijin Gold (-4.3%), Anta Sports (-2.7%), and Techtronic Industries (-2.7%).

European markets declined on Monday, as both the STOXX 50 and the STOXX 600 fell 0.2% on Monday as investors braced for a key week of global central bank decisions, including the Fed meeting. The Fed is largely expected to decrease interest rates by 25 basis points, but attention will be focused on new FOMC projections amid continued uncertainty about its policy path through 2026. Meanwhile, ECB official Schnabel said she is satisfied with investor expectations that the central bank's next action would be a rate hike, contributing to the cautious tone in European markets. Communication Services, Consumer Staples and Consumer Discretionary emerged as the worst performers, falling 1.7%, 1.3% and 1.2% respectively.

US stocks closed lower on Monday, with the S&P 500 down 0.3%, the Dow Jones down 0.4%, and the Nasdaq down 0.1% as investors reviewed the Fed's 2026 policy path. A Wednesday decrease is still priced in at over 90%, but firmer inflation signs have kept expectations cautious. Almost all sectors saw losses in the S&P500, as Communication Services, Materials and Consumer Discretionary recorded losses by 1.8%, 1.7% and 1.5% respectively. Air Products and Chemicals Inc suffered the biggest loss, down 9.5%, followed by Dollar General and Incyte Group down 6.1% and 5.7%. Meanwhile, the Nasdaq Composite saw SMX Security posting a sharp decline by 59.1%, with heavy losses by Meihua International and GRI Bio, dropping 45.7% and 34.5% respectively.

## Macro Snapshots

- **US:** Trump to unveil USD12bn aid for farmers hit by trade war
- **CN:** Trade surplus tops USD1tn after exports rebound
- **CN:** Pledges to expand demand with more proactive polices in 2026
- **MY:** Data centre drive will not result in water tariff hike, Senate told

## Corporate Snapshots

- **COASTAL:** Wins RM7.4m liftboat charter contract
- **QUALITY:** Lands RM91m road job after Mukah water project
- **RAMSSOL:** Transport Ministry appoints as JPJ's authorised collection agent
- **PTRANS:** Plans RM1.5bn sukuk to fund capex, refinance facilities

Key Indices	Last Close	Daily chg %	YTD chg %
FBM KLCI	1,612.8	(0.2)	(1.8)
Dow Jones	47,739.3	(0.4)	12.2
Nasdaq CI	23,545.9	(0.1)	21.9
S&P 500	6,846.5	(0.3)	16.4
SX5E	5,725.6	0.0	16.9
FTSE 100	9,645.1	(0.2)	18.0
Nikkei 225	50,581.9	0.2	26.8
Shanghai CI	3,924.1	0.5	17.1
HSI	25,765.4	(1.2)	28.4
STI	4,507.1	(0.5)	19.0

Market Activities	Last Close	% Chg
Vol traded (m shares)	3,355.3	5.8
Value traded (RM m)	2,149.5	(4.1)
Gainers	329	
Losers	740	
Unchanged	584	

Top 5 Volume	Last Close	Daily chg %	Vol (m)
BMS	0.175	(20.5)	168.9
TANC	1.180	0.9	58.6
ZETRIX	0.800	(1.8)	57.3
VEB	0.250	0.0	53.4
PUC	0.020	(20.0)	32.6

Top 5 Turnover	Last Close	Daily chg %	Val (RM m)
TNB	12.700	0.5	122.9
MAY	10.120	(0.6)	84.6
PMAH	6.790	1.2	74.4
TANC	1.180	0.9	69.4
CIMB	7.900	(0.1)	63.2

Currencies	Last Close	% Chg
USD/MYR	4.112	(0.0)
USD/JPY	155.900	0.0
EUR/USD	1.164	0.0
USD/CNY	7.072	(0.0)
US Dollar Index	99.102	0.1

Commodities	Last Close	% Chg
Brent (USD/barrel)	62.5	(1.9)
Gold (USD/troy oz)	4,190.7	(0.2)
CPO (MYR/metric t)	4,055.0	(1.0)
Bitcoin (USD/BTC)	90,859.9	(0.5)

Source: Bloomberg



## Macro News

### **US: Trump to unveil USD12bn aid for farmers hit by trade war, White House official says**

US President Donald Trump was set to unveil a USD12bn (RM49.3bn) aid package for American farmers affected by his trade policies, a White House official said on Monday. The announcement was due to be made at a 2pm (1900 GMT) roundtable at the White House, the official said. US farmers have been saddled this year with record harvests and lost billions of dollars in soybean sales to China when the nation turned to South American suppliers this fall during stalled trade talks. (*Reuters*)

### **CN: Trade surplus tops USD1tn after exports rebound**

China's trade surplus exceeded USD1.0tn (RM4.1tn) for the first time despite a deepening plunge in shipments to the US, risking a backlash from markets flooded by goods from the world's biggest manufacturing nation. Exports returned to growth in November after an unexpected drop the previous month, rising 5.9% from a year earlier and far outpacing a 1.9% gain in imports, according to data published by China's General Administration of Customs on Monday (Dec 8). The surplus came in at USD112bn, the third-largest ever accumulated by China in a single month and far more than forecast by economists. (*Bloomberg*)

### **CN: Refiner moves forward with expansion despite sanctions, sources say**

A Chinese refinery operator whose main business was disrupted when it was sanctioned by Washington in May for buying Iranian oil is pressing ahead with a USD3.6bn petrochemicals expansion project, two people familiar with the plan said. The construction taking place at the Xinhai Chemical site in north China's Cangzhou city underscores how the country's independent refiners, Iran's largest oil customers, manage to maintain their business despite falling foul of expanding Western blacklists aimed at curtailing oil revenues to governments including Tehran and Moscow. Early last year, parent firm Hebei Xinhai Holdings Group announced a 50bn yuan (USD7.1bn) plan to transform the refiner into a chemical producer, state media reported. (*Reuters*)

### **CN: Pledges to expand demand with more proactive policies in 2026**

China will keep expanding domestic demand and support the broader economy with more proactive policies in 2026, the Politburo, a top decision-making body of the ruling Communist Party, was cited as saying on Monday by state media *Xinhua*. The remarks about a "more proactive fiscal policy" and "appropriately loose monetary policy" point to a high budget deficit, debt issuance and additional rate cuts next year to reach a growth target likely to remain at around 5%, analysts said. China will make efforts to "stabilise jobs, firms, markets and expectations" to achieve a good start for the next five-year plan, *Xinhua* said. (*Reuters*)

### **CN: Copper hits fresh record as China policy, US imports spur rally**

Copper climbed to an all-time high, as investors bet on a sustained rally spurred by Chinese stimulus measures and US stockpiling amid tight global supply. The industrial metal rose as much as 1.3% on Monday (Dec 8), blazing past a record of US\$11,705 (RM48,142.66) a tonne in the previous session. The latest rally came after China's leaders said the world's second-largest economy would maintain its "moderately loose" monetary policy and keep its more proactive approach to fiscal matters. Copper was also supported by Chinese trade data, which showed exports rebounded and beat estimates last month, pushing the country's trade surplus past US\$1 trillion for the first time in any year. (*Bloomberg*)

### **MY: Data centre drive will not result in water tariff hike, Senate told**

The Dewan Negara was on Monday told that domestic water tariffs will not be raised solely to meet the demands of data centre development. Deputy Energy Transition and Water Transformation Minister Akmal Nasrullah Mohd Nasir said the government has decided that costs related to upgrading electricity and water grid infrastructure to support data centres will be fully borne by the developers, to ensure that there will be no additional financial burden on consumers, particularly domestic users. He said the development of data centres and the projected rise in electricity demand in Peninsular Malaysia, require significant grid enhancement works under the Fourth Regulatory Period (RP4), scheduled from Jan 1, 2025, to Dec 31, 2027. This follows the committed demand of over 7,000 megawatts (MW) already secured through Electricity Supply Agreements (ESA), between data centre operators and Tenaga Nasional Berhad (TNB), in addition to completed projects, as of September 2025. (*Bernama*)

### **MY: Halal industry contributed RM118.2bn to GDP in 3Q2025, says Miti**

Malaysia's halal industry contributed RM118.2bn, or 7.94% of gross domestic product (GDP), in the third quarter (3Q) of 2025, supported by 1,525 registered halal exporters, the Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry (Miti) said. Miti said the Halal Industry Master Plan 2030 aims to raise the sector's value to RM231.1 billion by 2030, with halal exports projected to reach RM70 billion and the industry's GDP contribution rising to 10.8%. "To strengthen the halal ecosystem, Malaysia has developed 14 halal parks under the HALMAS designation to serve as production, processing and logistics hubs. (*Bernama*)



## Corporate News

### **COASTAL: Wins RM7.4m liftboat charter contract**

Coastal Contracts Bhd has secured a liftboat chartering contract worth RM7.4m. In a filing with Bursa Malaysia on Monday, the company said the contract was awarded to its subsidiary, Elite Point Pte Ltd, with the charter expected to commence on Dec 10. The contract has a total tenure of 88 days, comprising a firm period of 60 days and an optional extension of 28 days. The charterer is based in the Middle East. (*The Edge*)

### **QUALITY: Lands RM91m road job after Mukah water project**

Sarawak-based construction firm Quality Concrete Holdings Bhd has secured another major project, this time a RM91.5m contract. This latest award comes on the heels of a RM294.6m contract for the proposed Mukah water supply system announced last Friday. In a filing with Bursa Malaysia, Quality Concrete said the new contract was obtained by its subsidiary, QC Construction & Engineering Sdn Bhd, from the Sarawak Regional Corridor Development Authority (Recoda). (*The Edge*)

### **CAPITALA: Gets High Court's nod for capital reduction to enable AAX share distribution**

Capital A Bhd said on Monday it has obtained the High Court's approval for its proposed RM2.7bn capital reduction, paving the way for the distribution of AirAsia X Bhd shares to the company's entitled shareholders. The approval is among the final milestones in Capital A's restructuring, following its aviation consolidation agreements with AAX becoming unconditional in October and the announcement of the dividend-in-specie entitlement details, the company said in a statement. With the latest court nod, Capital A said it will proceed with the distribution of AAX shares, seek a further High Court order to reduce its capital by RM5.51 billion under its regularisation plan, and subsequently apply for the upliftment of its Practice Note 17 (PN17) status. (*The Edge*)

### **DRBHICOM: Completes take-over of Spirit AeroSystems Malaysia after revising purchase price**

DRB-Hicom Bhd on Monday said it has completed its acquisition of Spirit AeroSystems Malaysia Sdn Bhd (Spirit MY), days after revising the purchase price to USD110.6m (RM455.0m). Last week, the company announced that it had revised the purchase price for the Malaysian operations of the aerospace manufacturer slightly upward to USD110.6m from USD109.8m previously. This follows approval from DRB-Hicom shareholders obtained on Nov 14 and the approvals of the European Commission and the US Federal Trade Commission, which were made publicly available on Oct 14 and Dec 3, respectively, said the conglomerate in a statement. (*The Edge*)

### **NADIBHD: Gagasan Nadi Cergas' purchase of hostel management concessionaire turns unconditional**

Construction group Gagasan Nadi Cergas Bhd said on Monday that its proposed acquisition of a majority stake in Konsortium PAE Sepakat Sdn Bhd (KPSSB) — the concessionaire for student hostel facilities in seven polytechnic campuses — has become unconditional. KPSSB is 55.6%-owned by Seri Delima Anggun Sdn Bhd and 44.45% by Serata Ehsan Sdn Bhd. Gagasan Nadi Cergas plans to acquire a 45% stake in Seri Delima Anggun for RM47.3m and 100% of Serata Ehsan for RM80.0m. The original plan was to fully acquire both companies (and thereby wholly-owning KPSSB), but Gagasan Nadi Cergas revised the structure after the Public Private Partnership Unit (Ukas) only gave the greenlight for the purchase of a majority stake in KPSSB. (*The Edge*)

### **PTRANS: Plans RM1.5bn sukuk to fund capex, refinance facilities**

Perak Transit Bhd has proposed to establish a RM1.5bn sukuk wakalah programme to fund its capital expenditure, working capital and other shariah-compliant corporate purposes. Perak Transit said the sukuk programme will have a perpetual tenure, allowing the company to issue sukuk from time to time, including instruments structured in line with sustainability or sustainability-linked guidelines, where applicable. Each issuance may be rated or unrated, depending on the terms set prior to issuance, according to its filing with Bursa Malaysia, the group said, adding it had lodged the necessary documents with the Securities Commission Malaysia (SC) for the sukuk's establishment. (*The Edge*)

### **SMRT: Acquires 37.5% stake in Singapore digital infra firm Novus Technologies for RM22.48 mil**

SMRT Holdings Bhd said on Monday it is acquiring 1.7m shares, representing a 37.5% stake in Singapore-based Novus Technologies Pte Ltd (NTPL) for SGD7.1m (RM22.5m). In a bourse filing, the Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT) solutions provider said it had entered into a conditional sale and purchase agreement with Asia Fintech Ventures Group Pte Ltd, the sole shareholder of NTPL, for the transaction. NTPL is principally involved in providing digital infrastructure and payments technology solutions, specialising in the deployment, rental and management of self-service and retail transaction infrastructure and adjacent digital financial technologies, including agent banking and point-of-sale (POS) systems. (*The Edge*)

### **RAMSSOL: Transport Ministry appoints unit as JPJ's authorised collection agent**

Ramssol Group Bhd, via its wholly-owned subsidiary Rider Gate Sdn Bhd, has been appointed by the Ministry of Transport (MOT) as the Road Transport Department's (JPJ) authorised collection agent for motor vehicle ownership transfers, motor vehicle licence renewals and traffic summons payments. The appointment is for a two-year period from the commencement of JPJ services on the Rider Gate application platform, subject to the terms of the appointment. Ramssol said in its bourse filing that a formal agreement will be executed and announced in due course. The contract value will depend on the number of transactions performed during the tenure. (*The Edge*)



**TANCO: Signs RM3.5bn agreement framework with China's CCCC unit for smart AI container port in Port Dickson**

Tanco Holdings Bhd has named CCCC Dredging Southeast Asia Sdn Bhd (CDSA) — a unit of China Communications Construction Company (CCCC) — as the proposed contractor for the Sea Port Component of its Smart AI Container Port (Midport) in Port Dickson, Negeri Sembilan. The engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) package carries a maximum indicative value of RM3.5bn, subject to final design, costing and commercial terms. Construction of the Sea Port Component is expected to take three and a half years once work begins, the group said in a statement on Monday. The appointment framework was formalised via a head of agreement (HOA) signed between Tanco's wholly-owned unit Tanco Builders Sdn Bhd and CDSA. (*The Edge*)

Upcoming key economic data releases	Date
US Crude Oil Inventories	Dec 10
US FOMC Economic Projections	Dec 10
US FOMC Statement	Dec 10
US Fed Interest Rate Decision	Dec 10
US FOMC Press Conference	Dec 10
US Initial Jobless Claims	Dec 11
US 30-Year Bond Auction	Dec 11
<i>Source: Bloomberg</i>	

**Stock Selection Based on Dividend Yield**

	Sector	Price (RM)	Dividend/Share (RM)	Dividend Yield (%)
Bonia Corporation	Consumer	0.81	0.11	14.07
British American Tobacco (M)	Consumer	4.42	0.58	13.19
Taliworks Corporation	Utilities	0.53	0.05	9.52
REXIT	Technology	0.55	0.05	9.09
MBM Resources	Consumer	5.23	0.43	8.24
Sentral REIT	REIT	0.78	0.06	8.00
KIP REIT	REIT	0.89	0.07	7.80
Ta Ann Holdings	Plantation	4.23	0.33	7.78
Paramount Corporation	Property	1.00	0.07	7.54
CapitaLand Malaysia Trust	REIT	0.62	0.04	7.32
MAG Holdings	Consumer	1.30	0.09	7.31
Magnum	Consumer	1.30	0.09	7.31
YTL Hospital REIT	REIT	1.12	0.07	6.61
Bermaz Auto	Consumer	0.72	0.05	6.57
Kim Loong Resources	Plantation	2.39	0.15	6.40

*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		
LAC Med Berhad	MAIN Market	0.75	74.2	30.0	25 Nov	10 Dec
Wasco Greenergy Berhad	Main Market	1.00	75.0	75.0	28 Nov	11 Dec

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