



# Daily Newswatch

## Market Review

The FBM KLCI fell 0.7% on Friday to 1,739.5 points amid continued profit-taking ahead of next week's Chinese New Year break and persistent weakness in global technology stocks, with declines led by Technology (-1.3%), Financial Services (-1.1%) and Industrial Products & Services (-0.9%); Hong Leong Bank (-2.4%), Public Bank (-1.8%) and Petronas Gas (-1.7%) were the main laggards, while market breadth turned negative from previous closing with losers outpacing gainers 693 to 403 and 558 counters unchanged. WoW, however, the FBM KLCI gained 0.4%, supported by Transportation & Logistics (+2.8%), Property (+2.7%) and Health Care (+2.6%), led by Sime Darby (+10.4%), Mr DIY Group (+5.7%) and United Plantations (+4.8%), while Telecommunications & Media (-0.4%) lagged and Nestlé (-3.4%), Hong Leong Financial Group (-3.1%) and Hong Leong Bank (-3.1%) underperformed.

Major Asian markets closed mixed to lower on Friday, with the Shanghai Composite falling 1.3% to 4,082.1 points, the Hang Seng Index dropping 1.7% to 26,567.1 points, Japan's Nikkei 225 slipping 1.2% to 56,942.0 points and South Korea's KOSPI easing 0.3% to 5,507.0 points, while Taiwan's TAIEX outperformed, surging 1.6% to 33,605.7 points. In China, declines were driven by profit-taking ahead of the week-long Lunar New Year holiday and weakness in global markets amid ongoing concerns over elevated AI spending and sectoral disruption, with losses led by Energy (-3.6%), Materials (-2.7%) and Utilities (-1.0%), dragged by Saurer Intelligent Technology (-10.1%), Decai Decoration (-10.0%) and Shuangliang Eco-Energy (-10.0%). Meanwhile, Taiwan's outperformance was supported by continued buying in tech and semiconductor stocks on robust earnings outlooks and optimism over AI-related demand. WoW, the Shanghai Composite rose 0.5%, the Hang Seng Index was flat (+0.03%), Japan's Nikkei 225 jumped 5.8%, Taiwan's TAIEX gained 4.1% and South Korea's KOSPI surged 8.2%.

European stocks edged lower for a second session on Friday, weighed by bank losses and lagging US peers after a soft inflation print reinforced expectations of Fed rate cuts. The STOXX 50 fell 0.4% to 5,987 and the STOXX 600 eased 0.1% to 617, with UniCredit, Deutsche Bank and BBVA down 4%-3.5%, L'Oréal off 5%, Safran up 8.3%, and Eurozone employment rising 0.3%; WoW, both indices fell 0.2%.

US stocks ended Friday mixed, with the S&P 500 flat, the Dow up 0.1% and the Nasdaq Composite down 0.2%, as a softer-than-expected January inflation print failed to revive risk appetite despite reinforcing expectations for multiple Fed rate cuts this year. Chipmakers and megacap tech remained under pressure, including Nvidia (-2.2%), Apple (-2.3%), Alphabet (-1.1%), Meta (-1.6%) and Broadcom (-1.8%), while software stocks outperformed with Salesforce (2.3%) and Oracle (2.3%) gaining, and Applied Materials (8.1%) and Arista Networks (4.8%) surging on upbeat earnings. WoW, the S&P 500 fell 1.4%, the Dow Jones slipped 1.2% and the Nasdaq CI declined 2.1%.

## Macro Snapshots

- **US:** Wall St edges up, yields fall as US CPI data cooler than expected
- **CN:** Posts Record Current Account Surplus in Q4 2025
- **MY:** Stronger-than-expected growth momentum to carry into 2026

## Corporate Snapshots

- **EKOVEST:** EPF grants Ekovest one-year extension to exit Duke highway stake
- **AZRB:** Lands Cameron Highlands bypass project worth RM430m
- **GDB:** Enters Sarawak property market with RM32.7m land purchase

Key Indices	Last Close	Daily chg %	YTD chg %
FBM KLCI	1,739.5	(0.7)	3.5
Dow Jones	49,500.9	0.1	3.0
Nasdaq CI	22,546.7	(0.2)	(3.0)
S&P 500	6,836.2	0.0	(0.1)
SX5E	5,985.2	(0.4)	3.3
FTSE 100	10,446.4	0.4	5.2
Nikkei 225	56,942.0	(1.2)	13.1
Shanghai CI	4,082.1	(1.3)	2.9
HSI	26,567.1	(1.7)	3.7
STI	4,937.8	(1.6)	6.3

Market Activities	Last Close	% Chg
Vol traded (m shares)	2,433.6	(5.3)
Value traded (RM m)	2,597.0	(6.8)
Gainers	403	
Losers	693	
Unchanged	558	

Top 5 Volume	Last Close	Daily chg %	Vol (m)
ZENTECH	0.005	(50.0)	92.8
ZETRIX	0.800	(2.4)	87.6
HOCKSOON	0.560	(6.7)	64.2
TANC	1.410	2.2	53.4
PHRM	0.305	(4.7)	41.6

Top 5 Turnover	Last Close	Daily chg %	Val (RM m)
MAY	12.060	(0.7)	295.2
PBK	5.040	(1.8)	173.6
CIMB	4.170	1.0	116.2
SDG	5.820	0.3	101.1
PMAH	7.570	(1.6)	84.0

Currencies	Last Close	% Chg
USD/MYR	3.909	(0.2)
USD/JPY	152.700	0.0
EUR/USD	1.187	(0.0)
USD/CNY	6.905	(0.1)
US Dollar Index	96.915	(0.0)

Commodities	Last Close	% Chg
Brent (USD/barrel)	67.8	0.3
Gold (USD/troy oz)	5,042.0	2.4
CPO (MYR/metric t)	4,037.0	0.7
Bitcoin (USD/BTC)	70,326.7	0.6

Source: Bloomberg



## Macro News

### US: Wall St edges up, yields fall as US CPI data cooler than expected

Wall Street indices ended mostly with a slight gain while Treasury yields fell on Friday as investors digested cooler-than-expected US inflation data for January that some saw as underpinning hopes for interest rate cuts. The US dollar was nearly flat against other currencies. The report showed the US consumer price index (CPI) rose 2.4% on a yearly basis, slightly below the estimated 2.5% increase, according to economists polled by *Reuters*. The news boosted bets that the US Federal Reserve (Fed) will deliver at least two rate cuts this year. (*Reuters*)

### US: Stock index futures muted, inflation data on tap

US stock index futures were trading flat on Friday after an AI-led selloff, with investors staying on the sidelines ahead of inflation data that could provide more clarity on the Federal Reserve's rate-cut outlook. All the three indices were headed for their worst week since November as AI-related worries rippled beyond software stocks to sectors such as brokerages and trucking. The consumer price index report for January is due at 8.30am ET and is likely to show prices rising at a steady pace. The data lands two days after a stronger-than-expected jobs report heightened concerns that the Fed could keep interest rates on hold longer. (*Reuters*)

### US: Trump plans to roll back some tariffs on steel and aluminium goods — report

US President Donald Trump plans to scale back some tariffs on steel and aluminum goods, the *Financial Times* reported on Friday, citing people familiar with the matter. Officials in the Commerce Department and US trade representative's office believe the tariffs are hurting consumers by raising prices for goods including pie tins and food-and-drink cans, the *FT* report said. Voters nationwide are worried about consumer prices and cost-of-living concerns are expected to be a major factor for Americans heading into the November mid-term elections. (*Reuters*)

### US: Taiwan finalise deal to cut tariffs, boost purchases of US goods

Trump administration officials signed a final reciprocal trade agreement that confirmed a 15% US tariff rate for imports from Taiwan, while committing Taiwan to a schedule for eliminating or lowering tariffs on nearly all US goods. The document released by the US Trade Representative's office on Thursday also commits Taiwan to significantly boost purchases of US goods from 2025 through 2029, including US\$44.4bn of liquefied natural gas and crude oil, US\$15.2bn of civil aircraft and engines, US\$25.2bn of power grid equipment and generators, marine and steelmaking equipment. The agreement adds technical language and specific details to a trade framework deal first reached in January that cut tariffs on Taiwanese goods, including from its powerhouse semiconductor industries, to 15% from the 20% initially imposed by Trump. (*Reuters*)

### US: Investors pour another US\$4bn into US high-grade bond funds

US bond investors poured another US\$4.3bn of cash into high-grade bond funds in the week ended Wednesday, the eleventh consecutive week of inflows, according to LSEG Lipper, as investors scramble to buy debt still offering decent yields. The latest inflows into short- and intermediate-term investment-grade bond funds come after January saw the largest monthly inflow in five years at US\$43.3bn. The persistent inflows into funds have helped fuel demand for corporate debt sales this year. High-grade companies have sold about US\$309bn of US bonds so far in 2026, up nearly 30% from this time last year, fueled in part by big offerings from tech companies including Oracle Corp. and Google parent company Alphabet Inc. (*Bloomberg*)

### US: Treasury Yields Fall After Soft CPI Report

The yield on the US 10-year Treasury fell to 4.07% on Friday, the lowest level since early December, after a softer-than-expected CPI report reinforced expectations of Federal Reserve rate cuts this year. The annual headline inflation rate slowed to 2.4% last month, down from 2.6% in each of the previous two months and below forecasts of 2.5%. On a monthly basis, inflation eased to 0.2%, compared with expectations that it would remain steady at 0.3%. Following the data, traders increased their expectations for Federal Reserve easing this year to 61bps, up from 58bps previously. (*Trading Economics*)

### CN: Posts Record Current Account Surplus in Q4 2025

China's current account surplus widened to an unprecedented \$242.1bn in the fourth quarter of 2025, sharply higher than the \$163.8bn recorded a year earlier. The goods surplus widened to a record \$297.3bn, as exports climbed 6.4% year-on-year to an all-time high of \$996.3bn, proving resilient despite US tariffs on Chinese shipments, while imports rose at a more modest pace of 1.8% to \$699.0bn. The secondary income surplus also edged up to \$6.9bn from \$4.7bn in the same quarter of 2024. At the same time, China's services deficit narrowed to \$40.2bn from \$47.4bn a year earlier, while the primary income deficit shrank markedly to \$22.0bn from \$43.3bn. For the full year 2025, China's current account surplus surged to a record \$735.0bn, up from \$423.9bn in 2024, underscoring the strength of its external position. (*China State Administration of Foreign Exchange*)



**CN: January new loans jump but miss forecasts as weak demand persists**

China's new bank lending jumped in January from the previous month but came in below expectations and far short of the record level a year earlier, as subdued credit demand continued to weigh on borrowing in the world's second-largest economy. Banks extended 4.7tn yuan (US\$681.6bn or RM2.6tn) in new yuan loans in January, surging from 910bn yuan in December but missing analysts' forecasts, according to data from the People's Bank of China on Friday. The number was lower than 5.0tn yuan predicted by analysts in a Reuters' poll and below a record 5.1tn yuan seen a year earlier. Credit typically spikes in January as Chinese banks front-load lending at the start of the year, competing for higher-quality customers and market share. *(Reuters)*

**CN: Yuan set for longest weekly winning streak in 13 years**

China's yuan dipped on Friday, but is set for a 12th week of gains in its longest winning streak in 13 years, as exporters rushed to bring home receipts from booming trade ahead of the Lunar New Year. Some analysts also see the rising yuan and China's buoyant stock market feeding each other, but say the central bank has enough tools up its sleeves to forestall the currency appreciating too quickly. The onshore yuan changed hands at 6.9068 per dollar around noon, slightly weaker than the previous session's close of 6.9033. The dollar index =USD rebounded 0.03% in Asian trade. For the week, the yuan has gained roughly 0.4% in its best weekly performance this year. It also marked the longest run of weekly gains since late 2012. *(Reuters)*

**CN: New home prices extend decline as weak demand hounds sector**

China's new home prices extended their decline in January, as official data painted a familiar picture of a property sector unable to shake off a years-long downturn, maintaining pressure on cash-strapped developers and the broader economy. Investors have been watching for signs of bottoming out in the market, but demand has remained soft despite a raft of policy measures since the industry plunged into crisis in 2021. "The foundations of the property market's recovery remain fragile," said Zhang Dawei, an analyst at Centaline Property. Prices for new homes fell 0.4% month-on-month, matching the previous month's decline, according to Reuters calculations based on data released by the National Bureau of Statistics on Friday. *(Reuters)*

**SG: Car tax revenue now so high, exceeds Fiji's GDP**

The Singapore government reaped billions of dollars more in vehicle quota premiums and car taxes than it projected as the cost of driving reached record highs in the city-state. Vehicle quota premiums raised S\$8.7bn (RM27bn) in the year ending March 2026, about 31% more than the government initially estimated a year ago. When combined with motor vehicle taxes, it brings the total to S\$11.1bn — an amount greater than the annual gross domestic product (GDP) of Fiji. Singapore has a unique system for allowing cars to stay on the road. Every vehicle must be granted a Certificate of Entitlement (COE) as part of a bidding process, which grants permission for it to be driven for a maximum of 10 years. *(Bloomberg)*

**JP: BOJ hawk Tamura flags spring as possible timing for rate hike**

One of the Bank of Japan's (BOJ) most hawkish members indicated that conditions for the central bank's next interest rate hike could be in place by spring, a comment that is likely to fuel further speculation of an early move. "It is quite possible that, as early as this spring, the price stability target of 2% can be judged to have been achieved if it's confirmed with a high certainty that wage growth this year will be in line with the target for the third consecutive year," Tamura said Friday in a speech at a business conference in Yokohama. While it's unclear if the rest of the BOJ board shares Tamura's view, his remarks suggest that governor Kazuo Ueda will probably face increased opposition if he decides to stand pat at the next policy meetings through April. *(Bloomberg)*

**TW: Hikes 2026 economic growth forecast on AI demand**

Taiwan's tech-reliant economy is expected to grow faster than previously predicted in 2026, riding the wave of strong demand for artificial intelligence (AI) technology, the statistics office said on Friday. Gross domestic product (GDP) is expected to expand by 7.7% this year, the Directorate General of Budget, Accounting and Statistics said, much better than the 3.5% pace it predicted in November. Taiwan plays a pivotal role in the global AI supply chain for companies such as Nvidia and Apple. Its position is anchored by the world's largest maker of chips used in AI applications, Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing (TSMC). *(Reuters)*

**UK: BOE on knife edge over rates, awaits pivotal UK inflation data**

The Bank of England will watch a slew of data closely in the coming days after a knife-edge decision to keep interest rates steady on concerns that inflation is still uncomfortably high. A packed week for observers of the UK economy runs through labour market numbers and consumer price statistics, and concludes with public finance and retail sales reports. Wednesday's inflation report will take the spotlight, not least because it's the final reading for a deeply divided BOE before its next decision in March. Policymakers this month split 5-4 to hold, keeping their rate at a level that, along with the US Federal Reserve's upper bound, is the highest among the Group of Seven. *(Bloomberg)*



**EU: ECB revamps euro liquidity offer to boost currency's appeal**

The European Central Bank is prepared to offer euro liquidity to monetary authorities from around the world, an effort to prevent market tensions and increase global use of the single currency. The Frankfurt-based institution will extend repo lines to "all central banks, unless excluded on the grounds of, in particular, money laundering, terrorist financing or international sanctions," it said in a statement on Saturday, adding that the changes will apply as of the third quarter. "The framework will enable central banks in jurisdictions outside the euro area to address risks of euro liquidity shortages swiftly," it said. (*Bloomberg*)

**MY: Stronger-than-expected growth momentum to carry into 2026, say economists**

Economists have upgraded their forecast for Malaysia's 2026 economic growth, following a surprise expansion in the final quarter of 2025, driven primarily by robust domestic spending. Resilient domestic economic activity and spending will provide a critical buffer against external headwinds that may pop up over the course of the year, economists said. The economy grew by 6.3% in 4Q2025 from the same quarter a year ago, significantly outpacing the advance estimate of 5.7%, bringing full-year gross domestic product (GDP) growth to 5.2%. (*The Edge*)

**MY: Strong domestic demand boosts Malaysia's GDP, narrows fiscal deficit to 3.7% — MOF**

Strong domestic demand helped Malaysia outperform expectations, lifting fourth-quarter 2025 GDP to a three-year high of 6.3% and full-year growth to 5.2%, above the government's forecast, said the Ministry of Finance (MOF). The MOF said this momentum pushed full-year 2025 GDP growth to 5.2%, up from the 5.1% achieved in 2024, putting it well ahead of the government's official forecast range of 4% to 4.8%. "For the second-year running, the Madani government narrowed the fiscal deficit beyond its target, to 3.7%, against the initial projection of 3.8% (2024: 4.1%)," the ministry said in a statement. (*Bernama*)

**MY: Current-account surplus narrows sharply in 4Q**

Malaysia's current-account surplus narrowed sharply in the fourth quarter as the excess in the goods account shrank and the income account deficit widened. Surplus in the current account totalled RM2bn in the final three months of 2025, the Department of Statistics Malaysia said in a statement, compared to the revised RM12.8bn in the preceding quarter and RM12.9bn in the fourth quarter of 2024. The surplus means that the country is earning more foreign exchange from goods and services exported than it is spending on imports. The surplus in the fourth quarter was mainly supported by the sustained net exports of goods and a stronger surplus in the services account, said chief statistician Datuk Seri Dr Mohd Uzir Mahidin. (*The Edge*)

**MY: Headline and core inflation averaged at 1.4% and 2% in 2025**

Malaysia's headline and core inflation in 2025 averaged at 1.4% and 2% respectively, compared with 1.8% in 2024, said Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM). BNM governor Datuk Seri Abdul Rasheed Ghaffour said in the fourth quarter of 2025, headline inflation remained stable at 1.3% (3Q2025: 1.3%) while core inflation increased to 2.3% (3Q2025: 2%). The increase was mainly driven by faster price increases in certain core items (jewellery and watches) and base effects from mobile communication services inflation. "This was largely offset by lower prices for selected administered items, particularly for electricity (4Q2025: -10.3%; 3Q2025: -4.6%) and petrol (4Q2025: -2%; 3Q2025: -0.6%), in line with larger discounts related to electricity generation costs during the quarter and the targeted RON95 fuel subsidy implemented beginning October 2025," he said in a statement on Friday. (*Bernama*)

**MY: Use of Sawit Intelligent Management System reaches 95% among MPOB licence holders**

More than 95% of Malaysian Palm Oil Board (MPOB) licence holders across various categories have actively used the Sawit Intelligent Management System (SIMS). According to MPOB director general Datuk Ahmad Parveez Ghulam Kadir, the SIMS system has the potential to function as an integrated data hub for the palm oil industry, enabling more efficient and effective monitoring and traceability across the palm oil supply chain. "In the meantime, he said GeoSAWIT is currently being upgraded with the latest geospatial equipment and technology for mapping the coverage of the nation's oil palm plantations. (*Bernama*)



## Corporate News

### **EKOVEST: EPF grants Ekovest one-year extension to exit Duke highway stake**

Ekovest Bhd has secured approval from the Employees Provident Fund (EPF) for a one-year extension to implement its exit plan from Konsortium Lebuhraya Utara-Timur (KL) Sdn Bhd (Kesturi), the concessionaire of the Duta-Ulu Kelang Expressway (Duke). Ekovest sold a 40% stake in Kesturi to EPF for RM1.1bn in 2017, with an exit event set as a listing or trade sale within five years, extendable automatically by two years, which ended on Feb 13, 2024. A previous extension added two more years; this latest approval adds another year until Feb 13, 2027. *(The Edge)*

### **TENAGA: Biggest winner in Energy Commission's gas power plant bid; Edra, PETRONAS' plant operations extended**

Tenaga Nasional Bhd has emerged as the biggest winner in the government's bidding exercise for new gas power plants and extension of operations for existing ones. A consortium between Tenaga and Aurora Power Generation Sdn Bhd bagged the win with its proposed 1,400MW combined cycle power plant in Paka, Terengganu, the Energy Commission (EC) said in a statement. "The capacity requirement is intended to support the anticipated growth in electricity demand, primarily from new data centres and to ensure the stability of electricity supply in the system," EC said. "The process was carried out in accordance with the international competitive bidding standard," it added. *(The Edge)*

### **AZRB: Lands Cameron Highlands bypass project worth RM430m**

Ahmad Zaki Resources Bhd said on Friday it has secured a contract worth RM430.1m in Cameron Highlands involving the construction of a bypass and the upgrading of federal roads. Awarded by the Public Works Department, this is the engineering and construction company's first contract of the year. In a filing with Bursa Malaysia, AZRB said the project covers the construction of the Tanah Rata bypass, the upgrading of Federal Route FT59 from Tanah Rata to Kea Farm and the upgrading of Federal Route FT434 (Jalan Griddle). The 42-month contract, starting on Feb 16, is expected to contribute positively to AZRB's future earnings, the company said. *(The Edge)*

### **99SMART: To continue expansion after new stores fuel FY2025 record earnings**

99 Speed Mart Retail Holdings Bhd is staying on course with its plan to expand its number of outlets, after it closed its latest fiscal year with record earnings. The group said its full-year net profit jumped 25.3% from a year earlier, while growth in the fourth quarter climbed 26.3%, on the back of its new stores and strong consumer spending on daily essentials, supported by various government social assistance initiatives. Continuing to build on the 259 new outlets opened in 2025, the mini market chain retailer's founder and CEO Lee Thiam Wah said the group will remain focused on its target of opening 250 new outlets annually. *(The Edge)*

### **MNRB: 3Q profit surges over 30% as all segments lift**

MNRB Holdings Bhd reported a 30.3% increase in net profit for the third quarter ended Dec 31, 2025 (3QFY2026), driven by improved contributions across all business segments. Net profit for the quarter stood at RM151m or 19.28 sen per share, up from RM115.9m or 14.8 sen per share a year earlier, the reinsurance and retakaful wholesale provider said in a filing with Bursa Malaysia on Friday. Revenue rose 17.8% year-on-year to RM973.9m from RM826.4m. Reinsurance, the group's largest revenue contributor, recorded a 7.1% increase to RM505.4m from RM471.7m, boosted by specialty, local and overseas treaty, as well as voluntary cession portfolios, supported by the release of the contractual service margin. *(The Edge)*

### **PARAMON: FY2025 net profit up 16% to RM118.8m**

Paramount Corporation Bhd recorded a higher net profit of RM118.8m for the financial year ended Dec 31, 2025 (FY2025), a 16% increase from RM102.5m last year. Revenue for the year eased by 9% to RM946.9m from RM1.0bn previously due to lower revenue in property and investment and other segments, a Bursa Malaysia filing said on Friday. "Revenue for its property segment was seven per cent lower at RM897.7m from RM965.3m in FY2024, with The Atera development in Selangor being the largest contributor, followed by Utropolis Batu Kawan development in Penang and Bukit Banyan development in Kedah. *(The Edge)*

### **GOHUB: Billionaire Chua Ma Yu's son Ray-Men emerges as substantial shareholder in Go Hub**

The youngest son of billionaire investor Tan Sri Chua Ma Yu, Chua Ray-Men, has emerged as a substantial shareholder in transport IT solutions company Go Hub Capital Bhd. The move comes just a day after Ray-Men entered into a conditional share purchase agreement to sell his 3.03% interest in Woodpeckers Group Sdn Bhd — the master franchisee of the Illaollao frozen yogurt chain — to Hextar Industries Bhd for RM10.6m. It is a part of a larger deal by Hextar Industries to acquire a 51% interest in Woodpeckers for RM177.5m. According to a bourse filing, Ray-Men acquired 12.88 million shares in Go Hub via a direct business deal, representing a 2.93% stake. Following the purchase, Ray-Men holds a 6.76% interest in Go Hub, comprising 3.96% direct and 2.8% indirect ownership. *(The Edge)*



**NEXG: Names new auditor after Baker Tilly replacement declines appointment**

NexG Bhd has appointed a new auditor after an earlier choice to replace outgoing Baker Tilly Monteiro Heng PLT, declined the appointment. In a filing with Bursa Malaysia, the company said SBY Partners PLT had decided not to proceed with the appointment, which was subject to their written consent. NexG did not provide a reason for SBY Partners' decision except to say the appointment is based on mutual consent. Baker Tilly resigned as its external auditors on Jan 15, 2026, four months into the job citing significant changes to the company's board composition. It was appointed at the company's annual general meeting on Sept 24, 2025, replacing Crowe Malaysia PLT. (*The Edge*)

**SCIPACK: Trading of Scientex Packaging shares to be suspended from Feb 27**

Trading of Scientex Packaging (Ayer Keroh) Bhd shares will be suspended from Feb 27, 2026 as its major shareholder, Scientex Bhd, moves to take the company private. The last day for trading will be Feb 26, 5pm, and the entitlement date for its selective capital reduction (SCR) is March 2, 5pm. Shareholders approved Scientex's plan to privatise the company in November 2025. The plan offers RM1.50 per share. Scientex had tried to fully privatise the company in 2021, raising its stake to 72%, short of the 90% needed to delist. Scientex originally bought a 42% stake in 2019 when the company was known as Daibochoi Bhd. After the SCR, Scientex Packaging will apply to delist from Bursa Malaysia. (*The Edge*)

**KIPREIT: To fund RM160m Kinta City Mall expansion, securing 25-year lease with AEON**

KIP Real Estate Investment Trust will fund a RM160m expansion of AEON Mall Kinta City in Perak to secure a 25-year lease from AEON Co (M) Bhd. The project is expected to be completed by the fourth quarter of 2027. In a filing with the bourse on Friday, KIP REIT said AEON, which currently holds a five-year lease for the three-storey shopping mall running until Sept 28, 2030, will extend its lease by 25 years to 2055, covering both the existing and expanded areas, as part of the deal. The mall's leasable space will grow 27% to 675,000 sq ft and net lettable area by 30% to 580,000 sq ft, with upgraded facilities and tenant mix to boost shopper appeal and efficiency. (*The Edge*)

**SLVEST: To ramp up output as battery prices drop**

Malaysia's biggest solar company Solarvest Holdings Bhd plans to more than double its generation capacity in the next two years, as declining battery costs enables further deployment of renewables. Power-hungry artificial intelligence (AI) data centres operating in Malaysia are expected to require 7.7 gigawatts (GW) of electricity by the end of the decade, giving Solarvest "huge room" for growth, Solarvest chief executive officer Datuk Davis Chong said in an interview on Wednesday. Solarvest currently has around 1.2GW of capacity in the Southeast Asian country and is set scale up another 2GW through next year. This expansion is enabled by a decline in prices of battery systems, which now cost between US\$90 to US\$100 per kilowatt-hour (kWh) in the country, down from as much as US\$230 per kWh about a year ago, Chong said. Prices could drop further to US\$60 per kWh, he said. (*Bloomberg*)

**BJLAND: To be renamed Berjaya Property after shareholder approval**

Berjaya Land Bhd (BLand), which is controlled by Tan Sri Vincent Tan, founder of the Berjaya group, said it will change its name to Berjaya Property Bhd after shareholders approved the proposal at an extraordinary general meeting on Friday. The company said the rebranding reflects its strategic evolution and sharper focus on property as its core business. In a statement, the group said property remains its "anchor platform", supporting its diversified portfolio spanning hospitality, retail, transport, mobility and lifestyle-related businesses. "The rebranding enhances the group's corporate identity by providing clearer visibility into its principal value drivers, strengthening brand coherence, and improving transparency for investors, analysts, and other stakeholder," it added. (*The Edge*)

**GDB: Enters Sarawak property market with RM32.7m land purchase**

GDB Holdings Bhd is acquiring three parcels of leasehold land in Kuching, Sarawak for RM32.7m, marking its expansion into property development there. Its wholly-owned GDB Development Sdn Bhd has signed three separate sale and purchase agreements with Mighty Metaverse Sdn Bhd, Borneo 1 Stop Business Services Sdn Bhd and Sport Pavillion Sendirian Bhd. Mighty Metaverse's owner is Leong Eek Tuo, while Borneo 1 is owned by Chai Chan Tong. Chai is also a substantial shareholder in Bina Puri Holdings Bhd, holding a 16.89% stake. Leong also owns a 30% stake in Sport Pavillion, with the remainder split between Chai Chan Wee (40%) and Chai Koh Lee (30%) — Chan Tong's brothers. (*The Edge*)

**MAYU: Says RM24m police compound linked to money laundering probe**

Mayu Global Group Bhd said a RM24m compound imposed on its 80%-owned unit Sunrise Manner Sdn Bhd (SMSB) was linked to a money laundering investigation involving a director of the subsidiary. The steel and metal products manufacturer said the compound was issued by Bukit Aman under Section 92(1) of the Anti-Money Laundering, Anti-Terrorism Financing and Proceeds of Unlawful Activities Act 2001 (Act 613). The notice was served on Jan 21 and relates to investigations into alleged offences under Section 4(1) of the same Act, Mayu Global said in a bourse filing on Friday. It added that the matter involves Tang Thiam Hock, a director and 20% shareholder of SMSB, who was previously summoned by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) in September 2025 to assist in a probe under the MACC Act 2009. (*The Edge*)

**KHEESAN: To seek shareholders' nod again for share capital reduction**

Fruit Plus candy and confectionary manufacturer Khee San Bhd (KL:KHEESAN) said it will again seek shareholders' nod for its proposed share capital reduction (SCR) exercise that had been approved in October 2024. The step is necessary to comply with the Companies Act, it said, which requires the resolution to take effect within seven days from approval. The SCR is part of the group's regularisation plan to exit its Practice Note 17 status. First proposed in 2024, the plan includes an SCR of slightly above RM100m — later increased to RM137.5m — to slash its retained losses. The group also raised RM77.1m via a rights issue at 10 sen per share, which was 80.25% subscribed in 2025 to repay creditors under a scheme of arrangement and fund its working capital. It has repaid the banks, according to a separate filing. (*The Edge*)

**CATCHA: Scraps RM35m acquisition of Theta Service Partner**

Catcha Digital Bhd has terminated its proposed RM35.0m cash acquisition of a 92.5% stake in financial service firm Theta Service Partner Sdn Bhd, citing unsatisfactory findings during its due diligence review. In a bourse filing on Friday, Catcha Digital said its subsidiary, Catcha Theta Holdings Sdn Bhd, terminated the deal's agreement on the expiry of the conditional period. The completion of the deal had previously been extended in January by a month to allow more time to meet several conditions precedent. Key outstanding requirements then included formal board approval from Theta Service Partner for the share transfer, the execution of new employment agreements with key personnel — Hew How Fong, Choy Chong Hwai and Mark Leong Tse Ho — and the finalisation of the due diligence. (*The Edge*)

Upcoming key economic data releases	Date
US Durable Goods Orders (MoM) (Dec)	Feb 18
US FOMC Meeting Minutes	Feb 19
US Philadelphia Fed Manufacturing Index (Feb)	Feb 19
US Initial Jobless Claims	Feb 19
US Crude Oil Inventories	Feb 20
US Core PCE Price Index (MoM) (Dec)	Feb 20
US GDP (QoQ) (Q4)	Feb 20
US Core PCE Price Index (YoY) (Dec)	Feb 20
US S&P Global Manufacturing PMI (Feb)	Feb 20
US S&P Global Services PMI (Feb)	Feb 20
US New Home Sales (Dec)	Feb 20
<i>Source: Bloomberg</i>	



## Stock Selection Based on Dividend Yield

	Sector	Price (RM)	Dividend/Share (RM)	Dividend Yield (%)
Bonia Corporation	Consumer	0.95	0.11	12.06
Taliworks Corporation	Utilities	0.46	0.05	10.87
British American Tobacco (M)	Consumer	6.10	0.60	9.84
Sentral REIT	REIT	0.78	0.06	8.21
MBM Resources	Consumer	5.28	0.41	7.75
Ta Ann Holdings	Plantation	4.52	0.35	7.74
Paramount Corporation	Property	1.05	0.08	7.62
KIP REIT	REIT	0.93	0.07	7.42
CapitaLand Malaysia Trust	REIT	0.69	0.05	7.10
MAG Holdings	Consumer	1.34	0.09	7.09
Magnum	Consumer	1.34	0.09	7.09
Kim Loong Resources	Plantation	2.38	0.15	6.30
Sports Toto	Consumer	1.33	0.08	6.24
Wellcall Holdings	Ind. Prod.	1.35	0.08	6.07
UOA Development	Property	1.91	0.11	5.97

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		
Hock Soon Capital Berhad	Main Market	0.60	100.0	50.0	30 Jan	13 Feb
Teamstar Berhad	ACE Market	0.26	132.0	72.0	09 Feb	25 Feb
OGX Group Berhad	ACE Market	0.35	150.0	75.0	02 Mar	12 Mar

Source: Bursa Malaysia

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## Published & Printed By:

MERCURY SECURITIES SDN BHD  
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