MERCURY SECURITIES SDN BHD
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Daily Newswatch

Market Review

The FBM KLCI ended the week on a soft note, slipping 1.4 points (8.1 bps) to close at 1,720.3 on Friday, as heavy selling in the banking and plantation sectors weighed on the benchmark. The broader market was also dragged by Construction (-1.2%), Telecommunications & Media (-1.0%), and Health Care (-0.8%). Among index constituents, Gamuda (-3.6%), Sime Darby (-1.8%), and Axiata Group (-1.8%) emerged as the top losers for the session. Despite the headline dip, overall market breadth remained positive with gainers outpacing losers 575 to 530, while 645 counters closed unchanged. WoW, the local bourse advanced 1.5%, led by the Technology (+7.6%), Industrial Products & Services (+2.3%), and Financial Services (+2.1%) sectors. Among index constituents, MR D.I.Y. (+9.0%), Press Metal Aluminium (+5.8%), and Sunway Healthcare (+4.9%) were the week's top performers, while Maxis (-3.9%), Kuala Lumpur Kepong (-3.4%), and Sime Darby (-1.8%) trailed.

Major Asian markets were mixed on Friday as ongoing geopolitical tensions and a continued blockade of Iranian ports kept investors cautious, though a late-session tech rally helped some indices recover. The Nikkei 225 advanced 1.0% to 59,716.2, while the TAIEX jumped 3.2% to 38,932.4 on the back of strong demand for semiconductor stocks. In Hong Kong, the Hang Seng Index edged up 0.2% to 25,978.1, whereas the Shanghai Composite fell 0.3% to 4,079.9 amid weakness in Communication Services (-1.2%) and Consumer Discretionary (-1.1%). South Korea's KOSPI finished nearly flat at 6,475.6, with gains in machinery and industrials—led by Doosan Enerbility and HD Hyundai Heavy Industries—offsetting a retreat in Samsung Electronics. WoW, the Shanghai Composite added 0.7%, the KOSPI surged 4.6%, the Nikkei 225 gained 2.1%, the Hang Seng Index declined 0.7% and the TAIEX rallied by 5.8%.

European stocks extended their slide to a fifth straight session on Friday as concerns over high energy costs outweighed upbeat tech earnings. The STOXX 50 slipped 0.2% to 5,883.5, while the STOXX 600 fell 0.6% to 610.7. Hawkish rate hike signals from the Governing Council kept yields high, hitting banks like Santander and BNP Paribas (-1.5%), while industrials struggled as Safran and Rheinmetall shed 3.0% and 6.0% respectively. WoW, the STOXX 50 and STOXX 600 dropped 2.9% and 2.5% respectively.

Wall Street benchmarks reached record territory on Friday, fueled by diplomatic optimism over potential US–Iran peace negotiations in Pakistan. The S&P 500 advanced 0.8% to 7,165.8 and the Nasdaq CI surged 1.6% to 24,837.0, though the Dow Jones finished 0.2% lower at 49,231.0. Market sentiment was bolstered by news of a high-level meeting in Islamabad and a ceasefire extension between Israel and Lebanon. Significant movers included Nvidia (+4.0%), Amazon (+3.0%), and Palantir (+1.1%). The S&P 500 jumped 0.6% this week, the Nasdaq CI rose by 1.5%, and the Dow declined 0.4%.

Macro Snapshots

- **US:** Consumer sentiment in April falls to record low on inflation
- **US:** Trump grants 90-day Jones Act waiver extension to curb energy costs
- **CN:** Bans dual-use items exports to seven European entities
- **MY:** In talks with Iran to lift restrictions on two tankers, says PM

Corporate Snapshots

- **ECOWLD:** Sells final QUANTUM Edge parcels for RM280.8m
- **MSNIAGA:** Bags RM51.6m IT services contract from Maybank unit
- **SCIB:** Bags RM32.8m EPCC contract for Sabah school project
- **PENERGY:** Bags offshore services contract from Vestigo Petroleum

Key Indices	Last Close	Daily chg %	YTD chg %
FBM KLCI	1,720.3	(0.1)	2.4
Dow Jones	49,230.7	(0.2)	2.4
Nasdaq CI	24,836.6	1.6	6.9
S&P 500	7,165.1	0.8	4.7
SX5E	5,883.5	(0.2)	1.6
FTSE 100	10,379.1	(0.7)	4.5
Nikkei 225	59,716.2	1.0	18.6
Shanghai CI	4,079.9	(0.3)	2.8
HSI	25,978.1	0.2	1.4
STI	4,922.9	(0.4)	6.0

Market Activities	Last Close	% Chg
Vol traded (m shares)	3,203.8	(8.1)
Value traded (RM m)	3,227.6	3.9
Gainers	575	
Losers	530	
Unchanged	645	

Top 5 Volume	Last Close	Daily chg %	Vol (m)
VSI	0.225	9.8	70.0
ZETRIX	0.860	(0.6)	59.0
MEGAFB	1.310	1.6	46.2
AMS	0.345	13.1	39.6
TANC	1.590	(1.9)	38.3

Top 5 Turnover	Last Close	Daily chg %	Val (RM m)
PMAH	8.420	4.3	181.4
MAY	11.160	(0.5)	174.2
YTLP	3.900	(1.0)	138.3
GAM	4.300	(3.6)	105.0
FRCB	4.320	0.7	104.7

Currencies	Last Close	Daily chg %
USD/MYR	3.965	0.0
USD/JPY	159.380	0.2
EUR/USD	1.172	0.3
USD/CNY	6.832	(0.0)
US Dollar Index	98.533	(0.2)

Commodities	Last Close	% Chg
Brent (USD/barrel)	3.965	0.0
Gold (USD/troy oz)	159.380	0.2
CPO (MYR/metric t)	1.172	0.3
Bitcoin (USD/BTC)	6.832	(0.0)

Source: Bloomberg

Macro News

US: Consumer sentiment in April falls to record low on inflation

US consumer sentiment fell in April from a month earlier to a record low, reflecting worries around the economic fallout from the Iran war. The University of Michigan's final April sentiment index dropped to 49.8 this month from 53.3 in March. While that was slightly improved from the preliminary reading, it remained the lowest in data back to 1978. Consumers expect prices to rise at an annual rate of 4.7% over the next year, up from 3.8% in March, the data released on Friday showed. That was the biggest one-month increase since President Donald Trump announced sweeping tariffs last year. *(Bloomberg)*

US: Trump grants 90-day Jones Act waiver extension to curb energy costs

President Donald Trump granted a **90.0-day** extension to a shipping waiver that makes it easier to move oil, fuel and fertiliser around the United States, the White House said on Friday, the latest effort to curb rising energy costs linked to the war with Iran. The move reflects a broader push by the White House to dampen politically sensitive fuel price spikes ahead of November's midterm elections, where affordability is expected to be a defining issue for voters. Recent polling shows Trump and Republicans losing ground on the economy — once a core political strength — with approval of his economic handling falling sharply and rising gasoline prices weighing heavily on public sentiment. The decision adds roughly 3.0 months to the existing waiver that was set to expire on May 17, enabling foreign-flagged vessels to move commodities between US ports through mid-August. *(Reuters)*

CN: Bans dual-use items exports to seven European entities over Taiwan arms sales

China's Commerce Ministry said on Friday it was banning exports of dual-use items to seven European entities over arms sales to Taiwan, placing them immediately on its export control list, in a rare case of Europe-targeted, Taiwan-related sanctions. Taiwan, which China views as its own territory, gets most of its weapons from the US. Europe has not sold any big-ticket items like fighter jets to Taipei for some three decades, fearful of raising the ire of Beijing. The entities, including German defence electronics firm Hensoldt AG and Belgian-based defence and sporting arms manufacturer FN Browning, have participated in arms sales to Taiwan or "colluded with Taiwan," a commerce ministry spokesperson said in a statement. *(Reuters)*

CN: Rejects Trump accusation that intercepted Iran ship was 'gift from China'

China's foreign ministry on Friday rejected an accusation by US President Donald Trump that an Iranian-flagged cargo ship intercepted by US forces was a "gift from China." The US said it fired on and seized an Iranian cargo ship that tried to evade its blockade of Iranian ports. Iran's military said the ship had been travelling from China and vowed retaliation against what it called "armed piracy by the US military." Trump on Tuesday told CNBC the ship "had some things on it, which wasn't very nice. A gift from China perhaps, I don't know." *(Reuters)*

CN: Special bond sale draws strong demand as yields stay low

China's first sale of ultra-long special sovereign bonds this year drew solid demand, with yields coming in below prevailing market levels. The Ministry of Finance issued CNY85.0bn (USD12.5bn or RM49.5bn) of 30-year notes on Friday, the largest single offering at that tenor on record, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. It also sold CNY34.0bn of 20-year bonds. The 30-year bonds were sold at an average yield of 2.2%, according to a trader who participated in the auction, slightly lower than secondary-market levels of around 2.3%. The 20-year notes were priced at 2.2%, the trader added, declining to be identified as they're not authorised to speak publicly. *(Bloomberg)*

MY: In talks with Iran to lift restrictions on two tankers, says PM

The government is in talks with the Iranian government to ensure that two Malaysian-owned tankers carrying fuel supplies are allowed to pass after exiting the Strait of Hormuz, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim. He said the move was taken following restrictions faced by the vessels despite clearance having earlier been granted by the Iranian government, particularly by its president. "One vessel has already arrived (in Pengerang, Johor), while another is close and is entering Malaysian waters. However, two vessels that have already exited (the Strait of Hormuz) are still facing several restrictions." *(Bernama)*

MY: IRB's direct tax collection reaches RM203.9bn in 2025

Direct tax collection by the Inland Revenue Board (IRB) rose by RM19.2bn or 10.4% to RM204.0bn last year, surpassing the RM200.0bn mark for the first time, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim. Anwar, who is also finance minister, said that as such, the government was able to allocate an additional RM11.4bn for tax refunds owed to corporate taxpayers. "This has enabled past commitments to be settled in a more orderly and transparent manner," he said in a speech text read by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof at the launch of the IRB's 30th Anniversary celebration here on Friday. *(Bernama)*

MY: CPO prices to remain above RM4,500 per tonne on biodiesel expansion

The Malaysian Palm Oil Council (MPOC) anticipates crude palm oil (CPO) prices to remain supported at RM4,500.0 per tonne in the near term, backed by stronger biodiesel economics, elevated crude oil prices, and a possible onset of El Niño. Since the West Asia conflict escalated on Feb 27, the MPOC said vegetable oil prices have been uneven, with palm oil and United States soybean oil rising 15.0%-16.0% mid-April, while sunflower oil, rapeseed oil and Argentine soybean oil recorded only marginal gains of 2.0% to 5.0%. *(Bernama)*

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Corporate News

ECOWLD: Sells final QUANTUM Edge parcels for RM280.8m to data centre operator

Eco World Development Group Bhd is disposing of 49.6 acres of industrial land at its QUANTUM Edge industrial park in Kulai, Johor, to a hyperscale data centre operator for RM280.8m. The property developer said its wholly-owned subsidiary Eco Business Park 6 Sdn Bhd had entered into a conditional sale and purchase agreement with KNBDC Malaysia Five Sdn Bhd for the sale of the two parcels of land. EcoWorld president and chief executive officer Datuk Chang Khim Wah said KNBDC was acquiring the final two industrial land parcels at QUANTUM Edge, joining existing occupants Microsoft and Princeton Digital Group. *(The Edge)*

MSNIAGA: Bags RM51.6m IT services contract from Maybank unit

Mesiniaga Bhd has bagged a RM51.6m contract from Malayan Banking Bhd's unit for the subscription of cloud infrastructure software and support services. In a filing with Bursa Malaysia on Friday, the group said it had accepted a purchase order from Maybank Shared Services Sdn Bhd for the subscription of Nutanix Cloud Infrastructure, including ultimate software licences and mission-critical support services. Maybank Shared Services is the IT shared services arm of the Maybank Group, providing centralised operational and technology support across the region. *(The Edge)*

SCIB: Bags RM32.8m EPCC contract for Sabah school project

Sarawak Consolidated Industries Bhd has secured a RM32.8m engineering, procurement, construction and commissioning (EPCC) contract for a school project in Sabah. In a filing with the stock exchange, the industrialised building systems player said its wholly owned subsidiary, SCIB Industrialised Building System Sdn Bhd had received a letter of award from Belian Juta Sdn Bhd for the construction of a new secondary school, Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan (SMK) Balaban Jaya in Beluran, Sabah. Belian Juta is principally involved in the wholesale of construction and civil engineering machinery and equipment, business management consultancy services, construction of buildings. (*The Edge*)

PENERGY: Bags offshore services contract from Vestigo Petroleum

Petra Energy Bhd has secured a contract from Vestigo Petroleum Sdn Bhd to provide field operations management services (FOMS) for offshore facilities in Sarawak. In a filing, the upstream oil and gas services company said the letter of award was received by its wholly owned unit, Petra Energy Development Sdn Bhd, on March 27. The contract covers the SK407 production sharing contract (PSC) and associated facilities offshore Miri, comprising five fields — West Lutong, Baram, Tukau, Siwa and Fairly Baram. It does not carry a fixed value and will run for two years from April 1, 2026 to March 31, 2028. The latest win marks Petra Energy's second contract this month. On April 10, it secured four work orders worth RM298.0m from PETRONAS Carigali Sdn Bhd for the provision of Pan Malaysia offshore maintenance, construction, modification (MCM), and hook-up and commissioning (HUC) services for the Bintulu Integrated Facility (BIF) Rejuvenation Project Phase 2. (*The Edge*)

CTOS: 1Q profit up 28% on improved share of profits from associates

CTOS Digital Bhd's first-quarter earnings saw an increase in net profit by 28.2%, mainly due to improved share of profits from associates. The better earnings were also aided by higher revenue and lower finance costs. Net profit for the three months ended March 31, 2026 was RM18.5m versus RM14.4m a year ago, the credit information provider said in a bourse filing. Earnings per share slightly increased to 0.8 sen from 0.6 sen. Quarterly revenue rose 7.3% to RM81.6m compared with RM76.1m a year ago, thanks to higher demand across its analytics and intelligence and data information services. The group declared the first interim dividend of **0.6 sen** per share, to be paid on July 23. (*The Edge*)

SOP: 1Q profit falls 44% on derivatives losses

Sarawak Oil Palms Bhd reported a 43.5% drop in net profit for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026 (1QFY2026), weighed by unrealised derivatives losses of RM44.4m due to commodity price and foreign exchange movements. Net profit fell to RM64.3m from RM113.8m a year earlier, while revenue was largely unchanged at RM1.4bn, as higher sales volume was offset by lower realised selling prices. The group said the average realised price for palm oil products declined to RM4,314.0 per tonne from RM4,432.0 in the preceding quarter, while palm kernel products rose slightly to RM3,853.0 per tonne from RM3,818.0. (*The Edge*)

CHUAN: Exits Pineapple Resources with RM26 mil stake sale, triggers MGO

Chuan Huat Resources Bhd is exiting its loss-making subsidiary Pineapple Resources Bhd by disposing of its entire **63.9%** stake comprising 31.0m shares for RM26.0m cash. The steel trader and manufacturer is looking to focus on its core businesses and unlock value from a non-core investment. In a Bursa Malaysia filing on Friday, Chuan Huat said its wholly owned unit Chuan Huat Holdings Sdn Bhd had entered into two separate share sale agreements with Gan Kok Xan and Yeoh Guan Fook to dispose of the shares at **0.8 sen** apiece. Gan is a substantial shareholder of Mega Fortris Bhd through his 35.9% stake in ProWealth Management Holding Ltd, where he is also a director. ProWealth became a major shareholder of Mega Fortris after acquiring a 26.0% stake in Mega Fortris Global Pte Ltd, which owns 65.0% of the company. *(The Edge)*

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MPAY: Appointed to provide open payment system to East Coast Rail Link

ManagePay Systems Bhd has secured a contract to provide an open payment system for the East Coast Rail Link (ECRL) passenger ticketing system. The Letter of Award (LOA), covering supply, deliver, installation, integration, testing, commissioning and maintenance, was awarded to its unit, ManagePay Services Sdn Bhd, from ECRL Operations Sdn Bhd on Wednesday (April 22), according to its bourse filing. ECRL Operations is the joint venture between Malaysia Rail Link Sdn Bhd and China Communications Construction Co Ltd, which will manage rail operations slated to commence in January 2027. (*The Edge*)

UNISEM: Posts first quarterly loss in nearly six years in 1Q on higher production costs

Unisem (M) Bhd slipped into the red with a net loss of RM13.4m in the first quarter of this year, as higher production costs squeezed margins despite increased revenue. The semiconductor group posted a net profit of RM6.0m a year earlier. The last time the company was in the red was close to six years ago. Its gross profit plunged 65.7% to RM9.1m in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026 (1QFY2026), from RM26.5m a year ago. As a result, gross profit margin came in lower at 2.0% in 1QFY2026, from 6.3% previously. Revenue rose 9.7% year-on-year to RM464.8m in 1QFY2026, from RM423.6m a year before, driven by higher sales volume across its key operating units. (*The Edge*)

PADINI: Says certain bank accounts frozen by MACC, but it still has access to banking facilities, operations unaffected

The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) has frozen certain bank accounts belonging to Padini Holdings Bhd amid an ongoing investigation linked to money laundering. The garment retailer said the accounts, held by the group and its subsidiaries, were frozen pursuant to Section 44(1) of the Anti-Money Laundering, Anti-Terrorism Financing and Proceeds of Unlawful Activities Act 2001. In its Bursa Malaysia filing on Friday, Padini noted that the affected accounts are not actively used for its day-to-day operations, and that the group continues to have access to other banking facilities to support its business activities. (*The Edge*)

Upcoming key economic data releases	Date
US CB Consumer Confidence (Apr)	Apr 28
US Durable Goods Orders (Mom) (Mar)	Apr 29
US Fed Interest Rate Decision	Apr 30
US GDP (QoQ) (Q1)	Apr 30
US Core PCE Price Index	Apr 30
US Initial Jobless Claims	Apr 30
US Chicago PMI	Apr 30
US S&P Global Manufacturing PMI	May 1
US ISM Manufacturing PMI	May 1
US ISM Manufacturing Prices	May 1
Source: Investing.com	

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Stock Selection Based on Dividend Yield

	Sector	Price (RM)	Dividend/Share (RM)	Dividend Yield (%)
Bonia Corporation	Consumer	0.86	0.12	13.95
British American Tobacco (M)	Consumer	6.14	0.60	9.77
MBM Resources	Consumer	5.00	0.44	8.88
Sentral REIT	REIT	0.71	0.06	8.17
CapitaLand Malaysia Trust	REIT	0.64	0.05	8.03
KIP REIT	REIT	0.86	0.07	8.02
MAG Holdings	Consumer	1.28	0.10	7.42
Magnum	Consumer	1.28	0.10	7.42
Paramount Corporation	Property	1.01	0.07	7.23
Ta Ann Holdings	Plantation	5.38	0.38	7.12
Sports Toto	Consumer	1.30	0.09	7.08
TIME dotCom	Telco	5.97	0.38	6.40
Al-Salam REIT	REIT	0.45	0.03	6.22
RHB Bank	Finance	8.25	0.51	6.16
Al-Aqar Healthcare REIT	REIT	1.22	0.08	6.15

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		
Manforce Group Berhad	ACE Market	0.38	78.0	20.0	21 Apri	06 May
Inspace Creation Berhad	ACE Market	0.25	68.5	29.3	22 Apr	08 May
EI Power Berhad	ACE Market	0.48	129.5	70.0	06 May	21 May

Source: Bursa Malaysia

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