



Daily Newswatch

Market Review

The FBM KLCI fell 0.2% to 1,717.3 points on Monday, as last-minute selling dragged the index to its intraday low at the close, reversing gains after trading in positive territory throughout the day, as investors rotated into mid- and small-cap segments favouring domestically driven and higher-beta names with clearer earnings visibility. Financial Services (-1.2%), Healthcare (-0.9%) and Plantation (-0.1%) led sectoral losses, dragged by Sunway Healthcare (-3.1%), Hong Leong Bank (-1.9%) and CIMB Group (-1.9%). Market breadth was bearish, with losers outnumbering gainers at 593 to 578, and 624 counters closing unchanged.

Asian markets closed mostly higher on Monday, as investors looked past renewed diplomatic setbacks between the US and Iran, with markets in Japan, Taiwan, and South Korea surging on bargain hunting and cautious optimism ahead the breakdown of US-Iran talks in Islamabad over the weekend reignited fears of a prolonged conflict, with Washington's announcement of a naval blockade on Iranian ports driving oil prices sharply higher and dampening risk appetite across the region. The Shanghai Composite added 0.2% to 4,086.3 points, Taiwan's TAIEX increased 1.8% to 39,616.6 points, Japan's Nikkei 225 rose 1.4% to 60,537.4 points, the Hang Seng Index fell 0.2% to 25,925.7 points and South Korea's KOSPI surged 2.2% to 6,615.0 points. In China, gains were led by Information Technology (+2.9%), Consumer Discretionary (+0.7%) and Communication Services (+0.5%), driven by Diao Microcircuits, Omat Advanced Materials and Suzhou HYC Technology, each rose by 20%. South Korea saw Distribution Services (+5.2%), Health Services (+3.1%) and Electronic Technology (+3.0%) led the gains, with SK Securities (+30%), ChinHung International (+29%) and POSCO Steeleon (+29%) among the top performers.

European equities fell for the sixth straight session on Monday, weighed down by high oil prices and their influence on big firms' macroeconomic backdrop. The Eurozone's STOXX 50 sank 0.4% to 5,860, while the STOXX 600 dropped 0.3% to 609. The pro-inflationary risks are expected to cause the ECB to adopt a hawkish stance in its rate policy this week, with many rate traders predicting an increase this quarter. ASML and Prosus dropped 3% and 2%, respectively.

Wall Street closed mixed on Monday as the S&P 500 (+0.1%) and Nasdaq Composite (+0.2%) climbed to fresh record highs while the Dow Jones (-0.1%) retreated, driven by a combination of "Mag Seven" earnings anticipation and a spike in Brent crude following reports of stalled US-Iran peace talks. Sector performance was led by Technology (+1.1%), Energy (+0.9%), and Communication Services (+0.6%). Top gainers included Organon (+17.0%) on acquisition news, Qualcomm (+9.0%) following reports of a strategic AI partnership, and Verizon (+2.6%), while the primary laggards were Domino's Pizza (-7.0%), Adobe (-2.0%), and Apple (-1.5%) due to weak sales outlooks and mounting competitive pressures in the hardware space.

Macro Snapshots

- **US:** Grants extension to import Russian oil, says Philippines
- **CN:** Industrial profit growth quickens even as Iran war heightens risks
- **JP:** Jobless Rate Unexpectedly Edges Up to 2.7%
- **MY:** Producer prices record biggest month-on-month gain in over two decades

Corporate Snapshots

- **HEXCAP:** Bags RM155m Melaka hospital subcontract
- **CBHB:** Secures RM29.7m data centre substation job in Johor
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- **PADINI:** Names firms tied to 21 frozen bank accounts in MACC probe

Key Indices	Last Close	Daily chg %	YTD chg %
FBM KLCI	1,717.3	(0.2)	2.2
Dow Jones	49,167.8	(0.1)	2.3
Nasdaq CI	24,887.1	0.2	7.1
S&P 500	7,173.9	0.1	4.8
SX5E	5,860.3	(0.4)	1.2
FTSE 100	10,321.1	(0.6)	3.9
Nikkei 225	60,537.4	1.4	20.3
Shanghai CI	4,086.3	0.2	3.0
HSI	25,925.7	(0.2)	1.2
STI	4,892.7	(0.6)	5.3

Market Activities	Last Close	% Chg
Vol traded (m shares)	3,743.8	15.9
Value traded (RM m)	3,304.6	1.5
Gainers	578	
Losers	593	
Unchanged	624	

Top 5 Volume	Last Close	Daily chg %	Vol (m)
LSTI	0.040	0.0	217.4
INRI	2.060	13.2	113.0
ZETRIX	0.870	1.2	103.2
VSI	0.225	0.0	93.5
AAX	1.240	(0.8)	47.5

Top 5 Turnover	Last Close	Daily chg %	Val (RM m)
INRI	2.060	13.2	226.9
PMAH	8.800	4.5	143.3
CIMB	7.650	(1.9)	118.7
PBK	4.720	(1.9)	90.8
ZETRIX	0.870	1.2	89.6

Currencies	Last Close	Daily chg %
USD/MYR	3.953	0.3
USD/JPY	159.400	0.0
EUR/USD	1.172	0.0
USD/CNY	6.827	0.1
US Dollar Index	98.496	(0.0)

Commodities	Last Close	% Chg
Brent (USD/barrel)	108.2	2.8
Gold (USD/troy oz)	4,687.8	0.1
CPO (MYR/metric t)	4,481.0	0.4
Bitcoin (USD/BTC)	77,072.1	0.1

Source: Bloomberg



Macro News

US: Grants extension to import Russian oil, says Philippines

The United States has granted the Philippines' request to extend a waiver to purchase Russian oil and petroleum products, the Philippine energy department said on Monday. Energy Undersecretary Alessandro Sales said the waiver is effective from April 17 to May 16, 2026. Sales said the new one-month waiver is for everyone. Philippine Energy Secretary Sharon Garin said the country still has 54 days of fuel reserves. The United States granted a 30-day waiver in March to import Russian oil and petroleum products, which expired on April 11. Garin also said that the country's moratorium on new coal projects will remain in place despite calls from various business groups to lift the ban due to energy security risks linked to the Middle East conflict. Garin said projects with permits secured by 2019 may still proceed or be completed. *(Reuters)*

US: Dallas Fed Manufacturing Activity Contracts in April

The Dallas FED's general business activity index for Texas manufacturing fell to -2.3 in April 2026 from -0.2 in March, marking its lowest level so far this year. The company outlook index rebounded into positive territory at 3.0, while the outlook uncertainty index declined to 17.9 after nearing a one-year high in March. Labor market indicators were largely stable. Employment remained flat, but firms reported slightly longer workweeks, with the hours worked index rising to 4.0 from 0.9. Wage pressures showed little movement, as both the wages and benefits index were unchanged. Price pressures intensified; the finished goods price index surged to 27.6, its highest level since July 2022, while the raw materials price index climbed 4.3 points to 37.0. Looking ahead, expectations of general business activity rose 4.0 points to 14.1, as firms expect an increase in manufacturing activity over the next six months. *(Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas)*

CN: Industrial profit growth quickens even as Iran war heightens risks

Profits at China's industrial firms grew at their quickest pace in half a year last month, adding to broader signs of an uneven economic recovery in the first quarter as policymakers brace for the impact of the Middle East war. The country's export engine stuttered last month while retail sales and industrial output cooled, although producer prices emerged from a years-long deflationary stretch, a shift that analysts warn could leave companies boxed in by rising costs but limited pricing power as demand remains fragile. Profits at industrial firms rose 15.8% in March from a year earlier, picking up from a 15.2% jump in the January-February period, data released by the National Bureau of Statistics showed on Monday. For the first quarter, industrial profits grew 15.5% year-on-year as economic growth accelerated to 5% after hitting a three-year low in the previous quarter. The figures point to growing divergence beneath the surface of the recovery. *(Reuters)*

SK: Business Mood Hits Near 2-Year High

South Korea's Business Survey Index for the manufacturing sector rose to 74.0 in April 2026 from 71.0 in the previous month. This marked the highest reading since June 2024, reflecting improving sentiment across key operating conditions. The production index held at 88.0, matching March's level and staying near recent highs, while the new orders index rose to 85.0 from 84.0, signaling a modest pickup in demand conditions. Meanwhile, the inventories index fell to 97.0 from 99.0, suggesting lower stock levels on firmer sales, while the financial situation index slipped to 76.0 from 77.0, showing financing conditions remained somewhat constrained. The Economic Sentiment Index, which combines the BSI and the Consumer Survey Index, fell to 91.7 in April, down 2.3 points from March, pointing to softer overall economic confidence. *(The Bank of Korea)*

JP: Jobless Rate Unexpectedly Edges Up to 2.7%

Japan's unemployment rate rose to 2.7% in March 2026, slightly above market expectations and up from 2.6% in the previous month. The number of unemployed increased by 0.0m to 1.9m. Meanwhile, employment declined by 0.1m to an 11.0-month low of 68.2m, while the labor force shrank by 0.1m to a 7.0-month low of 70.0m. The number of people outside the labor force rose by 0.1m to a 7.0-month high of 39.5m. On a non-seasonally adjusted basis, the labor force participation rate edged up to 63.6% from 63.5% in February and was slightly higher than 63.3% a year earlier. Meanwhile, the jobs-to-applicants ratio stood at 1.2, in line with forecasts but easing from 1.2 in February. *(Ministry of Internal Affairs & Communications)*

MY: Producer prices record biggest month-on-month gain in over two decades

Malaysia's factory-gate prices rose for the first time in a year amid a surge of crude oil, water and electricity in March, according to official data released on Monday. The producer price index, which tracks inflation at the wholesale level before it reaches the consumers, increased 1% year-on-year in March. When compared to February, the index climbed 4.1%, the biggest month-on-month rise in more than two decades, according to the Department of Statistics Malaysia. Despite the surge, earlier data on consumer prices — the preferred gauge of inflation for the government and the central bank — have only accelerated slightly during the same month thanks to a system of subsidies and price control on essential goods and services. The mining sector surged 26.5% year-on-year, reversing an 8.5% contraction previously, largely driven by higher crude petroleum extraction. Within utilities, the water supply index climbed 11.3%, while the electricity and gas supply index rose 9.6%. The manufacturing sector, however, contracted at slower pace, easing to a 0.8% decline from 2.7% previously on lower prices in the manufacture of coke and refined petroleum products, as well as food products. Meanwhile, the agriculture, forestry and fishing sector shrank 5.6% year-on-year, improving from an 8.7% decline in the previous month, weighed by a drop in the growing of perennial crops index. Prices of palm oil averaged RM4,321 per tonne in March versus RM4,077.50 per tonne in February. *(The Edge)*

Corporate News

HEXCAP: Bags RM155m Melaka hospital subcontract

Hextar Capital Bhd has secured a RM155.3m construction subcontract for a military hospital project in Melaka. The subcontract for the Hospital Angkatan Tentera Kem Terendak project was awarded by FNA Builders & Services Sdn Bhd to its subsidiary, Legacy Core Sdn Bhd, Hextar Capital said in a statement on Monday. FNA Builders, which provides end-to-end construction services, is 60.0%-owned by Md Nazli Md Nawli and 40.0%-owned by Mohamed Fauzan Yusuf, according to the Companies Commission of Malaysia (SSM). Hextar Capital said the job, which includes piling, foundation, demolition, building works and infrastructure work, is slated for completion by August 2028, and is expected to contribute positively to future earnings. (*The Edge*)

CBHB: Secures RM29.7m data centre substation job in Johor

CBH Engineering Holding Bhd has secured a RM29.7m work order for a data centre in Johor, adding to its order book that remains heavily skewed towards data centre-related jobs. The contract involves the design, supply, installation and commissioning of a consumer substation for the data centre. In a Bursa Malaysia filing on Monday, the ACE Market-listed group said its wholly-owned subsidiary, CBH Engineering Sdn Bhd had accepted the work order from an undisclosed customer identified only as Company A. The customer was incorporated in Malaysia and is principally involved in providing infrastructure for hosting, data processing services and related activities, but its identity could not be disclosed due to a non-disclosure agreement, the filing said. The contract covers Phase 1 works for the 275.0kV consumer substation, and is scheduled to run from April 27 until an estimated practical completion date of Sept 30, 2026. (*The Edge*)

UZMA: Lands eight-year contract from PETRONAS Carigali for Bayan redevelopment Phase 3 project

Uzma Bhd has secured an 8.0-year contract to provide leasing as well as operation and maintenance (O&M) services for a portable water injection module under the Bayan Redevelopment Phase 3 project. The company said in a filing with Bursa Malaysia, the contract was awarded by PETRONAS Carigali Sdn Bhd to Uzma's wholly-owned unit, Uzma Engineering Sdn Bhd. The contract value was not disclosed, according to the group's statement. The scope comprises the design, engineering, procurement, construction and transportation of one portable water injection module within one year, followed by its installation, commissioning, and 7.0 years of operation and maintenance. The contract also includes an option for a further 2.0-year extension. The contract took effect on March 27, 2026, and will run for 8.0 years, unless extended or terminated earlier. (*The Edge*)

HAWK: Clinches three-year logistics management services contract from PETRONAS Gas

Steel Hawk Bhd has secured a 3.0-year logistics management services contract from PETRONAS Gas Bhd. The contract, awarded to its wholly-owned unit Steel Hawk Engineering Sdn Bhd, involves providing logistics support on a call-out basis to support PETRONAS Gas' ongoing operations, the group said in a statement on Monday. The contract runs until April 9, 2029. While it carries no fixed value due to its call-out nature, Steel Hawk said it is expected to contribute positively to future earnings and strengthen its base of recurring income. The group said the award reinforces its growing footprint within the PETRONAS ecosystem, where it has been expanding across multiple operational segments. (*The Edge*)

KHB: Plans RM19.5m acquisition in bid to diversify into non-automotive sectors

KHPT Holdings Bhd has proposed the acquisition of a metal stamping parts manufacturer for RM19.5m cash, as it seeks to broaden its service offerings to non-automotive sectors, including the electrical and electronics (E&E) industry. The group signed an agreement on Monday for the acquisition of Ngai Cheong Metal Industries Sdn Bhd (NCMI) from its existing shareholders, namely Chan Chun Kit, Chan Sze Min, Chan Sze See, Chan See Lai and Chan Yan Ho. KHPT currently derives its revenue from the manufacture and sale of automotive parts, while NCMI is principally involved in the manufacture of metal stamping parts and the design and development tooling, jigs, moulds and dies for customers, serving customers in both the E&E sector locally and the automotive sector globally. (*The Edge*)

PADINI: Names firms tied to 21 frozen bank accounts in MACC probe

Padini Holdings Bhd and five of its local subsidiaries are among the companies which have had 21.0 bank accounts frozen as part of a Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) probe into external counterparties. Most of the frozen accounts are under Padini Corporation Sdn Bhd with 7.0, followed by Yee Fong Hung (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd and Padini Dot Com Sdn Bhd with 4.0 each. Padini Holdings has 3.0 accounts frozen, while Vincci Ladies' Specialties Centre Sdn Bhd has 2.0 and Seed Corporation Sdn Bhd has 1.0. "None of the above subsidiaries is a major subsidiary as defined under the Main Market listing requirements of Bursa Malaysia Securities Bhd," said Padini in a bourse filing. (*The Edge*)

CRPMATE: Freezed by MACC, subsidiaries' bank accounts in money laundering probe

The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) has frozen several bank accounts belonging to specialty fertiliser manufacturer Cropmate Bhd and its subsidiaries. The company was notified of the freeze on April 24, ordered under Section 44(1) of the Anti-Money Laundering, Anti-Terrorism Financing and Proceeds of Unlawful Activities Act 2001 (AMLA), in connection with an ongoing investigation. Cropmate understands that the issuance of such an order represents a standard procedure during the course of such probes. "Based on the information currently available, the board has no indication that the matter is attributable to any misconduct on the part of the group's management or employees," Cropmate said in a statement on Monday. (*The Edge*)



KIPREIT: Proposes RM435m Setapak Central Mall acquisition, 3Q NPI rises 17.6%

KIP Real Estate Investment Trust announced plans to buy Setapak Central Mall, Kuala Lumpur from Festiva Mall Sdn Bhd — which is indirectly owned by Singapore-listed Frasers Property Ltd — for RM435.0m to expand its retail portfolio. KIP REIT said the RM435.0m purchase sum will be funded via a mix of borrowings and a private placement exercise of up to 220.0m new units, representing about 23.0% of KIP REIT's existing issued units. Based on current estimates, borrowings will account for RM258.2m or 59.4% of the purchase price, with the remaining RM176.8m to come from the placement exercise, which is expected to raise about RM184.8m based on the indicative issue price of 84.0 sen per placement unit. (*The Edge*)

PGF: 4Q net profit drops 42% on absence of one-off gain

PGF Capital Bhd posted a 41.8% decline in the fourth financial quarter ended Feb 28, 2026 (4QFY2026), due to the absence of a RM19.6m one-off gain recognised in the previous year. Net profit for 4QFY2026 declined to RM8.1m from RM13.9m in the corresponding quarter last year, when it recognised the one-off impairment reversal on land held for property development. Quarterly revenue rose 12.2% to RM37.8m, mainly due to steady demand for insulation products, especially from Oceania. (*The Edge*)

EKOVEST: RM310m RTS-linked land deal falls through after term sheets lapse

Ekovest Bhd said its proposed acquisition of four parcels of land earmarked for transit-oriented development along the Johor Bahru-Singapore Rapid Transit System (RTS) Link alignment will not proceed, after the parties allowed the binding term sheets to lapse following multiple extensions. The company said the term sheets, first signed in October 2023 to negotiate definitive agreements for the acquisition, expired on Monday, as mutually agreed by all parties. The lapse of the proposal is not expected to have any material financial, operational or legal impact on the company, said Ekovest in a Bursa Malaysia filing. (*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
<i>Source: Investing.com</i>	



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
AI-Salam REIT	REIT	0.45	0.03	6.22
RHB Bank	Finance	8.25	0.51	6.16
AI-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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