

Daily Newswatch

Market Review

The FBM KLCI rose 0.2% to 1,746.3 points on Wednesday as profit-taking in plantation and utility heavyweights weighed on sentiment, with investors adopting a cautiously positive stance ahead of the Trump-Xi summit in China, keeping broader market activity selective and subdued. Telecommunications & Media (-1.0%), Plantation (-0.9%) and Health Care (-0.8%) led sectoral losses, dragged by YTL Corp (-3.9%), YTL Power (-3.1%) and Mr DIY (-2.5%). Market breadth was bearish, with losers outnumbering gainers at 605 to 577, and 561 counters closing unchanged.

Asian markets closed mostly positive on Wednesday, buoyed by optimism ahead of the Trump-Xi summit in Beijing, though the TAIEX bucked the trend as profit-taking emerged after the index closed near a record high the prior session, compounded by hotter-than-expected US inflation data weighing on tech-heavy markets. The Shanghai Composite rose 0.7% to 4,242.6, Hang Seng edged up 0.2% to 26,388.4, and Nikkei 225 gained 0.8% to 63,272.1, while KOSPI surged 2.6% to 7,844.0 and TAIEX slipped 1.3% to 41,374.5. In China, gains were led by Information Technology (+3.0%), Industrials (+1.3%) and Industrials (+1.3%), driven by Peric Special Gases, Shenzhen Rayitek Hi-Tech Film and GCH Technology, each rising by 20%. South Korea saw Consumer Durables (+6.0%), Electronic Technology (+4.0%) and Transportation (+2.6%) led the gains, with Aprogen (+30%), Hanhwa Galleria (+30%) and Mirae (+29.9%) among the top performers.

European stocks closed firmly higher on Wednesday, snapping four consecutive sessions of losses, with the STOXX 50 gaining 0.9% to 5,861 and the STOXX 600 rising 0.8% to 611, as AI stocks rebounded sharply on optimism that US chip CEOs meeting Chinese officials could yield trade agreements. Infineon surged over 10% on broker upgrades, ASML jumped 5%, and Prosus added 4%. On the earnings front, Siemens missed revenue estimates but closed slightly higher after launching a buyback, Allianz climbed 1.3% on record Q1 earnings, and Merck surged 7.3% after raising its 2026 guidance outlook.

US equities closed mixed on Wednesday, with the S&P 500 and Nasdaq each rising more than 0.5% while the Dow fell 200 points, as AI-driven momentum offset broader macro concerns. April producer inflation surged above expectations, signalling the Iran war's price impact has spread beyond direct fuel costs into non-energy services, amid a fresh rise in refined fuel prices from the ongoing Persian Gulf tanker blockade. Hyperscalers rose after SoftBank unveiled soaring gains from its OpenAI stake, while Nvidia gained 2.5% as CEO Jensen Huang joined the US delegation at the Trump-Xi summit in China.

Macro Snapshots

- **US:** 10-year yield hits highest since July on inflation angst
- **US:** Producer prices post biggest gain in four years in April
- **CN:** Chinese oil tanker exits Strait of Hormuz, stops at Gulf of Oman
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- **TANCO:** Bursa queries Tanco over JV with Hong Kong firm
- **MSM:** Locks in raw sugar supply as war drives up freight rates
- **MAYBANK:** Completes RM1.2bn sukuk issuance for Tier 2 capital

Key Indices	Last Close	Daily chg %	YTD chg %
FBM KLCI	1,746.3	(0.2)	3.9
Dow Jones	49,693.2	(0.1)	3.4
Nasdaq CI	26,402.3	1.2	13.6
S&P 500	7,444.3	0.6	8.7
SX5E	5,861.1	0.9	1.2
FTSE 100	10,325.4	0.6	4.0
Nikkei 225	63,272.1	0.8	25.7
Shanghai CI	4,242.6	0.7	6.9
HSI	26,388.4	0.2	3.0
STI	5,004.0	1.2	7.7

Market Activities	Last Close	% Chg
Vol traded (m shares)	4,145.0	(15.8)
Value traded (RM m)	3,447.8	(4.1)
Gainers	577	
Losers	605	
Unchanged	561	

Top 5 Volume	Last Close	Daily chg %	Vol (m)
GII	0.270	31.7	129.3
WCTHG	0.515	7.3	94.4
ASTRO	0.055	(8.3)	90.3
UEMS	0.665	4.7	76.7
ZETRIX	0.835	1.2	74.1

Top 5 Turnover	Last Close	Daily chg %	Val (RM m)
MAY	11.180	(0.5)	161.3
PMAH	9.050	0.7	121.1
TNB	14.720	(0.4)	117.2
FRCB	4.720	3.3	103.8
CIMB	7.920	0.3	89.7

Currencies	Last Close	Daily chg %
USD/MYR	3.931	0.1
USD/JPY	157.820	0.0
EUR/USD	1.172	0.1
USD/CNY	6.791	0.1
US Dollar Index	98.524	0.2

Commodities	Last Close	% Chg
Brent (USD/barrel)	105.6	(2.0)
Gold (USD/troy oz)	4,694.9	0.1
CPO (MYR/metric t)	4,390.0	(1.4)
Bitcoin (USD/BTC)	79,267.9	(0.5)

Source: Bloomberg



Macro News

US: 10-year yield hits highest since July on inflation angst

The yield on benchmark 10-year Treasuries rose to the highest since July as evidence of accelerating US inflation pushed traders to almost fully price in a Federal Reserve (Fed) interest-rate hike in the coming year. The 10-year yield increased almost two basis points on Wednesday to as high as roughly 4.49% after US wholesale inflation accelerated in April to the fastest pace since 2022 amid a war-driven rise in energy prices. Yields across maturities reached session highs after the data before retreating to little-changed levels, and the dollar rose. While the increases were small, yields on five- and 30-year Treasuries also reached their highest levels of the year. The 30-year topped 5.04% for the first time since July ahead of an auction of new bonds of the tenor at 1pm New York time. At that level in the auction, the new bonds would carry a 5% fixed interest rate — the first for the 30-year since 2007. (*Bloomberg*)

US: Producer prices post biggest gain in four years in April

US producer prices increased more than expected in April, posting their biggest gain since early 2022, the latest indication that inflation was accelerating amid the war with Iran. The Producer Price Index for final demand surged 1.4% last month after an upwardly revised 0.7% advance in March, the Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics said on Wednesday. Last month's increase was the largest since March 2022, and the rise was across goods and services. Economists polled by *Reuters* had forecast the PPI gaining 0.5% after a previously reported 0.5% increase in March. Producer prices have risen strongly this year, partly driven by higher energy costs, as the US-Israeli war with Iran disrupted shipping in the Strait of Hormuz. The conflict is straining global supply chains, causing shortages of a wide range of goods, including fertilisers, aluminum and consumer products. (*Reuters*)

US: Crude Oil Inventories Fall More Than Expected

US crude inventories fell by 4.306 million barrels to 452.9 million barrels in the week ended May 8, compared with expectations for a 2.1-million-barrel draw. Stocks at the Cushing, Oklahoma hub decreased by 1.702 million barrels. Refinery activity increased, with crude runs rising by 370,000 barrels per day and utilisation rates up 0.5 percentage points. Gasoline inventories dropped by 4.084 million barrels to 215.7 million, exceeding forecasts for a 2.85-million-barrel decline. Distillate stocks, including diesel and heating oil, rose by 0.190 million barrels to 102.5 million, versus expectations for a 2.83-million-barrel draw. Net US crude imports fell by 318 thousand barrels per day over the week. (*US Energy Information Administration*)

US: Mortgage Rates Tick Up to Five-Week High

The average US 30-year fixed mortgage rate for conforming loans of \$806,500 or less rose slightly to 6.46% in the week ending May 8, 2026, up from 6.45% the previous week and reaching its highest level since early April, according to the Mortgage Bankers Association's Weekly Mortgage Applications Survey. Rates remained elevated as Treasury yields stayed high due to stalled US-Iran negotiations and persistent inflation concerns, which increased bets on a Federal Reserve rate hike later this year or early in 2027. Despite the high rates, total mortgage application volume climbed 1.7%, marking the first weekly increase after two consecutive declines, driven by a 3.9% rebound in purchase applications. However, refinance demand continued to decline, dropping by 0.8%. (*Mortgage Bankers Association of America*)

US: Trump, Xi to weigh tariff cuts on US\$30bn of imports in managed trade push

The US and China are expected to inch toward a managed trade mechanism for non-sensitive goods this week, with each side possibly identifying some US\$30 billion worth of goods on which they could reduce tariffs and sell to each other without crossing national security red lines. The so-called "Board of Trade" was first broached by US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer in March as a key "deliverable" agreement for this week's high-stakes summit between US President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping. The contours of the plan remain sketchy, but a key shift from past dialogues is clear: Washington is no longer demanding that Beijing change its state-directed, export-driven economic model to become more like the US consumer-driven, market-oriented model. (*Reuters*)

US: Clears US\$35.5bn tariff refunds for importers so far

US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has processed US\$35.46 billion worth of tariff refunds and associated interest due as of Monday, according to a court filing with the US Court of International Trade released Tuesday, reported *Xinhua*. As of Monday, CBP had received 126,237 applications for refunds of tariffs imposed by US President Donald Trump last year under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), and had validated 86,874 of them, according to the court filing. In February, the US Supreme Court ruled that Trump's sweeping tariffs under IEEPA were unconstitutional, and the president did not have the authority to impose import tariffs on goods from nearly all the US trading partners. It is estimated that up to US\$166 billion of CBP collections from Trump's tariffs imposed under IEEPA are subject to refunds. (*Bernama-Xinhua*)



US: US Treasury's Bessent, China's He wrap up South Korea talks ahead of Trump-Xi summit

US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and Chinese Vice-Premier He Lifeng concluded three hours of talks on Wednesday in South Korea aimed at laying the groundwork for this week's Beijing summit of the leaders of the world's two biggest economies. Bessent, set to join President Donald Trump in Beijing later on Wednesday, arrived from Japan for the meeting with He, which had been expected to cover thorny economic and trade issues. US and Chinese officials gave no immediate summary of the discussions, held at a VIP reception hall at Incheon International Airport ahead of the summit between Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping set to run from Thursday to Friday. *(Reuters)*

US: Court halts order finding new Trump tariffs unlawful for now

A federal appeals court has temporarily paused a ruling that declared US President Donald Trump's latest global tariffs unlawful as the judges weigh the administration's request to allow officials to keep collecting the levies while the legal fight continues. The US Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit issued a brief order on Tuesday entering what's known as an administrative stay and set a fast schedule for both sides to file briefs on the administration's request to leave the tariffs intact while it appeals. The small businesses and Democratic state officials who sued are due to respond in a week. The order means importers will continue to pay the 10% tariffs under Trump's use of Section 122 of the Trade Act of 1974 for now. *(Bloomberg)*

UK: Political turmoil and inflation threat vie to push up UK borrowing costs

Intense pressure on Prime Minister Keir Starmer is driving up British government borrowing costs — but the political uncertainty is by no means the only factor making Britain's bond yields the highest among major advanced economies. Yields on 10-year government bonds — which determine how much the government will pay for future borrowing — on Tuesday hit their highest since 2008 at 5.13%. "There's a lot of fear in the price with gilts," said Gordon Shannon, a partner at investment firm TwentyFour, which manages £23.5 billion (US\$32 billion or RM125.02 billion) of fixed income assets. Most of the potential contenders to succeed Starmer — who came to power in July 2024 with a large parliamentary majority — are likely to want to borrow more, with the possible exception of health minister Wes Streeting, Shannon said. *(Reuters)*

CN: Chinese oil tanker exits Strait of Hormuz, stops at Gulf of Oman, data shows

A Chinese supertanker carrying two million barrels of Iraqi crude sailed through the Strait of Hormuz on Wednesday after being stranded in the Gulf for more than two months due to the US-Iran war, LSEG and Kpler ship-tracking data showed. The Very Large Crude Carrier Yuan Hua Hu is now anchored off the Gulf of Oman, near where the U Navy has set up a blockade on Iranian vessels, LSEG data showed. The crossing comes as US President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping are due to meet over the next two days, and after Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi visited Beijing last week. The voyage marks the third known passage by a Chinese oil tanker through the Strait of Hormuz since the US-Israeli war with Iran began on February 28, based on ship-tracking data. *(Reuters)*

CN: Criticises US chip equipment bill in run-up to Beijing talks

China is pushing back against proposed US legislation that would curb its chipmakers in the global AI race, making early moves that underscore Beijing's concerns. The proposal, known as the Match Act, is likely to be raised in discussions this week in Beijing alongside a long-awaited meeting between US President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping. For months, the Trump administration has held back from imposing new regulations on technology exports to China, despite national security concerns but the US Congress has moved to fill that gap, introducing legislation in the House of Representatives and the Senate last month that would make it harder for Chinese chipmakers to produce AI semiconductors, in part by setting up mechanisms to coerce allied countries to keep more equipment from China. It has drawn the ire of Chinese officials. *(Reuters)*

JP: 20-year bond yield rises to 1997 high on inflation woes

Japan's 20-year government bond yield breached its January peak to touch the highest level since 1997, as elevated energy prices add to inflation pressure. The rate advanced five basis points to 3.495%, surpassing the previous high of 3.46% set on Jan 20. The 10-year and 30-year yields also rose five basis points to 2.59% and 3.86%, respectively. Upward pressure on Japanese government bond yields is building as oil prices remain elevated after the US and Iran rejected each other's proposals to end the conflict, dimming prospects for a near-term resolution. Meanwhile, Treasury yields have also climbed after US inflation accelerated, prompting traders to increase bets on future Federal Reserve rate hikes, while long-end UK gilts fell on political risks, creating a negative read-across for JGBs. *(Bloomberg)*

MY: Tourist arrivals to Malaysia rose 5.4% to 10.65m in January to March

Malaysia recorded 10.65 million international visitor arrivals in the first quarter of 2026 (1Q2026), up 5.4% from a year earlier, according to the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture. Singapore remained Malaysia's largest source market, accounting for nearly half of total arrivals between January and March, with 5.14 million visitors, up 3.9% year-on-year (y-o-y). China posted the strongest growth among major markets, with arrivals surging more than 25% y-o-y to 1.41 million, followed by Indonesia at 1.05 million, Thailand at 612,040 and Brunei at 375,937. Australia also recorded double-digit growth of 11.4% y-o-y to 137,856 visitors. *(The Edge)*



MY: PM orders govt to step up engagement with, aid delivery to hawkers

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has directed the relevant ministries to conduct engagement sessions with hawkers nationwide to better understand the challenges contributing to the low participation rate among the group in formal financial assistance programmes. Communications Minister Datuk Fahmi Fadzil said the directive was issued during Wednesday's Cabinet meeting following findings from a study and survey conducted by the Khazanah Research Institute (KRI), which showed that only 5% of hawkers had received assistance from institutions such as Bank Simpanan Nasional, Tekun Nasional and Amanah Ikhtiar Malaysia. Fahmi, who is also the Madani government spokesperson, said the report identified several key factors, including the unregistered status of many hawkers' businesses, which has limited their access to formal financing and government assistance schemes. *(Bernama)*

MY: Anwar's economic adviser warns of production stoppages in June as supply crisis starts to bite

Malaysian factories could begin to see in June production stoppages as the Middle East geopolitical conflict hits home, said the prime minister's economic adviser. Manufacturers could begin to reduce overtime and shifts as raw materials and inputs dry up, Nurhisham Hussein, the senior director of economy and finance at the Prime Minister's Office, said in an interview with the BFM 89.9 radio station published on Wednesday. "When we talk about the economic impact of this, the shortage of supply is going to hit us in June," he said in the *Breakfast Grille* programme. The remarks come as the US and Iran continue to fight over the control of the Strait of Hormuz, a critical waterway for the global flow of goods ranging from oil to metals and from fertilisers to grains. *(The Edge)*

MY: RON97, unsubsidised RON95, Peninsular diesel prices slashed from May 14 — MOF

Retail prices for RON97, unsubsidised RON95 and diesel in Peninsular Malaysia will decrease for the week of May 14 to May 20, following a downtrend in international market prices, according to the Ministry of Finance (MOF). The pump price for RON97 will drop by 20 sen to RM4.70 per litre, down from RM4.90 previously. Unsubsidised RON95 will see a 15 sen reduction to RM3.87 per litre from RM4.02, while the retail price of diesel in Peninsular Malaysia will be lowered by 30 sen to RM4.87 per litre from RM5.17. Despite the downward adjustments, the MOF noted that fuel prices remain significantly higher than levels seen before the conflict in the Middle East. Retail fuel prices are also being impacted by a surge in logistics and insurance costs due to heightened risks in the conflict zones, while the threat of shipping disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz continues to strain global oil supplies. *(The Edge)*

MY: Global geopolitical tensions could disrupt supplies more than prices, says Mydin boss

Global geopolitical tensions could pose a bigger risk to product supply chains than price increases, according to Mydin Mohamed Holdings Bhd (Mydin) managing director Datuk Dr Ameer Ali Mydin. Ameer said that although the effects of geopolitical challenges have yet to significantly impact the Malaysian economy, the country is expected to face considerable supply chain challenges. "Now, the challenge is not the price. I think people keep focusing on price. Let's forget the price. More importantly, do you have the supply?" he told Bernama in an exclusive interview. Commenting on current price trends, Ameer said that, although global pricing pressures and geopolitical developments are significant and affecting domestic prices, the impact on Malaysia remains manageable for the moment. *(Bernama)*

Corporate News

CDB: Posts 9% growth in 1Q net profit, declares 3.4 sen dividend

CelcomDigi Bhd said on Wednesday its net profit rose nearly 9% in the first three months of 2026 from lower operating expenses and device costs. Net profit for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026 (1QFY2026) was RM418 million versus RM384 million over the same period last year, Malaysia's largest mobile network operator by subscribers said in a statement. Revenue was stable year-on-year at RM3.21 billion. CelcomDigi is keeping its target for "low single-digit growth" in service revenue and earnings before interest and tax. The guidance for capital expenditure is for between 12% and 13% of total revenue. The company declared an interim dividend of 3.4 sen per share, payable June 30. *(The Edge)*

TANCO: Bursa queries Tanco over JV with Hong Kong firm for concrete venture

Tanco Holdings Bhd has been questioned by Bursa Malaysia over its joint venture (JV) with Hong Kong-based King Well Holdings Ltd (KWHL) as it seeks to pivot into the concrete products manufacturing business. The exchange's inquiry follows a period of heightened scrutiny on the group, which was hit with an unusual market activity (UMA) query following a sharp spike in its share price. The JV, announced two days ago, involves Tanco's unit entering into a joint venture and shareholders' agreement with KWHL to manufacture and supply concrete-related products in Malaysia. The venture will be housed under a JV company, with Tanco holding a 51% controlling stake and KWHL the remaining 49%. *(The Edge)*

METRO: Diverts more IPO funds to diversify beyond women's health, fertility care

Metro Healthcare Bhd is planning to reallocate RM15.5m of its initial public offering proceeds to diversify beyond its traditional maternity and fertility roots. The fund was initially earmarked for the expansion of its existing obstetrics and gynaecology (ob-gyn) business, according to the company's bourse filing on Wednesday about its intention to vary the utilisation of the RM39.2m that it raised in its ACE Market listing in November 2024. It now plans to use the RM15.5m — representing 61.7% of the remaining RM24.2m in unspent IPO funds — for a broader "expansion of healthcare-related business". This includes wellness, diagnostics, digital health, outpatient care and multi-disciplinary specialist services. *(The Edge)*



MSM: Locks in raw sugar supply as war drives up freight rates

MSM Malaysia Holdings Bhd, one of Asia's largest sugar refiners, has locked in more raw sugar than usual this year, bracing for a surge in freight costs as disruptions to global shipping drag on due to the Iran war. The company, which controls about 60% of the domestic market, has hedged about 500,000 tons — roughly half its annual requirements — covering deliveries through October for its industrial segment and through December for its wholesale segment sold in retail markets. "It's a bit more than usual because we are foreseeing higher freight charges due to the crisis, so we want to make sure that we have signed the agreements for the supply," group chief executive officer Dr Mazatul 'Aini Shahar Abdul Malek Shahar said in an interview at the company headquarters in Kuala Lumpur. (*Bloomberg*)

SUNREIT: 1Q property income rises nearly 5% on stronger retail performance, lower costs

Sunway Real Estate Investment Trust posted a near 5% rise in net property income (NPI) for the first quarter, supported by stronger retail contributions and lower operating costs. NPI for the three months ended March 31, 2026 (1QFY2026) increased to RM164.42 million from RM157.19 million a year earlier. Revenue edged up 1.9% to RM223 million from RM218.86 million, according to its filing with Bursa Malaysia. The trust's performance was also lifted by contributions from AEON Mall Seri Manjung, acquired from YNH Property Bhd in July last year, though partly offset by the absence of rental income from Sunway University and College campus, as well as weaker contributions from the hotel segment. (*The Edge*)

PPJACK: 1Q net profit hits all-time high on better profit margins

Pawnshop operator Pappajack Bhd first-quarter net profit jumped 44.62% to a record of RM9.04 million driven by higher profit margins. Net profit for the three months ended March 31, 2026 (1QFY2026) was up from RM6.25 million a year ago, as the company's gross profit margin expanded to 48.4%, from 37.5%, a bourse filing showed on Wednesday. Gross profit margins were up on both pawnbroking interest income and sales of unredeemed pledged items. The group's quarterly earnings of RM9.04 million are the highest since its listing on Bursa Malaysia on April 1, 2022. Earnings per share stood at 1.18 sen in 1QFY2026, versus 0.81 sen in 1QFY2025. (*The Edge*)

DIALOG: Upbeat amid Mideast tensions, raises dividend as 3Q profit up nearly 10%

Dialog Group Bhd, optimistic of weathering any near-term challenges, raised its dividend as net profit rose nearly 10% in the recently-ended quarter. Net profit for the three months ended March 31, 2026 (3QFY2026) was RM148.33 million, up about RM13 million from the same quarter a year earlier. Revenue grew 20% year-on-year to RM696.85 million from new engineering projects, healthy tank storage occupancy and higher oil prices. "We remain confident that our business model is well structured to manage and sustain the group against headwinds from economic uncertainty, oil price volatility and currency movements, particularly in light of the ongoing geopolitical conflict in the Middle East," Dialog said. (*The Edge*)

CEPCO: YTL Cement's stake in Concrete Engineering Products raised to 70.22% at close of mandatory general offer

At the close of YTL Cement Bhd's mandatory general offer (MGO) for Concrete Engineering Products Bhd, its stake in the company had increased to 70.22%, up from 53.49% previously. CIMB Investment Bank said the building material unit of YTL Corporation Bhd received acceptances for 12.49 million shares, or 16.73%, bringing its total holding in Concrete Engineering Products to 52.4 million shares. Concrete Engineering Products is involved in the manufacture and sale of prestressed spun concrete piles and poles, which are widely used in infrastructure, building and utility projects across Asia, Africa, Oceania and the Gulf region, according to its latest annual report. (*The Edge*)

MAYBANK: Completes RM1.2bn sukuk issuance for Tier 2 capital

Malayan Banking Bhd announced that it has completed the issuance of RM1.2 billion in subordinated sukuk murabahah under its sukuk programme of up to RM30 billion. In a bourse filing with Bursa Malaysia, Maybank said the sukuk qualifies as Tier 2 capital for the bank. This aligns with Bank Negara Malaysia's capital adequacy framework that sets credit risk capital calculation standards in accordance with international Basel III standards. Proceeds from the issuance will be deployed for shariah-compliant purposes, including investments in approved Islamic financial instruments, funding Islamic business activities across its subsidiaries and overseas branches, as well as other eligible business activities, it said. (*The Edge*)

SURIA: To diversify into power business starting with Kimanis gas plant

Port operator Suria Capital Holdings Bhd is planning to formally diversify into the power business after its consortium with Yayasan Sabah investment vehicle, Innoprise Corp Sdn Bhd, was selected by the state's regulators for a 100MW gas power plant in Kimanis. The company will seek shareholders' approval for the proposal as it sees the power business, to kick off with the Kimanis gas power plant targeted for commercial operation in the fourth quarter of 2028, to contribute at least 25% of its net profit, according to a bourse filing on Wednesday. The diversification into the power business includes power generation, power transmission and distribution networks, it noted. (*The Edge*)



MKLAND: TotalEnergies, MK Land achieve financial close for Kulim solar project, to start construction works

French energy giant TotalEnergies and MK Land Holdings Bhd said they have achieved financial close for a solar project in Kulim, Kedah. The project financing facility of about RM145 million was arranged with BNP Paribas as the sole mandated lender, TotalEnergies said in a statement on Wednesday. A notice-to-proceed has been issued for construction of the power plant that could generate up to 30MW. The entire output will be sold under 21-year long-term power purchase agreements to “major technology and industrial players in Malaysia”, TotalEnergies said. A notice-to-proceed is usually issued to contractors to begin work once financial close — confirming key funding, contractual arrangements, government approvals and stakeholder consents — has been achieved. (*The Edge*)

MISC: Names Mohammad Suhaimi as chairman following Abu Huraira's retirement

MISC Bhd has redesignated its independent director Mohammad Suhaimi Mohd Yasin as its chairman, with immediate effect. Suhaimi, 65, succeeds Datuk Abu Huraira Abu Yazid, 73, who stepped down after leading the shipping group for five years since January 2021. Abu Huraira retired at the company’s recent annual general meeting and did not seek re-election, according to MISC in a bourse filing on Wednesday. Suhaimi is also currently serving as the chairman and an independent non-executive director of Malaysia Marine and Heavy Engineering Holdings Bhd, a 66.5%-owned subsidiary of MISC. (*The Edge*)

TALAMT: Shareholders to decide on audit review of transactions at Thursday's EGM

Property developer Talam Transform Bhd is set to hold an extraordinary general meeting (EGM) on Thursday, May 14, for shareholders to vote on the appointment of an auditor to review certain transactions and investments. The EGM is held pursuant to a consent order recorded before the High Court on April 8, following negotiations between a group of requisitionist shareholders and the board of Talam Transform. Two non-binding recommendations will be tabled at the EGM for shareholders’ consideration, including the appointment of a qualified auditor to review: 1. debt owed to IJM Properties Sdn Bhd; 2. the joint venture in Trident Treasure Sdn Bhd; 3. investment in Oaxis Sdn Bhd; 4. investment in Million Tiara (M) Sdn Bhd; and 5. balance sale consideration owed by Xtra Touch Sdn Bhd. (*The Edge*)

AXREIT: Acquires Shah Alam industrial complex for RM38m in related-party deal

Axis Real Estate Investment Trust is acquiring an industrial property in Shah Alam for RM38 million cash in a related-party transaction. In a Bursa Malaysia filing on Wednesday, the REIT said trustee RHB Trustees Bhd had entered into a sale and purchase agreement with Rubicon Assets Sdn Bhd for the acquisition of the leasehold property. The transaction is deemed a related-party transaction as Rubicon Assets director and major shareholder Stephen Tew Peng Hwee @ Teoh Peng Hwee is also the non-independent non-executive deputy chairman of Axis REIT Managers Bhd. (*The Edge*)

Upcoming key economic data releases	Date
US FOMC Meeting Minutes	May 21
US Philadelphia Fed Manufacturing Index (May)	May 21
US Initial Jobless Claims	May 21
US S&P Global Manufacturing PMI (May)	May 21
US S&P Global Services PMI (May)	May 21
Source: <i>Investing.com</i>	



Stock Selection Based on Dividend Yield

	Sector	Price (RM)	Dividend/Share (RM)	Dividend Yield (%)
Bonia Corporation	Consumer	0.87	0.12	13.79
British American Tobacco (M)	Consumer	6.21	0.60	9.66
MBM Resources	Consumer	5.19	0.44	8.42
Sentral REIT	REIT	0.71	0.06	8.17
CapitaLand Malaysia Trust	REIT	0.63	0.05	8.10
KIP REIT	REIT	0.86	0.07	8.07
MAG Holdings	Consumer	1.28	0.10	7.42
Magnum	Consumer	1.28	0.10	7.42
Ta Ann Holdings	Plantation	5.39	0.39	7.24
Sports Toto	Consumer	1.30	0.09	7.08
Paramount Corporation	Property	1.04	0.07	7.02
Al-Aqar Healthcare REIT	REIT	1.23	0.08	6.50
Al-Salam REIT	REIT	0.45	0.03	6.22
RHB Bank	Finance	8.35	0.51	6.08
TIME dotCom	Telco	6.36	0.38	6.01

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		
Gold Li Holdings Berhad	ACE Market	0.13	117.0	36.0	05 May	18 May
Skyechip Berhad	MAIN Market	0.88	400.0	-	06 May	20 May
EI Power Berhad	ACE Market	0.48	129.5	70.0	06 May	21 May
Bus Cap Berhad	ACE Market	0.23	107.3	19.2	15 May	03 June
MM Computer Systems Berhad	ACE Market	0.22	56.7	47.3	25 May	11 June

Source: Bursa Malaysia

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