



# Daily Newswatch

## Market Review

The FBM KLCI closed lower at 1,577.7 (-0.2%), weighed down by persistent market uncertainty and weaker sentiment across regional markets. Among index constituents, PCHEM (-4.9%), PETDAG (-3.2%), and MAXIS (-2.6%) emerged as the top laggards, dragging the benchmark lower. Sector-wise, Telecommunications & Media (-2.0%) led the declines, followed by Energy (-0.7%) and Health Care (-0.7%). The broader market remained subdued, with 644 decliners outpacing 347 gainers.

## Economics

- Malaysia:** Export growth decelerates in January, trade surplus shrinks sharply, official data show
- US:** Trump says new China trade deal 'possible' despite tensions
- US:** Trump adds lumber and forest products to list of goods facing tariffs over 'next month or sooner'
- US:** Pentagon orders budget revamp to reinvest US\$50bn into Trump defence priorities
- China:** Says 'doing its best' to push for tariff negotiations with EU
- Indonesia:** Current account deficit deepens in 2024, seen wider in 2025
- US:** Jobless claims tick up slightly, in line with pre-Covid level

## Companies

- Petronas Dagangan:** Declares special dividend as 4Q net profit jumps 38%
- Genting:** To add 100 megawatts in second phase of aquaculture solar farm in China
- Sunview:** Bags RM45m EPCC contract job for solar PV facility in University of Malaysia Sabah
- Omesti:** 49%-owned unit bags RM70.5m contract to upgrade e-court system
- Seni Jaya:** To buy two billboard advertising firms to broaden network
- YTL Power:** Lower 2Q profit as power generation business hit by lower prices, stronger ringgit
- YTL Corporation:** Q2 net profit jumps more than twofolds to RM1.02bn
- Willowglen:** Secures RM8.27m contract
- Marine & General:** Disposes of vessel for RM31.54m

Key Indices	Last Close	Daily chg %	YTD chg %
FBM KLCI	1,577.7	(0.2)	(3.9)
Dow Jones	44,176.7	(1.0)	3.8
Nasdaq CI	19,962.4	(0.5)	3.4
S&P 500	6,117.5	(0.4)	4.0
FTSE 100	8,663.0	(0.6)	6.0
Nikkei 225	38,678.0	(1.2)	(3.0)
Shanghai CI	3,350.8	(0.0)	(0.0)
HSI	22,577.0	(1.6)	12.5
STI	3,927.5	(0.2)	3.7

Market Activities	Last Close	% Chg
Vol traded (m shares)	3,155.1	(8.1)
Value traded (RM m)	2,438.4	(8.1)
Gainers	347	
Losers	644	
Unchanged	525	

Top 5 Volume	Last Close	Daily chg %	Vol (m)
SUNLOGY	0.300	0.0	143.6
INGENIEU	0.055	0.0	70.3
MYEG	1.020	2.0	69.5
TOPGLOV	0.955	(1.5)	60.9
HM	0.130	(7.1)	45.8

Top 5 Turnover	Last Close	Daily chg %	Val (RM m)
CIMB	8.350	0.7	130.2
MAYBANK	10.440	(0.6)	92.8
HARTA	2.490	2.0	77.2
GAMUDA	4.600	2.0	74.4
TENAGA	13.800	(0.4)	72.3

Currencies	Last Close	% Chg
USD/MYR	4.4295	0.3
USD/JPY	149.55	0.1
EUR/USD	1.0501	0.0
USD/CNY	7.2428	0.5
US Dollar Index	106.38	(0.7)

Commodities	Last Close	% Chg
Brent (USD/barrel)	76.6	0.8
Gold (USD/troy oz)	2,939	(0.0)
CPO (MYR/metric t)	4,854	0.8
Bitcoin (USD/BTC)	98,242	0.1

### Upcoming key economic data releases

### Date

Malaysia – Jan 2025 Inflation Rate	Feb 21
US – Feb 2025 Manufacturing PMI	Mar 03
Malaysia – Interest Rate Decision	Mar 06
US – Feb 2025 NFP, Unemployment Rate	Mar 07
Malaysia – Jan 2025 Unemployment Rate	Mar 11
US – Feb 2025 CPI	Mar 12
US – Feb 2025 CPI	Mar 13
US – Fed Interest Rate Decision & FOMC	Mar 20
Malaysia – Jan 2025 Inflation Rate	Mar 21

## Economics

### **Malaysia: Export growth decelerates in January, trade surplus shrinks sharply, official data show**

Malaysia's exports decelerated and grew much slower than expected in January while imports surged, resulting in sharp contraction in trade surplus, official data on Thursday showed. Exports rose 0.3% to RM122.8bn in January from the same month a year earlier, the Department of Statistics Malaysia said in a statement. That compares to the median increase of 5% predicted in a Bloomberg survey of economists and the 17% year-on-year surge a month earlier. Shipments of electrical and electronics products, which account for more than 40% of the total exports, grew 15% in January from a year earlier. (*The Edge*)

### **US: Trump says new China trade deal 'possible' despite tensions**

US President Donald Trump said it would be possible to reach a fresh trade deal with China, signaling he is open to heading off a brewing trade fight between Washington and Beijing. "It's possible, it's possible," Trump told reporters on Air Force One on Wednesday, when asked if he would make a new agreement with China. Trump did not describe the parameters of a potential deal, and any agreement would face significant obstacles — some of the president's own making. (*Bloomberg*)

### **US: Trump adds lumber and forest products to list of goods facing tariffs over 'next month or sooner'**

US President Donald Trump said on Wednesday he will announce fresh tariffs over the next month or sooner, adding lumber and forest products to previously announced plans to impose duties on imported cars, semiconductors and pharmaceuticals. "I'm going to be announcing tariffs on cars and semiconductors and chips and pharmaceuticals, drugs and pharmaceuticals and lumber, probably, and some other things over the next month or sooner," Trump said at a conference in Miami. Speaking to reporters on Air Force One as he traveled back to Washington, Trump said he was thinking about a 25% tariff on lumber and forest products, to take effect around April 2, when a tariff on autos of around the same amount is expected. (*Reuters*)

### **US: Pentagon orders budget revamp to reinvest US\$50bn into Trump defence priorities**

The Pentagon said on Wednesday that it was directing military leaders to draw up a list of potential cuts totaling about US\$50bn (RM221.4bn) from the upcoming budget for fiscal year 2026, to be redirected into US President Donald Trump's priorities for national defence. The review could set the stage for Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth to follow through with goals to invest more in the Asia Pacific, and prioritize securing the US border with Mexico, along with other reforms. It was unclear how the effort would square with other cost-savings initiatives led by Elon Musk's government downsizing teams, which have started working from the Pentagon, as civilian employees brace for job cuts. (*Reuters*)

### **China: Says 'doing its best' to push for tariff negotiations with EU**

China has been "doing its best" to push for negotiations with the European Union over its tariffs on Chinese-made electric vehicles, a commerce ministry spokesperson said on Thursday, almost four months after the punitive import curbs took effect. The bloc voted to increase the tariffs to as much as 45.3% in October after the European Commission — which oversees EU trade policy — launched an anti-subsidy probe into whether Chinese firms benefited from preferential grants and financing as well as land, batteries and raw materials at below market prices. "China has been doing its best to push for negotiations with the EU," He Yadong said. "It is hoped that the EU will take notice of the call from industry and promote bilateral investment cooperation through dialogue and consultation." (*Reuters*)

**Indonesia: Current account deficit deepens in 2024, seen wider in 2025**

Indonesia's current account deficit widened in 2024 as its merchandise trade surplus shrank amid weaker global demand, the central bank said on Thursday, and analysts pointed to a worsening outlook for global trade this year. Southeast Asia's largest economy reported a current account deficit of US\$8.9bn for the year, equivalent to 0.6% of GDP, within the central bank's outlook range of 0.1% to 0.9%, but widening from 2023's gap of US\$2bn, or 0.1% of GDP. In 2025, the central bank, Bank Indonesia (BI), expects the current account deficit to be in a range of 0.5% to 1.3% of GDP. (*Reuters*)

**US: Jobless claims tick up slightly, in line with pre-Covid level**

U.S. jobless claims remained near pre-COVID levels, with initial claims rising by 5,000 to 219,000 (week ended Feb. 15), while continuing claims increased to 1.87 million (week ended Feb. 8). Economists are monitoring potential impacts from federal workforce cuts, though volatility and eligibility uncertainties persist, with DMV area claims declining but Washington, D.C. applications reaching a two-year high. Despite some corporate layoffs, including at Meta and Southwest Airlines, nationwide claims remain consistent with 2019 levels, supporting the Fed's stance on holding interest rates steady. (*Bloomberg*)

## Companies

### **Petronas Dagangan: Declares special dividend as 4Q net profit jumps 38%**

Petronas Dagangan Bhd has declared a special dividend as its net profit soared in the fourth quarter ended Dec 31, 2024 (4QFY2024), driven by disciplined cost management and higher margins for its retail and convenience segments. The group, in which Petroliaam Nasional Bhd (Petronas) holds a 63.9% stake, announced a special dividend of 20 sen per share, in addition to an interim dividend of 25 sen per share, to be paid to shareholders on March 21. This compares to the 27 sen per share interim dividend declared in 4QFY2023. *(The Edge)*

### **Genting: To add 100 megawatts in second phase of aquaculture solar farm in China**

Genting Bhd said on Thursday that it has signed an agreement to add another 100 megawatts as the second phase of an aquaculture solar farm project in China. The second phase of the project has an operations period of 25 years and work will begin in July 2025, for completion in 2026, Genting said in a statement. Construction of the first phase, generating up to 100 megawatts, began in September 2024 and is slated for operations in May 2025, it noted. The facility, located in the coastal city of Putian in Fujian Province — will feature advanced photovoltaic panels installed above aquaculture ponds, allowing simultaneous clean energy generation, and farming of shrimp and fish. *(The Edge)*

### **Sunview: Bags RM45m EPCC contract job for solar PV facility in University of Malaysia Sabah**

Sunview Group Bhd has secured an RM45m contract for the engineering, procurement, construction and commissioning (EPCC) of a solar photovoltaic (PV) facility. The EPCC contract was awarded by Quantum Sustainable Energy Sdn Bhd to Fabulous Sunview Sdn Bhd, Sunview's wholly-owned subsidiary. Quantum Sustainable Energy is principally engaged in business management consultancy services, and activities of real estate agents and brokers for buying, selling and renting of real estate. The contract involves the development of a solar PV energy generation facility with a total capacity of 10.58 megawatt-peak (MWp) at University Malaysia Sabah (UMS) in Kota Kinabalu. *(The Edge)*

### **Omesti: 49%-owned unit bags RM70.5m contract to upgrade e-court system**

Omesti Bhd said its 49%-owned unit, Formis Network Services Sdn Bhd, has secured an RM70.5m contract to upgrade the court's electronic system (e-Courts system). The contract, dubbed the e-Courts Phase 3 project, awarded by the Prime Minister's Department's Legal Affairs Division is for developing, installing and maintaining an upgraded ICT infrastructure of the e-Courts system. The contract will span three years, commencing March 1, Omesti said in a bourse filing on Thursday. "The e-Courts Phase 3 project is awarded subject to a formal contract to be entered into between the government of Malaysia and Formis Network Services in due course," the company added. *(The Edge)*

### **Seni Jaya: To buy two billboard advertising firms to broaden network**

Seni Jaya Corp Bhd is acquiring Unilink Outdoor Sdn Bhd and Vision OOH Sdn Bhd to expand its media network, enhance operational synergies, and strengthen its digital transformation strategy. The acquisitions will be settled through cash and new SJC shares at 31.6 sen per share, subject to due diligence, shareholder approval, and definitive agreements. CEO Jeff Cheah stated that the move will bolster Seni Jaya's presence in high-impact locations, improve market positioning, and drive innovation in data-driven advertising solutions. *(The Edge)*

**YTL Power: Lower 2Q profit as power generation business hit by lower prices, stronger ringgit**

YTL Power International Bhd reported a 9.16% drop in net profit to RM767.7m for 2QFY2025, mainly due to lower contributions from its power generation segment, which saw a 29.4% decline in PBT amid lower electricity prices and a stronger ringgit. Despite this, revenue rose 5.7% to RM5.7bn, driven by its water and sewerage segment, though no dividend was declared for the quarter. *(The Edge)*

**YTL Corporation: Q2 net profit jumps more than twofolds to RM1.02bn**

YTL Corporation Bhd's net profit surged 57% to RM1.02bn in 2QFY2024, driven by gains from NSL Ltd's acquisition, unrealised forex gains, and improved performance in the cement, property, and hotels segments, while revenue grew 4% to RM8.06bn. YTL Power's pre-tax profit jumped 51% to RM773.1m, supported by forex gains, stable Singapore power operations, and improvements in its water, sewerage, and telecom businesses, though EBITDA for the half-year dipped slightly to RM3.4bn. Malayan Cement's net profit increased 32% to RM184.9m, despite a slight revenue decline to RM1.15bn, with gains from a compulsory land acquisition and lower borrowing costs, while declaring a 5 sen interim dividend for FY2025. *(Bernama)*

**Willowglen: Secures RM8.27m contract**

Willowglen MSC Bhd's wholly-owned subsidiary, Willowglen Services Pte Ltd has secured a RM8.27mil contract from ST Engineering Urban Solutions Ltd, Singapore. In a filing with Bursa Malaysia, Willowglen said the contract was for the supply of Universal Interrogator for the Development of Structural Health Monitoring Systems. The contract starts on Feb 20, 2025 and ends on May 31, 2026. *(The Edge)*

**Marine & General: Disposes of vessel for RM31.54m**

Marine & General Bhd (M&G) has completed the sale of its vessel, JM Sutera 6, for RM31.54m to Thailand's Lion Great Energy Co Ltd as part of its fleet optimisation strategy to dispose of older vessels. The disposal lowers the average age of its downstream division's tanker fleet to 11.1 years from 11.8 years and reduces its owned fleet size to four chemical tankers. Moving forward, M&G plans to refresh its fleet with tankers that align with charterers' requirements and new environmental considerations. *(The Edge)*



## Stock Selection Based on Dividend Yield

	Sector	Price (RM)	Dividend/Share (RM)	Dividend Yield (%)
Bermaz Auto	Consumer	1.20	0.16	13.58
MBM Resources	Consumer	5.65	0.52	9.29
Datasonic Group	Technology	0.34	0.03	8.96
British American Tobacco (M)	Consumer	7.05	0.57	8.14
Sentral REIT	REIT	0.78	0.06	7.95
Ta Ann Holdings	Plantation	3.88	0.30	7.76
Amway (M)	Consumer	6.88	0.53	7.66
KIP REIT	REIT	0.89	0.07	7.57
CapitaLand Malaysia Trust	REIT	0.66	0.05	7.33
Hektar REITS	REIT	0.53	0.04	6.98
YTL Hospital REIT	REIT	1.20	0.08	6.92
Sports Toto	Consumer	1.58	0.11	6.65
Genting Malaysia	Consumer	2.40	0.16	6.54
Paramount Corporation	Property	1.08	0.07	6.48
REXIT	Technology	0.79	0.05	6.33

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		
<a href="#">Pantech Global Bhd</a>	Main Market	0.68	262.2	-	19 Feb	03 Mar
Saliran Group Bhd	ACE Market	0.27	80.4	38.3	28 Feb	13 Mar

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