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BURSA Malaysia's benchmark index closed at an intraday high of 1,708.20 yesterday, its highest level in more than six years, supported by broadly positive regional sentiment following gains on Wall Street and sustained foreign buying interest.

At 5pm, the benchmark FBM KLCI rose 12.76 points, or 0.75%, compared with Monday's close of 1,695.44. The index surpassed its previous peak of 1,707.73 recorded on Feb 28, 2019.

The benchmark index opened 5.30 points higher at 1,700.74, slipped to an intraday low of 1,698.79 in early trade, before edging higher throughout the day toward the close.

Market breadth was positive, with gainers leading losers 542 to 536, while some 550 counters were unchanged, 1,010 untraded, and 12 suspended.

Analysts said the FBM KLCI's break above the psychologically important 1,700 level — a milestone first reached in 2013 and last seen in February 2019 — marks a decisive return to pre-pandemic valuations and underscores the strength of the ongoing recovery and the improving outlook for the Malaysian economy.

Among the heavyweights, Maybank gained 12 sen to RM11.06, Public Bank increased five sen to RM4.64, CIMB rose 17 sen to RM8.38, and Tenaga Nasional climbed 20 sen to RM13.80, while IHH was one sen lower at RM8.54.

On the most active list, MMAG slid half-a-sen to 5.5 sen, Semico surged 12.5 sen to 37.5 sen, IJM Corp fell one sen to RM2.74, Zetrix AI lost 2.5 sen to 82 sen, and Tanco added two sen to RM1.21.

Among the top gainers, Hong Leong Industries advanced 34 sen to RM17.00, Batu Kawan put on 22 sen to RM20.30, Spritzer climbed 20 sen to RM3.02, PMB Technology jumped 17 sen to RM1.46, and Bursa Malaysia gained 16 sen to RM8.60. — Bernama