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Bursa ends higher as easing US Treasury yields boost risk appetite

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BURSA Malaysia ended higher yesterday as easing US Treasury yields improved risk appetite following the US Treasury's announcement of increased buyback operations, an analyst said.

At 5pm, the FTSE Bursa Malaysia KLCI (FBM KLCI) rose 5.39 points, or 0.31 per cent, to 1,736.71 compared with Wednesday's close of 1,731.32.

The benchmark index opened 0.79 of a point higher at 1,732.11, and fluctuated between 1,732.11 and 1,739.13 throughout the day.

On the broader market, losers outpaced gainers 610 to 577, while 610 counters were unchanged, 1,075 untraded and 16 suspended.

Turnover increased to 4.28 billion units valued at RM4.01 billion from 3.31 billion units valued at RM2.92 billion on Wednesday.

IPPFA Sdn Bhd director of investment strategy and country economist Mohd Sedek Jantan said lower yields helped ease pressure on growth stocks, with technology counters benefitting from renewed investor interest.

"The improvement in global sentiment was reflected across Asian markets, which rebounded sharply as easing US bond-market pressure encouraged investors to return to technology and semiconductor stocks.

"For Bursa Malaysia, the softer yield environment provided some relief after recent pressure on growth stocks, while investors remained selective amid ongoing geopolitical and macroeconomic uncertainties," he said.

Among the heavyweights, Maybank fell by six sen to RM10.58, Public Bank edged down three sen to RM5.12, while CIMB Group rose seven sen to RM7.98, **Tenaga Nasional climbed 10 sen to RM14.50**, and IHH Healthcare improved four sen to RM8.34. – Bernama