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FBM KLCI down for fifth consecutive session

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KUALA LUMPUR: The FBM KLCI extended its decline for a fifth consecutive session yesterday, underscoring a deepening risk-off sentiment across Malaysia's equity market, says an analyst.

At 5pm, the FBM KLCI fell 4.07 points, or 0.26%, to 1,544.80 from Tuesday's close of 1,548.87.

The benchmark index opened 4.07 points higher at 1,552.94 and fluctuated between 1,542.47 and 1,553.84 points throughout the trading session.

In the broader market, losers thumped gainers 649 to 342, while 464 counters were unchanged, 963 untraded and seven suspended.

Turnover increased to 3.27 billion units

worth RM2.16bil against 2.61 billion units worth RM1.98bil on Tuesday.

UOB Kay Hian Wealth Advisors Sdn Bhd head of investment research Mohd Sedek Jantan noted that foreign investors remained net sellers on both Monday and Tuesday, amplifying the sell-off as external macroeconomic and geopolitical headwinds continue to dominate investor positioning.

"Market sentiment remains fragile as global investors weigh persistent political and fiscal uncertainty in the United States," he told *Bernama*.

Despite resilient domestic fundamentals – evidenced by strong export figures released on Tuesday – the local market

performance remains largely dictated by exogenous variables.

Until greater clarity emerges on the US fiscal path and monetary policy trajectory, market volatility is likely to persist, warranting a cautious but opportunistic approach, he added.

Among heavyweights, IHH Healthcare Bhd added one sen to RM6.96, CelcomDigi Bhd rose two sen to RM3.90, Hong Leong Bank Bhd advanced 10 sen to RM20, Press Metal Aluminium Holdings Bhd climbed nine sen to RM5.05, MISC Bhd was flat at RM7.66, while Malayan Banking Bhd, Tenaga Nasional Bhd and CIMB Group Holdings Bhd all fell four sen to RM10, RM14.10 and RM7, respectively.