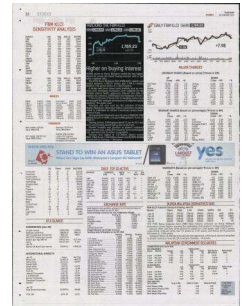


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Higher on buying interest

SHARE prices on Bursa Malaysia ended the day higher, driven by across-the-board buying interest and in line with a regional rally.

The FTSE Bursa Malaysia KLCI (FBM KLCI), which was traded between 1,780.21 points and 1,794.13 points, finished 7.98 points better at 1,789.23 points.

A dealer said most Asian stock markets rose as concerns over emerging economies were subdued by the Turkish central bank's aggressive interest rate hike to stabilise its currency, following in the footsteps of India.

"China's infusion of funds into its banking system also encouraged the stronger performance of regional equity markets," the dealer said.

Investors will now wait for the outcome of Bank Negara Malaysia's Monetary Policy Committee meeting, which is scheduled to release a monetary policy statement at 6 pm.

Heavyweights Maybank rose 2.0 sen to RM9.60, TNB added 8.0 sen to RM11.24 and CIMB gained 7.0 sen to RM6.91.

Among actives, KNM appreciated 5.5 sen to 62.5 sen but Green Packet eased half-a-sen to 44.5 sen.

Market breadth was positive as gainers outpaced losers 494 to 222, while 297 counters were unchanged, 591 untraded and 30 others suspended.

Volume was higher at 1.4 billion shares worth RM1.74bil, from 1.362 billion shares worth RM1.863bil registered on Tuesday. - Bernama