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Share prices close mixed

THE Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange (KLSE) closed mixed yesterday with slightly lower volume as profit-taking shed some of the gains made on Monday.

Shares continued to rise earlier in the morning on support of local institutions, which some analysts said could be linked to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's return to Malaysia in the evening.

At one point during the morning, the key Composite Index rose as much as 10.42 points to 1,033.09 against Monday's close.

But this did not last long as the key Composite Index lost 3.27 points at midday break to close at 1,019.40.

The KLSE Composite Index ended the day 4.66 points lower at 1,018.01 against Monday's close of 1,022.67.

The scoreboard showed losers only slightly ahead of gainers 292 to 291 while 182 counters remained unchanged.

The broader Emas Index closed 0.23 point lower at 289.21 while the second board index rose 1.09 points to 536.35.

Total turnover was lower at 244.029 shares valued at RM1.733 billion against Monday's close of 290.037 million shares worth RM1.960 billion.

The broad-based BT Ordinaries eased 0.21 point to 275.48.

The 30-share New Straits Times Industrials Index gained 31.22 points to close at 5,504.04.

On the KLSE main board, turnover amounted to 167.907 million shares valued at RM1.147 billion yesterday, compared with 216.354 million shares valued at RM1.409 billion previously.

Multi-Purpose Holdings Bhd's Irredeemable Cumulative Unsecured Loan Stocks (ICULS) 1997/2002 was the most active counter with 13.26 million shares traded, followed by Anson Perdana with 12.53 million shares changing hands, and Plantation & Development with 9.95 million shares transacted.

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