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Headline	Bursa Edges Higher, Mesiniaga, Takaful Among Gainers				

KUALA LUMPUR: Bursa Malaysia edged up in early Friday trade as investors sentiment was supported by the firmer key Asian markets while Mesiniaga and Takaful were among the top gainers.

At 9.09am, the KLCI was up 2.89 points or 0.17% to 1,696.48. Turnover was 185 million shares valued at RM66.32mil. There were 161 gainers, 91 losers and 150 counters unchanged.

Asian stocks inched higher, buoyed by gains in US technology shares, but gains were capped by worries over slowing growth in Europe and caution ahead of several key events next week including US-China trade talks, Reuters reported.

MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan edged up 0.2%. The index was headed for a loss of 0.1% this week.

Australian stocks climbed 0.5%, South Korea's KOSPI added 0.7%. Japan's Nikkei advanced 1%.

At Bursa, Mesiniaga continued its trek upwards, gaining 16 sen to RM1.84 – the longest winning streak for the IT services related company in years – after last week's announcement of a RM1.9bil contract.

Takaful rose 16 sen to RM4.14 as analysts were upbeat on its outlook following the strong FY18 earnings. Allianz gained 14 sen to RM13.46.

F&N was the top gainer, up 38 sen to RM34.60 and Nestle 20 sen to RM148.50.

KLK added 14 sen to RM24.76, PetDag 12 sen to RM26.20, Hartalega eight sen to RM5.70 and MISC seven sen to RM6.74.

Bumi Armada was the most active, up 1.5 sen to 24 sen with 52.8 million shares done.

IHH fell 16 sen to RM5.51, MAHB five sen to RM8.10 while Public Bank shed four sen to RM24.78 and Am-Bank three sen to RM4.50.