17 March 2026

Global Markets Research

Midday Currency Outlook

USD/MYR



Source: Bloomberg, HLBB Global Markets Research

Intraday Thoughts – Neutral-to-Slightly Bearish

USD/MYR opened 0.07% lower at 3.9258 and slid to 3.9240 at the point of writing. Daily outlook is neutral-to-slightly bearish with a risk on sentiment likely to dent appetite for the Dollar today while boosting demand for the MYR. That said, expectations of a hawkish note by the FOMC later in the week and lingering jittery on the geopolitical front will likely cap losses for this pair at 3.9210 today. Economic data remains moot given the Iran war and could take a back seat for now, but as it is, we saw a deceleration in IPI growth for the US yesterday, and today, we will be watching out for leading index for the month of February.

1-Month Outlook – USD/MYR Neutral

We are neutral on this pair on expectations that the FOMC will maintain rates at this level in the near term given that the economy is expanding at a solid pace, while inflation remains elevated with the latest overrun largely underpinned by services, and possibly, in the near term, from the recent spike in crude oil prices due to the Middle-East flare up. On the sentiment front, it will also be a tug of war between renewed jittery over the US' trade policies and its fiscal deficit, against haven demand from the tension, while on the medium term, tussle between hawks concerned over price pressure and doves concerned over softer labour market. We nonetheless opine that the former will take centre stage for now, and thus there is no change in our view that Fed rate cuts, if any, will occur only in the later part of this year. On the domestic front, BNM maintained a neutral stance in its latest policy statement, while acknowledging increased risks from the Middle-east conflict. This, coupled with our expectation for continued moderate growth (2026: 4.8%) and benign price outlook (2026: 2.0%), reinforced our view for an extended OPR pause this year, as well as a narrowing interest rate differential between the Fed funds rate and the OPR.

	S2	S1	Indicative	R1	R2
USD/MYR	3.9105	3.9210	3.9240	3.9353	3.9420

USD/SGD



USD/SGD Neutral-to-Slightly Bullish

USD/SGD opened flat at 1.2778 before strengthening to 1.2785 at the point of writing. Daily outlook is neutral-to-slightly bullish with SGD clearly losing some its momentum against the greenback, as well as most G10 FX following the NODX miss on the Singapore front. Data this morning showed that NODX growth halved to 4.0% in February despite still robust electronics demand.

	S2	S1	Indicative	R1	R2
USD/SGD	1.2725	1.2751	1.2785	1.2821	1.2865

MYR Crosses

SGD/MYR



SGD/MYR Neutral-to-Slightly Bearish

SGD/MYR opened 0.18% higher at 3.0731 before shaving its gains to trade at 3.0701 at the point of writing. Daily outlook is neutral-to-slightly bearish given broad SGD weakness against regionals, eyeing trading range between 3.0644-3.0767 today. As it is, risk-on sentiment and a NODX miss does not bode well for SGD today.

	S2	S1	Indicative	R1	R2
SGD/MYR	3.0613	3.0644	3.0701	3.0767	3.0844

GBP/MYR

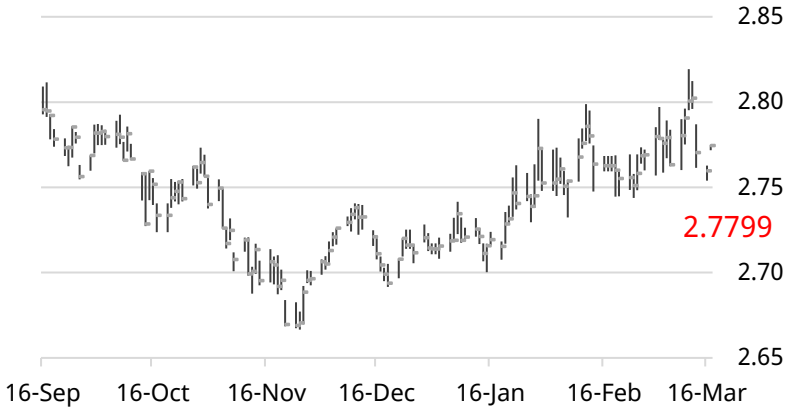


GBP/MYR Neutral-to-Slightly Bullish

GBP/MYR opened 0.42% higher at 5.2262 before shaving its gains to trade at 5.2238 at the point of writing. Daily outlook is neutral-to-slightly bullish given the sharply higher opening and with the pair still close to oversold. That said, signs of the sterling losing some of its momentum and cautiousness ahead of BOE's decision suggest that upside is limited at 5.2274 today.

	S2	S1	Indicative	R1	R2
GBP/MYR	5.1907	5.1975	5.2238	5.2274	5.2457

AUD/MYR



AUD/MYR Bullish

AUD/MYR opened 0.53% higher at 2.7741 and strengthened to 2.7799 at the point of writing. Daily outlook is bullish with AUD holding gains against all the G10 and regional currencies ahead of RBA's decision, where a rate hike is anticipated by the market.

	S2	S1	Indicative	R1	R2
AUD/MYR	2.7500	2.7548	2.7799	2.8064	2.8425

Source: Bloomberg, HLBB Global Markets Research

Hong Leong Bank Berhad
Fixed Income & Economic Research, Global Markets
Level 8, Hong Leong Tower
6, Jalan Damanlela
Bukit Damansara
50490 Kuala Lumpur
Tel: 603-2081 1221
Fax: 603-2081 8936
Email:

DISCLAIMER

This report is for information purposes only and does not take into account the investment objectives, financial situation or particular needs of any particular recipient. The information contained herein does not constitute the provision of investment advice and is not intended as an offer or solicitation with respect to the purchase or sale of any of the financial instruments mentioned in this report and will not form the basis or a part of any contract or commitment whatsoever.

The information contained in this publication is derived from data obtained from sources believed by Hong Leong Bank Berhad ("HLBB") to be reliable and in good faith, but no warranties or guarantees, representations are made by HLBB with regard to the accuracy, completeness or suitability of the data. Any opinions expressed reflect the current judgment of the authors of the report and do not necessarily represent the opinion of HLBB or any of the companies within the Hong Leong Bank Group ("HLB Group"). The opinions reflected herein may change without notice and the opinions do not necessarily correspond to the opinions of HLBB. HLBB does not have an obligation to amend, modify or update this report or to otherwise notify a reader or recipient thereof in the event that any matter stated herein, or any opinion, projection, forecast or estimate set forth herein, changes or subsequently becomes inaccurate.

HLB Group, their directors, employees and representatives do not have any responsibility or liability to any person or recipient (whether by reason of negligence, negligent misstatement or otherwise) arising from any statement, opinion or information, expressed or implied, arising out of, contained in or derived from or omission from the reports or matter.

Potential and actual conflict of interest may arise from the activities of HLB Group. HLB Group constitute a diversified financial services group. These entities engage in a wide range of commercial and investment banking, brokerage, funds management, hedging transactions and other activities for their own account or the account of others. In the ordinary course of their business, HLB Group may effect transactions for their own account or for the account of their customers and hold long or short positions in the financial instruments. HLB Group, in connection with its business activities, may possess or acquire material information about the financial instruments. Such activities and information may involve or have an effect on the financial instruments. HLB Group have no obligation to disclose such information about the financial instruments or their activities.

The past performance of financial instruments is not indicative of future results. Whilst every effort is made to ensure that statements of facts made in this report are accurate, all estimates, projections, forecasts, expressions of opinion and other subjective judgments contained in this report are based on assumptions considered to be reasonable as of the date of the document in which they are contained and must not be construed as a representation that the matters referred to therein will occur. Any projections or forecasts mentioned in this report may not be achieved due to multiple risk factors including without limitation market volatility, sector volatility, corporate actions, the unavailability of complete and accurate information. No assurance can be given that any opinion described herein would yield favorable investment results. Recipients who are not market professional or institutional investor customer of HLBB should seek the advice of their independent financial advisor prior to taking any investment decision based on the recommendations in this report.

HLBB may provide hyperlinks to websites of entities mentioned in this report, however the inclusion of a link does not imply that HLBB endorses, recommends or approves any material on the linked page or accessible from it. Such linked websites are accessed entirely at your own risk. HLBB does not accept responsibility whatsoever for any such material, nor for consequences of its use.

This report is not directed to, or intended for distribution to or use by, any person or entity who is a citizen or resident of or located in any state, country or other jurisdiction where such distribution, publication, availability or use would be contrary to law or regulation. This report is for the use of the addressees only and may not be redistributed, reproduced or passed on to any other person or published, in part or in whole, for any purpose, without the prior, written consent of HLBB. The manner of distributing this report may be restricted by law or regulation in certain countries. Persons into whose possession this report may come are required to inform themselves about and to observe such restrictions. By accepting this report, a recipient hereof agrees to be bound by the foregoing limitations.