



Daily Newswatch

Market Review

The FBM KLCI edged higher on Wednesday to end at 1620.9 although there are expectations foreign funds could take profit from equities as new US tariffs are scheduled to come into effect later this month. Some stocks are experiencing a profit-taking pullback as investors secure gains ahead of the implementation of US President Donald Trump's latest round of sectoral tariffs. By sector, Industrial Products & Services gained 1.0%, Financial Services rose 0.7%, while Transportation & Logistics slipped 0.4%. Among key index constituents, IHH was the top performer with a 5.2% gain, followed by 99SMART up 2.6% and MAXIS higher by 1.7%. Overall market breadth was positive, with 599 gainers against 448 losers.

On Wednesday, Chinese equities advanced, with the Shanghai Composite up 0.5% and the Shenzhen Component rising 0.4%, as optimism was lifted by a sharp rebound in August industrial profits and signs of improving manufacturing activity, which boosted demand-sensitive sectors such as glass and non-ferrous metals; growth-oriented names on ChiNext outperformed on the back of ample liquidity and policy support, drawing renewed risk appetite, while turnover on the two major boards exceeded 2.2 trillion yuan, underscoring broad participation even as some investors stayed cautious ahead of the Golden Week holiday.

On Wednesday, European equities opened higher with the STOXX 600 up 1.2% and the STOXX 50 adding 0.9%, supported by gains in healthcare and technology as investors rotated into resilient sectors amid uncertainty over U.S. budget negotiations and the risk of a government shutdown that could delay key data releases; defensives such as healthcare attracted safe-haven inflows, while select tech stocks gained on steady earnings momentum, and the advance was unrelated to the earlier rally in aerospace and defence, which had already occurred earlier in the week following President Trump's Ukraine-related comments.

On Wednesday, U.S. stocks advanced with the S&P 500 up 0.3%, the Nasdaq gaining 0.4% and the Dow adding 0.1% as healthcare shares led the market higher following supportive drug-pricing headlines, while softer private payrolls and weaker manufacturing data pulled Treasury yields lower and lifted hopes for Federal Reserve easing, helping risk appetite recover despite lingering concerns over a potential government shutdown, which investors largely viewed as having limited market impact.

Macro Snapshots

- US:** Gold hits record high on US govt shutdown, Fed rate cut bets
- US:** Manufacturing eyes recovery in September, orders contract
- MY:** E-hailing drivers, boat owners to get additional RON95 subsidy benefits by mid-October
- EU:** Inflation picks up, bolstering ECB's case for staying on hold

Corporate Snapshots

- RHBBANK:** Launches RM5bn multi-currency commercial paper, sukuk programmes
- GADANG:** Consortium secures RM52m EPCC contract for Tawau solar plant
- TANCO:** Partners China's CCECC to explore transport infrastructure projects in Malaysia
- TCHONG:** Demands RM26m from Epicon over bus lease settlement

The	Last Close	Daily chg %	YTD chg %
FBM KLCI	1,620.9	0.6	(1.3)
Dow Jones	46,441.1	0.1	9.2
Nasdaq CI	22,755.2	0.4	17.8
S&P 500	6,711.2	0.3	14.1
SX5E	5,581.2	0.9	14.0
FTSE 100	9,446.4	1.0	15.6
Nikkei 225	44,550.9	(0.8)	11.7
Shanghai CI	3,882.8	0.5	15.8
HSI	26,855.6	0.9	33.9
STI	4,323.1	0.5	14.1

Market Activities	Last Close	% Chg
Vol traded (m shares)	2,480.5	(28.7)
Value traded (RM m)	2,489.9	(21.3)
Gainers	599	
Losers	448	
Unchanged	503	

Top 5 Volume	Last Close	Daily chg %	Vol (m)
ZETRIX	0.860	1.2	64.6
VS	0.600	1.7	57.5
TANCO	0.910	1.1	54.2
TCHONG	0.805	27.8	44.9
MALAKOF	1.100	4.8	44.1

Top 5 Turnover	Last Close	Daily chg %	Val (RM m)
IHH	7.940	5.2	167.7
CIMB	7.450	1.5	98.3
MAYBANK	9.950	0.4	75.0
ZETRIX	0.860	1.2	55.5
PBBANK	4.360	0.7	53.1

Currencies	Last Close	% Chg
USD/MYR	4.207	0.0
USD/JPY	147.080	(0.0)
EUR/USD	1.173	0.0
USD/CNY	7.121	0.0
US Dollar Index	97.706	(0.1)

Commodities		
Brent (USD/barrel)	65.4	(1.0)
Gold (USD/troy oz)	3,864.7	(0.0)
CPO (MYR/metric t)	4,359.0	1.3
Bitcoin (USD/BTC)	118,428.4	0.7

Source: Bloomberg



Macro News

US: Gold hits record high on US govt shutdown, Fed rate cut bets

Gold prices hit a record high on Wednesday, supported by safe-haven demand as the US government shut down most operations, while growing expectations of a cut in US interest rates added to the metal's appeal. Spot gold gained 0.8% to US\$3,886.97 (RM16,354.43) an ounce by 1055 GMT after touching a record peak of US\$3,898.18. US gold futures for December delivery jumped by 1.1% to US\$3,914.50. The dollar weakened against a basket of other leading currencies, making dollar-priced gold more affordable for overseas buyers. "The dollar is weakening on the back of expectations of an increasingly dovish Fed," said ActivTrades analyst Ricardo Evangelista, referring to the US Federal Reserve. *(Reuters)*

US: Manufacturing eyes recovery in September, orders contract

US manufacturing edged toward recovery in September, though new orders and employment were subdued as factories continued to grapple with the fallout from tariffs on imports. The Institute for Supply Management (ISM) said on Wednesday its manufacturing PMI increased to 49.1 last month from 48.7 in August. It was the seventh straight month that the PMI remained below a reading of 50, indicating contraction in manufacturing. Economists polled by *Reuters* had forecast the PMI rising to 49.0. The survey, together with other private-label data, will assume greater importance among investors seeking to assess the health of the economy after the US government shut down at midnight on Tuesday. The funding lapse will delay the publication of key economic data, including the closely watched employment report for September that was due on Friday. *(Reuters)*

US: Govt shutdown begins as partisan division rules Washington

Gold fell on Tuesday as investors booked profits after prices hit a record high earlier in the session, while concerns of a US government shutdown and increased bets of a Federal Reserve (Fed) rate cut limited losses. Spot gold fell 0.9% to US\$3,800.3 (RM15,993.7) per ounce as of 0924 GMT after rising 1% to hit a record high of US\$3,871.4 during Asian hours. Bullion has risen 10.4% so far in September, and is on track for its biggest monthly percentage gain since July 2020. US gold futures for December delivery fell 0.7% to US\$3,827.80. *(Reuters)*

MY: E-hailing drivers, boat owners to get additional RON95 subsidy benefits by mid-October

The Ministry of Finance and the Land Public Transport Agency will finalise the application process for additional eligibility caps for e-hailing drivers under the Budi Madani RON95 (Budi95) this week. Senior press secretary to the prime minister Tunku Nashrul Abaidah said during Tuesday's daily briefing at the Prime Minister's Office that the government will coordinate with e-hailing service providers to identify drivers eligible for the extra allocation. He also said that the government is considering extending subsidised fuel eligibility to boat operators, especially in Sabah and Sarawak. *(Bernama)*

CN: Yuan moves closer to replacing Pound as 4th most-traded currency

The Indian rupee dropped to a record low on Tuesday, with unresolved trade strains with the United States fuelling heavy dollar demand and prompting central bank intervention to support the currency. The rupee hit a lifetime low of 88.8, slipping past the prior low of 88.7 struck last week. It was last quoting at 88.7. Market participants have seen little reason to bet on a turn in fortunes for the currency with a trade deal with the US remaining elusive, while a recent hike in US H-1B visa fees has compounded the currency's weakness. Analysts warn the US decision to hike H-1B visa fees could weigh on revenues in India's technology sector and trigger renewed equity outflows. *(Reuters)*

EU: Inflation picks up, bolstering ECB's case for staying on hold

Britain's economy slowed in the second quarter of 2025 after a strong start to the year, official figures showed on Tuesday, highlighting the challenges facing finance minister Rachel Reeves as she prepares for November's annual budget. British gross domestic product growth slowed to 0.3% in April to June, from 0.7% in the first three months of the year. Annual growth for 2024 was unrevised at 1.1%, although changes to the quarterly path of growth meant GDP growth for the year to the end of June 2025 was revised up to 1.4% from 1.2%. Adjusting for a rising population, largely driven by high levels of immigration, GDP per head was up 0.9% in the year to the end of June after being stagnant in 2024. "Looking ahead, the second half of the year will be tougher going than the first six months," Thomas Pugh, chief economist at accountants RSM UK, said. *(Reuters)*



Corporate News

RHBBANK: Launches RM5bn multi-currency commercial paper, sukuk programmes

RHB Bank Bhd has announced the launch of a combined RM5bn in commercial paper and sukuk murabahah programmes to raise funds in both ringgit and foreign currencies. In a filing with the stock exchange, the bank said it lodged the programmes with the Securities Commission Malaysia on Oct 1 under the Lodge and Launch Framework. The commercial paper (CP) programme will allow RHB to issue short-term debt for general banking needs, working capital or refinancing. The sukuk murabahah programme, which is shariah-compliant, will support Islamic financing, investments in Islamic money markets and refinancing of Islamic borrowings. *(The Edge)*

GADANG: Consortium secures RM52m EPCC contract for Tawau solar plant

A consortium between Gadang Holdings Bhd and JS Solar Holdings Bhd has secured a RM52m contract to undertake the engineering, procurement, construction and commissioning (EPCC) of a 15MWac large-scale solar photovoltaic (LSSPV) power plant in Tawau, Sabah. The consortium — comprising Gadang Engineering (M) Sdn Bhd and JS Solar Sdn Bhd (JSSB) — was awarded the project by Tenaga Aspirasi Sdn Bhd, an indirect 60%-owned subsidiary of Gadang. According to JS Solar's bourse filing on Wednesday, the letter of acceptance is subject to the signing of a formal EPCC contract within 45 days. *(The Edge)*

TANCO: Partners China's CCECC to explore transport infrastructure projects in Malaysia

KIP Real Estate Investment Trust's trustee, Pacific Trustees Bhd, has completed its acquisition of an industrial property in Bintulu, Sarawak, for a total purchase consideration of RM28.7m. This acquisition makes the group's first expansion into East Malaysia, underscoring its commitment to broadening its geographical footprint and reinforcing its long-term growth strategy. "It was fully funded through cash consideration, reflecting KIP REIT's prudent capital management and robust balance sheet. "The property is tenanted by Hextar Solutions Sdn Bhd under a three-year fixed-term agreement, with automatic renewals for four consecutive three-year terms, ensuring long-term rental stability," it said in a statement on Tuesday. *(The Edge)*

TCHONG: Demands RM26m from Epicon over bus lease settlement

Epicon Bhd said on Wednesday that a unit of Tan Chong Motor Holdings Bhd is seeking RM26.15 million from the company in relation to a settlement agreement involving bus lease and maintenance debts. Epicon, formerly known as Konsortium Transnasional Bhd, said it received a letter of demand on Tuesday from a legal firm appointed by Tan Chong Industrial Equipment Sdn Bhd (TCIE), a wholly-owned unit of Tan Chong. The demand covers claims against Transnasional Express Sdn Bhd, Plusliner Sdn Bhd, Syarikat Kenderaan Melayu Kelantan Bhd, Syarikat Rembau Tampin Sdn Bhd and Kenderaan Langkasuka Sdn Bhd — all former subsidiaries of Epicon. *(The Edge)*

EPICON: To partner with NCT Alliance for development in Batang Kali

Epicon Bhd is diversifying into property development by investing RM72.1m to form a joint venture with NCT Alliance Bhd to undertake a terraced home project in Batang Kali. Its unit Epicon Land Sdn Bhd has signed a conditional joint development agreement with NCT Alliance's wholly owned unit NCT Noble Sdn Bhd to undertake a project to develop 876 single-storey terraced homes on 72.1 acres in Mukim Batang Kali, located about 20km from Genting Highlands, according to Epicon in a filing with Bursa Malaysia. Under the agreement, NCT Noble will receive the landowner's entitlement of up to RM72.1m (comprising RM23.9m in costs, plus an additional profit-sharing sum not exceeding RM48.1m). This reflects a discount of RM1.8m, or about 2.5%, to the land's market value of RM74m. *(The Edge)*

REXIT: Appoints Jason Yong as new CFO

Rexit Bhd, a software-as-a-service (SaaS) provider for the insurance and financial services industry, has appointed Jason Yong Qun Yong as its new chief financial officer (CFO), effective Oct 1. Yong replaces Chan Shih Fei, who is retiring after serving as Rexit's CFO for 21 years, the company said. Rexit said Yong is an experienced finance professional with over 15 years in financial management, corporate restructuring and governance. He was previously a senior financial adviser at a boutique consultancy specialising in high-growth technology sectors. *(The Edge)*



Stock Selection Based on Dividend Yield

	Sector	Price (RM)	Dividend/Share (RM)	Dividend Yield (%)
British American Tobacco (M)	Consumer	5.18	0.53	10.23
Taliworks Corporation	Utilities	0.52	0.05	9.71
REXIT	Technology	0.54	0.05	9.35
MBM Resources	Consumer	5.19	0.42	8.05
KIP REIT	REIT	0.87	0.07	7.93
Sentral REIT	REIT	0.79	0.06	7.77
Bermaz Auto	Consumer	0.65	0.05	7.54
CapitaLand Malaysia Trust	REIT	0.62	0.05	7.42
Ta Ann Holdings	Plantation	4.15	0.31	7.35
Paramount Corporation	Property	1.04	0.07	7.21
MAG Holdings	Consumer	1.36	0.09	6.99
Magnum	Consumer	1.36	0.09	6.99
RHB Bank	Finance	6.51	0.45	6.85
YTL Hospital REIT	REIT	1.11	0.07	6.67
Sports Toto	Consumer	1.40	0.09	6.64

Source: Bloomberg

User guide: Mercury Securities compiles a list of dividend-yielding stocks for conservative long-term passive investors looking for regular income whilst capping downside risk of their investment.

Methodology: The list above includes stocks that have a high dividend yield, estimated to be greater than 4% per annum. These stocks also have a history of paying dividends consistently, having paid dividends for the past 3 years.

IPO Tracker

Company	Listing Sought	Issue Price (RM/Share)	No. Of Shares (m)		Closing Date	Listing Date
			Public Issue	Offer for Sale		
Cheeding Holdings Berhad	ACE Market	0.36	143.0	65.0	23 Sep	7 Oct



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