



Daily Newswatch

Market Review

The FBM KLCI extended its winning streak to a fifth straight session on Thursday, closing at its highest level in nine months at 1637.8. Shares on Bursa Malaysia finished broadly higher on Thursday, lifted by gains in the technology, healthcare and banking sectors. By sector, Industrial Products & Services rose 0.9%, Financial Services advanced 0.9% and Energy gained 0.6%. Among key index constituents, IHH was the top performer with a 4.0% gain, followed by TENAGA up 2.8% and 99SMART higher by 2.5%. Overall market breadth was positive, with 854 gainers against 355 losers.

On Thursday, Chinese equities advanced, with the Shanghai Composite up 0.5% and the Shenzhen Component rising 0.3% as sentiment improved on a sharp 20.4% rebound in August industrial profits and a slight uptick in the official manufacturing PMI to 49.8, which remained in contraction but signaled some stabilization. Demand-sensitive sectors such as non-ferrous metals and glass outperformed while ChiNext growth stocks gained on ample liquidity and targeted policy support. Turnover on the two major boards exceeded 2.1 tn yuan, reflecting broad participation even as some investors stayed cautious ahead of the Golden Week holiday.

On Thursday, European equities opened higher with the STOXX 600 up 0.5% and the STOXX 50 adding 1.2%, led by a strong rally in technology shares, particularly chipmakers, as optimism over steady earnings momentum and growing expectations of a near-term U.S. Fed rate cut lifted risk appetite, while healthcare also supported gains amid easing concerns on regulatory and drug-pricing pressures. The move was only marginally influenced by U.S. budget uncertainties, with investors viewing the potential government shutdown more as a background risk, and was separate from the midweek aerospace and defence rally that followed President Trump's Ukraine-related remarks.

On Thursday, U.S. stocks advanced with the S&P 500 up 0.1%, the Nasdaq gaining 0.4% and the Dow adding 0.2% supported by a decline in Treasury yields after weaker-than-expected private payrolls and softer manufacturing data reinforced expectations of Federal Reserve rate cuts, while healthcare and technology shares provided additional support and investors largely brushed off the potential government shutdown as a limited market risk.

Macro Snapshots

- US:** Unemployment rate likely steady at 4.3% in September, Chicago Fed says
- US:** Banks expect victory in capital requirements as Trump regulators revamp rules
- US:** Trump eyes firing 'thousands' of federal workers over shutdown
- MY:** Malaysia's business sentiment improves in 3Q, but challenges persist

Corporate Snapshots

- YNHPROP:** Seals new deal for Bangsar South development, less than four months after scrapping Chin Hin JV
- SCIB:** Gets RM113m offer from YTL Cement Sarawak for concrete unit, plans to accept
- MATRIX:** Founder Lee Tian Hock transfers 10m shares to son Chin Chuan
- UOADEV:** To sell business park assets to UOA REIT in RM200m deal

| The | Last Close | Daily chg % | YTD chg % |
|-------------|------------|-------------|-----------|
| FBM KLCI | 1,637.8 | 1.0 | (0.3) |
| Dow Jones | 46,519.7 | 0.2 | 9.3 |
| Nasdaq CI | 22,844.1 | 0.4 | 18.3 |
| S&P 500 | 6,715.4 | 0.1 | 14.2 |
| SX5E | 5,645.8 | 1.2 | 15.3 |
| FTSE 100 | 9,427.7 | (0.2) | 15.4 |
| Nikkei 225 | 44,936.7 | 0.9 | 12.6 |
| Shanghai CI | 3,882.8 | 0.5 | 15.8 |
| HSI | 27,287.1 | 1.6 | 36.0 |
| STI | 4,395.2 | 1.7 | 16.0 |

| Market Activities | Last Close | % Chg |
|-----------------------|------------|-------|
| Vol traded (m shares) | 4,275.6 | 72.4 |
| Value traded (RM m) | 3,926.1 | 57.7 |
| Gainers | 854 | |
| Losers | 355 | |
| Unchanged | 491 | |

| Top 5 Volume | Last Close | Daily chg % | Vol (m) |
|--------------|------------|-------------|---------|
| VS | 0.600 | 0.0 | 149.3 |
| CAMAROE | 0.150 | 7.1 | 92.7 |
| PHRM | 0.280 | (1.8) | 76.5 |
| BORNOIL | 0.005 | 0.0 | 56.5 |
| TANCO | 0.900 | (1.1) | 55.2 |

| Top 5 Turnover | Last Close | Daily chg % | Val (RM m) |
|----------------|------------|-------------|------------|
| IHH | 8.260 | 4.0 | 332.3 |
| CIMB | 7.600 | 2.0 | 168.4 |
| MAYBANK | 9.980 | 0.3 | 115.7 |
| TENAGA | 13.460 | 2.7 | 105.7 |
| INARI | 2.350 | 11.4 | 103.0 |

| Currencies | Last Close | % Chg |
|-----------------|------------|-------|
| USD/MYR | 4.207 | 0.0 |
| USD/JPY | 147.130 | 0.1 |
| EUR/USD | 1.173 | 0.1 |
| USD/CNY | 7.121 | 0.0 |
| US Dollar Index | 97.846 | 0.1 |

| Commodities | | |
|--------------------|-----------|-------|
| Brent (USD/barrel) | 64.1 | (1.9) |
| Gold (USD/troy oz) | 3,861.7 | 0.1 |
| CPO (MYR/metric t) | 4,417.0 | 0.1 |
| Bitcoin (USD/BTC) | 120,430.2 | (0.2) |

Source: Bloomberg



Macro News

US: Unemployment rate likely steady at 4.3% in September, Chicago Fed says

The US unemployment rate likely was 4.3% in September, unchanged from August, according to a new "real-time" estimate from the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago published on Thursday. It was only the second time the regional Fed bank has published its new metric, which is based on the government's Current Population Survey as well as data from non-government sources such as the online job site Indeed and Google. It is planned for release twice a month and is designed to give policymakers an early sense of a key labour market statistic rather than substitute for it. But with Friday's publication of the official monthly US employment report from the Bureau of Labor Statistics now delayed indefinitely by the 15th government shutdown since 1981, the regional Fed bank's estimate may take outsized significance as central bankers weigh their next move on interest rates. *(Reuters)*

US: Banks expect victory in capital requirements as Trump regulators revamp rules

As President Donald Trump's regulators revamp bank rules, big lenders expect their capital requirements could fall, in a stunning victory for the industry which faced a big hike under former president Joe Biden, according to senior industry executives. Aiming to cut red tape that Trump's agency picks say is hurting the US economy, they are working on the most sweeping overhaul of US capital rules since the global financial crisis of 2008. In addition to narrowing the "Basel Endgame" capital hikes which sparked unprecedented pushback from Wall Street banks, the Fed plans to reduce a capital surcharge levied on risky global banks, shrink a key leverage constraint, and overhaul annual tests that gauge whether lenders can withstand an economic shock. *(Reuters)*

US: Trump eyes firing 'thousands' of federal workers over shutdown

President Donald Trump is weighing slashing "thousands" of federal jobs ahead of a meeting with his budget director, Russell Vought, as the White House looks to ratchet up pressure on Democrats to end a government shutdown that has entered its second day. "It's likely going to be in the thousands," White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt told reporters on Thursday, saying that the "entire team at the White House" was working to identify possible cuts. "We're going to look at agencies that don't align with the administration's values, that we feel are a waste of the taxpayer dollar," she added. Leavitt's comments came after Trump on social media earlier on Thursday said he planned to meet with Vought to "determine which of the many Democrat Agencies, most of which are a political SCAM, he recommends to be cut, and whether or not those cuts will be temporary or permanent." *(Bloomberg)*

US: May ease tariffs on Scotch whisky to help bourbon industry

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)*

US: Trump targets deals in pharma, AI, energy, mining before midterm elections

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)*

MY: Business sentiment improves in 3Q, but challenges persist

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

YNHPROP: Seals new deal for Bangsar South development, less than four months after scrapping Chin Hin JV

YNH Property Bhd said on Thursday that it has entered into a joint venture deal to undertake a mixed high-rise development in Kuala Lumpur. Under the deal, YNH is granted the rights by Genland Sdn Bhd (GSB) to develop the project on a 7,235 sq m land in Bangsar South owned by the privately-held property developer. In a filing with Bursa Malaysia, loss-making YNH said it is exploring various funding options for the project, including internally-generated funds and bank borrowings. GSB will receive a minimum of about RM60m from YNH, or 18% of the project's gross development value (GDV), whichever is higher. This implies a minimum GDV of about RM333m for the project. *(The Edge)*

SCIB: Gets RM113m offer from YTL Cement Sarawak for concrete unit, plans to accept

Sarawak Consolidated Industries Bhd said YTL Cement (Sarawak) has offered to buy its subsidiary, SCIB Concrete Manufacturing, for RM113m. This offer is almost equal to SCIB's total market value of RM115.4m. SCIB Concrete Manufacturing is involved in the trading of construction materials, and the making and selling of concrete products like precast pipes and spun piles.

In a press statement, SCIB said that following internal deliberations, its board of directors has resolved to accept the offer in principle, subject to conditions including the successful negotiation and execution of a definitive share sale and purchase agreement.

(The Edge)

MATRIX: Founder Lee Tian Hock transfers 10m shares to son Chin Chuan

Matrix Concepts Holdings Bhd founder and group executive deputy chairman Datuk Seri Lee Tian Hock has transferred 10 million shares to his son Kelvin Lee Chin Chuan, who is also the company's group executive director. In a statement, Matrix Concepts said Chin Chuan will be driving the next phase of the company's journey, bringing fresh energy to its vision of growth and innovation. "The company is looking forward to this chapter as we continue to strengthen our position as a leading developer and trusted brand," the property developer added. The transfer, executed via RHB Nominees (Tempatan) Sdn Bhd – RHB Asset Management for Chin Chuan, was made at nil consideration, said Matrix Concepts. *(The Edge)*

UOADEV: To sell business park assets to UOA REIT in RM200m deal

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)*

T7GLOBAL: Largest shareholder Nik Norzrul raises stake to 22.7% as stock value halves from March peak

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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