



Daily Newswatch

Market Review

The FBM KLCI trimmed by 0.5% to 1,630 points on Tuesday as investors were busy with profit-taking. All sector indices except for consumer products, industrial products and technology closed in the red, with declines in property (-1.2%), healthcare (-1.2%) and telecommunications sector (-1.0%). Among key index constituents, loss was led by declines from IHH (-1.9%), Maxis (-1.6%) and Axiata (-1.5%). Overall market breadth saw losers outweigh gainers by 716 to 366.

Asian stocks saw gains as the Taiwan's TAIEX climbed by 1.7% to 27,211 points as the US markets saw AI-boom overnight. Gains were led by Leadtek Research, Ahoku Electronic and First Copper Technology, all by 10.0% increments. Meanwhile, The Nikkei 225 was flattish around 29,106 points with the Hang Seng marginally dropped by 0.7% to 26,957. The Nikkei saw led gainers from Fujikura (+5.5%) and GS Yuasa (+3.5%) and laggards driven by Lasertec (-5.0%) and SUMCO Corp (-4.4%). The Chinese market will resume tomorrow on 9th October 2025.

European equities closed slightly lower on Tuesday with the EURO STOXX 50 (-0.4%) and EURO STOXX 600 (-1.0%) closing at 5,610 and 569 points respectively. Markets continue to monitor the current political turmoil in France with concerns about fiscal instability in the region. The STOXX 50 saw Energy, Healthcare and Information technology retreated with decline by 0.6%, 0.6% and 1.0% respectively. The STOXX 600 followed suit with Healthcare and Information Technology dropping by 0.5% and 0.8% respectively. Among losers were banks with BNP Paribas, AXA, ING, and Santander dropping between 3% and 1%.

Wall Street inched down from all-time highs on Tuesday as investors balanced expectations of AI-driven growth against the ongoing government shutdown. A sharp sell-off in Oracle shares on lower-than-expected cloud margin reporting caused the S&P 500 to drop 0.4% for the first time in eight days, the Nasdaq to drop 0.8%, and the Dow to drop 99 points. As investors looked for safe havens, gold futures jumped beyond \$4,000 per ounce, Ford fell 7.6% following a supplier fire, and Tesla fell 4.4% after revealing a low-cost Model Y. Tech stocks had mixed performances, but economically sensitive industries like homebuilding, aviation, and transportation trailed. The prolonged shutdown is still obscuring the economic picture, postponing important data, and putting pressure on decision-makers to find a solution.

Macro Snapshots

- US:** Gold hits another record high on broader uncertainty, US rate cut bets
- CN:** World Bank lifts China 2025 GDP forecast to 4.8%
- MY:** Risks losing US export market share, E&E sector — World Bank
- ID:** Might move govt funds to regional banks — finance minister

Corporate Snapshots

- BNASTRA:** Secures first RM305m solar and battery project in Johor
- BIPORT:** Gets court permission to challenge RM44.2m tax bill
- ADVCON:** Wins adjudication award in ECRL payment dispute
- GDB:** Plans placing out 10% of its shares to raise RM39m

Key Indices	Last Close	Daily chg %	YTD chg %
FBM KLCI	1,630.0	(0.5)	(0.7)
Dow Jones	46,603.0	(0.2)	9.5
Nasdaq CI	22,788.4	(0.7)	18.0
S&P 500	6,714.6	(0.4)	14.2
SX5E	5,613.6	(0.3)	14.7
FTSE 100	9,483.6	0.0	16.0
Nikkei 225	47,950.9	0.0	20.2
Shanghai CI	3,882.8	0.5	15.8
HSI	26,957.8	(0.7)	34.4
STI	4,472.3	1.1	18.1
Market Activities		Last Close	% Chg
Vol traded (m shares)		3,483.9	(5.5)
Value traded (RM m)		2,984.2	14.5
Gainers		366	
Losers		716	
Unchanged		466	
Top 5 Volume	Last Close	Daily chg %	Vol (m)
BORNO	0.005	0.0	398.4
CHEEDING	0.735	104.2	163.5
PHRM	0.285	0.0	158.3
NEXGBINA	0.075	(16.7)	68.0
TANC	0.860	(2.8)	53.4
Top 5 Turnover	Last Close	Daily chg %	Val (RM m)
GAM	5.400	(1.3)	221.3
WPRTS	5.280	0.2	178.9
CHEEDING	0.735	104.2	120.6
RHBBANK	6.790	(0.6)	77.5
IHH	8.190	(1.9)	68.4
Currencies		Last Close	% Chg
USD/MYR		4.214	0.0
USD/JPY		151.840	0.0
EUR/USD		1.166	0.0
USD/CNY		7.121	0.0
US Dollar Index		98.578	0.5
Commodities		Last Close	% Chg
Brent (USD/barrel)		65.5	(0.0)
Gold (USD/troy oz)		3,988.4	0.1
CPO (MYR/metric t)		4,406.0	0.5
Bitcoin (USD/BTC)		122,008.3	(0.0)

Source: Bloomberg



Macro News

US: Gold hits another record high on broader uncertainty, US rate cut bets

Gold prices touched another record high on Tuesday driven by strong investment demand amid broader geopolitical and economic uncertainty with additional support from expectations of further US interest rate cuts. Spot gold held its ground at US\$3,956.02 (RM16,674.62) per ounce by 0745 GMT, after hitting an all-time high of US\$3,977.19 earlier in the session. US gold futures for December delivery were steady at US\$3,972.20. The White House on Monday eased back on US President Donald Trump's claim that lay-offs of government employees were underway due to the ongoing shutdown but warned that job losses could occur as the impasse entered its seventh day. *(Reuters)*

US: Global crypto ETFs attract record US\$5.95b as bitcoin scales new highs

Exchange-traded funds (ETFs) tracking crypto assets drew record inflows of US\$5.95bn (RM25bn) globally last week, as strong demand for digital assets helped propel bitcoin to an all-time high. Digital asset investment products garnered the record capital in the week ended Oct 4, according to data from Coinshares. Bitcoin, the world's largest cryptocurrency, surpassed its August peak to hit a record high on Oct 5, extending its gains to reach US\$126,223 for the first time on Monday. The United States led with US\$5bn inflows in crypto ETFs, followed by Switzerland at US\$563m and Germany at US\$312m, both setting new records, Coinshares said. Bitcoin attracted US\$3.55bn, ether US\$1.48bn, while solana and XRP drew US\$706.5m and US\$219.4m, respectively. Bitcoin's ascent comes alongside a record rally in traditional safe haven gold, as a weakening US dollar amid trade uncertainty and economic concerns is pushing investors to diversify their portfolios. *(Reuters)*

CN: World Bank lifts China 2025 GDP forecast to 4.8% ahead of a slowdown next year

The World Bank lifted its 2025 growth projection for China to 4.8% and raised its forecast for much of the region, but warned of slowing momentum next year, citing low consumer and business confidence and weak new export orders. Publishing its biannual economic outlook for East Asia and the Pacific region on Tuesday, the World Bank said it now expected China to grow 4.2% next year, after forecasting in April growth of 4.0% both this year and next. The World Bank said it expected the rest of the East Asia and Pacific region to grow by 4.4% in 2025 — a 0.2 percentage point uplift — but stuck to its 4.5% prediction for 2026. *(Reuters)*

MY: Risks losing US export market share, E&E sector in uphill battle — World Bank

The World Bank has warned that Malaysia risks losing its US export market share to competing countries with lower tariffs, and that an uphill battle lies ahead for the electrical and electronics (E&E) sector. Nearly 60% of Malaysian goods exported to the US by value, currently subject to a 19% tariff, are also exported by countries with lower tariffs, World Bank lead economist for Malaysia Dr Apurva Sanghi said at a media briefing on Tuesday. The E&E sector is especially at risk and may be up for a tough time ahead, according to Apurva, even though half of E&E exports are currently exempted from US tariffs. The sector faces greater potential exposure to US tariffs than its regional peers, dwindling advanced integrated chip (IC) market share, and suffers from structural issues concerning insufficient research and development (R&D) expenditure. Looking at trade in value-added (TiVA), value added by each country in the production of goods and services, Apurva said Malaysia's E&E sector's exposure to US tariffs stands at 27% — above that of neighbouring Vietnam, Thailand and the Philippines. *(The Edge)*

MY: BNM launches Rentas+ to enable round-the-clock interbank settlement

Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) has introduced an enhanced settlement system dubbed Rentas+, which enables round-the-clock interbank settlement as part of efforts to reduce credit and settlement risks from the surge in retail instant payments. The enhancement to the country's existing real-time gross settlement system Rentas allows continuous interbank funds transfer and settlement 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Rentas+ also facilitates settlement of retail payments immediately after completion, instead of twice a day — a process that carries credit exposure between banks. The enhancement comes amid rapid growth in retail payments, with daily transaction volume and value surging 49% and 22% respectively since 2024. *(The Edge)*

ID: Might move govt funds to regional banks — finance minister

Indonesia is looking at the possibility of moving government funds of between five trillion rupiah (US\$302.5m or RM1.3bn) and 10tn rupiah to regional banks, its finance minister said on Tuesday. Purbaya Yudhi Sadewa said the regional bank of Jakarta, as well as East Java's Bank Pembangunan Daerah Jawa Timur, currently have the capacity to use the funds. In September, the minister transferred 200 trillion rupiah kept at the central bank to several state banks, including Bank Mandiri, Bank Negara Indonesia, Bank Rakyat Indonesia, Bank Tabungan Negara and Bank Syariah Indonesia. The move is aimed at boosting economic growth, which has remained at around 5% since the Covid-19 pandemic. *(Reuters)*



Corporate News

BNASTRA: Secures first RM305m solar and battery project in Johor via related-party deal

Binastra Corporation Bhd announced that its unit, Binastra Green Energy, has secured a RM305 million contract from Bahru Stainless Sdn Bhd (BSSB). The deal, signed on Oct 7, 2025, is a recurrent related party transaction. In a Bursa Malaysia filing, Binastra said the project, to be installed at BSSB's plant in Tanjung Langsat, Johor, includes infrastructure works, a 65MWp solar PV system, and a 200MWh battery storage system and is expected to be completed within nine months of the start date. The contract will support Binastra's earnings over the next two years. Datuk Tan in a statement said the project marks a key step in advancing renewable energy for industrial users, in line with Malaysia's National Energy Transition Roadmap (NETR) and Solar Energy Self-Consumption (SelCo) programme. *(The Edge)*

BIPORT: Gets court permission to challenge RM44.2m tax bill

Bintulu Port Holdings Bhd has obtained the High Court's permission to challenge the Inland Revenue Board's additional tax assessment of RM44.2 million. The group, which is challenging the tax bills issued for the years 2020 through 2023, announced in a filing Tuesday that the High Court had granted leave for the judicial review application on Aug 28. At the same time, the court also granted an interim stay of proceedings, which was supposed to last until the next hearing date on Sept 25. But the hearing on Sept 25 was converted to case management to allow Bintulu Port to file its response to IRB's affidavit. Hence, the interim stay has now been extended until the substantive hearing of the case on Nov 20, according to Bintulu Port's bourse filing on Tuesday. *(The Edge)*

GDB: Plans placing out 10% of its shares to raise RM39m for working capital

Construction firm GDB Holdings Bhd has proposed a private placement of 93.75 million new shares, representing about 10% of its issued share capital, to independent third-party investors Datuk Seri Chan Leng Sam and Datuk Seri Voon Thien Loong. The shares will be issued at 41.9 sen apiece, raising approximately RM39.28 million to fund the group's working capital, GDB said in a Bursa Malaysia filing. Chan and Voon, both active in businesses spanning plantations, construction and food and beverage, are not existing shareholders of GDB. Neither has family ties or conflicts of interest with GDB, its directors or shareholders, and neither holds directorships or substantial stakes in any other Bursa-listed company, said GDB. *(The Edge)*

PGB: Boosts Reservoir Link stake to over 14% with stake sale in O&G unit; plans capital reduction and placement

Propel Global Bhd is selling an indirectly-owned 70% stake in oil and gas (O&G) services firm Propel Maxflo Sdn Bhd to the Reservoir Link Bhd, in return for RM13.8m cash, and a 4.4% additional stake in Reservoir Link. The deal, which values the 70% stake at RM17.2m, will up Propel Global's interest in Reservoir Link to 14.3% from 9.8%, as Reservoir Link will issue 18.7 million new shares at 18.5 sen apiece or RM3.5 million to Propel Global, on top of the cash payment. Propel Global's 49%-owned unit Propel Oilfield Services Sdn Bhd inked an agreement with Reservoir Link on Tuesday for the transaction, bourse filings from both Propel Global and Reservoir Link on Tuesday showed. The exercise will be completed by the end of this year. *(The Edge)*

ADVCON: Wins adjudication award in ECRL payment dispute

Advancecon Holdings Bhd said the group has secured a favourable adjudication decision against China Communication Construction (ECRL) Sdn Bhd (CCC) in relation to a payment dispute involving the East Coast Rail Link (ECRL) project. Advancecon said its wholly-owned subsidiary, Advancecon Infra Sdn Bhd, was awarded RM7m following proceedings administered by the Asian International Arbitration Centre. However, the amount is less than the RM15.2m claimed by the group. In addition to the adjudicated sum, CCC has been directed to bear adjudication-related and legal costs amounting to RM361,508, inclusive of interest until full settlement, said Advancecon in a statement. *(The Edge)*

Upcoming key economic data releases	Date
US Initial Jobless Claims	Oct 9
US Wholesale Inventories	Oct 9
US Nonfarm Payrolls	Oct 10
US Unemployment Rate	Oct 10
Source: Bloomberg	



Stock Selection Based on Dividend Yield

	Sector	Price (RM)	Dividend/Share (RM)	Dividend Yield (%)
British American Tobacco (M)	Consumer	4.96	0.53	10.69
Taliworks Corporation	Utilities	0.53	0.05	9.52
REXIT	Technology	0.54	0.05	9.26
MBM Resources	Consumer	5.30	0.42	7.89
Sentral REIT	REIT	0.78	0.06	7.87
KIP REIT	REIT	0.89	0.07	7.80
Ta Ann Holdings	Plantation	4.14	0.31	7.39
CapitaLand Malaysia Trust	REIT	0.63	0.05	7.36
Bermaz Auto	Consumer	0.68	0.05	7.26
Paramount Corporation	Property	1.07	0.08	7.01
MAG Holdings	Consumer	1.36	0.09	6.99
Magnum	Consumer	1.36	0.09	6.99
YTL Hospital REIT	REIT	1.11	0.07	6.67
RHB Bank	Finance	6.79	0.45	6.57
Sports Toto	Consumer	1.42	0.09	6.55

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		
Verdant Solar Holdings Berhad	ACE Market	0.31	142.0	73.6	7 Oct	22 Oct
THMY Holdings Berhad	ACE Market	0.31	143.9	88.8	9 Oct	23 Oct
Insights Analytics Berhad	ACE Market	0.36	121.0	27.5	13 Oct	27 Oct
Powertechnic Group Berhad	ACE Market	0.35	63.0	21.0	14 Oct	28 Oct

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