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MARKET WATCH
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Daily Newswatch

Market Review

The FBM KLCI slumped 0.4% on Friday to close at 1,727.4, as investors remained cautious amid volatile global oil prices and continued uncertainty over the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz. Industrial Products & Services (-1.2%), Construction (-1.0%) and Energy (-0.5%) led sectoral losses, dragged by Press Metal (-3.5%), Gamuda (-2.4%) and SD Guthrie (-2.2%). Market breadth remained bearish, with 619 losers outnumbering 537 gainers, while 555 counters closed unchanged. WoW, the benchmark fell 0.5%, led by losses in Plantation (-2.2%), Financial Services (-0.4%) and Industrial Products & Services (-0.4%). Meanwhile, Energy (+2.8%), Technology (+1.9%) and Health Care (+1.2%) were the top-performing sectors. Among index constituents, YTL Corp (+7.1%), YTL Power (+4.1%) and IOI Properties (+2.0%) rallied as Kuala Lumpur Kepong (-4.8%), SD Guthrie (-3.5%) and Press Metal (-3.0%) slumped.

Asian markets mostly advanced on Friday, heading for their strongest week in two months as softer inflation data reduced expectations of an imminent US rate hike, although faltering talks to end the Middle East conflict continued to weigh on risk sentiment. The KOSPI led gains, rising 2.4% to 6,977.9, followed by the Nikkei 225 (+0.6% to 68,713.8) and Shanghai Composite (+0.1% to 3,927.2), while the Hang Seng (-1.1% to 25,116.9) and TAIEX (-0.5% to 45,811.0) declined. In South Korea, gains were led by Communications (+6.0%), Energy Minerals (+4.8%) and Consumer Durables (+4.8%), while China's losses were driven by Utilities (-1.8%), Consumer Services (-1.5%) and Consumer Non-Durables (-1.0%). WoW, the KOSPI (+13.6%), TAIEX (+6.9%), Nikkei 225 (+5.4%), Hang Seng (+2.4%) and Shanghai Composite (+1.7%) all posted gains.

European stocks closed marginally lower on Friday as technology stocks pulled back and pharmaceutical counters retreated. The STOXX Europe 50 eased 0.1% from Thursday's record high to 6,540, while the STOXX Europe 600 fell 0.2% to 658. ASML slipped 0.2%, trimming part of its sharp weekly advance as investors continued to assess hyperscalers' AI infrastructure spending, with Anthropic and OpenAI reportedly set to pursue IPOs this year. Infineon also fell 1.3%. Meanwhile, European pharmaceutical stocks came under pressure, with Argenx and Sanofi declining 3.2% and 1.2%, respectively. WoW: the STOXX 50 and STOXX 600 increased 0.5% and 0.1%, respectively.

Wall Street closed lower on Friday as a series of macroeconomic indicators pointed to a cooling US economy. The S&P 500 eased 0.2% from its record high, while the Dow Jones fell 108 points and the Nasdaq declined 0.3%. The University of Michigan's preliminary August consumer sentiment index fell to 51, below the forecast of 55, while retail sales declined in July by the most in more than a year. The data, alongside weaker jobs figures and softer inflation, suggested that economic momentum is moderating. Hyperscalers including Oracle (-3.7%) and Meta (-0.9%) fell, while AMD (+6.5%) extended its strong gains. WoW: the S&P, Nasdaq and Dow Jones rose 2.3%, 5.5% and 0.2%, respectively.

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Indices	Last Close	Daily chg %	YTD chg %
FBM KLCI	1,727.4	(0.4)	2.8
Dow Jones	53,732.4	(0.2)	11.8
Nasdaq CI	26,729.2	(0.3)	15.0
S&P 500	7,785.8	(0.2)	13.7
SX5E	6,539.6	(0.1)	12.9
FTSE 100	10,750.1	(0.2)	8.2
Nikkei 225	68,713.8	0.6	36.5
Shanghai CI	3,927.2	0.0	(1.0)
HSI	25,116.9	(1.1)	(2.0)
STI	5,743.6	0.4	23.6

Market Activities	Last Close	% Chg
Vol traded (m shares)	3,505.8	(0.4)
Value traded (RM m)	2,597.9	(14.9)
Gainers	537	
Losers	619	
Unchanged	555	

Top 5 Volume	Last Close	Daily chg %	Vol (m)
JAK	0.105	16.7	122.5
KEYA	0.075	(6.3)	107.6
HHR	0.135	(12.9)	56.2
TANC	0.260	6.1	55.7
KAB	0.120	20.0	47.5

Top 5 Turnover	Last Close	Daily chg %	Val (RM m)
MAY	10.600	0.0	175.2
PMAH	7.700	(3.5)	115.6
YTLP	4.880	0.6	104.4
PBK	5.130	(0.6)	76.3
GAM	4.410	(2.4)	72.0

Currencies	Last Close	Daily chg %
USD/MYR	4.086	0.0
USD/JPY	159.320	0.1
EUR/USD	1.157	0.4
USD/CNY	6.745	0.0
US Dollar Index	99.667	(0.3)

Commodities	Last Close	% Chg
Brent (USD/barrel)	88.5	1.7
Gold (USD/troy oz)	4,376.4	0.6
CPO (MYR/metric t)	4,576.0	(0.7)
Bitcoin (USD/BTC)	62,973.6	0.2

Source: Bloomberg

Macro News

US: Oil prices rally; US data dents chances of Fed rate hike

US and European shares fell on Friday and oil prices rose more than US$1 a barrel as markets monitored tense US-Iran talks and digested new data that dented expectations for a Federal Reserve (Fed) rate hike next month. Faltering talks to end the Iran war left oil and gas prices poised for sizeable weekly gains. The US threatened to ramp up economic pressure on Iran, including extending a naval blockade. US consumer sentiment deteriorated in early August amid the rising cost of living because of the Middle East conflict, a survey showed on Friday. *(Reuters)*

US: Retail Sales Unexpectedly Fall

US retail sales fell 0.6% month-on-month in July 2026, sharply missing expectations for a 0.1% rise and reversing June's 0.2% gain. It was the first decline since October 2025 and the biggest since May last year, driven by weaker sales at nonstore retailers (-2.2%), likely reflecting spending pulled forward into June after Amazon moved its Prime Day event from July to June this year. Also, sales fell at motor vehicle & parts dealers (-1.8%), gasoline stations (-0.9%) and electronics & appliance stores (-0.5%). The data is not adjusted for inflation. Excluding autos and gasoline, sales fell 0.2%. Increases were seen in sales at clothing & clothing accessories stores (1.9%), health & personal care stores (0.7%), building material & garden eq. & supplies dealers (0.3%), and furniture & home furn. stores (0.3%). Sales excluding food services, auto dealers, building materials stores and gasoline stations, which are used to calculate GDP, were down 0.4%, the most since the start of 2025. *(U.S. Census Bureau)*

US: Consumer Sentiment Falls in August

The University of Michigan's consumer sentiment index fell to 51 in early August 2026, down from 55.2 in July and below market expectations of 54.5, ending two consecutive months of improvement. Both major components weakened, with the current conditions index declining to 51.8 and the expectations measure falling to 50.6. The deterioration was broad-based across political and demographic groups, with particularly sharp declines among older, lower-income and less-educated consumers, who are more exposed to rising prices. Expectations for business conditions also worsened significantly, falling 11% over the next year and 17% over the longer term. Inflation concerns increased slightly, with year-ahead expectations rising to 4.3% from 4.2%, while the long-term outlook remained unchanged at 3.3%. *(University of Michigan)*

US: 10-Year Yield Rebounds Toward 19-Month High

The yield on the 10-Year US Treasury note swung upward to the 4.7% mark on Friday, not far from the 19-month high of 4.75% tested earlier in the week on renewed aversion to bonds on the long end of the curve. Year-ahead inflation expectations compiled by the University of Michigan rose in August, a fifth month above the 4% level. This was aligned with lingering concerns that the Federal Reserve may be complacent to inflationary risks in the US economy, recently exacerbated by the surge in energy prices due to the war in the Middle East. Signals from Fed Chair Warsh that a rate hike may not be his preferred instrument against inflation drove long-dated yields to surge, with the 30-year bond rising to a 19-year high. Treasuries were also pressured by concerns that Japan could sell some of their ample reserves should the Ministry of Finance defend against a weak yen again. Treasuries undercame selling pressure despite softer-than-expected producer prices and weak retail sales data. *(Trading Economics)*

US: Warns Iran it will step up economic pressure; two more ships attacked in Hormuz

Transit through the Strait of Hormuz appeared to grind to a near standstill on Friday after two more ships were attacked there and the United States said it could maintain a naval blockade of Iran indefinitely. A senior Iranian source said on Wednesday that there had been no progress in talks to build on a June agreement to end the war. As a ceasefire renewed then broke down, Iran has resumed attacks on ships it accuses of trying to transit the strait without its permission. Two vessels from the state-owned Abu Dhabi National Oil Company were attacked transiting the strait on Thursday evening, UAE state news agency *WAM* reported. *(Reuters)*

US: White House says transshipped goods cost up to US$26 bil in lost tariffs

The White House said on Thursday the United States is losing annual tariff revenue of about US$19 billion to US$26 billion on goods, largely from China, that are transshipped through third countries to avoid US import duties. The report by White House trade and manufacturing adviser Peter Navarro identifies about 40 countries with an elevated risk of being sources of illegal transshipments, many linked to minimal processing, relabeling and repackaging of Chinese-origin components. The report ranks India among China's "biggest enablers", calling it is a top-tier transshipment-risk jurisdiction. It estimates India, Mexico and Vietnam accounted for about US$67 billion in US-bound goods allegedly transshipped from China in 2025, costing an estimated US$28 billion in lost US tariff revenue. *(Reuters)*

CN: July bank loans post record contraction as credit demand falters

China's new yuan loans posted a record contraction in July, missing forecasts as seasonal factors and weak household credit demand weighed on lending in the world's second-largest economy. New yuan loans were down by 340 billion yuan (US$50.4 billion or RM206 billion) in July — the largest decline on record and the second contraction this year, after April — *Reuters* calculations based on People's Bank of China data released on Friday showed. "This weakness in loan demand comes despite the fact that nominal bank lending rates have continued to edge down," Capital Economics said in a note. *(Reuters)*

CN: PBOC's first mid-month overnight reverse repo boosts bonds

China's central bank injected liquidity through overnight reverse repos on Friday, marking its first such operation in the middle of a month in a boost to bond bulls. The People's Bank of China (PBOC) conducted 349 billion yuan (US$51.7 billion or RM211.5 billion) of overnight reverse repos, it said in a statement. Taking into account the one billion yuan maturity in the seven-day contracts, the operation resulted in a net injection of 348 billion yuan into the banking system — the first such addition this month. Following the move, China's 10-year government bond yield fell one basis point to 1.68%, its lowest level since July 2025. Strong investor demand carried over into a sovereign debt sale on Friday, pushing 10-year auction yields to the lowest in over a year. (*Bloomberg*)

CN: Trump's 100% tariff on drones deepens US-China tech decoupling

The Trump administration is imposing tariffs of as much as 100% on imported drones and their components, escalating efforts to reduce US reliance on foreign suppliers and potentially accelerating a decoupling of drone supply chains with China. The top rate will apply to heavier drones — weighing more than 25 kilogrammes — or those that possess certain capabilities, the White House said on Thursday. Smaller drones will be taxed at 25%, while lower rates apply to some trading partners such as the European Union and Japan. The statement didn't mention China, but the tariffs risk reinforcing a two-way separation with the world's dominant drone manufacturer already under way. They also add to a drumbeat of tit-for-tat measures just weeks before Chinese leader Xi Jinping is expected to meet with President Donald Trump in the US. (*Bloomberg*)

HK: Raises growth outlook as global AI demand boosts trade

Hong Kong raised its full-year growth forecast after a global investment boom in artificial intelligence supercharged exports and helped deliver the economy's strongest first-half performance in almost five years. The government on Friday said gross domestic product would expand 3.5% to 4.5% in 2026, up from a previous projection of 2.5% to 3.5%. The more upbeat assessment came despite slowing growth momentum. The economy expanded 4.3% last quarter, easing from 5.9% in the first three months, according to figures from the Census and Statistics Department. That was the first decline on a quarter-on-quarter basis in nearly four years. *(Bloomberg)*

SG: Stocks' record run gets 'Goldilocks' boost from growth

Singapore's stocks have outperformed the world over the past month as their traditional strengths of high dividend yields and resilient balance sheets get a lift from a "Goldilocks" economic backdrop. Robust growth fuelled by tech exports, alongside productivity gains that are helping keep inflation in check, has boosted corporate earnings, prompting JPMorgan Chase & Co to use the "Goldilocks" label. The nation's benchmark equity index has surged 23% to a series of record highs this year, following a similar gain in 2025. Fund managers say the rally has room to run. Jupiter Asset Management Ltd believes the nation's expanding economy and strengthening currency will underpin further equity gains, while Eastspring Investments points to structural themes such as wealth management and artificial intelligence (AI)-related infrastructure as driving inflows. (*Reuters*)

ID: Prabowo proposes deficit at 2.4% of GDP in 2027 budget, plans commodity bourse

Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto on Friday proposed to Parliament a US$230 billion budget for 2027 with a fiscal deficit at 2.4% of GDP, with plans to maximise benefits from resource earnings to boost growth to 6% next year. In his annual budget speech to Parliament, Prabowo said the 2027 budget will remain expansive and will be focused on eight key programmes, which include achieving food and energy self-sufficiency, building domestic industrial sectors and education. Prabowo, who pledged tighter control over the country's natural resources, also proposed a plan to create a commodity exchange for Indonesia's strategic commodities, aiming to launch operations on Jan 1, 2027. (*Reuters*)

MY: Economy picks up pace, grows at faster-than-expected 6% in 2Q

Malaysia's economy expanded faster than expected in the second quarter of 2026, as household spending and strong exports bucked Iran war concerns. Gross domestic product rose 6.0% in April-June period when compared to the same quarter in 2025, Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) said in a statement on Friday. The rate was higher than the official flash estimate of 5.8% and the 5.4% year-on-year gain in the first quarter. On a seasonally-adjusted basis, the economy gained 2.5% quarter-on-quarter. "The Malaysian economy remains on a firm footing," said BNM governor Datuk Seri Abdul Rasheed Ghaffour. "Strength across key export segments is expected to support export growth despite heightened external uncertainties." *(The Edge)*

MY: PM acknowledges cost-of-living woes despite robust 6% 2Q GDP growth, vows continued support

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim acknowledged that many Malaysians continue to face cost-of-living pressures despite stronger headline economic indicators, and pledged to continue prioritising measures to protect household purchasing power and support affected workers and businesses. "While the headline economic indicators remain encouraging, we recognise that many Malaysians continue to face pressures from the cost of living, while some workers and businesses are navigating a more difficult operating environment," Anwar, who is also finance minister, said in a statement issued by the Ministry of Finance (MOF) on Friday. *(The Edge)*

MY: Bank Negara says 2026 growth likely to be around 5% after three quarters of outperformance

Malaysia's economic growth has exceeded Bank Negara Malaysia's (BNM) expectations for the past three quarters, putting full-year growth on track to come in at around 5% — the top end of the central bank's 2026 forecast. BNM is maintaining its official gross domestic product (GDP) growth forecast of 4%-5% for now, but governor Datuk Seri Abdul Rasheed Ghaffour said recent data and high-frequency indicators suggest growth is likely to be around 5%. "We believe that given the data points that we have seen so far and the high-frequency data, we believe it will be around 5%," Abdul Rasheed told reporters at a press conference on Friday. *(The Edge)*

MY: Malaysia can achieve high-income status in three years

Malaysia has the potential to achieve high-income nation status in the next two to three years if the people continue to work hard and remain united in driving the country's progress. Deputy Investment, Trade and Industry Minister Sim Tze Tzin said Malaysia is currently classified as an upper middle-income country, and recent economic developments, including the country's trade performance, indicate that it is moving in a positive direction. He said such confidence was underpinned by the nation's trade performance in the first half of 2026, were it rose by 22.4% to RM1.79 trillion. *(Bernama)*

MY: Current account surplus narrows in 2Q despite stronger exports

Malaysia's current account surplus fell to RM10.8 billion in the second quarter of 2026 (2Q2026), well below economists' expectations of a rise in the surplus. A *Bloomberg* survey had expected the surplus to widen to RM24.9 billion. The decline was mainly due to weaker services and investment income, despite stronger electrical and electronics (E&E) exports. The current account surplus was equivalent to 2% of gross domestic product (GDP), compared with RM15.2 billion or 3% of GDP in the preceding quarter. Malaysia's goods surplus widened to RM40.7 billion from RM33.6 billion, as manufacturing exports grew faster than imports. *(The Edge)*

MY: Inflation stays contained as firms absorbing higher costs

Most Malaysian businesses are still absorbing higher input costs rather than passing them fully on to consumers, helping keep inflation contained, Malaysia's central bank said. Nearly 80% of businesses reported facing higher cost pressures, but only about half of them indicated that they may pass those costs on to consumers, Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) governor Datuk Seri Abdul Rasheed Ghaffour said at a press conference on Friday. "We don't have very strong demand," he said. "Demand is resilient but it's not excessive, so therefore the businesses' pricing behaviour will also be affected by that." BNM maintained its 2026 headline inflation forecast at between 1.5% and 2.5% as recent inflation readings and high-frequency indicators remain broadly in line with its projection. *(The Edge)*

MY: PKFZ rejects tariff-evasion claims, says Chinese-linked businesses in free zone not evidence of wrongdoing

The Port Klang Free Zone (PKFZ) does not facilitate or condone tariff evasion, false declarations or illegal transshipment, its chairman Lim Lip Eng said, responding to concerns raised in a recent US report about global trade and tariff-evasion practices. The report, titled "The Great Transshipment Scam: Rise, Scope and Costs", named Malaysia among 40-over countries accused of serving as conduits for illegal pass-through. It placed Malaysia in Tier 2 as a 'scale leader with significant integration with China', and warned that local deep-water ports, manufacturing hubs and free trade zones are being exploited to cloak Chinese origin and bypass US Section 301 tariffs and anti-dumping duties. *(The Edge)*

MY: Gobind: Govt taking proactive steps to prepare for future technology challenges

The government will continue to take a proactive approach in formulating policies and developing the technology ecosystem, particularly in artificial intelligence (AI), to ensure the country is ready to face future technological challenges, said Digital Minister Gobind Singh Deo. He said the previous general approach, which was largely reactive and focused on finding solutions only after problems arose, was no longer suitable given the rapid pace of technological development. The establishment of AI Malaysia as the lead body to drive country's aspiration of becoming an AI nation by 2030 was among the government's strategic measures to anticipate potential challenges and prepare solutions in advance, he said. "Traditionally, the government's approach has been to look at policies, legislation and enforcement when an issue arises. This takes time and, ultimately, we only respond reactively to problems. *(Bernama)*

MY: Penang records RM350b in E&E exports in 1H2026, needs more skilled talent — CM

Penang recorded more than RM350 billion in electrical and electronics (E&E) exports in the first half of 2026 (1H2026), an increase of more than 80% compared with the same period last year. Chief Minister Chow Kon Yeow said the strong export performance reflected surging global demand for semiconductor products and further reinforced Penang's position as Malaysia's E&E hub."Penang's electrical and electronics exports consistently contributed more than 60% to the nation's total E&E exports," he said in his speech at the closing ceremony of the Netherlands-Southeast Asia Semiconductor Talent Programme 2026 at Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) here Friday. *(Bernama)*

MY: George Town heritage properties back in vogue as rents, prices surge

Rental rates and selling prices for pre-war shophouses in George Town's Unesco core zone have skyrocketed 20% above 2024 levels, pushing per-square-foot rents past RM3 in prime locations like Campbell Street as tourism rebounds and supply tightens. The rental boom is mirrored by a surge in sale prices, with per-square-foot values now ranging from RM2,000 to RM3,000 depending on location. According to One Asia Property chief operating officer Lim Ewe Tatt, some 150 and 250 pre-war properties changed hands in 2025, with total transaction value estimated between RM250 million and RM300 million. *(Bernama)*

Corporate News

KERJAYA: Becomes largest shareholder of ES Sunlogy with RM40.18m stake purchase

Kerjaya Prospek Group Bhd's unit, Acumen Marketing Sdn Bhd, has increased its stake in ACE Market-listed ES Sunlogy Bhd to 28.27% after acquiring shares from 18 shareholders for RM40.18 million, making it the company's largest shareholder. In a filing with Bursa Malaysia, the company said the shares were bought at an average 27.2 sen each through direct off-market deals. The purchase price was 28.42% below ES Sunlogy's closing price of 38 sen on Aug 13. The company said based on information available to the company, it is not aware of the vendors being directors and major shareholders of Kerjaya Prospek. Acumen Marketing's stake in ES Sunlogy is now less than five percentage points below the 33% mandatory general offer threshold. *(The Edge*)

DESTINI: Reshuffles board ahead of EGM to remove directors, Shahril Mokhtar returns as group MD

Integrated engineering and defence services provider Destini Bhd had reshuffled its board, with Datuk Seri Dr Shahril Mokhtar, 54, returning as executive director and group managing director. The move comes ahead of a planned Aug 21 extraordinary general meeting (EGM) to remove four directors, including its executive chairman. Shahril was redesignated as a non-independent non-executive director on July 21. Three days later, shareholders claiming to hold more than 10% of Destini's shares — LINC Shared Services Sdn Bhd, Veritas Aman Sdn Bhd, WP Travel Sdn Bhd and Azulite Bloom Sdn Bhd — requisitioned an EGM to remove four directors and appoint two new ones. *(The Edge*)

POS: Remains in the red with slight dip in 2Q losses; 1H operating cashflow turns positive

Pos Malaysia Bhd said the group will continue working with the government on reforms that support a sustainable postal ecosystem, as it narrowed its second-quarter net loss year on year but remained in the red. The group incurred a net loss of RM43.46 million for the quarter ended June 30, 2026, down from RM45.42 million a year earlier, its bourse filing on Friday showed, as revenue rose 9% to RM481.3 million from RM441.57 million. The group, which has been loss-making since FY2019, did not declare any dividends with the latest results. Aside from improved revenue, lower finance costs, other expenses and taxation contributed to the narrower net loss. But its core postal segment saw loss before tax deepen 39.9% to RM55.2 million, despite a slight increase in revenue and a 34.3% jump in parcel volume growth, no thanks to lower forex gains and higher operating expenses. *(The Edge*)

CDB: 2Q profit slides 9.3%; declares 3.4 sen dividend

CelcomDigi Bhd posted a 9.3% year-over-year decline in attributable net profit for the second quarter (2QFY2026) mainly due to higher expenses and share of joint-venture losses as well as absence of gain on asset disposal. For the three months ended June 30, profit fell to RM398 million from RM439 million a year earlier, while earnings per share fell to 3.39 sen from 3.74 sen, according to a Bursa Malaysia filing on Friday. Revenue was marginally up by 0.3% to RM3.186 billion from RM3.178 billion for the three months ended June 30, driven by subscriber gains in the postpaid and home and fibre segments. *(The Edge*)

MAXIS: 2Q net profit grows 9.6%, declares dividend of four sen per share

Mobile network operator Maxis Bhd said its net profit rose 9.6% year-on-year in the second quarter ended June 30, 2026 (2QFY2026), while revenue grew 3.7%. Net profit for the quarter came in at RM436 million, compared with RM398 million a year earlier, according to an exchange filing on Friday. Maxis also declared an interim dividend of four sen per share. Revenue rose to RM2.66 billion from RM2.56 billion, mainly supported by higher service revenue and device sales. Service revenue increased 2.2% to RM2.25 billion. *(The Edge*)

HEXTAR: Ventures into property via RM3.8 bil Shah Alam project with PKNS

Crop protection products manufacturer and distributor Hextar Global Bhd is diversifying into property development with a RM3.8 billion gross development value (GDV) mixed-use project in Shah Alam, in partnership with a unit of the Selangor state development agency.

The project, Hextar Global's maiden property development, will be undertaken through a joint venture with Kotaputeri Development Sdn Bhd (KDSB), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Perbadanan Kemajuan Negeri Selangor (PKNS), according to a Bursa Malaysia filing on Friday. The proposed development spans 240.39 acres of leasehold land in Siera Alam, Shah Alam, and is expected to be developed over 10 years. Its preliminary gross development cost is estimated at RM2.8 billion, including the RM270 million land purchase price.*(The Edge*)

OVH: Units secure PETRONAS panel contractor appointment for integrated well continuity services

Ocean Vantage Holdings Bhd said two of its wholly-owned subsidiaries have been appointed by Petroliam Nasional Bhd (PETRONAS) as panel contractors for integrated well continuity services covering intervention, workover and abandonment activities. Ocean Vantage Engineering Sdn Bhd (OVE) and Ocean Vantage Inspection Testing Sdn Bhd (OVIT) were collectively appointed for 10 of the 13 packages under PETRONAS' Pan Malaysia Appointment of Panel Contractors for the Provision of Integrated Well Continuity Services (IWCS), according to the group's bourse filing on Friday. OVE was appointed for nine IWCS packages covering services including coiled tubing, wellhead maintenance and well leak repair, through tubing, integrated well intervention, workover and abandonment, and subsea intervention, while OVIT was appointed for slickline services. *(The Edge*)

CARLSBG: Posts almost flat 2Q earnings, says excise duty starting to hurt demand

Carlsberg Brewery Malaysia Bhd which posted just a 1.2% increase in net profit for the second quarter ended June 30, 2026 (2QFY2026), said it is seeing early signs of the increase in excise duty impacting consumer demand and spending. As of June, it had been seven months since the government raised excise duty on alcoholic beverages by 10% on Nov 1, 2025. Net profit for the three months ended June 30, 2026 (2QFY2026) stood at RM82.92 million as compared with RM81.93 million a year earlier, while revenue rose 5% to RM514.89 million from RM490.17 million, according to a bourse filing on Friday. The group’s earnings per share for 2QFY2026 were 27.12 sen compared with 26.80 sen in 2QFY2025. The group declared a second interim dividend of 21 sen per share, to be paid on Nov 12. (*The Edge*)

DPS: Inks MOU with China Energy International unit for Melaka data centre projects

Property developer and furniture maker DPS Resources Bhd is exploring a collaboration with the subsidiary of a China state-owned enterprise in the development of data centres and supporting energy and water infrastructure in Melaka. It said a memorandum of understanding has been inked with CEIG (M) Sdn Bhd, a wholly-owned unit of China Energy International Group Co Ltd for the proposed collaboration. The projects are being considered at DPS’ proposed sites in Lendu and Bukit Rambai. "The proposed collaboration is intended to establish an integrated and self-sustaining data centre ecosystem, bringing together data centre development, gas turbine power generation, solar and renewable energy, power transmission, water supply infrastructure and potential customer, investor, tenant and off-taker participation," DPS said in a statement. (*The Edge*)

MAGNA: Sets 1H2027 target for RM700m restructuring of 8 Conlay

Magna Prima Bhd said its wholly-owned unit Permata Juang (M) Sdn Bhd (PJSB) has entered into a rehabilitation agreement to take over and complete the stalled 8 Conlay mixed-use development in Kuala Lumpur, in a restructuring exercise capped at RM700 million. The exercise will see PJSB issue RM700 million in redeemable secured loan securities (RSLS) in lieu of cash to satisfy the assumed liabilities. In a bourse filing on Thursday, Magna said it expects the restructuring to be completed by the first half of 2027 (1H2027), subject to conditions being met. Magna said PJSB signed the agreement with Damai City Sdn Bhd (DCSB), which is the project's original developer and was placed in liquidation with receivers and managers appointed, and a newly designated special-purpose vehicle (SPV) called Delta 8 Sdn Bhd (DSB) that will hold the land and development undertaking going forward. (*The Edge*)

COASTAL: Gets RM175.8m offshore support vessel sale order

Coastal Contracts Bhd, a Sabah-based shipbuilder, is selling an offshore support vessel for RM175.78 million. The company announced in a bourse filing that its wholly-owned unit, Coastal Offshore Marine Inc, secured the vessel sales order on Friday. No further details were disclosed. Coastal Contracts said the vessel sale will contribute positively to the earnings of its shipbuilding division and the company's net assets for the financial year ending Dec 31, 2026. The shipbuilder slipped into the red in its last financial year ended Dec 31, 2025 (FY2025) with a net loss of RM48.1 million from a net profit of RM163.03 million in FY2024, as revenue dropped to RM56.08 million from RM77.76 million. (*The Edge*)

AFFIN: 2Q net profit down 11% as provisions rise

Affin Bank Bhd reported an 11% decline in second-quarter net profit as provisions for bad debts rose. Net profit for the three months ended June 30, 2026 (2QFY2026) was RM127.52 million compared to RM143.49 million in the same quarter of 2025, Affin said in an exchange filing. Allowances for credit impairment losses more than doubled year-on-year to RM78.8 million during the quarter. “The US-Iran conflict has extended beyond the earlier ceasefire expectations, intensifying cost-of-living pressures in Malaysia and placing greater strain on consumer sentiment and spending,” said Affin president Datuk Wan Razly Abdullah. “In response, the group has further tightened its underwriting standards.” (*The Edge*)

ATLAN: CEO Lee Kok Khee to resign on Sept 17, to take up group adviser role

Atlan Holdings Bhd announced that its group CEO Datuk Lee Kok Khee is set to step down from the role on Sept 17. Following his resignation as group CEO, Lee, 58, will be appointed group adviser of the autoparts maker and duty-free goods trader, according to a bourse filing on Friday. A successor for the group CEO position was not announced in the filing. Lee’s resignation comes just a little over a year after he was appointed to the role on Aug 7 last year. Before his time at Atlan, he was with Kenanga Investment Bank for 22 years, according to Atlan. His last held position at the investment bank was executive director and head of the group equity business. (*The Edge*)

MARKET WATCH
Monday, August 17, 2026
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Upcoming key economic data releases	Date
Crude Oil Inventories	Aug 19
FOMC Meeting Minutes	Aug 20
Philadelphia Fed Manufacturing Index (Aug)	Aug 20
Initial Jobless Claims	Aug 20
S&P Global Manufacturing PMI (Aug)	Aug 21
S&P Global Services PMI (Aug)	Aug 21
Source: Investing.com	

Stock Selection Based on Dividend Yield

	Sector	Price (RM)	Dividend/Share (RM)	Dividend Yield (%)
Sentral REIT	REIT	0.73	0.06	8.83
KIP REIT	REIT	0.85	0.07	8.59
Bermaz Auto	Consumer	0.94	0.08	8.72
MBM Resources	Consumer	4.92	0.43	8.74
YTL Hospital REIT	REIT	1.03	0.09	8.54
CapitaLand Malaysia Trust	REIT	0.61	0.05	8.60
Paramount Corporation	Property	1.00	0.07	7.30
Taliworks Corporation	Utilities	0.28	0.02	7.14
Sports Toto	Consumer	1.33	0.09	7.07
Al-Salam REIT	REIT	0.59	0.04	6.78
TIME dotCom	Telco	6.00	0.40	6.65
Ta Ann Holdings	Plantation	5.91	0.39	6.53
Al-Aqar Healthcare REIT	REIT	1.15	0.07	6.43
MAG Holdings	Consumer	1.25	0.08	6.40
Magnum	Consumer	1.25	0.08	6.40

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		
United Asiapac Energy Berhad	ACE Market	0.35	139.22	-	5 Aug	19 Aug
Pioneer Heat Holdings Berhad	ACE Market	0.25	86.70	17.35	3 Sept	17 Sept

Source: Bursa Malaysia

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