MERCURY SECURITIES SDN BHD
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MARKET WATCH
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Daily Newswatch

Market Review

The FBM KLCI rose 0.5% to 1,708.7 points on Wednesday as bargain hunting emerged following the recent sell-off, ahead of Bank Negara Malaysia's policy rate decision expected on today (Thursday). Plantation (+2.3%), Energy (+1.5%) and Industrial Products & Services (+1.2%) led sectoral gains, driven by Petronas Chemicals (+7.1%), Kuala Lumpur Kepong (+3.9%) and Press Metal Aluminium (+2.9%). Market breadth, however, was bearish, with 746 losers ahead of 424 gainers, while 554 counters closed unchanged.

Asian markets closed broadly lower on Wednesday, as concerns over South Korea's export slowdown and disappointing semiconductor results weighed on sentiment, while weak Chinese manufacturing and retail sales data and rising US Treasury yields added further pressure on regional financial stocks. South Korea's KOSPI bore the brunt, falling 4.0% to 6,562.7, followed by Japan's Nikkei 225, which eased 2.9% to 64,325.6. Taiwan's TAIEX slipped 1.7% to 46,164.7, while China's Shanghai Composite dipped 1.0% to 3,941.4, and Hong Kong's Hang Seng edged 0.1% lower to 25,311.2. In China, Materials (-1.7%), Energy (-1.7%) and Information Technology (-1.5%) led sectoral losses, with Shanghai Shenqi Pharmaceutical, Zhejiang Yiming Food, and Shanghai Kai (each down by 10%) as the worst performers. In South Korea, Producer Manufacturing (-4.9%), Consumer Durables (-4.3%), and Electronic Technology (-4.2%) were the weakest sectors, dragged Sunny Electronics (-21.5%), Enex Co (-20.7%), and Doosan Fuel Cell (-12.7%).

European stocks closed nearly flat Wednesday, holding at a one-month low under persistent pressure from soaring borrowing costs. The Euro STOXX 50 slipped 0.1% to 6,362, while the STOXX Europe 600 fell 0.2% to 646. Renewed Middle East fighting kept oil prices elevated, stoking inflation fears and tighter-policy bets. The bond sell-off deepened, with longer-maturity European yields hitting multi-decade highs. Utilities slid as gas prices rose, with Enel down 2.6% and Iberdrola 1.2%. Inditex and LVMH fell 2% and 2.5%. Volkswagen sank nearly 4% on its STOXX 50 exit, replaced by AI-rally beneficiary Nokia.

US equities rebounded Wednesday as heavyweight tech stocks posted gains. The S&P 500 rose 0.5%, the Nasdaq CI added 0.5%, and the Dow gained 295 points. Financials and tech recovered after recent Treasury yield increases had pressured credit-sensitive sectors. Hyperscalers mostly rose, with Alphabet up 0.6%, Meta 2.5%, and Oracle 3.1%; Alphabet also gained after a federal judge ruled it wouldn't need to divest its ad exchange, instead requiring interoperable ad-tech tools. Nvidia jumped 3.2% on reports of a nearing $14 bn Hugging Face acquisition, while Dell soared 15.8% on strong earnings and raised guidance. Palo Alto sank 9.3% despite beating estimates, and Broadcom shed 0.7% ahead of its post-close earnings.

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Indices	Last Close	Daily chg %	YTD chg %
FBM KLCI	1,708.7	0.5	1.7
Dow Jones	53,062.0	0.6	10.4
Nasdaq CI	26,217.8	0.5	12.8
S&P 500	7,666.6	0.5	12.0
SX5E	6,362.2	(0.1)	9.9
FTSE 100	10,756.5	(0.3)	8.3
Nikkei 225	64,325.6	(2.9)	27.8
Shanghai CI	3,941.4	(1.0)	(0.7)
HSI	25,311.2	(0.1)	(1.2)
STI	5,744.1	0.6	23.6

Market Activities	Last Close	% Chg
Vol traded (m shares)	4,207.6	(23.9)
Value traded (RM m)	3,521.6	(20.4)
Gainers	424	
Losers	746	
Unchanged	554	

Top 5 Volume	Last Close	Daily chg %	Vol (m)
ZETRIX	0.220	(17.0)	825.1
FDGB	0.005	0.0	114.0
INGENIEU	0.040	14.3	109.0
NHR	0.265	10.4	73.0
VEB	0.245	6.5	66.3

Top 5 Turnover	Last Close	Daily chg %	Val (RM m)
ZETRIX	0.220	(17.0)	194.7
SDG	6.480	2.0	174.7
RHBBANK	8.300	(0.5)	172.7
MAY	10.600	0.4	149.2
YTLP	5.620	(0.4)	119.7

Currencies	Last Close	Daily chg %
USD/MYR	4.046	(0.2)
USD/JPY	158.800	(0.1)
EUR/USD	1.159	(0.0)
USD/CNY	6.721	0.0
US Dollar Index	99.596	(0.1)

Commodities	Last Close	% Chg
Brent (USD/barrel)	95.6	1.0
Gold (USD/troy oz)	4,385.0	0.1
CPO (MYR/metric t)	4,648.0	(0.0)
Bitcoin (USD/BTC)	77,038.4	(0.5)

Source: Bloomberg

Macro News

GLOBAL: Bond sell-off deepens as oil prices and public debt fears jolt markets

Global bonds continued to slide on Wednesday, pushing borrowing costs to multi-decade highs as the Middle East conflict drives up energy prices and layers concerns about inflation on top of worries about ballooning government debt. Sovereign bond yields are a reference point for asset prices across financial markets and the higher price of money means elevated mortgage rates for consumers and tough choices for government spending as funding costs climb. The yield on 10-year US Treasuries — which sets the tone for borrowing costs across the world economy — hit a three-year high. It is nearing the 5% level that could unsettle already jittery stock markets. *(Reuters)*

US: Rise in US factory orders beats expectations in July

New orders for US factory goods increased more than expected in July amid a rebound in demand for aircraft. Factory orders rose 0.9% after a revised 0.2% drop in June, the Commerce Department's Census Bureau said on Wednesday. Economists polled by *Reuters* had forecast orders would rebound 0.6% after a previously reported 0.3% drop in June. Orders advanced 6.5% on a year-over-year basis in July. Manufacturing, which accounts for 9.4% of the economy, is getting a tailwind from the artificial intelligence buildout, though the six-month US-Israeli war with Iran is straining supply chains and keeping input prices elevated. An Institute for Supply Management survey on Tuesday showed manufacturers grumbling about higher prices in August because of the war and import tariffs, with some describing the economy as "annoying." *(Reuters)*

US: Trump to levy more chip tariffs, exemptions for US manufacturing

The Trump administration is weighing a fresh round of tariffs on imported semiconductors, potentially escalating levies on foreign chips in a bid to lure more manufacturing to the US, US Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick said Wednesday. However, Lutnick told *CNBC*, those levies are likely to be paired with tariff relief for companies that invest in domestic manufacturing, modelling the approach the Trump administration has used on the pharmaceutical industry. “That’s what you should look for in semiconductors: If you build in America, we will give you tariff relief, and if you don’t build in America, you will pay tariffs,” Lutnick said. “That’s pretty much a very sensible way of doing things, and it’s working.” *(Bloomberg)*

US: Trump pledged fiscal restraint. Instead, debt tops $40tn as borrowing costs rise

Donald Trump returned to the White House promising to get the United States' financial house in order by slashing the scope of the federal government, ending costly "forever wars" and spurring economic growth to tame spiraling deficits. Instead, the national debt has surged past $40 trillion in the first 19 months of his second term. Federal spending has grown, not shrunk. The six-month-old Iran war has become an expensive stalemate. And the cost of servicing the U.S. debt, meanwhile, has grown as yields on some U.S. bonds hit their highest levels in nearly two decades. The result, budget experts say, is a looming fiscal crunch likely to force Congress and a future president to take politically unpopular steps to either raise taxes or trim the social safety net, potentially including Social Security. *(Reuters)*

US: Diesel hits highest since April as wars strain global supply

US diesel advanced to the highest price since hitting a peak in April during the initial phase of the US-Iran war, highlighting the inflationary pressures menacing the global economy as the conflict drags on. The nationwide average retail price reached US$5.688 a gallon on Tuesday, according to the American Automobile Association. That’s just a fraction below the April high and not far off the record US$5.816 recorded in mid-2022 during the energy crisis triggered by Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. Diesel is the lifeblood of the global economy, powering trucks, agriculture and construction, and spikes at the retail level affect industries as well as consumers. The fuel has been boosted this year by the conflict in the Middle East, as well as the Russia-Ukraine war. Moscow — typically a major supplier — has curbed exports following waves of attacks on its refineries. *(Bloomberg)*

US: Energy secretary says Venezuela oil output to more than double in next few years

US Energy Secretary Chris Wright said on Tuesday after landing in Venezuela that deals that oil companies from the US and other countries sign tomorrow in Caracas will lead to a more than doubling of crude production in the next few years. Wright is on a one-day trip to the founding Opec member, his second since US forces seized Venezuela's leader Nicolas Maduro in January. Venezuelan oil production peaked above three million barrels per day in the late 1990s but plummeted after that on a lack of investment, mismanagement and US sanctions. In recent months it has been around 1.1 million to 1.2 million bpd, rising slightly since Maduro was captured. Wright said US gasoline prices should fall in coming weeks due to steps the Trump administration has taken to ease regulations on refiners. *(Reuters)*

US: Urges hands-off approach to AI regulation at G20 tech meeting

The US pressed G20 members on Tuesday to take a hands-off approach to AI regulation and avoid creating rules for the technology at a gathering of industry titans and commerce ministers in North Carolina. The US goals largely align with the thinking of the world's biggest AI companies, nearly all of which are American. They want less regulation around the world for their rapidly growing businesses, or to shape the rules as they are written. Federal government requirements could hurt the industry's profits if they slow the release of new models or prompt the companies to change how their products perform to address security concerns. U.S. tech adviser Michael Kratsios, who is co-hosting the two-day meeting, advocated for countries to adopt the "Carolina Principles." *(Reuters)*

EU: Nagel signals ECB will hike next week, cautious beyond that

Governing Council member Joachim Nagel indicated that the European Central Bank will raise borrowing costs next week, though he stayed wary of what comes after that. “Markets are pricing in a probability of more than 95% that we’ll raise interest rates at our September meeting, and I’d say that the markets have a rather good understanding of how we’re likely to respond at this stage,” he told *Le Monde* in an interview published Wednesday. However, the Bundesbank president did not commit to potential further moves, saying that “our meeting-by-meeting approach has served us well in the past and will certainly do so in the future”. “Beyond that September meeting, however, I’m cautious about giving any specific guidance,” he said. “Oil and gas prices keep fluctuating. Financial markets are highly volatile. There is a great deal of uncertainty. It’s an uncomfortable situation — also from a monetary-policy perspective.” *(Bloomberg*)

CN: Removes tax exemption on foreigners’ dividend incomes

China has ended a decades-long exemption on the individual income tax paid by foreign-invested firms on some dividend payments, the latest in a series of sweeping changes to the country’s tax system. The government said Tuesday evening that it will impose a 20% individual income tax on dividends paid by foreign-invested enterprises to foreign individuals, ending an exemption that had been in place since 1994. The move essentially brings dividend taxes applied to foreigners and locals in line, said analysts. The change is part of Beijing’s widening effort to boost tax revenues and close loopholes. The country has started taxing offshore trusts established by its citizens, as well as widening the dragnet to the overseas trading profits earned by their citizens. (*Bloomberg*)

CN: Tencent-backed Enflame’s IPO draws 4,073 times retail demand

The initial public offering of Shanghai Enflame Technology Co, a company backed by Tencent Holdings Ltd, drew strong demand from retail investors as the last of the so-called “four little dragons” of leading Chinese artificial intelligence chipmakers taps the public market. The retail portion of the IPO was 4,073 times subscribed, with individual investors submitting seven million orders for about 5.98 trillion yuan (RM3.6 trillion) of shares, according to a *Bloomberg* calculation based on an exchange filing released Wednesday. That compares to the 7.1-trillion-yuan retail order book in memory chipmaker CXMT Corp’s blockbuster offering in July, the second-biggest China debut ever. (*Bloomberg*)

SK: Inflation quickens on one-off factor, misses expectations

South Korea's consumer inflation quickened in August due to low-base effects from the previous comparable period a year ago, data showed on Wednesday, but was lower than expectations. The consumer price index (CPI) rose 3.1% in August from a year earlier, after climbing 2.8% in July, according to the Ministry of Data and Statistics. That compared with a median forecast for a 3.2% increase in a *Reuters* poll of economists. Prices of public services rose 6.5%, driven by a one-off factor of 26.7% jump in mobile service fees due to temporary price discounts in August last year. Petroleum prices were up 14.2%, after rising 15.5% in July. Without the one-off effect of mobile service fees, inflation would have been weaker at 2.5%, the finance ministry said after the data release, adding that nationwide fuel price caps lowered inflation by 0.3 percentage points last month. (*Reuters*)

JP: BOJ's Takata urges nimble rate hikes, says 2026 marks a turning point

The Bank of Japan (BOJ) should conduct interest rate hikes nimbly to counter intensifying inflationary pressures, rather than adhere to a fixed semi-annual pace anticipated by markets, hawkish board member Hajime Takata said on Wednesday. Speaking at a news conference in Sapporo, Takata said 2026 marks a significant turning point where the BOJ will be required to respond more flexibly to economic and price developments, rather than remain bound by a set pace or magnitude of rate hikes. Takata, the sole dissenter to the BOJ's decision in July to keep short-term interest rates steady, said that the world faced a markedly different economic environment from that of recent years. (*Reuters*)

VN: Manufacturing Growth Hits 6-Month High

The S&P Global Vietnam Manufacturing PMI rose to 53.3 in August 2026 from 52.9 in July, marking its highest level since February and signaling a further strengthening of factory activity. Manufacturing output expanded for a sixteenth consecutive month and at its fastest pace in more than two years. In addition, new orders grew at the strongest rate since October 2025, reflecting robust demand conditions. Meanwhile, employment declined for the fifth time in the past six months, as firms cited retirements and a reduced reliance on temporary workers. On the price front, input cost inflation eased from July's eleven-month high, while output price growth also moderated, extending a four-month trend of softer selling-price inflation. Business sentiment remained positive, though confidence eased slightly from July. (*S&P Global*)

ID: 2027 palm oil output to drop 2.9%, Gapki says

Indonesia's palm oil output in 2027 is expected to drop by 2.9% to 56.8 million metric tonnes due to prolonged dry weather that has disrupted plantation maintenance, an official from the palm oil association Gapki said on Wednesday. Indonesia, the world's largest producer of palm oil, is experiencing conditions from the El Nino weather pattern that have caused drought and exacerbated wildfires in Sumatra and Kalimantan. "Due to dry weather, many companies have stopped fertilising, because even if we apply fertiliser, it would be wasteful as it will vapourise," Gapki secretary general Hadi Sugeng told *Reuters*. Fertiliser prices in the second half of this year have also increased by 30%, he said, due to impacts from the war in Middle East. *(Reuters*)

MY: Unsubsidised RON97, RON95 and diesel prices drop by five sen per litre from Sept 3

Retail fuel prices for unsubsidised fuels have been reduced by five sen for the Sept 3-9 period, the Finance Ministry said in its weekly update. The unsubsidised price of RON97 will drop to RM4.25, RON95 to RM3.77 and diesel to RM4.67. Subsidised fuel prices remain unchanged at RM1.99 per litre for RON95 under Budi95 and RM2.10 per litre for diesel under Budi Diesel. Diesel prices in Sabah, Sarawak and Labuan will also stay at RM2.15 per litre. Prices under the Subsidised Petrol Control System (SKPS) and Subsidised Diesel Control System (SKDS) are maintained at RM2.05 per litre and RM2.15 per litre respectively. (*The Edge*)

MY: Denies blocking rural project payments, says Rural Ministry nearly exhausted allocation

The Ministry of Finance on Wednesday denied restricting payments to contractors building rural roads. Instead, the delays were due to the Ministry of Rural and Regional Development, or KKDW, spending almost all of its allocation, Treasury secretary general Datuk Johan Mahmood Merican said in a statement. KKDW had spent RM1.9 bn as at June, out of the RM2.1 bn allocation for 2026, he noted. The Ministry of Finance is working with KKDW to address the issue, including by reprioritising and reallocating the ministry's budget based on its priorities, Johan said. The statement came after Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, who is also rural and regional development minister, reportedly expressed frustration over delayed payments to contractors despite them completing their work and meeting project milestones. (*The Edge*)

MY: ICW & BuildXpo 2026 targets RM1.5bn trade value with expanded scope and GAFA debut

The upcoming 28th International Construction Week (ICW 2026) and fourth International Building and Construction Exhibition (BuildXpo Malaysia 2026) are targeting RM1.5 bn in projected trade value. The three-day event, scheduled from Nov 10 to 12 at the Malaysia International Trade and Exhibition Centre (MITEC), is also targeting 250 exhibitors from 15 countries and regions, as well as 17,000 trade visitors, according to a statement on Wednesday. Last year's edition recorded over 15,000 trade visitors, 210 exhibitors from 11 countries, and RM1.41 bn in projected business transactions. Anchored by the theme "Beyond Limits" and tagline "The Industry Platform for Knowledge, Innovation and Growth", the 2026 edition features an expanded programme and the debut co-location of Glasstech Asia & Fenestration Asia (GAFA) 2026. (*The Edge*)

Corporate News

PETRONAS: To hold oil production at two million barrels daily through 2028, says CEO

Petroliam Nasional Bhd (PETRONAS) aims to sustain Malaysia's oil and gas production at two million barrels of oil equivalent per day (mmboe/d) through 2028, said its president and group chief executive officer Tan Sri Tengku Muhammad Taufik Tengku Aziz Wednesday. He said the target would be anchored in continued investment across exploration, deep-water development, and enhanced recovery from PETRONAS' producing fields. "Holding that line, however, has meant finding new ways to work with partners rather than just relying on old formulas. Our own experience with Searah Ltd, the regional venture with Eni, reflects that shift. (*Bernama*)

AAGB: Says US$1bn fundraising from debt market mainly for refinancing

AirAsia Group Bhd is pursuing US$1 bn (RM4.05 bn) in financing from the international debt market, confirming a report in *The Edge Malaysia* weekly. The group, in a statement on Wednesday, clarifies that its planned fundraising exercises, comprising up to US$1.0 bn in international debt markets and RM700 million in local credit facilities, are primarily targeted at debt restructuring/refinancing and balance sheet consolidation, rather than purely funding operational shortfalls. The group said the fundraising would allow it to replace higher-cost debt taken on during the Covid-19 pandemic with longer-term financing on better terms, helping to lower its interest costs and improve its financial flexibility. (*The Edge*)

SERSOL: Sees new largest shareholder, ED Mohamed Suffian resigns

Industrial paint manufacturer and trader Sersol Bhd sees the emergence of Peh Lon Pah @ Pei Tze Chiang as a substantial shareholder and the resignation of executive director Datuk Mohamed Suffian Awang. The Johor-based firm said Peh had acquired 100 million shares, or a direct equity stake of 12.429%, through an off-market transaction on Sept 1, according to an exchange filing on Bursa Malaysia. Based on the then closing price of three sen, the estimated value of the share purchase was RM3 million. According to a separate filing, Mohamed Suffian resigned on Wednesday, citing "personal commitments". Mohamed Suffian owned 100 million indirect shares via his investment vehicle Ice Age Property Sdn Bhd, which was the largest shareholder of Sersol. As per previous filings, Mohamed Suffian's last updated equity stake stood at 13.671%. (*The Edge*)

MBN: Chairman Liw Chong Liong disposes of entire 11.2% stake in MyMBN

MyMBN Bhd's non-independent and non-executive chairman Liw Chong Liong has ceased to be a substantial shareholder of the bird's nest processing company after disposing of his entire stake. According to the group's bourse filing on Wednesday, Liw disposed of all 43.2 million shares, or a 11.19% stake, via a direct business transaction on Sept 1. The shares were sold through his vehicle, MLCL Construction Sdn Bhd. The immediate buyer and the transaction value were not disclosed in the filing. However, *Bloomberg* data showed that the shares changed hands at 14 sen apiece, representing a 17.6% discount to MyMBN's closing price of 17 sen on Sept 1. The disposal would have fetched Liw about RM6.05 million. (*The Edge*)

ECOSHOP: EPF becomes Eco-Shop's second-largest shareholder with 5.14% stake

The Employees Provident Fund (EPF) has emerged as a substantial shareholder in Eco-Shop Marketing Bhd after raising its stake in the fixed-price retailer to above 5%. The pension fund bought an additional 8.68 million shares, or about 0.15% of the group's stake, raising its holding to 5.14%, or 296.16 million shares, according to Eco-Shop's filing with Bursa Malaysia. This makes the EPF the second-largest shareholder in Eco-Shop, behind founder and managing director Datuk Seri Lee Kar Whatt, who holds a 73.81% direct and 3.104% indirect stake. Eco-Shop's net profit for the quarter ending May 31, 2026 (4QFY2026) climbed 44.91% to RM72.63 million — its highest-ever quarterly net profit — from RM50.12 million a year earlier. Quarterly revenue also hit a record high of RM772.89 million — up 12.18% year-on-year — supported by improved margins and continued store expansion. (*The Edge*)

MULPHA: Invests in Sun Hung Kai-linked investment fund

Mulpha International Bhd has invested US$7 million (RM28.28 million) in SHK Latitude Alpha Fund, a multi-manager hedge fund portfolio, as part of its efforts to enhance risk-adjusted investment returns. The subscription forms part of the group's broader investment portfolio and the deployment of a limited portion of surplus funds, said Mulpha in a bourse filing on Wednesday. Cayman Islands-based SHK Latitude was established as an investment fund in April 2021 and is a subsidiary of Hong Kong-listed Sun Hung Kai & Co Ltd. SHK Latitude is a diversified global fund of hedge funds that seeks to generate risk-adjusted returns across market cycles. It targets double-digit returns under normalised market conditions while seeking to preserve capital during prolonged periods of market stress. (*The Edge*)

CGB: RM24.7m proposal for Bintai Kinden to exit Melaka University concession

Manufacturing and construction company Central Global Bhd is planning to raise up to RM83.31 million through a private placement, mainly to fund its ongoing construction projects in Sabah. In a bourse filing on Wednesday, the group said it plans to issue up to 106.62 million new shares, equivalent to 10% of its enlarged issued share capital (assuming the full exercise of its 51.82 million outstanding Warrants B), to third-party investors at an issue price to be determined later. As at Aug 27, Central Global had an issued share capital of RM305.2 million comprising 1.01 bn shares and 51.82 million Warrants B. For illustration, the placement shares are assumed to be priced at 78.14 sen each, representing a 10% discount to the five-day volume-weighted average market price of 86.82 sen up to Aug 27. (*The Edge*)

KJTS: Bags four 20-year contracts from Thai hotel operator Centel

KJTS Group Bhd's Thailand subsidiary has secured four 20-year agreements with subsidiaries of Thai-listed hotel operator Central Plaza Hotel PCL (Centel) to provide services to four hotels in Thailand. The contracts were awarded to its engineering arm, KJTN Engineering Co Ltd, on Wednesday. The agreements include retrofit, operations and maintenance (O&M), chilled water supply, and design, build and operate (DBO) services. The retrofit, operate, maintain and transfer (ROMT) contract covers Centara Reserve Samui, while the three DBO contracts cover Centara Hotel Hat Yai, Centara Grand Beach Resort Phuket and Centara Karon Resort Phuket. Centel is part of the Central Group conglomerate and operates hotels and resorts. KJTS said KJTN Engineering had previously completed three cooling-related projects for Centel. (*The Edge*)

SERNKOU: Kenanga's Islamic fund emerges as substantial shareholder in Sern Kou with 11.17% stake

One of the unit trust funds managed by Kenanga Investors Bhd has emerged as a substantial shareholder in furniture maker Sern Kou Resources Bhd. RHB Trustees Bhd, on behalf of Kenanga Islamic Absolute Return Fund, acquired 120.38 million shares that represent an 11.17% stake in Sern Kou last Friday (Aug 28), according to Sern Kou's bourse filing on Wednesday. "Kenanga Investor Bhd — the investment manager of Kenanga Islamic Absolute Return Fund — acquired the shares as part of portfolio investment," the filing stated. The value of the transaction was not disclosed, and neither were details of the seller. Based on Sern Kou's closing price of 79 sen on the transaction date, the stake is estimated to be valued at RM95.1 million. (*The Edge*)

ZETRIX: To acquire 50% stake in Philippines-based MYEG Ventures for RM130m via cash-and-share deal

Zetrix AI Bhd is acquiring a 50% stake in Philippines-based information technology services provider MYEG Ventures Inc for RM130 million via a cash-and-share deal. In a bourse filing, the digital services provider said it entered into a share purchase agreement with Next Lion Ltd on Sept 1 to acquire 15.25 million ordinary shares in MYEG Ventures. MYEG Ventures is principally involved in providing information technology services. The company holds a 60% stake in MYEG Philippines Inc. Upon completion of the acquisition, MYEG Philippines will become a subsidiary of Zetrix AI. Zetrix AI said the acquisition is aimed at strengthening the group's expansion strategy in the Philippines by establishing and enhancing its presence in the market. (*The Edge*)

ZETRIX: Extends decline to 12-year low, managing director TS Wong's stake shrinks

Zetrix AI Bhd on Wednesday fell for the fourth straight day to its lowest in 12 years as managing director Wong Thean Soon's shareholding shrank amid the selldown. Shares of the digital services firm have been under heavy selling pressure as Wong grapples with fallout from a margin call. He is the single-largest shareholder of Zetrix AI with a nearly 30% stake, making any forced selling on his account leading to outsized impact on the stock. Zetrix AI fell as much as 21%, or 5.5 sen, to 21 sen before paring some of its losses to close at 22 sen, a level last seen in August 2014. The stock was the most actively traded counter on Bursa Malaysia, with more than 825 million shares changing hands. (*The Edge*)

MNRB: Establishes RM500m commercial paper programme

MNRB Holdings Bhd has established a commercial paper (CP) programme of up to RM500 million in nominal value to raise funds for its working capital, investments, capital expenditure and other corporate purposes. In a filing with Bursa Malaysia, the company said it lodged the required information and relevant documents for the proposed CP programme with the Securities Commission Malaysia (SC) on Sept 1, 2026, under the Lodge and Launch Framework. The seven-year CP programme will allow MNRB Holdings to issue CPs from time to time, subject to a maximum nominal value of RM500 million. The first issuance of CPs is required to be made within 90 business days from the lodgement date, or such other period as may be prescribed by the SC. *(Bernama)*

PHB: Pelaburan Hartanah expands Amanah Hartanah Bumiputera fund with 400m new units

Pelaburan Hartanah Bhd (PHB) has announced the issuance of 400 million new units of Amanah Hartanah Bumiputera (AHB) for subscription by Bumiputera investors, raising the fund's total units to 5.4 bn. PHB said the additional units reaffirmed its commitment to expanding opportunities for Bumiputera to gain beneficial ownership of quality commercial properties through investments in strategically located commercial real estate assets nationwide. The latest issuance marks AHB's sixth expansion since its establishment in 2010, when the fund had an initial size of one bn units. "The latest issuance is supported by value injections from two PHB assets, the recently acquired Aurelius Hospital in Alor Setar, Kedah, and the revaluation of the Maersk logistics building in Shah Alam," it said in a statement. *(Bernama)*

LCTITAN: Talk of Lotte Chemical Titan stake sale surfaces amid uphill turnaround

NEWS of a potential stake sale by Lotte Chemical Titan Holding Bhd's major shareholder has piqued market interest in the company after years off investors' radar screens. The purported plan involving South Korea's Lotte Chemical Corp's (LCC) 75.86% stake in Lotte Chemical Titan comes after nearly five years of losses for the Malaysian-listed firm, one of Southeast Asia's major producers of naphtha-based plastic polymers. It also comes as chemical mergers and acquisitions (M&A) activity has picked up, with turnaround investors and consolidators showing greater interest in assets amid a supply squeeze from the Middle East, according to fund managers and analysts contacted by The Edge. For Lotte Chemical Titan's minority shareholders, however, the potential corporate exercise offers only a small spark of excitement for the company whose balance sheet is highly geared following its Indonesian expansion, and whose share price has fallen another 40% in the past year. *(The Edge)*

IHH: Positions for India healthcare boom as it consolidates Fortis investment

IHH Healthcare Bhd's plan to raise its stake in Fortis Healthcare Ltd from 31.17% to 51% in four years' time is underpinned by surging demand for quality healthcare in India, as the ageing population, rising cases of chronic diseases and a shortage of hospital capacity fuel the sector's growth. Following the completion of a mandatory open offer last November, IHH's stake in Indian-listed Fortis rose marginally to 31.17% from 31%. By increasing its stake in Fortis by up to five percentage points annually, IHH would reach its target 51% in about four years. This could be done through a primary infusion, where IHH injects fresh capital into Fortis in exchange for new shares, or through the purchases of existing shares in the secondary market. *(The Edge)*

GCB: Warns El Niño to spur global cocoa deficit

The global cocoa market is poised to face a supply shortfall for the first time in three years as a strengthening El Niño threatens production across key growing regions, according to Asia's top processor. A deficit of 300,000 to 400,000 tonnes is expected in the 2026-27 season, said Brandon Tay Hoe Lian, the chief executive officer of Malaysia-based Guan Chong Bhd. That compares with a surplus of about 100,000 tonnes a year earlier, with the weather risks to crops set to coincide with steadying demand, he said in an interview on the sidelines of the CAA International Cocoa Conference in Singapore. The outlook comes during a volatile stretch for the cocoa market, which is set to cap a second annual surplus. That follows three straight deficits triggered by poor harvests in West Africa, where much of the world's beans are grown. That shortfall sent New York futures to an all-time high above US$11,000 a tonne in late 2024. *(Bloomberg)*

ZECON: Proposes to sublease land for RM54.4m in related party deal

Zecon Bhd's wholly owned subsidiary Zecon Renewables (Sarawak) Sdn Bhd (ZRSSB) has proposed subleasing a portion of land in Kuching, Sarawak, from Zecon Solar Sdn Bhd (ZSSB) in a related party transaction for RM54.36 million. In a Bursa Malaysia filing, Zecon said the proposal entails subleasing 122.18 hectares (302 acres) for 30 years at a monthly rental rate of RM500 per acre. This translates to RM151,000 a month, and RM1.81 million annually. The land forms part of the Kota Petra Green Technology Park in Kuching. It has been approved for a 100-megawatt alternating current (MWac) solar photovoltaic farm development, the filing said. The proposal forms part of a power purchase agreement entered into by ZRSSB with Syarikat Sesco Bhd on Oct 22, 2025. *(Bernama)*

NEW IPO: TPG's Asia OneHealthcare is said to confidentially file for RM10bn Malaysia IPO

TPG Inc-backed Asia OneHealthcare Sdn Bhd has confidentially filed for an initial public offering (IPO) in Kuala Lumpur to potentially raise as much as RM10 bn, according to people with knowledge of the matter. The healthcare provider submitted a draft registration to the Securities Commission Malaysia last week, the people said, asking not to be identified because the information isn't public. An IPO of that size would be Malaysia's biggest since FGV Holdings Bhd's RM10.4 bn offering in 2012. While the confidential IPO filing for the Malaysian business has been done, deliberations are ongoing and a deal isn't guaranteed, the people said. Some other hospital operators and private equity firms are also still showing interest in potentially buying Asia OneHealthcare's Malaysia assets, they added. Asia OneHealthcare operates a handful of medical facilities in Indonesia and Vietnam as well, its website shows. *(Bloomberg)*

Upcoming key economic data releases	Date
Initial Jobless Claims	Sept 3
S&P Global Services PMI (Aug)	Sept 3
ISM Non-Manufacturing Prices (Aug)	Sept 3
ISM Non-Manufacturing PMI (Aug)	Sept 4
Average Hourly Earnings (MoM) (Aug)	Sept 4
Nonfarm Payrolls (Aug)	Sept 4
Unemployment Rate (Aug)	Sept 4
Source: Investing.com	

Stock Selection Based on Dividend Yield

	Sector	Price (RM)	Dividend/Share (RM)	Dividend Yield (%)
Sentral REIT	REIT	0.68	0.06	9.41
Bermaz Auto	Consumer	0.92	0.08	8.96
CapitaLand Malaysia Trust	REIT	0.59	0.05	8.89
MBM Resources	Consumer	5.31	0.46	8.70
KIP REIT	REIT	0.85	0.07	8.47
YTL Hospital REIT	REIT	1.01	0.09	8.42
Sports Toto	Consumer	1.31	0.09	7.25
Paramount Corporation	Property	1.02	0.07	7.16
Al-Salam REIT	REIT	0.60	0.04	6.72
TIME dotCom	Telco	6.00	0.39	6.48
UOA Development	Property	1.65	0.11	6.42
Al-Aqar Healthcare REIT	REIT	1.16	0.07	6.38
Ta Ann Holdings	Plantation	6.39	0.40	6.26
MAG Holdings	Consumer	1.28	0.08	6.25
Magnum	Consumer	1.28	0.08	6.25

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.

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IPO Tracker

Company	Listing Sought	Issue Price (RM/Share)	No. Of Shares (m)		Closing Date	Listing Date
			Public Issue	Offer for Sale		
GTA Holdings Berhad	ACE Market	0.35	205.00	124.00	26 Aug	8 Sept
United Asiapac Energy Berhad	ACE Market	0.35	139.22	-	5 Aug	14 Sept
Butterfield FB Berhad	ACE Market	0.48	150.00	72.00	2 Sept	15 Sept
Pioneer Heat Holdings Berhad	ACE Market	0.25	86.70	17.35	3 Sept	17 Sept

Source: Bursa Malaysia

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