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Daily Newswatch

Market Review

The FBM KLCI rose 0.4% to 1,715.1 points on Thursday supported by broad-based buying as Bank Negara Malaysia kept its benchmark interest rate unchanged. Construction (+3.1%), Health Care (+1.1%) and Energy (+1.0%) led sectoral gains, driven by Gamuda (+5.7%), YTL Power International (+2.3%) and Sunway Healthcare (+1.9%). Market breadth was bullish, with 625 gainers ahead of 497 losers, while 591 counters closed unchanged.

Asian markets closed-mixed on Thursday as a stronger yen weighed on Japan's exporters and profit-taking dragged Hong Kong and Taiwan lower, while a pullback in oil prices, softer bond yields, and encouraging Chinese PMI data offered some regional support. South Korea's KOSPI was the lone gainer, rising 0.3% to 6,579.5, while China's Shanghai Composite ended flat at 3,942.1. Taiwan's TAIEX led regional losses, slipping 0.7% to 45,857.7, followed by Hong Kong's Hang Seng, which eased 0.4% to 25,213.3, and Japan's Nikkei 225, which dipped 0.2% to 64,214.5. In China, Communication Services (-0.7%), Financials (-0.5%) and Utilities (-0.2%) were the weakest sectors, offset by gains in Real Estate, Consumer Discretionary and Materials (each +0.5%). In South Korea, Utilities and Distribution Services (both +2.6%) and Transportation (+2.5%) were the top-performing sectors, driven by Hansol Technics Co (+12.0%), Sunny Electronics (+11.8%), and Junjin Construction and Robot (+11.8%).

European stocks closed higher in choppy trade Thursday, halting three sessions of losses as markets weighed how much higher sovereign yields would hamper growth. The Euro STOXX 50 rose 0.3% to 6,382, while the STOXX Europe 600 added 0.4% to 649. Yields paused their surge as markets trimmed ECB rate-cut hedges; July producer inflation stayed tame, with energy alone driving the headline gauge to 5.8%. Banks rebounded, with Nordea, Deutsche Bank, and ING up over 1.5%. Volkswagen gained 4%, reversing losses tied to its STOXX 50 exit.

US equities rose Thursday as bond yields paused their recent surge, lifting credit-sensitive sectors. The S&P 500 gained 1.1%, the Dow added 624 points, and the Nasdaq CI rose 1.4%. Fed Governor Waller signaled a rate hike wouldn't be needed if underlying inflation keeps slowing, a shift from his earlier inflation-risk warnings, easing Treasury yields. Software stocks advanced, with Microsoft up 2.7%, Meta 3%, Oracle 5.7%, and Palantir 7.7%. Chipmakers were mixed: Nvidia and Intel each gained 1.8%, while Broadcom fell 2.7% despite 221% annual revenue growth. Hewlett Packard Enterprise rose 5% despite missing estimates. Financials also lifted the Dow, with JPMorgan up 1.6%, Goldman Sachs 3.3%, and Morgan Stanley 2.5%.

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Indices	Last Close	Daily chg %	YTD chg %
FBM KLCI	1,715.1	0.4	2.1
Dow Jones	53,686.1	1.2	11.7
Nasdaq CI	26,584.1	1.4	14.4
S&P 500	7,747.7	1.1	13.2
SX5E	6,382.6	0.3	10.2
FTSE 100	10,831.5	0.7	9.1
Nikkei 225	64,214.5	(0.2)	27.6
Shanghai CI	3,942.1	0.0	(0.7)
HSI	25,213.3	(0.4)	(1.6)
STI	5,747.7	0.1	23.7

Market Activities	Last Close	% Chg
Vol traded (m shares)	3,907.5	(7.1)
Value traded (RM m)	3,219.0	(8.6)
Gainers	625	
Losers	497	
Unchanged	591	

Top 5 Volume	Last Close	Daily chg %	Vol (m)
ZETRIX	0.240	9.1	677.4
INGENIEU	0.045	12.5	144.3
NHR	0.275	3.8	52.4
SALUT	0.115	15.0	41.6
KEYA	0.070	16.7	36.6

Top 5 Turnover	Last Close	Daily chg %	Val (RM m)
MAY	10.580	(0.2)	195.7
ZETRIX	0.240	9.1	150.4
GAM	4.670	5.7	137.3
RHBBANK	8.310	0.1	126.9
CIMB	7.990	1.9	117.2

Currencies	Last Close	Daily chg %
USD/MYR	4.043	0.1
USD/JPY	156.120	(0.2)
EUR/USD	1.162	(0.0)
USD/CNY	6.718	0.0
US Dollar Index	98.908	(0.7)

Commodities	Last Close	% Chg
Brent (USD/barrel)	95.5	(0.1)
Gold (USD/troy oz)	4,474.6	0.0
CPO (MYR/metric t)	4,630.0	(0.1)
Bitcoin (USD/BTC)	81,172.3	(0.4)

Source: Bloomberg

Macro News

GLOBAL: World's unusually high dollar exposure risks fuelling sell-off

Sift through the filings of pension funds and insurers around the world and one thing stands out: some of the biggest holders of US assets have little protection against a weaker dollar, leaving the currency at risk of steeper declines if sentiment suddenly turns. Across markets including Japan, Canada and Taiwan, these investors hedged just 41% of their foreign-currency exposure as of June 30 — the lowest since at least 2015 — according to *Bloomberg* calculations using data from six markets where such figures are available. While not a complete picture, it offers a glimpse into how the sudden rush last year to hedge against dollar losses triggered by President Donald Trump's global tariff rollout has faded as the US currency slowly stabilised. In cutting back their hedges, investors are returning to an approach that had worked for much of the past decade. *(Bloomberg)*

GLOBAL: El Niño likely to intensify, may become strongest ever recorded — UN

The El Niño weather phenomenon is set to intensify further into 2027 and could be the strongest ever, raising risks of extreme weather into next year, the World Meteorological Organization said on Thursday. "If this trajectory continues, it may be stronger than anything since our monitoring began. So literally off the charts we have used for the past four decades," WMO secretary general Celeste Saulo told a Geneva press conference. The UN weather agency said its forecasts showed a near 100% likelihood that El Niño will persist through February 2027, fuelled by exceptionally warm Pacific Ocean temperatures. This is the first time it has expressed such a degree of certainty, the WMO said. *(Reuters)*

US: Mortgage rates climb to 6.71%, highest since July 2025

Mortgage rates in the US climbed to the highest level in more than a year as government-bond yields climbed, dealing another blow to the domestic housing market. The average for a 30-year, fixed loan rose to 6.71% from 6.66% a week earlier, Freddie Mac said in a statement on Thursday. The rate was 6.5% a year ago and borrowing costs haven't been as expensive since July 2025. The rate, which has hovered around 6.5%, is now lurching towards 7%, threatening to further erode affordability, an issue front and center ahead of midterm elections in November. "A year ago at this time, rates were declining, so that year-over-year comparison might just get uglier in the coming months," said Realtor.com senior economist Jake Krimmel in a report published on Wednesday. *(Bloomberg)*

US: Strong demand boosts US services sector activity in August

US services sector activity picked up in August as strong demand lifted new orders to a 3-1/2-year high and drove input prices higher, suggesting inflation could remain elevated and compel the Federal Reserve to hike interest rates before the end of this year. The Institute for Supply Management said on Thursday its nonmanufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index advanced to 55.4 last month from 54.1 in July. A reading above 50 indicates growth in the services sector, which accounts for more than two-thirds of US economic activity. Economists polled by Reuters had forecast the PMI would climb to 54.2. The current PMI level is consistent with solid economic growth in the third quarter. The survey's measure of new orders received by services businesses surged to 60.9, the highest reading since February 2023, from 57.2 in July. *(Reuters)*

US: Trade gap widens to largest since early 2025 on AI push

The US trade deficit widened sharply in July to the largest since early 2025, reflecting a surge in imports of computers and other technological equipment. The gap in goods and services trade grew 24.4% from the prior month to US$88.6 billion (RM358.4 billion), Commerce Department data showed Thursday. The median estimate in a *Bloomberg* survey of economists called for a deficit of US$90.2 billion. The value of imports increased 2.8% and exports fell 2.1%. The report showed an 11.4% surge in imports of capital goods — a category that includes computers and accessories, semiconductors and telecommunications equipment but excludes autos — the largest advance since 1993. *(Bloomberg)*

US: Weekly jobless claims rise marginally amid stable labour market

The number of Americans filing claims for unemployment benefits increased marginally last week, suggesting no material shift in labour market conditions at the end of August. Initial claims for state unemployment benefits climbed 2,000 to a seasonally adjusted 206,000 for the week ended August 29, the Labor Department said on Thursday. Economists polled by *Reuters* had forecast 205,000 claims for the latest week. Claims are hovering in the lower end of their 189,000-230,000 range for this year, consistent with what economists say remains a "slow hire, slow fire" labour market. Despite robust domestic demand, employers remain hesitant to boost head count as they navigate aggressive trade and immigration policies. A separate report from global outplacement firm Challenger, Gray & Christmas showed announced plans to hire by companies increased 37% in the first eight months of this year compared to the same period in 2025. *(Reuters)*

US: Diesel hits four-year high as wars strain global supplies

US retail diesel prices hit the highest since mid-2022, topping a peak seen during the early stages of the Iran war to approach a record. The national average pump price climbed to US$5.783 a gallon on Wednesday, surpassing the wartime peak set in April, according to the American Automobile Association. The gain puts costs just below the all-time high of US$5.816 in June 2022, during the energy crisis triggered by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. On the current track, prices appear set to break their record by Labor Day on Monday, according to Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy, a website and app that helps drivers find cheap sites to fill up. Diesel has been supercharged this year as the conflict in the Middle East continues to strain supplies, just as repeated Ukrainian drone strikes on Russian refineries add further pressure, with Moscow banning exports. (*Bloomberg*)

EU: EU's €3 small parcel fee leads to drop in imports from China

The European Union's (EU) €3 (RM14.04) fee aimed at slowing the tide of cheap merchandise from China generated around €224 million at Belgium's main entry point during the first seven weeks of operation, an early insight into the impact of the new measure. The introduction of the levy also led to a 53% drop in small parcels arriving at Liege airport in Belgium — a key arrival hub for Chinese goods coming into Europe — in July 2026 compared to a year earlier, according to the country's customs service. "The first results show we're moving in the right direction," Belgian Finance Minister Jan Jambon told reporters in Liege on Thursday. (*Bloomberg*)

CN: China-US spat at G20 boils down to dispute over one word

A disagreement between Chinese and US officials at a Group of 20 (G20) finance chiefs meeting this week mostly revolved around a dispute over one word, according to people familiar with the talks. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent on Tuesday publicly accused Chinese officials of preventing the group from issuing a joint communique after the two-day gathering in Asheville, North Carolina. The US side attributed that impasse to disagreements on language spanning issues from critical minerals to debt restructuring. But the most crucial sticking point was the inclusion of the phrase "non-market" in a sentence addressing trade imbalances, according to the people familiar, who asked not to be identified discussing private matters. (*Bloomberg*)

CN: S&P Global Ratings warns of risks from China's generous credit ratings

Generous credit ratings are baking risks into China's booming bond market as Beijing attracts foreign issuers, S&P Global Ratings' Asia-Pacific ratings chief said on Thursday. "Too many issuers are concentrated in the upper layer of the rating scale," Christopher Lee, regional practice lead for Asia-Pacific at S&P Global Ratings, told a capital market forum in Shanghai. If a foreign issuer is rated 'B' globally, but 'AAA' when it sells so-called panda bonds in China's onshore market, it means "risk is being introduced into the domestic market," he said. A 'B' rating is the second-lowest rating category in the global scale, and has a five-year cumulative potential default rate of 15.34%, according to S&P Global Ratings. AAA is the top-notch rating that indicates extremely low risk of default. (*Reuters*)

CN: Shrinking appetite for oil behind emissions cut for first time

As China learns to live on less fuel since the Iran war, its carbon emissions are falling, a new analysis showed on Thursday, with researchers saying a structural shift towards electrification and cleaner transport was creating the conditions for emissions' sustained decline. China's carbon dioxide emissions shrank by 1% year-on-year in the second quarter of 2026, driven by a 9% decrease in oil consumption as consumers chose cleaner and cheaper ways to get around, according to a Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA) analysis for Carbon Brief. "The rise in oil prices has caused a stronger shift in China's transportation sector than anyone anticipated, with EV deployment and use accelerating from an already high base," the analysis said. "This trend is unlikely to be reversed." (*Reuters*)

CN: Yuan hits 3-1/2-year high as yen weighs down dollar

China's yuan inched higher to a fresh 3-1/2-year high against the dollar on Thursday, aided by a significantly stronger central bank fixing and persistent dollar weakness driven in part by renewed gains in the Japanese yen. The yen held its gains after a sudden, brief surge in the previous session, keeping pressure on the dollar ahead of a crucial US jobs report. Reflecting the broad weakness in the US currency, the People's Bank of China set the midpoint rate at 6.7807 per dollar before the market opened, its strongest since Feb 8, 2023, but 640 pips weaker than a Reuters' estimate of 6.7167. The spot yuan is allowed to trade a maximum of 2% either side of the fixed midpoint each day. (*Reuters*)

CN: Tech pilgrims flock to China as global innovation race heats up

Humanoid robots working on factory floors, AI models challenging global rivals and electric-vehicle plants churning out cars at breathtaking scale are drawing a new wave of foreign visitors to China. Investors and entrepreneurs are paying thousands of dollars for rare access to Chinese factories, seeking a front-row seat to what many believe could be the next technological revolution. The influx reflects mounting fears of a "China shock 2.0", with Western boardrooms and capitals confronting the possibility that Chinese companies are seizing the lead in advanced manufacturing and cutting-edge technologies. "Right now, people are looking at China as an object of study and learning — a trend that barely existed just a few years ago," says Robert Wu, CEO of Shanghai-based data research firm Baiguan. (*Reuters*)

JP: Personal Spending Falls More Than Expected

Japan's household spending declined 3.6% yoy in July 2026, deepening from a 3.3% drop in the prior month and underperforming market expectations for a 1.6% fall. It marked the eighth straight month of contraction and the sharpest pace since January 2024, underscoring persistent weakness in consumer demand. Spending fell further on food (-1.3% vs -2.5% in June), utilities (-9.2% vs -7.1%) and transport and communication (-8.5% vs -5.7%), while the decline in clothing narrowed sharply (-0.3% vs -19.9%). Expenditure also weakened on healthcare (-6.0% vs 1.4%), education (-5.4% vs 20.6%) and housing (-16.4% vs 3.6%). In contrast, spending on furniture and household goods rebounded (0.7% vs -11.4%), while culture and recreation accelerated (4.8% vs 0.4%). (*Ministry of Internal Affairs & Communications*)

JP: BOJ said to favour quarter-point hike, flexible on future path

The Bank of Japan (BOJ) is leaning toward raising its benchmark interest rate by a quarter point this month in response to upward price risks, while leaving open the possibility of accelerating the pace of hikes thereafter, according to people familiar with the matter. BOJ officials will mull an increase in the policy rate from 1% at the two-day meeting ending on Sept 18, according to the people. They continue to see inflation risks as skewed to the upside, with service prices and ongoing weakness in the currency strengthening the case for action, the people said. For now, the officials see economic developments broadly in line with their outlook, the people said. There has been no major change in the situation that would require opting for a larger move of half a percentage point, one of the people said, playing down the likelihood of a jumbo hike. (*Bloomberg*)

JP: Japanese investors sell overseas bonds for 2nd week on inflation fears

Japanese investors sold foreign bonds for a second straight week through August 29, adding to signs that demand for overseas debt is weakening as persistently high inflation and expectations of higher interest rates roil global bond markets. They sold a net 824 billion yen (US$5.2 billion) of foreign long-term bonds last week, while net sales of short-term foreign bills were the lowest in seven weeks at 9.7-billion-yen, Ministry of Finance data showed. The outflows add to signs that Japan is becoming a less reliable source of support for global bond markets as higher domestic yields and expensive currency hedging reduce the appeal of overseas debt. (*Reuters*)

JP: Yen in the spotlight after sudden jump

The yen held its gains on Thursday after a sudden, brief surge in the previous session that traders suspect may have been driven by government authorities, keeping pressure on the dollar ahead of a crucial US jobs report. The yen was last steady at 158.88 per dollar, having jumped 0.9% overnight, in a move that left market participants on alert for an official intervention from Tokyo. Its rally was broad-based, with the euro falling roughly 1% against the yen on Wednesday; sterling dropped 1.15%, with both currencies nursing losses in early Asia trade. "The yen rally was about 0.9% and it's not a big move, and I definitely don't think that was an intervention," said Carol Kong, a currency strategist at Commonwealth Bank of Australia. "But some market participants have speculated that the rally was caused by a rate check." (*Reuters*)

ASEAN: Manufacturing growth eases slightly to 52.3 in August — S&P Global

The S&P Global Asean Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) edged down to 52.3 in August from 52.8 in July, indicating a slightly softer but still solid improvement in the region's manufacturing sector. S&P Global said the moderation was mainly due to slower, although still robust, growth in production. "Employment and stocks of purchases also declined, marking the fourth reduction in the past four months surveyed, although the falls were only marginal in both cases. "Backlogs continued to rise at the same pace as in July, signalling persistent and strong pressure on capacity," it said. S&P Global said purchasing activity also increased solidly, albeit at a slightly slower rate. The sector's key driver was a rapid, near-record rise in new orders, with growth remaining sharp and only slightly below February's survey high. (*Bernama*)

MY: Malaysia-China bilateral trade up 30.6% to US$80.4b in 1H2026, says deputy minister

Bilateral trade between Malaysia and China expanded 30.6% year-on-year, reaching US$80.43 billion (RM325.3 billion) in the first half of 2026 (1H2026). Deputy Minister of Investment, Trade and Industry (Miti) Sim Tze Tzin said China's strategic contributions remain a vital pillar of this economic strength, standing as Malaysia's second-largest source of foreign direct investment at US$13.0 billion. "This strong momentum has carried seamlessly into 2026, with approved investments from China reaching US$3.7 billion in the first half of the year alone," he said in his keynote address at the Macao Business Leaders Meeting here Thursday. (*Bernama*)

MY: Ramp up investment in gas infrastructure as Malaysia transitions to green energy, say O&G players

Malaysia needs to ramp up investment in its gas infrastructure to ensure reliable fuel supply as it transitions to green energy, said oil and gas players. Hibiscus Petroleum Bhd managing director Datuk Kenneth Gerard Pereira said the biggest gap in the energy transition was the lack of sustainable and appropriate investment, particularly long-term or "patient" capital. Speaking during a plenary session at the Oil and Gas Asia 2026 forum on Thursday, Pereira said reliable energy infrastructure required continuous funding, including for essential projects such as regasification terminals, electricity grids and gas infrastructure. "So, the issue is really funding. We can do all types of things if we have enough money. (*The Edge*)

MY: 96% of manufacturers hit by geopolitical tensions, profit outlook split for 2H2026, says FMM

Nearly all Malaysian manufacturers surveyed by the Federation of Malaysian Manufacturing (FMM) have been affected by geopolitical tensions, while profit expectations for the second half of 2026 (2H2026) are evenly split between those expecting an increase and those anticipating a decline. The survey showed that 96% of respondents had been affected by geopolitical developments at some stage, mainly through raw material shortages and higher freight and logistics costs. Meanwhile, 38% expect profits to increase in 2H2026, while an equal 38% anticipate a decline. FMM president Jacob Lee Chor Kok said manufacturers were still seeing opportunities from Malaysia's deeper integration into global supply chains, new investment and emerging industries looking for local suppliers. (*The Edge*)

MY: Strong momentum to drive Malaysia's economy to 5% growth in 2026 — Akmal Nasrullah

Malaysia's economy is expected to grow by around 5% in 2026, supported by strong momentum in the country's current economic growth, said Economy Minister Akmal Nasrullah Mohd Nasir. He said the government aims for a growth rate between 4% and 5% this year. "Based on current conditions, the economy is expected to expand at around the upper end of that range. Given the current conditions, we are confident that growth will be around 5%," he told reporters after delivering a keynote address at the Oil and Gas Asia (OGA) 2026 conference here on Thursday. Bank Negara Malaysia's Monetary Policy Committee also maintained the Overnight Policy Rate (OPR) at 2.75% on Thursday, in line with the outlook for continued price stability and sustainable economic growth. (*Bernama*)

MY: Malaysia, Indonesia eye further growth in RM114bn bilateral trade, says Johari

Malaysia and Indonesia have significant scope to expand bilateral trade beyond the RM114 billion recorded last year by strengthening trade facilitation and improving cross-border goods movement. Investment, Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Johari Abdul Ghani said improved trade facilitation could substantially increase transaction volume, with the Border Trade Agreement playing an important role in facilitating economic activities. "What is important is that we can actually double, triple, quadruple transaction volume if the two countries can strengthen trade facilitation," he told *Bernama* after meeting his Indonesian counterpart Budi Santoso at the fourth Malaysia-Indonesia Joint Trade and Investment Committee (JTIC) meeting here on Thursday. (*Bernama*)

MY: Bank Negara Malaysia keeps overnight policy rate unchanged

Malaysia's central bank kept interest rates unchanged on Thursday as expected amid stable prices and strong growth. The overnight policy rate is maintained at 2.75% following the fifth of six scheduled reviews for the year, Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) said in a statement on Thursday. The move was correctly predicted by 20 of 22 economists polled by *Bloomberg*, while two predicted an increase of 25 basis points. The current monetary policy stance is considered to be "consistent with the outlook of continued price stability and sustainable economic growth", BNM said. The central bank has stood pat at every scheduled review since cutting the policy rate by 25 basis points in July last year as the economy emerged relatively unscathed from US tariffs and thrived in recent quarters even as the Iran War raged on. (*The Edge*)

MY: Manufacturers ask for a break from new taxes in Budget 2027

Malaysian manufacturers are urging for a break from new taxes in the upcoming Budget 2027 while asking the government to consider replacing the tax regime. The current sales and services tax (SST) continue to create "cost and competitiveness concerns", the Federation of Malaysian Manufacturing said following the release of the latest business conditions survey. The trade body is asking the government to prioritise cost relief and support for investment. "No more new taxes by the government in the new budget," Tan Sri Soh Thian Lai, president emeritus of the federation, pleaded at a press conference on Thursday. Malaysia's SST framework was broadened in 2025 to cover selected non-essential goods and additional service categories. (*The Edge*)

MY: Natural gas production up 19.1% to 763.5bn cubic feet in 2Q

Production of natural gas rose 19.1% year-on-year to 763.5 billion cubic feet in the second quarter of 2026 (2Q 2026) from 640.9 billion cubic feet a year ago, said the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM). The increase was also reflected in monthly performance throughout the quarter, with June recording stronger growth than April and May. DOSM said crude oil and condensate production decreased 5.6% year-on-year to 42.7 million barrels compared with 43.0 million barrels in the same quarter last year. "The decline was influenced by crude oil production, which contracted by 11.7 per cent, with production amounting to 28.6 million barrels," it said in a statement on Thursday. (*Bernama*)

MY: Malaysia-Thailand bilateral trade on track to reach US$30bn next year

Malaysia and Thailand are on track to reach their US$30 billion bilateral trade target next year, driven by strong trade performance and progress in the first eight months of 2026. Malaysian Ambassador to Thailand Datuk Wan Zaidi Wan Abdullah said a series of meetings were held with various parties to facilitate exports and imports between the two countries. However, he said product documentation remains a major barrier for Malaysian exports entering the Thai market. "Therefore, I hope that the relevant Malaysian authorities can assist product manufacturers in preparing the necessary documentation, particularly in terms of product verification and other requirements, for approval, marketing, or entry into Thailand. (*Bernama*)

Corporate News

ZETRIX: Yet to fix share issue price for RM130m MyEG Ventures deal amid volatility

Zetrix AI Bhd has yet to fix the issue price of the new shares that will form the bulk of the RM130 million consideration for its proposed acquisition of a 50% stake in MyEG Ventures Inc, citing volatility in its own share price. In response to queries from Bursa Malaysia late Wednesday, the company said the acquisition will be funded mainly through the issuance of up to 360.57 million new Zetrix AI shares. The issue price will be based on the five-day volume-weighted average market price of Zetrix AI shares immediately before the issuance. However, with Zetrix AI shares having fallen sharply in recent trading sessions, the company said the issue price has not been fixed at this juncture. It will make a further announcement once the price has been determined. *(The Edge*)

FFB: To raise up to RM20m via private placement for capex, Inside Scoop stake buy

Farm Fresh Bhd plans to raise up to RM200 million through a private placement, mainly to fund its capital expenditure and to settle a shareholder buyout obligation at its ice-cream unit Inside Scoop. In a bourse filing on Thursday, the group said it plans to issue up to 109.65 million new shares, equivalent to 5.8% of its enlarged issued share capital, to third-party investors at an issue price to be determined later. Of the RM200 million in proceeds, RM148.3 million has been earmarked for capital expenditure over the next 24 months, which will be split between RM92 million for expanding processing and dairy farming operations in Cambodia, including new production lines and an integrated dairy farm project in Pursat province, and RM56.3 million for expanding manufacturing capacity in Malaysia and developing new product lines. *(The Edge*)

TECHNAX: Sells loss-making HK super battery firm for RM45 mil to fund restaurant expansion

Techna-X Bhd is selling its entire 50% stake in loss-making Hong Kong-based super battery and capacitor maker HK Aerospace Beidou New Energy Technology Co Ltd (HKAB) for RM45 million cash, with the proceeds to fund its restaurant expansion. The group said RM30 million of the proceeds will be used to open 10 new restaurants or outlets in central Peninsular Malaysia and reimage two existing outlets through Craveat International, the operator of Italiannies and TGI Fridays in Malaysia. The remaining RM13.5 million will be used for working capital, including the settlement of trade and other payables as well as general operating and administrative expenses, while RM1.5 million has been set aside for expenses related to the disposal, according to the group's bourse filing. *(The Edge*)

ALAM: Appoints Aloysius Albert Michael as senior strategic adviser

Alam Maritim Resources Bhd has appointed oil and gas veteran Datuk Aloysius Albert Michael, 75, as senior strategic adviser to the Alam Maritim Group, effective Thursday. In a filing with Bursa Malaysia, the group said Aloysius, who is a substantial shareholder in the company, will advise its board of directors, group managing director and chief executive officer, as well as management, on business strategy, corporate development, operational performance, business expansion, strategic partnerships and other strategic initiatives. Aloysius, who is currently chief executive officer of Alam Maritim subsidiary Subsea Worldwide Solutions Sdn Bhd (SWS), owns a 12.436% interest in Alam Maritim. *(The Edge*)

PRG: Court places PRG Holdings under interim judicial management amid boardroom feud, debt dispute

PRG Holdings Bhd has been placed under interim judicial management by the Kuala Lumpur High Court, amid an escalating boardroom feud and a debt dispute with its largest shareholder, Datuk Ng Yan Cheng. The court appointed Andrew Heng and Ashvin Mahendran of Baker Tilly Insolvency PLT as the joint interim managers (IJMs) under a sealed order dated Aug 26, PRG said in a bourse filing on Thursday. The move effectively stripped its board of directors and management of their powers, though they remain bound to fulfill statutory compliance duties, said the Main Market-listed company that is involved in property development, construction and manufacturing of elastic textiles, webbings and metal components. *(The Edge*)

NICE: Rare earth partner gets interim manufacturing licence

Niche Capital Emas Holdings Bhd announced on Thursday that its joint development partner Greensnow Consolidated Bhd (GCB) has obtained an interim manufacturing licence from the Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry (Miti). The licence, granted to GCB's wholly-owned unit Greensnow Biosolutions Sdn Bhd last month, permits it to manufacture green chemical and bio-based solvents for rare earth (RE) extraction at a facility in Kawasan Perindustrian Gebeng Phase 4 in Kuantan, said Niche Capital Emas in a bourse filing. It said the licence carries several conditions, including a requirement to maintain capital investment of at least RM140,000, ensure Malaysian employees make up at least 80% of the workforce, and provide training to facilitate technology transfer. *(The Edge*)

SERSOL: Appoints Faizal Abdullah as chairman amid boardroom reshuffle

Industrial paint manufacturer and trader Sersol Bhd has appointed Datuk Faizal Abdullah as its independent and non-executive chairman, as the company refreshes its board following the exit of several directors. In an exchange filing, Sersol said Faizal, 55, has more than three decades of experience in corporate affairs, business management and public administration. He also currently sits on the boards of Titijaya Land Bhd and Fast Energy Holdings Bhd. He previously held senior management and executive positions at Tadmax Resources Bhd, including group chief executive officer and executive deputy chairman. He is also a corporate adviser to several companies in Malaysia and Indonesia. *(The Edge*)

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SALUTE: Chairman and sons exit after selling all their shares

Consumer electronics manufacturer Salutica Bhd announced the resignation of its principal officers as the Lim family exit the board after selling off all their shares in the company. In separate exchange filings, executive chairman Lim Chong Shyh and managing director Joshua Lim Phan Yih resigned from the company "to pursue other interests". Joel Lim Phan Hong, who is an alternate director, also announced his resignation in connection to Chong Shyh. Both Phan Yih and Phan Hong are the sons of Chong Shyh. The Lim family held a 35.41% controlling stake in Salutica via the family investment vehicle Blue Ocean Enlightenment Sdn Bhd. (*The Edge*)

MEDIAC: To sell property for RM20m following cessation of Canadian media operations

Media Chinese International Ltd has proposed to sell its property in Canada for C$6.85 million (RM19.88 million), following the cessation of its media operations in the country. The disposal is expected to generate an unaudited gain of C$5.26 million (RM15.28 million), the group said in a bourse filing on Thursday. The estimated net proceeds from the disposal, after relevant costs and expenses but before tax, total C$6.55 million (RM19.01 million). The group intends to use the proceeds for general working capital. Media Chinese said the property is no longer required and the disposal provides an opportunity to realise its value and redeploy the proceeds towards the group's other business and operational requirements. (*The Edge*)

GTRONIC: Chairman Ta Shun Dher emerges as substantial shareholder after 1.14% stake buy

Globetronic Technology Bhd's non-executive chairman Ta Shun Dher has emerged as a substantial shareholder in the semiconductor manufacturer. Ta acquired 8.91 million shares, equivalent to a 1.14% stake, in Globetronic on Sept 1, according to a bourse filing on Thursday. The shares changed hands via a direct business transaction at 24.5 sen apiece, a 2.1% premium to Globetronic's closing price of 24 sen on Sept 1. The transaction was valued at RM2.18 million. Following the acquisition, Ta's direct stake in Globetronic rose to 5.08%, crossing the 5% threshold to be deemed a substantial shareholder. Ta is the son of the late Tan Sri Ta Kin Yan, the founder of Waz Lian Group and Majestic Gen Sdn Bhd. He was appointed to Globetronic's board in January, replacing Liaw Way Gian, who was redesignated as an executive director. (*The Edge*)

ORGABIO: Instant beverage manufacturer Orgabio to buy Semenyih lot for RM11.3m

Orgabio Holdings Bhd, which makes instant beverage premixes and food supplements, will acquire a freehold industrial property in Semenyih, Selangor for RM11.26 million cash. Its wholly owned subsidiary, Orgabio Manufacturing Sdn Bhd entered and agreement with Chung Lian Fatt to purchase a 5,263 square metre parcel of freehold land at Jalan Bangi, Mukim Semenyih, according to an exchange filing. Orgabio said it plans to develop a warehouse on the site to support its expanding operations. It expects the purchase to be completed by the fourth quarter of 2026. The company added that the property is next to the group's new factory in Sungai Purun, Semenyih, enabling the efficient transport of goods between the manufacturing and warehousing facilities. (*The Edge*)

MAGNI: Says 1Q net profit down 17% on lower garment revenue, declares 2.8 sen dividend

Magni-Tech Industries Bhd on Thursday reported a 17% fall in quarterly net profit, dragged by lower contributions from its garment business. Net profit for the first quarter ended July 31, 2026 (1QFY2027) stood at RM29.4 million, down from RM35.6 million a year earlier, the garment manufacturer said in a bourse filing on Thursday. Revenue fell 15.6% year-on-year to RM318.6 million from RM377.6 million. The garment segment, the group's larger contributor, saw revenue decline 17.3% due to lower sales orders, while revenue from its packaging segment rose nearly 17%, driven by stronger sales orders. The packaging division manufactures flexible plastic packaging and corrugated cartons. (*The Edge*)

Upcoming key economic data releases	Date
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	

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Stock Selection Based on Dividend Yield

	Sector	Price (RM)	Dividend/Share (RM)	Dividend Yield (%)
Sentral REIT	REIT	0.67	0.06	9.55
CapitaLand Malaysia Trust	REIT	0.58	0.05	8.97
Bermaz Auto	Consumer	0.92	0.08	8.91
MBM Resources	Consumer	5.28	0.46	8.75
KIP REIT	REIT	0.86	0.07	8.42
YTL Hospital REIT	REIT	1.01	0.09	8.42
Sports Toto	Consumer	1.32	0.10	7.20
Paramount Corporation	Property	1.03	0.07	7.09
Al-Salam REIT	REIT	0.60	0.04	6.72
TIME dotCom	Telco	6.00	0.39	6.48
UOA Development	Property	1.64	0.11	6.46
Al-Aqar Healthcare REIT	REIT	1.16	0.07	6.38
Ta Ann Holdings	Plantation	6.29	0.40	6.36
Pavilion REIT	REIT	1.62	0.10	6.36
MAG Holdings	Consumer	1.26	0.08	6.35

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		
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
Evocom Berhad	ACE Market	0.18	113.91	22.00	14 Sept	28 Sept

Source: Bursa Malaysia

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