

## Bursa pulls back further as profit-taking gathers pace

**BURSA** Malaysia extended its pullback yesterday as profit-taking intensified, with most sectors closing lower in a broad-based consolidation, an analyst said.

At 5pm, the FBM KLCI fell 25.60 points, or 1.46%, to 1,730.89 from Wednesday's close of 1,756.49.

The market bellwether opened 3.18 points lower at 1,753.31, marking the day's high, and hit a low of 1,719.52 during the mid-morning session.

IPPFA Sdn Bhd director of investment strategy and country economist Mohd Sedek Jantan said the local market's decline for a second consecutive session reflects a deliberate reset after its strong rally earlier in the week.

He said the index's peak of 1,770 on Tuesday marked a solid 5.42% year-to-date gain, prompting natural profit-taking after it broke above the key technical resistance around 1,760.

Among heavyweights, both Maybank and IHH Healthcare dropped 16 sen to RM11.64 and RM8.86, respectively. Public Bank slipped 10 sen to RM4.85, CIMB dipped 18 sen to RM8.47, and Tenaga Nasional edged down eight sen to RM14.

On the most active list, both Capital A and ISF Group inched up five sen to 63.5 sen and 53 sen, respectively, Zetrix AI eased two sen to 80 sen, and Tanco Holdings was flat at RM1.34.

Among the top gainers, Nestle rose 50 sen to RM114.00, VSTECs jumped 21 sen to RM4.24, while Kerjaya Prospek and Riverview Rubber Estates went up 10 sen each to RM2.75 and RM3, respectively.

As for the top decliners, Fraser & Neave decreased RM1.08 to RM34.42, Dutch Lady Milk Industries dropped seven sen to RM33.10, Hong Leong Bank slid 52 sen to RM24.32, Petronas Gas shed 34 sen to RM18.26, and Hong Leong Financial erased 30 sen to RM21.70. – Bernama