

DAILY STOCK MARKET HIGHLIGHTS

Thursday, 07 February 2019



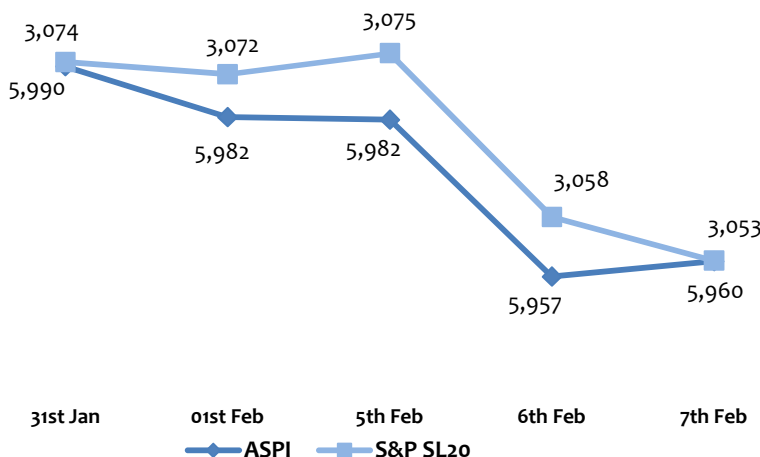
**ASHA PHILLIP
SECURITIES LTD**

Sri Lanka

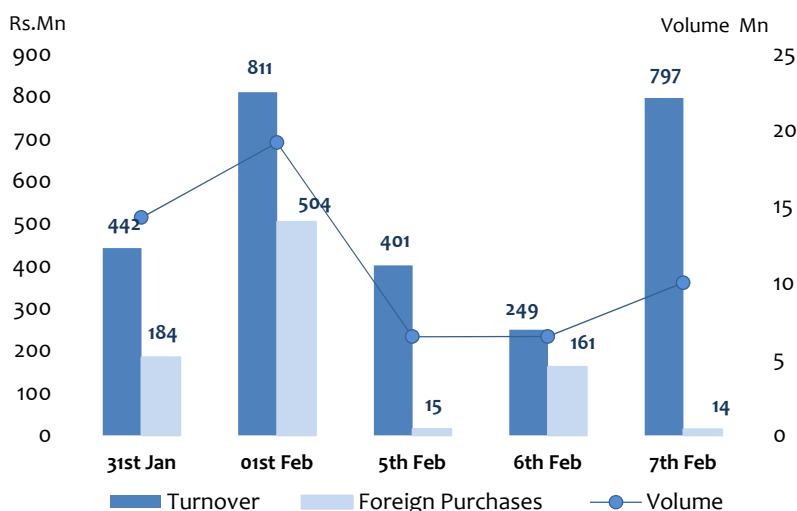
Daily Market Statistics

Index	7th Feb	6th Feb	Change	% Change
ASPI	5,959.79	5,957.41	↑ 2.38	↑ 0.04%
S&P SL20	3,053.25	3,057.75	↓ (4.50)	↓ -0.15%
Market Stats (LKR, Mn)		7th Feb	6th Feb	% Change
Turnover		797.02	249.22	↑ 219.8%
Domestic Purchases		783.20	87.93	↑ 790.7%
Domestic Sales		98.09	81.16	↑ 20.9%
Foreign Purchases		13.82	161.28	↓ -91.4%
Foreign Sales		698.94	168.06	↑ 315.9%
Share Volume		10.01	6.48	↑ 54.5%
Market capitalization (Bn)		2,785.37	2,784.26	↑ 0.04%
PER		9.32	9.32	↓ 0.00%
PBV		1.17	1.17	↓ 0.00%

Market Indices



Turnover, Volume and Foreign Purchase



Performance of the Market

- Delay in expected foreign loans and lower economic activities discourage the investors. Net foreign selling on blue-chips weighed on the bourse. Activities noted on several speculative counters.
- Benchmark index ASPI moved between 5,955.04-5,965.83 points and settled the day at 5,959.79 with a gain of 2.38 points (+0.04%).
- Major contributors for the movement in ASPI were **DIST (+4.9)**, **CINS (+3.4)**, **CTCE (+1.1)**, **NTB (+0.9)**, **PLC (+0.7)**, **JKH (-2.5)**, **DIAL (-1.7)**, **AAIC (-1.5)**, **COMB (-1.0)** & **LOFC (-0.9)**
- S&P SL20 index also followed a same trend and settled the day at 3,053.25 with a loss of 4.5 points (-0.15%).
- The day's turnover was recorded as LKR 797.02Mn, up by 220% from its previously recorded LKR 249.22Mn. Foreign investors remained net sellers for the day.
- The total market capitalization stood at LKR 2.79Tn, indicating an YTD loss of 1.90%.
- The market PER & PBV were at 9.32x & 1.17x respectively.

Top Contributors – Turnover

1. John Keells Holdings PLC (JKH) contributed 87% (693.79Mn) of the turnover. JKH traded between LKR 156.00 & 158.00 and settled the day at LKR 156.00 with a loss of LKR 0.90 (-0.57%); about 83% (571.98Mn) of its turnover was contributed through 6 off board trades of 3.67Mn shares negotiated at the prices of LKR 156.00
2. Sampath Bank PLC (SAMP) had contributed LKR 18.01Mn. SAMP traded between LKR 237.50 & 239.00 and settled the day at LKR 237.50 with a loss of LKR 0.40 (-0.17%).
3. East West Properties PLC (EAST) contributed LKR 10.84Mn. EAST traded between LKR 14.60 & 15.30 and settled the day at LKR 14.80 with a gain of LKR 0.40 (+2.78%).

Top contributors - Traded Volume

1. John Keells Holdings PLC traded a total of 4.45Mn shares.
2. East West Properties PLC (0.73Mn shares)
3. Anilana Hotels And Properties PLC (0.63Mn shares).

Sectorial Overview

1. Diversified Holdings (DIV) sector stood on top providing LKR 698.03Mn capturing 88% of the total turnover.
2. Bank Finance & Insurance (BFI) sector provided LKR 47.44Mn to the daily aggregated turnover.
3. Land &Property (L&P) sector provided LKR 11.53Mn

Daily Foreign Transactions

Net Foreign Purchases

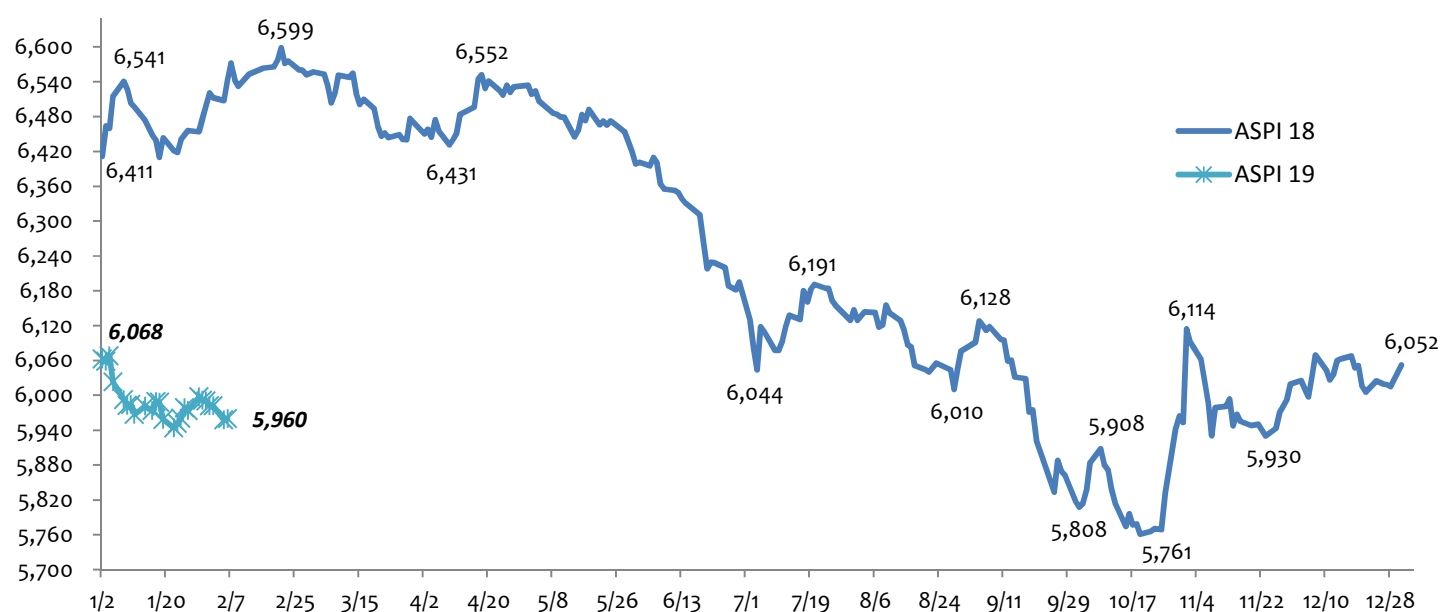
Company Name	Avg Price	Net change in Qty	Net Foreign Inflow
NATIONS TRUST (+)	90.00	29,558	2,660,220
LANKA IOC	20.30	100,000	2,030,000
CARGILLS	200.00	10,000	2,000,000
MERCHANT BANK (+)	9.90	107,910	1,068,309
ACL	36.40	1,500	54,600
AITKEN SPENCE	44.30	500	22,150
CHEVRON (+)	75.0	206	15,450
R I L PROPERTY	6.60	2,000	13,200
RENUKA CAPITAL	4.20	1,700	7,140

Net Foreign Sales

Company Name	Avg Price	Net change in Qty	Net Foreign Outflow
JKH	156.00	(4,347,356)	(678,187,536)
SAMPATH (+)	237.50	(50,000)	(11,875,000)
MELSTACORP	45.00	(31,635)	(1,423,575)
COMMERCIAL BANK (+)	111.80	(5,856)	(654,701)
MTD WALKERS	17.20	(18,316)	(315,035)
EAST WEST	14.80	(7,148)	(105,790)
BPPL HOLDINGS	10.50	(9,550)	(100,275)
DILMAH CEYLON	619.60	(134)	(83,026)
DFCC BANK PLC	82.80	(1,000)	(82,800)
TOKYO CEMENT	22.90	(3,600)	(82,440)

- **Aggregate foreign buying** for the day totaled up to **LKR 13.82Mn**.
- **Foreign sales** for the day amounted to **LKR 698.94Mn**.
- **Net foreign outflow** for the day was **LKR 685.12Mn**, **YTD net foreign outflow** presently stands at **LKR 3.44Bn**.
- **NTB** notched the “Top Net Purchasers” slot with a net inflow of **LKR 2.66Mn** whilst **JKH** notched the “Top net Sellers” slot with a net outflow of **LKR 678.19Mn**.

Year-to-Date ASPI Movement - 2018 & 2019



Key Announcements

- **Colombo Stock Exchange** said, Trading of **The Finance Company PLC (TFC)** and **People's Merchant Finance PLC (PMB)**, which are on the Watch List, **will be suspended** with effect from 18th February 2019 in terms of Rule 7.5 (d) (l) (9) and 7.10.7 (i) of the CSE Listing Rules, **unless** the companies **rectify the non-compliance** on or before 15th February 2019.

Companies under Trading Suspension

Company	MIRA	CIFL	ESL	PCH	PCP	SING	CIFL	SFS
From	26-Feb-15	23-Nov-17	5-Jan-16	2-Apr-18			23-Nov-17	2-July 18.
Reason	SEC Directive	status	Weak position	as per CSE Listing Rules			CBSL	Listing Rules
Company	LCEM	MEL	HUEJ	AINV	CFT	LLMP	PCHH	
From	7-Sep 18.	25-Sep 18.	26-Nov-18.	10-Dec-2018 for Non-submission of				
Reason	Auditor's Qualified Opinion		***	Non-submission of Annual Reports				

***Non-submission of Interim Financial Statements 30th Jun 2018

Companies on WATCH LIST

Non Submission of Annual Reports, Financial Statements									Default Board
MIRA	LCEM	CIFL	PCH	PCP	SING	HDEV	LLMP	PCHH	SFS
SINH	LLMP	CFT	SFL						
Qualified Opinion in the Independent Auditor's Report									
AINV	ESL	EAST	MEL	JANA	HVA	PMB	MBSL	ALHP	TFC
SIRA	MSL	CHOU							
Non-compliance of CSE Listing Rules, minimum public holding & Corporate Governance									
HUEJ	LOFC	ACAP	ARPI	ASPH	BBH	COMD	CPRT	DIST	CLC
ASPM	GOOD	HPFL	INDO	KAPI	LAMB	MADU	MORI	OFEQ	NIFL
PARA	PDL	SELI	MERC	SHAL	LHCL	SLND	AFSL	AMCL	ODEL
SFCL	TAP	MERC	TFIL						

Annual general Meetings (AGMs)

Company	Date	Company	Date	Company	Date
COMB	28-Mar-19	UBC	28-Mar-19	SEYB	29-Mar-19
DFCC	28-Mar-19	HNB	29-Mar-19	SAMP	29-Mar-19
HASU	28-Mar-19	PABC	29-Mar-19		

EGMs

Company	Date	Company	Date
ASCO	8-Feb-19	FLCH	8-Mar-19
ALUF	15-Feb-19	BIL	8-Mar-19
NDB	18-Feb-19		

Key Announcements

Cash Dividends

CODE	DIVIDEND PER SHARE (LKR)	TYPE	XD DATE	PAYMENT DATE	CODE	DIVIDEND PER SHARE (LKR)	TYPE	XD DATE	PAYMENT DATE
SFCL	0.80	Interim	30.Jan.2019	11.Feb.2019	VPEL	0.40	Interim	13.Feb.2019	22.Feb.2019
COMB	3.00	2nd Interim	06.Feb.2019	15.Feb.2019	CTEA	20.00	Interim	15.Feb.2019	25.Feb.2019
BPPL	0.24	2nd Interim	07.Feb.2019	18.Feb.2019	TJL	0.85	1st Interim	18.Feb.2019	28.Feb.2019
JKH	2.00	2nd Interim	12.Feb.2019	22.Feb.2019					

Amalgamation [A]

Transferee	Transferor	Proportion	Offer Closing Date
[A] Browns investments PLC (BIL)	Browns Capital PLC (FLCH)	2 BIL for every 1 FLCH	To be notified

Rights Issues

T = Tranche

Company,	Issue Price	Issue Value	Proportion	XR Date	Letter Dispatch	Trading of Rights	Acceptance
Asia Asset Finance (AAF) T-1 @ LKR 10.0		LKR 252Mn	03 for 10	14 Feb 2019.	20 Feb 2019.	26 Feb - 06 Mar.	07 Mar 19.
Asia Asset Finance (AAF) T-2 @ LKR 10.0		LKR 218Mn	02 for 10	3 Apr 2019.	8 Apr 2019.	12 Apr - 23 Apr.	24 Apr 19.

Rights Issues with pending dates

Company,	Issue Price	Proportion	Company,	Issue Price	Proportion
Agalawatte Plantations (AGAL)	LKR 15.3	21 for 4	Adam Investments PLC (AINV)	LKR 1.00	01 for 01
Adam Capital PLC (PCHH)	LKR 1.50	02 for 01	Blue Diamonds Jewellery (BLUE)	LKR 1.00	01 for 04
DFCC Bank PLC (DFCC)	LKR 72.00	02 for 05			

Upcoming Listings

Company	Issue Size	Coupon Rate	Price	Issue Opening	Tenure	Nature
Commercial Bank of Ceylon PLC (COMB)	LKR 15Bn	To be notified	100.00	To be Notified	5 - 10 Years	BASEL III
National Development Bank (NDB)	LKR 6.5Bn	To be notified	100.00	To be Notified	5 Years	BASEL III
Seylan Bank PLC (SEYB)	LKR 5Bn	To be notified	100.00	To be Notified	5 Years	BASEL III
Sampath Bank PLC (SAMP)	LKR 7Bn	To be notified	100.00	To be Notified	5 Years	BASEL III
Hatton National Bank PLC (HNB)	LKR 10Bn	To be notified	100.00	To be notified	5, 7 Years	BASEL III
Bogawantalawa Tea Estates (BOPL)	LKR 0.85Bn	To be notified	85.00	To be notified	5, 6 & 7 Years	Normal

Market Highlights & Statistics

Market Capitalisation

Company Name	Symbol	Price	Issued Quantity	Market Capitalisation	(as a % of MKT Cap.)
CEYLON TOBACCO COMPANY PLC	CTC.No000	1,400.00	187,323,751	262,253,251,400	10.14
JOHN KEELLS HOLDINGS PLC	JKH.No000	156.00	1,318,152,225	205,631,747,100	7.95
COMMERCIAL BANK OF CEYLON PLC	COMB.No000	111.80	945,709,403	105,730,311,255	4.09
NESTLE LANKA PLC	NEST.No000	1,724.80	53,725,463	92,665,678,582	3.58
DIALOG AXIATA PLC	DIAL.No000	10.00	8,143,778,405	81,437,784,050	3.15
HATTON NATIONAL BANK PLC	HNB.No000	203.10	395,451,248	80,316,148,469	3.11
DISTILLERIES COMPANY OF SRI LANKA PLC	DIST.No000	16.30	4,600,000,000	74,980,000,000	2.90
SAMPATH BANK PLC	SAMP.No000	237.50	280,902,248	66,714,283,900	2.58
CEYLON COLD STORES PLC	CCS.No000	626.90	95,040,000	59,580,576,000	2.30
AIA INSURANCE LANKA PLC	CTCE.No000	1,878.80	30,749,370	57,771,916,356	2.23

Highest Volume

Company Name	Turnover (Rs)	Share Vol.
JOHN KEELLS HOLDINGS PLC	693,791,642	4,447,369
EAST WEST PROPERTIES PLC	10,842,230	725,779
ANILANA HOTELS AND PROPERTIES PLC	631,943	631,913
LANKA IOC PLC	10,404,072	512,483
MTD WALKERS PLC	6,801,063	392,888
MERCHANT BANK OF SRI LANKA & FINANCE PLC	2,752,202	279,992
PIRAMAL GLASS CEYLON PLC	974,290	264,011
BROWNS CAPITAL PLC	912,463	254,859
BROWNS INVESTMENTS PLC	322,022	169,400
THE FINANCE COMPANY PLC [X]	128,282	160,093

Highest Turnover

Company Name	Share Vol.	Turnover (LKR)
JOHN KEELLS HOLDINGS PLC	4,447,369	693,791,642
SAMPATH BANK PLC	75,765	18,006,211
EAST WEST PROPERTIES PLC	725,779	10,842,230
LANKA IOC PLC	512,483	10,404,072
COMMERCIAL BANK OF CEYLON PLC	65,264	7,298,274
MTD WALKERS PLC	392,888	6,801,063
CHEVRON LUBRICANTS LANKA PLC	47,684	3,607,751
SOFTLOGIC LIFE INSURANCE PLC	76,380	3,394,299
MULTI FINANCE PLC	147,989	2,853,694
MERCHANT BANK OF SRI LANKA & FINANCE PLC	279,992	2,752,202

Top Gainers

Company Name	VWA Days Close	Change (LKR)	Change %	Turnover (LKR)
BLUE DIAMONDS [X]	0.30	0.10	50.00	39
TESS AGRO	0.50	0.10	25.00	50
MULTI FINANCE	20.00	2.80	16.28	2,853,694
CHEMANEX	55.80	6.80	13.88	58,548
NAMUNUKULA	71.00	5.60	8.56	40,285
ON'ALLY	113.70	8.20	7.77	22,553
AGSTAR PLC	4.70	0.30	6.82	9,409
CEYLON INV.	37.90	2.00	5.57	9,918
ASIA SIYAKA	2.20	0.10	4.76	2,322
HOTEL SIGIRIYA	65.00	2.90	4.67	660,710

Top Losers

Company Name	VWA Days Close	Change (LKR)	Change %	Turnover (LKR)
ASIA ASSET	7.80	(1.20)	(13.33)	39,097
THE FINANCE CO. [X]	0.80	(0.10)	(11.11)	128,282
AUTODROME	69.20	(6.60)	(8.71)	10,030
CARGO BOAT	70.00	(5.00)	(6.67)	92,668
PRINTCARE PLC	31.60	(2.10)	(6.23)	211,209
RENUKA FOODS	16.00	(1.00)	(5.88)	160,086
BALANGODA	14.60	(0.90)	(5.81)	353,945
MASKELIYA	11.80	(0.70)	(5.60)	193,767
THE FINANCE CO.	1.90	(0.10)	(5.00)	31,980
SIERRA CABL	2.00	(0.10)	(4.76)	309,634

Crossings

Name	Symbol	Price	Trades	T.Volume	Turnover
John Keells Holdings PLC	JKH.No000	156.00	6	3,666,555	571,982,580.00

Market Highlights & Statistics

Sector Wise Summary

Sector	Price Index		Turnover			Sector	
	Today	Previous	Value (Rs)	Volume	Trades	P/E	PBV
BANK FINANCE AND INSURANCE	16,338.39	16,321.01	47,435,055	1,238,207	1,045	4.90	0.90
BEVERAGE FOOD AND TOBACCO	24,063.89	23,983.58	3,550,030	115,412	176	17.30	5.80
CONSTRUCTION AND ENGINEERING	1,420.94	1,411.94	7,865,274	493,510	569	15.70	0.50
CHEMICALS AND PHARMACEUTICALS	5,300.76	5,253.14	1,208,873	41,444	34	7.80	0.80
DIVERSIFIED HOLDINGS	1,534.63	1,539.75	698,026,055	5,011,166	213	10.80	0.90
FOOTWEAR AND TEXTILE	904.08	902.06	474,818	50,492	24	53.60	0.90
HOTELS AND TRAVELS	2,647.94	2,645.17	3,856,593	847,806	158	98.40	1.70
HEALTH CARE	815.22	813.45	906,548	43,315	31	16.60	1.80
INVESTMENT TRUSTS	9,343.67	9,212.85	92,376	8,064	16	0.00	0.40
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	25.52	25.52	69	15	1	0.00	0.00
LAND AND PROPERTY	543.21	543.58	11,527,909	791,810	478	5.40	0.60
MANUFACTURING	2,825.17	2,835.23	8,588,307	581,510	424	8.70	0.80
MOTORS	12,385.88	12,441.41	68,718	279	21	17.10	0.50
OIL PALMS	49,418.58	49,418.58	24,592	50	9	59.20	1.30
POWER & ENERGY	99.48	99.69	10,735,914	557,525	120	87.60	1.20
PLANTATIONS	782.45	782.85	1,707,323	125,214	169	26.20	0.80
STORES SUPPLIES	28,152.16	28,152.16	0	0	0	17.40	0.50
SERVICES	16,283.47	16,157.17	22,301	6,773	27	15.10	1.30
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	135.67	136.38	805,142	78,255	38	5.80	0.90
TRADING	11,327.49	11,301.76	127,765	15,848	17	52.00	0.70

GICS Industry Group Statistics

Industry Group	Price Index		Turnover			Sector	
	Today	Previous	Value (Rs)	Volume	Trades	P/E	PBV
Automobiles & Components	462.47	462.47	346,825	10,050	9	4.80	0.60
Banks	807.98	808.54	32,140,578	274,111	259	5.50	0.70
Capital Goods	835.53	838.79	703,728,190	5,151,894	805	10.80	0.80
Commercial & Professional Services	794.79	835.93	211,209	6,675	10	0.00	1.00
Consumer Durables & Apparel	799.29	804.16	1,776,879	94,557	106	41.50	1.10
Consumer Services	249.08	248.32	3,856,593	847,806	160	104.30	1.70
Diversified Financials	775.30	774.91	9,168,115	840,053	540	5.40	1.00
Energy	545.32	549.51	10,445,258	514,996	95	0.00	0.90
Food & Staples Retailing	1,251.65	1,251.16	2,071,275	11,445	6	22.70	2.20
Food, Beverage & Tobacco	920.53	918.09	5,210,603	468,449	407	16.30	2.80
Health Care Equipment & Services	875.86	873.99	913,617	53,330	36	16.70	1.80
Household & Personal Products	958.15	979.71	334,920	31,372	39	13.10	1.80
Insurance	2,195.63	2,178.49	6,141,363	126,335	267	3.70	1.70
Materials	540.04	536.89	7,004,731	376,675	251	8.70	1.00
Pharmaceuticals, Biotechnology & Life Sciences	1,807.58	1,807.58	0	0	0	5.20	1.40
Real Estate	739.51	740.12	11,347,684	772,560	453	5.10	0.60
Retailing	752.83	753.88	183,087	18,269	32	17.20	0.70
Technology Hardware & Equipment	0.00	-	0	0	0	0.00	0.00
Telecommunication Services	708.87	712.58	805,142	78,255	38	5.80	0.90
Transportation	702.71	685.99	127,100	31,000	4	7.70	0.70
Utilities	740.05	736.73	290,656	42,529	25	10.40	0.70

Economic Indicators & Other Statistics

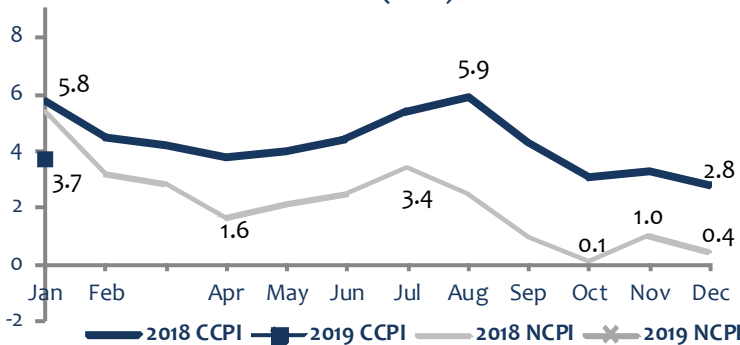
Exchange Rates

Currency	7th Feb		6th Feb	
	Buying	Selling	Buying	Selling
Dollar (USA)	175.75	179.61	176.12	179.98
Pound (UK)	226.15	233.51	227.05	234.43
Euro (EU)	198.36	205.41	199.51	206.57
Dollar (Australia)	123.67	128.96	125.02	130.35
Dollar (Canada)	131.91	136.84	133.13	138.10
Franc (Switzerland)	174.21	180.41	175.09	181.32
Renminbi (China)	25.72	26.96	25.79	27.03
Yen (Japan)	1.5896	1.6487	1.5934	1.6526
Dollar (Singapore)	129.00	133.43	129.57	134.01

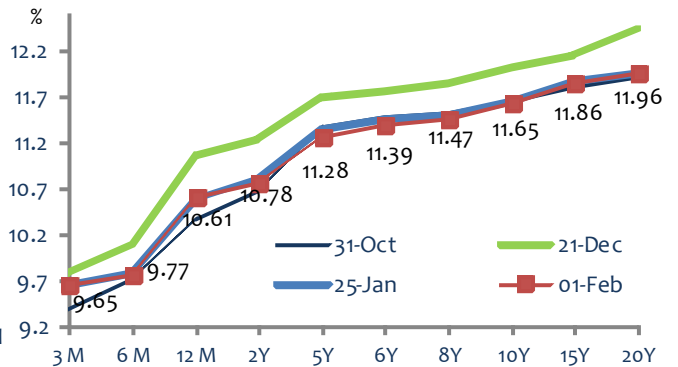
Indicative Rates

Currency	7th Feb	6th Feb
	Ind: Value	Ind: Value
Yuan (Offshore)	26.2622	26.2869
Rupee (India)	2.4859	2.4862
Won (Korean)	0.1585	0.1588
Dinar (Kuwait)	586.8539	586.1621
Ringgit (Malay)	43.5586	43.4406
Rial (Oman)	462.4561	461.8805
Riyal (Qatar)	48.8968	48.8360
Riyal (KSA)	47.4744	47.4153
Dirham (UAE)	48.4722	48.4119

Inflation Colombo Consumers' Price Index (CCPI) & National Consumer Price Index (NCPI)



Government Securities - Secondary Market Yield



Central Bank's Policy Rates

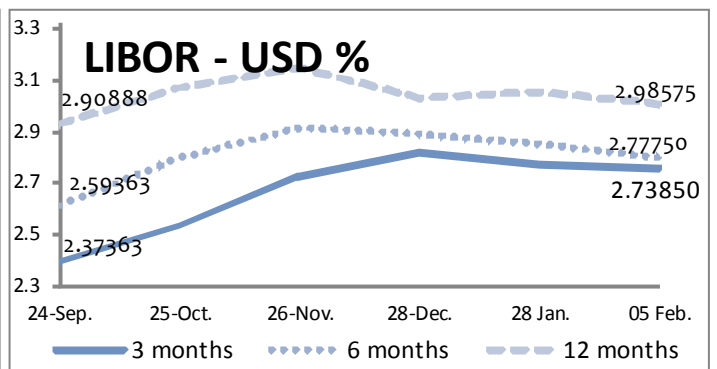
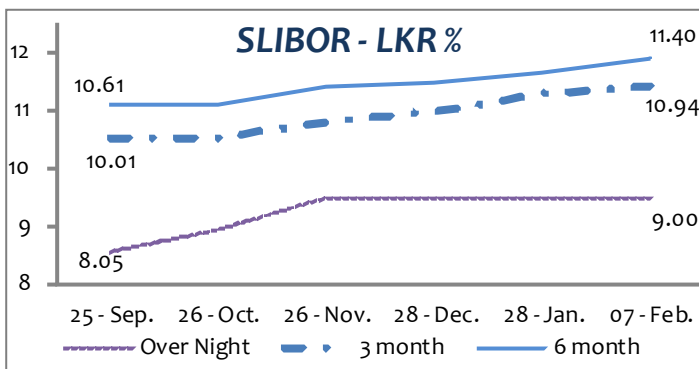
Description	Present	Previous		06.02.2019	30.01.2019	23.01.2019	16.01.2019
Standing Deposit Facility (SDF)	8.00%	7.25%	91 Days %	9.55	na	na	10.01
Standing Lending Facility (SLF)	9.00%	8.50%	182 Days %	9.87	na	9.87	9.87
Bank Rate	15.00%	15.00%	364 Days %	10.69	10.69	10.70	10.75
Statutory Reserve Ratio (SRR)	6.00%	7.50%	Amount	24Bn	21Bn	23.5Bn	26Bn

Treasury Bill Issuance

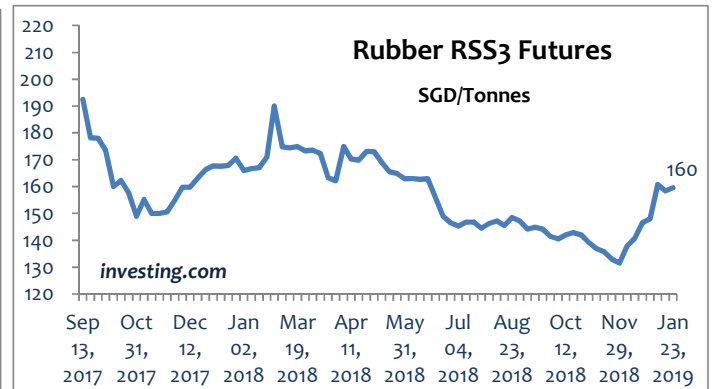
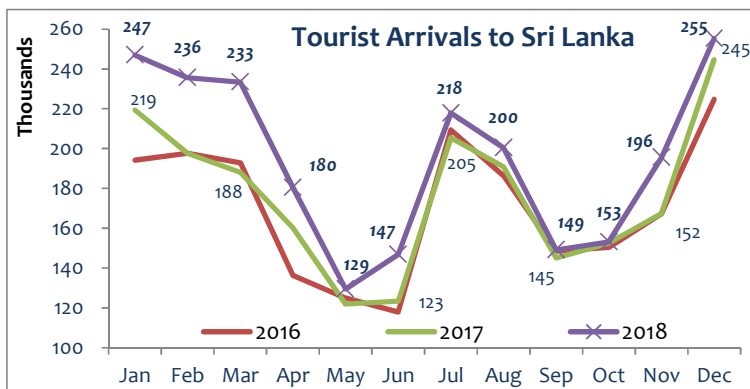
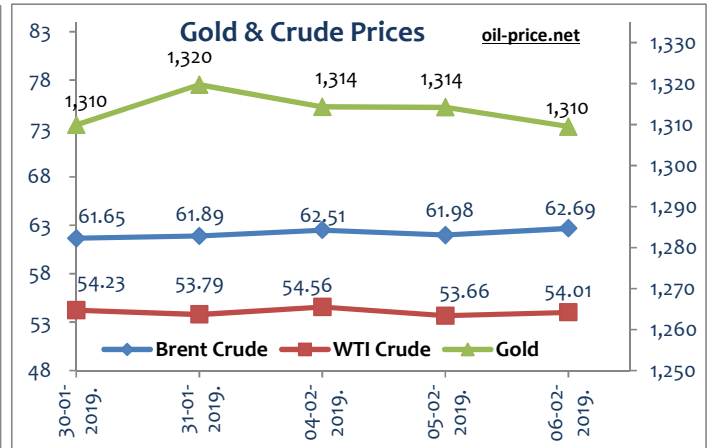
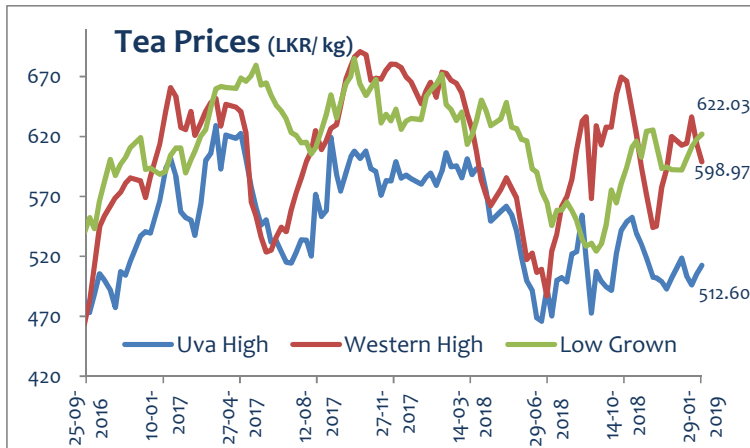
Date	13.12.2018	17.07.2016	11.01.2019	17.07.2016	17.09.2018	13.12.2018	11.01.2019	15.10.2018
Maturity	3 Years	4 Years	5 Years	6 Years	7 Years	8 Years	10 Years	15 Years
Current Yield	11.88	11.14	11.58	11.21	10.32	12.23	11.73	11.90
Previous Auction	17.09.2018	15.06.2017	15.10.2018	15.06.2017	16.07.2018	02.01.2018	15.08.2018	16.07.2018
Previous Yield	10.03	11.37	11.69	11.38	10.53	10.06	10.20	10.88

Treasury Bond Issuance

Date	13.12.2018	17.07.2016	11.01.2019	17.07.2016	17.09.2018	13.12.2018	11.01.2019	15.10.2018
Maturity	3 Years	4 Years	5 Years	6 Years	7 Years	8 Years	10 Years	15 Years
Current Yield	11.88	11.14	11.58	11.21	10.32	12.23	11.73	11.90
Previous Auction	17.09.2018	15.06.2017	15.10.2018	15.06.2017	16.07.2018	02.01.2018	15.08.2018	16.07.2018
Previous Yield	10.03	11.37	11.69	11.38	10.53	10.06	10.20	10.88



Economic Indicators & Other Statistics



Local News

Bank of China's US \$ 300mn loan to Sri Lanka faces delay

REUTERS: A US \$ 300Mn loan offered by Bank of China to Sri Lanka is facing delays, government officials familiar with the negotiation told Reuters. The Indian Ocean island nation, a key battleground in the tussle for influence in South Asia between China and traditional regional power India, was due to receive the loan before the end of January, but it is now unlikely to be finalised until later this month, according to four officials. Treasury Secretary and Finance and Mass Media Ministry Secretary Dr. R.H.S. Samarasinghe said Colombo expected a response from the bank by February 20, meaning the loan may not be finalised for several more weeks. "They had asked a few questions and we have responded," he told Reuters. "Then they said they will come back. But now they say they want to consult their head office." Sri Lanka is seeking the loan, which it said could be raised to US \$ 1Bn by the end of March, as it struggles to repay foreign debts after a political crisis delayed the government's borrowing plan. The country is due to repay a record US \$ 5.9Bn this year, including US \$ 2.6Bn in the first three months.

Sri Lanka rupee closes stronger, bond yields up

ECONOMYNEXT- Sri Lanka's rupee closed stronger at 177.55/80 to the US dollar in the spot market, while bond yields were up and stocks closed 0.41% lower, dealers said. Twelve month bills closed at 10.65/73% on Wednesday, wider from 10.66/68% on Tuesday. A bond maturing on 01.08.2021 was quoted at 10.85/93% on Wednesday, up from Tuesday's closing of 10.80/84%. A bond maturing on 15.12.2023, was quoted at 11.95/05%, compared to 10.95/98% Tuesday. A 7-year bond maturing 01.08.2026 was quoted at 11.20/25%, up from the previous close of 11.15/20%. A bond maturing on 15.01.2027, was quoted at 11.25/30% up from Tuesday's 11.20/25%. A bond maturing on 01.09.2028 closed at 11.30/45% on Tuesday, up from 11.27/35% on Friday.

BOI inks 4 agreements for Hotel, Fabric manufacture and warehousing and logistics

(LBO) – Sri Lanka’s Board of Investment signed agreements for 4 new projects recently. One of the Agreement signed was with Arihara Lanka Dream Company (Private) Limited to set up, construct and operate a 36 roomed hotel which will be located in Dambulla. When completed it will create 80 employment opportunities and the total value of the investment US\$ 3.85Mn. This project is a Japanese investment and the Chairman and Managing Director of Arihara Lanka Dream Company (Private) Limited., Hiroshi Arihara stated “We initially were interested in building a hotel in the Maldives but this was difficult, so instead we decided to visit Sri Lanka because of the beauty of the country and we chose a location at Dambulla to build our Hotel there. The main attraction of this Hotel is proximity to water, since it is close to the Lake. We also have an excellent view on the Sigiriya rock fortress. Arihara stated that this project which will be a 4 star hotel will focus on providing the guests with a very relaxed environment and excellent service.

In addition to the hotel project, an Agreement was signed with Pick Pack Park (Pvt) Ltd project to set up a warehousing and logistics facility which will be located at Weligampitiya, Ja-Ela. This will create employment for 10 staff and represents an investment of US\$ 0.5Mn.

Foreign News

Asian shares near four-month peak, NZ\$ takes a dive

(Reuters) - Asian share markets hovered near four-month highs on Thursday with Australian equities the star performer while the New Zealand dollar sank after disappointing jobs data prompted investors to narrow the odds of a future rate cut. Australia’s benchmark stock index jumped 1.2 percent amid expectations of easy monetary policy after the country’s central bank chief shifted away from his previous tightening bias. Japan’s Nikkei slipped 0.6 percent.

The positive sentiment in Asia was unlikely to extend elsewhere with spreadbetters pointing to a weak start for European shares. The next major trigger for markets will be any breakthrough in the U.S.-Sino tariff talks when the two sides meet in Beijing next week.

U.S. **President Donald Trump** offered little new to chew on in his State of the Union speech but Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said on Wednesday he and other U.S. officials will aim to clinch a deal next week to avert a March 2 increase in U.S. tariffs on Chinese goods.

In currency markets, the early mover was the New Zealand dollar which slid after data showed unemployment, job gains and wages growth all missed forecasts. The kiwi slid to \$0.6744, losing nearly 2 percent in the past 24 hours, as investors wagered on the risk of a cut in interest rates. Bonds rallied hard, with two-year yields dropping 8 basis points to 1.66 percent, well below the 1.75 percent cash rate.

The **Reserve Bank of New Zealand** (RBNZ) holds its first policy meeting of the year next week and markets are betting it will adopt a dovish stance. Its neighbor, the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA), caused ripples on Wednesday when it tempered a long-standing tightening bias and indicated the next move in rates could just as well be down as up. The Aussie dollar duly dived 1.8 percent and gave a broad fillip to the U.S. dollar. The currency was last at \$0.7098.

Oil prices eased too after U.S. crude inventories rose and as production levels in the country held at record levels. Brent crude futures slipped 23 cents to \$62.46. U.S. crude eased 19 cents to \$53.82 a barrel. (reuters.com)

Brexit: UK jobs 'attracting less interest from EU workers'

UK jobs are attracting less interest from other European workers, figures released by some of the world's largest job search engines suggest. Data analysed for BBC News by jobs site Indeed show the number of searches for UK jobs from other European countries has fallen since 2015. The construction and healthcare industries have been the hardest hit. The government has said that it wants to attract and retain people who bring benefits to the UK. On Indeed, the number of UK job searches from other European countries peaked at 17,513 per million in February 2015. By July 2017, this figure had dropped to 14,701. (bbc.com)

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