

DAILY STOCK MARKET HIGHLIGHTS

Tuesday, 13 November 2018



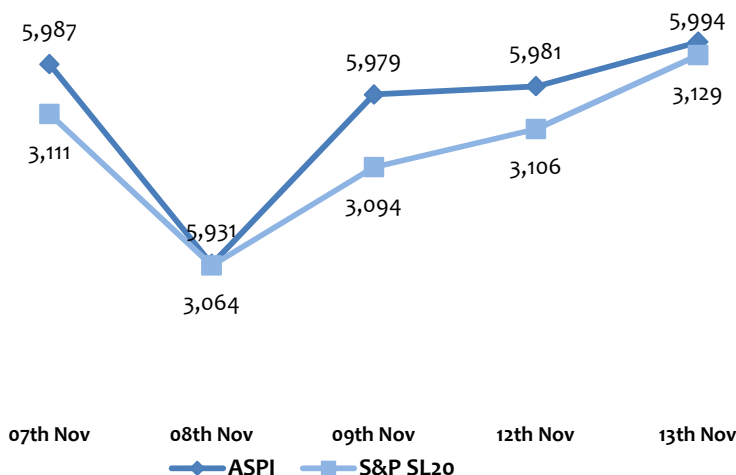
**ASHA PHILLIP
SECURITIES LTD**

Sri Lanka

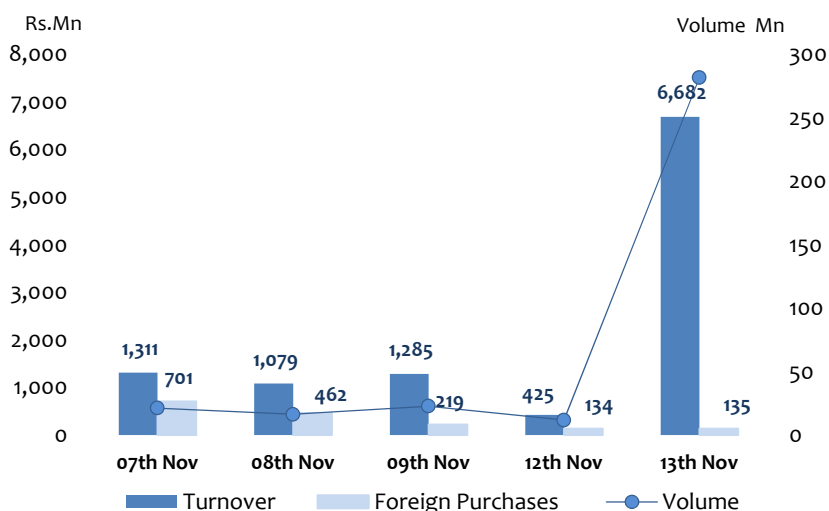
Daily Market Statistics

Index	13th Nov	12th Nov	Change	% Change
ASPI	5,993.54	5,980.94	↑ 12.60	↑ 0.21%
S&P SL20	3,128.87	3,105.98	↑ 22.89	↑ 0.74%
Market Stats (LKR, Mn)	13th Nov	12th Nov	% Change	
Turnover	6,682.06	424.82	↑	1472.9%
Domestic Purchases	6,547.50	290.62	↑	2153.0%
Domestic Sales	6,601.32	371.86	↑	1675.2%
Foreign Purchases	134.56	134.20	↑	0.3%
Foreign Sales	80.75	52.96	↑	52.5%
Share Volume	281.63	11.71	↑	2304.7%
Market capitalization (Bn)	2,811.85	2,805.93	↑	0.21%
PER	9.45	9.43	↑	0.21%
PBV	1.17	1.17	↓	0.00%

Market Indices



Turnover, Volume and Foreign Purchase



Performance of the Market

- Colombo bourse witnessed surge in turnover due to the transfer happened on Odel PLC (93% day's turnover). Retail investors remained on cautious stance. Slight improvement was noted in investor sentiments during latter part of the session. The benchmark index ASPI moved between 5,974.45-6,000.14 points and settled the day at 5,993.54 with a gain of 12.60 points (+0.21%).
- Major contributors for the movement in ASPI were **HNB (+4)**, **JKH (+3.8)**, **SLTL (+3.1)**, **CTCE (+1.9)**, **DIAL (+1.7)**, **LION (-3.2)**, **DIST (-2)**, **LOFC (-1.8)**, **BRWN (-1.1)** & **NEST (-0.9)**
- S&P SL20 index also followed the same trend and settled the day at 3,128.87 with a gain of 22.89 points (+0.74%).
- The day's turnover was recorded as LKR 6.68Bn, up by 1,473% from its previously recorded LKR 424.82Mn. Foreign investors remained net buyers for the day.
- The total market capitalization stood at LKR 2.81Tn, indicating an YTD loss of 3.02%.
- The market PER & PBV were at 9.45x & 1.17x respectively.

Top Contributors – Turnover

- Odel PLC (ODEL) topped the turnover list with 93% (6.23Bn) contribution to the day's total turnover. ODEL traded between LKR 25.00 & 26.60 and settled the day at LKR 26.00 with a gain of LKR 0.10 (+0.39%); majority (6.22Bn) of its turnover was contributed through 6 off board trades of 248.98Mn shares negotiated at the price of LKR 25.00
- Softlogic Life Insurance PLC (AAIC) stood second by adding LKR 94.78Mn to the day's total turnover. AAIC traded between LKR 32.70 & 33.50 and settled the day at LKR 33.00 with a loss of LKR 0.70 (-2.08%); about 65% (61.23Mn) of its turnover was contributed through an off board trade of 1Mn shares negotiated at the price of LKR 33.00
- Browns Capital PLC (FLCH) contributed LKR 30.36Mn to the total turnover and secured the third slot. FLCH traded between LKR 3.60 & 3.90 and settled the day at LKR 3.80 on par with its previous closing.

Traded Volume

- Odel PLC traded a total of 249.26Mn shares dominating the traded volumes.
- Browns Capital PLC (20.66Mn shares) and Softlogic Life Insurance PLC (2.87Mn shares) were next in line under the top contributors to the daily volumes.

Sectorial Overview

- Footwear & Textile (F&T) stood on top providing LKR 6.24Bn capturing 93% of the day’s total turnover.
- Bank Finance & Insurance (BFI) and Diversified Holdings (DIV) provided LKR 201.79Mn and LKR 114.88Mn respectively to the daily aggregated turnover.

Daily Foreign Transactions

Net Foreign Purchases

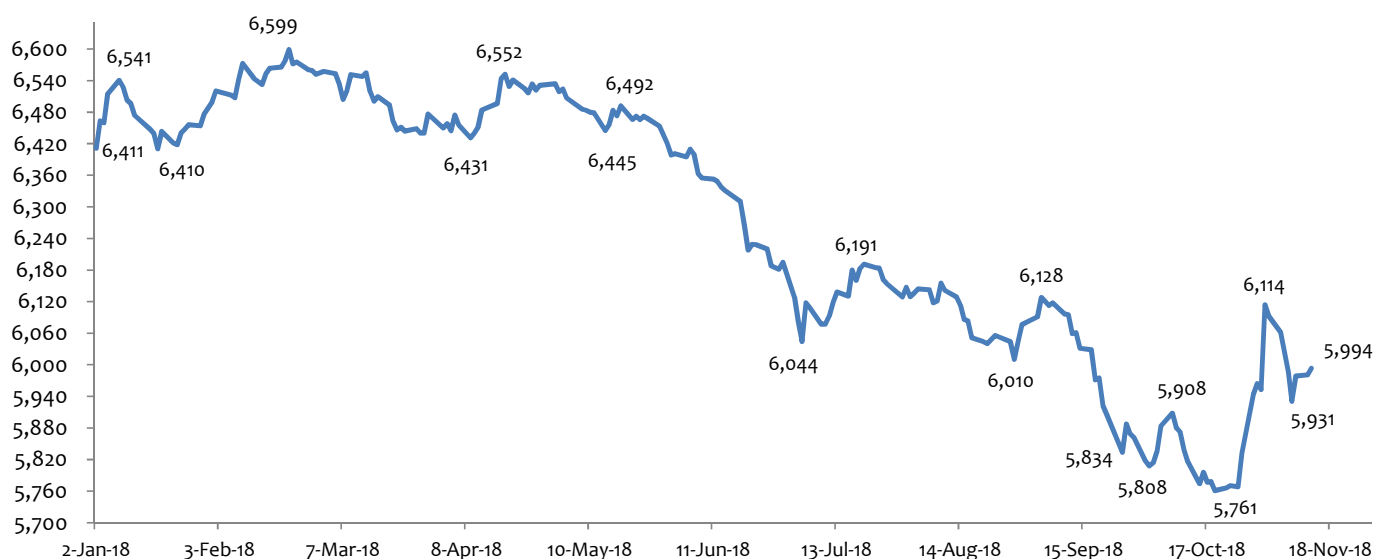
Company Name	Avg Price	Net change in Qty	Net Foreign Inflow
Softlogic Life (+)	33.00	2,835,608	93,575,064
SAMPATH (+)	230.00	16,538	3,803,740
SEYLAN BANK[X.0000] (42.50	2,917	123,973
VALLIBEL FINANCE	71.80	1,047	75,175
NATION LANKA	0.70	5,138	3,597
COLD STORES	730.00	1	730

Net Foreign Sales

Company Name	Avg Price	Net change in Qty	Net Foreign Outflow
COMMERCIAL BANK (+)	115.00	(258,244)	(29,698,060)
DISTILLERIES	17.00	(500,950)	(8,516,150)
GRAIN ELEVATORS (+)	60.90	(46,301)	(2,819,731)
ACCESS ENG SL	17.40	(100,000)	(1,740,000)
MTD WALKERS	14.90	(25,000)	(372,500)
JANASHAKTHI INS. (+)	21.50	(16,000)	(344,000)
CHEVRON (+)	70.10	(1,332)	(93,373)
NAT. DEV. BANK (+)	102.80	(897)	(92,212)
DFCC BANK PLC	94.00	(400)	(37,600)
JKH	152.30	(200)	(30,460)

- **Aggregate foreign buying** for the day totaled up to **LKR 134.56Mn**.
- **Foreign sales** for the day amounted to **LKR 80.75Mn**.
- **Net foreign inflow** for the day was **LKR 53.82Mn**, **YTD net foreign outflow** presently stands at **LKR 17.09Bn**.
- **AAIC** notched the “Top Net Purchasers” slot with a net inflow of **LKR 93.58Mn** whilst **COMB** notched the “Top net Sellers” slot with a net outflow of **LKR 29.7Mn**.

Year-to-Date ASPI Movement



Key Announcements

- **Softlogic Holdings PLC (SHL)** and **Softlogic Retail (Private) Limited** divested their shareholding In **Odel PLC** to **Softlogic Retail Holdings (Private) Limited** which is a fully owned subsidiary of SHL, as part the restructuring process of the Retail Sector of the Softlogic Group.

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						
From	7-Sep 18.		25-Sep 18.						
Reason	Qualified Opinion on Auditor's Report								

Companies on WATCH LIST

Non Submission of Annual Reports, Financial Statements									Default Board
MIRA	LCEM	CIFL	PCH	PCP	SING	HDEV	LLMP	PCHH	SFS
ALHP	LLMP	CFT	SFL	SINH	EAST				
Qualified Opinion in the Independent Auditor's Report									
AINV	ESL	RGEM	MEL	JANA	AGST	PMB	MBSL	SHAW	TFC
EMER	IDL	CHOU	MSL	HVA	SIRA				
Non-compliance of CSE Listing Rules, minimum public holding & Corporate Governance									
HUEJ	BLUE	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	LOFC					

Annual general Meetings (AGMs)

Company	Date	Company	Date	Company	Date	Company	Date	EGMs	
COMB	28-Mar-19	DFCC	28-Mar-19	HASU	28-Mar-19	HNB	29-Mar-19	Nil	
PABC	29-Mar-19	SAMP	29-Mar-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
LLUB	2.00	3rd Interim	08.Nov.2018	19.Nov.2018	CARG	1.90	Interim	15.Nov.2018	28.Nov.2018
JKH	2.00	Interim	08.Nov.2018	19.Nov.2018	CTHR	1.80	Interim	16.Nov.2018	29.Nov.2018
COMB	1.50	1st Interim	09.Nov.2018	21.Nov.2018	CTLD	1.00	Interim	16.Nov.2018	29.Nov.2018
NAVF	1.00		12.Nov.2018	26.Nov.2018	CTC	19.00	Interim	21.Nov.2018	29.Nov.2018
LVEF	0.34	Interim	14.Nov.2018	26.Nov.2018	HHL	0.40	Interim	26.Nov.2018	05.Dec.2018
VLL	0.15	Interim	15.Nov.2018	27.Nov.2018					

Capitalization of Reserves

Company	Proportion	EGM / Allotment	XC Date	Consideration (RS.)
Ceylon & Foreign Trades PLC (CFT)	1 for 1	To be notified	To be notified	4.00

Amalgamation [A] / De-Listing [D] / Mandatory Offer [M] / Voluntary Offer [V]

Transferee	Transferor	Proportion	Offer Closing Date
[A] Browns investments PLC (BIL)	Browns Capital PLC (FLCH)	2 BIL for every 1 FLCH	To be notified
Type	Offeror	Offeree	Offer Price per Share
[V] Janashakthi PLC		Dunamis Capital PLC (CSEC)	LKR 36.60

Rights Issues

Company,	Issue Price	Issue Size	Proportion	XR Date	Letter Dispatch	Trading of Rights	Acceptance
Agalawatte Plantations (AGAL)	LKR 15.3	LKR 2.01Bn	21 for 4			Postponed	

Rights Issues with pending dates

Company,	Issue Price	Proportion	Company,	Issue Price	Proportion
Adam Capital PLC (PCHH)	LKR 1.50	02 for 01	Blue Diamonds Jewellery (BLUE)	LKR 1.00	01 for 04
Adam Investments PLC (AINV)	LKR 1.00	01 for 01			

Market Highlights & Statistics

Market Capitalisation

Company Name	Symbol	Price	Issued Quantity	Market Capitalisation	(as a % of MKT Cap.)
CEYLON TOBACCO COMPANY PLC	CTC.No000	1,424.00	187,323,751	266,749,021,424	10.21
JOHN KEELLS HOLDINGS PLC	JKH.No000	152.30	1,387,528,658	211,320,614,613	8.08
COMMERCIAL BANK OF CEYLON PLC	COMB.No000	115.00	945,709,403	108,756,581,345	4.16
DIALOG AXIATA PLC	DIAL.No000	11.80	8,143,778,405	96,096,585,179	3.68
NESTLE LANKA PLC	NEST.No000	1,642.20	53,725,463	88,227,955,339	3.38
HATTON NATIONAL BANK PLC	HNB.No000	214.80	395,451,248	84,942,928,070	3.25
DISTILLERIES COMPANY OF SRI LANKA PLC	DIST.No000	17.00	4,600,000,000	78,200,000,000	2.99
CEYLON COLD STORES PLC	CCS.No000	730.00	95,040,000	69,379,200,000	2.65
SAMPATH BANK PLC	SAMP.No000	231.90	280,902,248	65,141,231,311	2.49
MELSTACORP PLC	MELS.No000	51.70	1,165,397,072	60,251,028,622	2.31

Highest Volume

Company Name	Turnover (Rs)	Share Vol.
ODEL PLC	6,231,602,994	249,263,627
BROWNS CAPITAL PLC	74,647,161	20,663,862
SOFTLOGIC LIFE INSURANCE PLC	94,784,452	2,872,369
ACCESS ENGINEERING PLC	38,512,113	2,230,798
TEEJAY LANKA PLC	35,045,593	1,062,228
MTD WALKERS PLC	9,554,671	663,606
DISTILLERIES COMPANY OF SRI LANKA PLC	8,520,706	501,210
HAYLEYS FABRIC PLC	3,573,657	359,963
COMMERCIAL BANK OF CEYLON PLC	36,640,787	318,588
TOKYO CEMENT COMPANY (LANKA) PLC	7,433,399	267,248

Highest Turnover

Company Name	Share Vol.	Turnover (LKR)
ODEL PLC	249,263,627	6,231,602,994
SOFTLOGIC LIFE INSURANCE PLC	2,872,369	94,784,452
BROWNS CAPITAL PLC	20,663,862	74,647,161
ACCESS ENGINEERING PLC	2,230,798	38,512,113
COMMERCIAL BANK OF CEYLON PLC	318,588	36,640,787
TEEJAY LANKA PLC	1,062,228	35,045,593
JOHN KEELLS HOLDINGS PLC	225,278	34,205,096
SAMPATH BANK PLC	126,677	29,202,489
NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT BANK PLC	164,208	16,596,009
CITIZENS DEVELOPMENT BUSINESS FINANCE	161,079	13,047,399

Top Gainers

Company Name	VWA Days Close	Change (LKR)	Change %	Turnover (LKR)
CONVENIENCE FOOD	481.50	96.30	25.00	55,373
MTD WALKERS	14.90	1.70	12.88	9,554,671
THE FINANCE CO. [X]	1.10	0.10	10.00	24,619
RENUKA FOODS	13.90	1.10	8.59	4,170
BROWNS BEACH	13.90	0.90	6.92	10,743
LANKA ALUMINIUM	57.70	3.60	6.65	660,144
LANKA HOSPITALS	42.70	2.40	5.96	10,540
KINGSBURY	15.50	0.80	5.44	3,093
THREE ACRE FARMS	105.40	5.40	5.40	6,414,513
BROWNS INVSTMNTS	2.10	0.10	5.00	441

Top Losers

Company Name	VWA Days Close	Change (LKR)	Change %	Turnover (LKR)
RENUKA HOLDINGS	14.80	(2.40)	(13.95)	304,910
LEE HEDGES	61.00	(7.70)	(11.21)	6,100
CITRUS HIKKADUWA	5.00	(0.50)	(9.09)	545,179
BOGAWANTALAWA	10.00	(0.80)	(7.41)	181,252
REGNIS	70.20	(4.20)	(5.65)	50,791
ACL	37.10	(2.20)	(5.60)	21,792
LOLC FINANCE	3.50	(0.20)	(5.41)	109,305
BROWNS	55.00	(2.40)	(4.18)	44,326
KOTMALE HOLDINGS	171.00	(7.20)	(4.04)	17,104
COM.CREDIT	29.00	(1.20)	(3.97)	86,654

Crossings

Name	Symbol	Price	Trades	T.Volume	Turnover
Odel PLC	ODEL.No000	25.00	6	248,976,458	6,224,411,450.00
Softlogic Life Insurance PLC	AAIC.No000	33.00	1	1,855,462	61,230,246.00
Textured Jersey Lanka PLC	TJL.No000	33.00	1	1,000,000	33,000,000.00

Market Highlights & Statistics

Sector Wise Summary

Sector	Price Index		Turnover			Sector	
	Today	Previous	Value (Rs)	Volume	Trades	P/E	PBV
BANK FINANCE AND INSURANCE	15,789.05	15,728.11	201,792,675	4,132,802	822	5.20	0.90
BEVERAGE FOOD AND TOBACCO	24,333.79	24,433.86	20,442,123	808,971	229	18.10	6.00
CONSTRUCTION AND ENGINEERING	1,648.11	1,596.97	48,400,919	2,950,157	994	21.90	0.70
CHEMICALS AND PHARMACEUTICALS	5,270.07	5,271.09	481,212	40,774	65	5.40	0.70
DIVERSIFIED HOLDINGS	1,561.10	1,555.41	114,875,343	21,424,092	460	10.10	0.90
FOOTWEAR AND TEXTILE	887.72	883.06	6,235,176,651	249,623,590	117	104.60	0.90
HOTELS AND TRAVELS	2,640.52	2,637.17	1,235,917	219,232	135	59.80	1.60
HEALTH CARE	819.14	809.54	183,210	10,852	16	15.30	1.80
INVESTMENT TRUSTS	9,937.79	10,112.22	1,331,373	98,360	45	21.20	0.40
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	28.31	28.31	3,754	782	3	0.00	0.00
LAND AND PROPERTY	557.13	554.19	434,485	34,082	43	5.40	0.60
MANUFACTURING	2,863.89	2,846.90	53,202,885	1,639,724	566	7.00	0.90
MOTORS	12,975.24	12,978.76	120,724	1,102	23	11.30	0.50
OIL PALMS	49,590.48	49,590.48	0	0	0	28.40	0.90
POWER & ENERGY	110.18	110.15	2,969,051	422,846	99	0.00	1.30
PLANTATIONS	729.85	732.22	717,458	50,546	139	5.90	0.70
STORES SUPPLIES	28,914.03	28,914.03	26,570	90	5	14.20	0.50
SERVICES	16,566.35	16,389.34	82,374	24,458	23	17.60	1.30
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	152.07	149.54	236,272	15,298	46	8.60	1.00
TRADING	11,948.41	12,334.65	350,955	136,828	66	29.20	0.80

GICS Industry Group Statistics

Industry Group	Price Index		Turnover			Sector	
	Today	Previous	Value (Rs)	Volume	Trades	P/E	PBV
Automobiles & Components	522.79	505.36	113,490	2,910	8	5.40	0.70
Banks	826.66	819.97	89,146,824	833,722	476	6.00	0.80
Capital Goods	843.51	841.15	90,001,840	3,486,916	1,366	10.40	0.80
Commercial & Professional Services	786.02	786.02	7,081	67	4	0.00	1.00
Consumer Durables & Apparel	815.41	800.72	39,614,304	1,505,688	164	26.80	1.10
Consumer Services	247.03	246.11	1,235,917	219,232	136	61.90	1.60
Diversified Financials	776.56	778.49	15,260,851	405,196	206	5.40	0.90
Energy	648.96	651.22	386,854	15,207	32	0.00	1.00
Food & Staples Retailing	1,262.45	1,262.45	300,667	135,812	52	15.40	2.20
Food, Beverage & Tobacco	937.75	940.90	25,912,710	988,629	495	15.30	2.50
Health Care Equipment & Services	881.08	870.91	207,965	41,635	67	15.50	1.80
Household & Personal Products	1,038.99	1,038.99	12	1	1	14.80	2.00
Insurance	1,703.48	1,700.52	97,514,168	2,923,862	156	3.50	1.40
Materials	541.15	535.81	11,629,999	434,743	311	6.10	0.90
Pharmaceuticals, Biotechnology & Life Sciences	1,806.84	1,806.84	0	0	0	4.60	1.50
Real Estate	755.67	754.75	472,165	24,291	55	5.10	0.60
Retailing	791.30	796.04	6,231,774,200	249,281,568	77	14.80	0.70
Technology Hardware & Equipment	0.00	-	0	0	0	0.00	0.00
Telecommunication Services	794.52	781.33	236,272	15,298	46	8.60	1.00
Transportation	702.71	702.71	1,014,564	247,457	15	34.30	0.70
Utilities	741.90	737.86	2,582,197	407,639	68	11.50	0.70

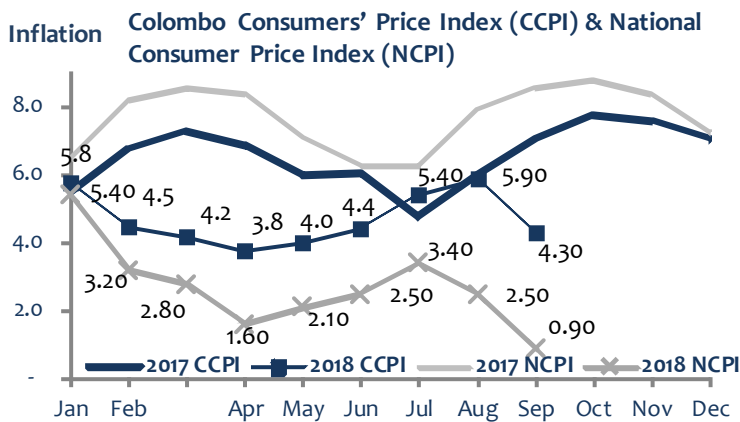
Economic Indicators & Other Statistics

Exchange Rates

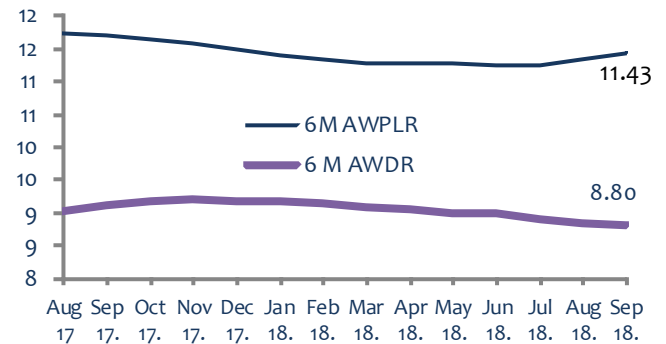
Currency	13th Nov		12th Nov	
	Buying	Selling	Buying	Selling
Dollar (USA)	173.41	177.31	172.97	176.87
Pound (UK)	222.02	229.39	222.75	230.14
Euro (EU)	193.57	200.55	194.66	201.69
Dollar (Australia)	123.36	128.67	123.91	129.23
Dollar (Canada)	130.17	135.11	130.46	135.41
Franc (Switzerland)	170.46	176.99	170.72	177.25
Renminbi (China)	24.61	25.81	24.58	25.77
Yen (Japan)	1.5149	1.5716	1.5080	1.5645
Dollar (Singapore)	124.79	129.12	124.87	129.20

Indicative Rates

Currency	13th Nov	12th Nov
	Ind: Value	Ind: Value
Yuan (Offshore)	25.2327	25.2236
Rupee (India)	2.4100	2.4181
Won (Korean)	0.1545	0.1550
Dinar (Kuwait)	577.0146	576.4230
Ringgit (Malay)	41.8480	41.8735
Rial (Oman)	456.0888	455.1771
Riyal (Qatar)	48.2196	48.1322
Riyal (KSA)	46.8108	46.7233
Dirham (UAE)	47.8048	47.7142



Average Weighted Prime Lending & Deposit Rate

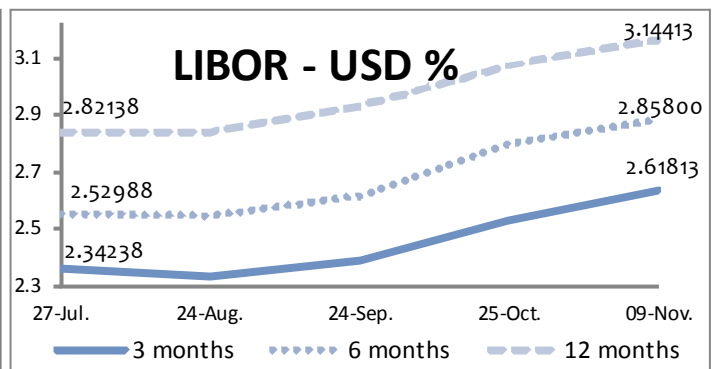
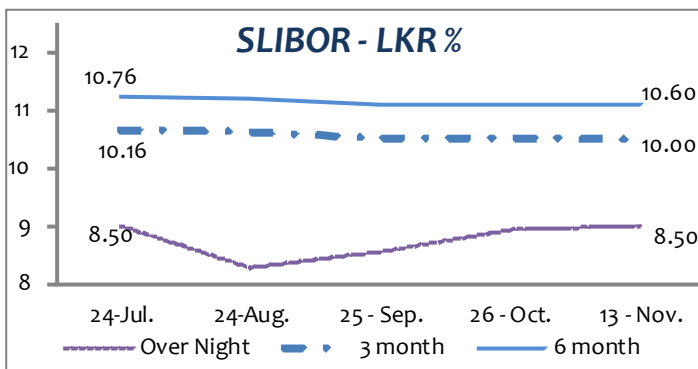


Central Bank's Policy Rates

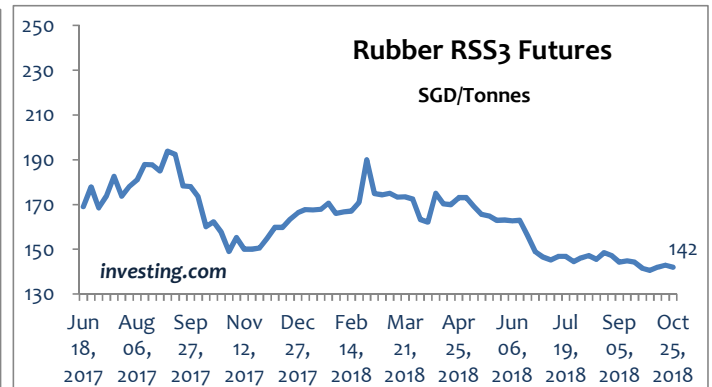
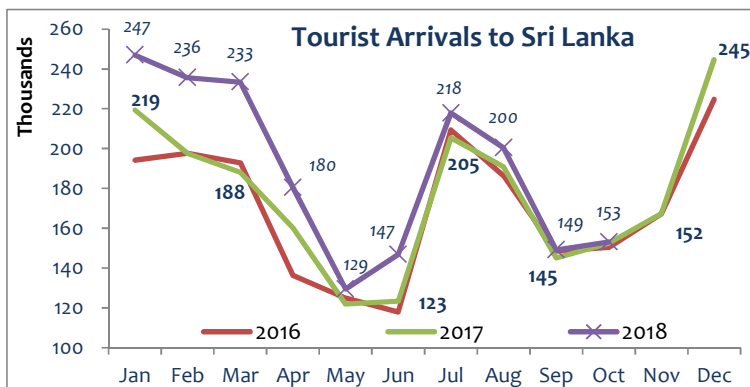
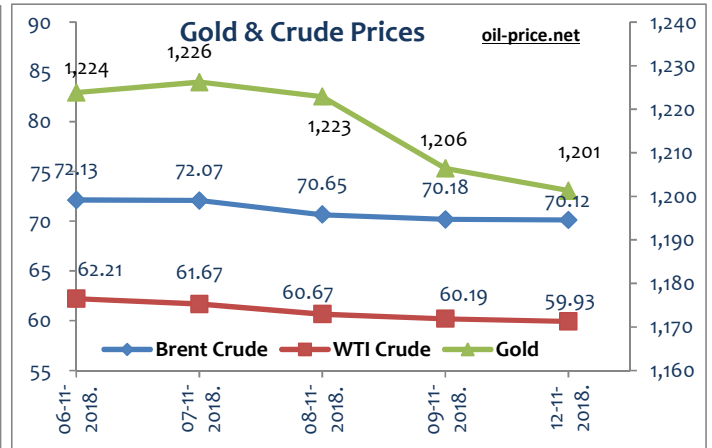
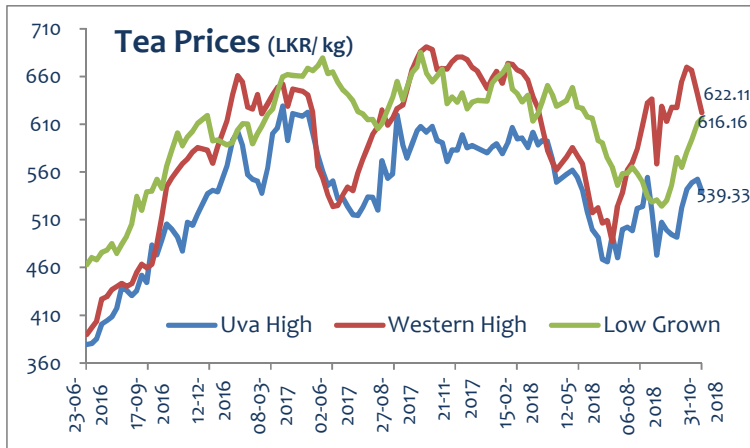
Description	Present	Previous	Treasury Bill				
			07.11.2018	23.10.2018	17.10.2018	10.10.2018	
Standing Deposit Facility (SDF)	7.25%	7.00%	91 Days %	9.65	na	9.48	9.28
Standing Lending Facility (SLF)	8.50%	8.75%	182 Days %	9.99	na	9.75	na
Bank Rate	15.00%	15.00%	364 Days %	10.89	10.39	10.44	10.19
Statutory Reserve Ratio (SRR)	7.50%	7.50%	Amount	15.37Bn	7.5Bn	7.9Bn	11Bn

Treasury Bond

Date	17.09.2018	17.07.2016	15.10.2018	17.07.2016	17.09.2018	02.01.2018	15.08.2018	15.10.2018
Maturity	3 Years	4 Years	5 Years	6 Years	7 Years	8 Years	10 Years	15 Years
Current Yield	10.03	11.14	11.69	11.21	10.32	10.06	10.20	11.90
Previous Auction	02.03.2018	15.06.2017	15.08.2018	15.06.2017	16.07.2018	01.11.2017	01.06.2018	16.07.2018
Previous Yield	9.85	11.37	9.91	11.38	10.53	10.33	10.72	10.88



Economic Indicators & Other Statistics



Local News

Sri Lanka rupee, stocks open steady; bond market inactive

ECONOMYNEXT - The Sri Lanka rupee and stocks opened steady Tuesday and sentiment was dull in the secondary bond market as the country's Supreme Court continues to hear arguments for and against the sacking of parliament, market participants said. On Tuesday, the US dollar was quoted at a broad range of around 175.50/176.00 rupees in early spot market trading. The currency ended Monday at 175.70/80 rupees against the greenback after falling to an intraday low of 175.90 rupees, market participants said. Activity was dull in the secondary market for government bonds ahead of a 98 billion rupee auction later in the day. There were no opening quotes within the first hour since the market opened, market participants said. On Monday, a three-year bond maturing in 2021 closed at 11.30/55 percent in two-way quotes, up from the previous day's closing of 11.20/45 percent. A five-year bond maturing in 2023 edged higher to 11.55/85 percent, up from 11.50/65 percent the previous close.

Lankan owned Peace Air to take wings on Feb. 4

Creating aviation history, Sri Lanka's first privately owned airline, Peace Air is scheduled to be airborne from February 4 (Independence Day), Chairman Peace Air Pvt Ltd, Gamini H. Wethasinghe told 'Daily News Business'. "Peace Air will be operating daily direct flights to five new destinations in China, starting from Wuhan under the first phase of our operations." The other four destinations that would be included to the schedule are Xi, An Urumqi, Chongqing and Hardin. "We have also tied up with a leading Chinese travel agency to market these routes and they have guaranteed us of an 80% load factor and large volumes of Cargo."

From March Peace air plans to operate flights to Indonesia and then to Saudi Arabia. "This too would be a daily flight." Weththasinghe said that they will initially take delivery of a new 747 aircraft for the Chinese sector which would be a Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner which could accommodate 265 passengers. This would be followed up by a Boeing Deamliner 787-10 that could accommodate 330 passengers. The new airline has already placed order for these two brand new 747 aircraft with Boeing and will also look at buying eight other aircraft. He said that they will initially obtain US\$ 2 billion investment from US and Chinese investors for this operation. (***dailynews.lk***)

Foreign News

Asian shares pare losses on U.S.-China trade optimism, oil slides

(Reuters) - Asian shares pared losses on Tuesday as hopes for a de-escalation of the Sino-U.S. tariff war drew support from reports that China's top trade negotiator was preparing to visit the United States ahead of a meeting between the two countries' leaders. The South China Morning Post reported, citing sources from both sides, that Liu He may visit Washington as part of the preparations for the talks between U.S. President Donald Trump and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the G20 summit in Argentina later this month.

The Australian dollar AUD=D4 which is often played as a liquid proxy to China, jumped 0.6 percent to \$0.7214 in late afternoon trading. Chinese shares reversed earlier losses to be in the positive territory. The blue-chip index .CSI300 was last up 0.1 percent.

Fears of a likely peak in corporate earnings growth, softening global demand and faster rate hikes in the United States have put global investors on edge over the past month, prompting them to take money off the table before year end.

Japan's Nikkei .N225 dived over 2 percent, led by losses in electric machinery makers and suppliers of Apple's (AAPL.O) iPhone parts after three suppliers issued warnings on results, sending tech-heavy Nasdaq .IXIC slumping over 2 percent. The Asia ex-Japan index is now down nearly 17 percent this year, after a solid 33.5 percent gain in 2017, with October the worst month since mid-2015.

In Europe, fears that Britain could crash out of the European Union without a Brexit deal and a growing rift over Italy's budget hit the euro and the pound, pushing the dollar's index .DXY to 97.693 against a basket of currencies, a level not seen since mid 2017. It was last flat at 97.5.

Oil prices hovered near multi-month lows after declining for a record 11th consecutive session amid softening demand and as Trump said he hoped there would be no oil output reductions. U.S. crude CLC1 skidded 78 cents to \$59.15 a barrel. Brent crude futures LCOc1 fell 68 cents to \$69.44. Spot gold XAU= was 0.3 percent firmer at \$1,204.3 per ounce. (reuters.com)

Gas to overtake coal as world's second largest energy source by 2030, says IEA

Natural gas is expected to overtake coal as the world's second largest energy source after oil by 2030 due to a drive to cut air pollution and the rise in liquefied natural gas (LNG) use, the International Energy Agency (IEA) said on Tuesday.

The Paris-based IEA said in its World Energy Outlook 2018 that energy demand would grow by more than a quarter between 2017 and 2040 assuming more efficient use of energy - but would rise by twice that much without such improvements. Global gas demand would increase by 1.6 percent a year to 2040 and would be 45 percent higher by then than today, it said. The estimates are based on the IEA's "New Policies Scenario" that takes into account legislation and policies to reduce emissions and fight climate change. They also assume more energy efficiencies in fuel use, buildings and other factors.

"Natural gas is the fastest growing fossil fuel in the New Policies Scenario, overtaking coal by 2030 to become the second-largest source of energy after oil," the report said. China, already the world's biggest oil and coal importer, would soon become the largest importer of gas and net imports would approach the level of the European Union by 2040, the IEA said. According to Reuters calculations, based on China's General Administration of Customs data, China has already overtaken Japan as the world's top natural gas importer. (cnbc.com)

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