

DAILY STOCK MARKET HIGHLIGHTS

Monday, 25 February 2019



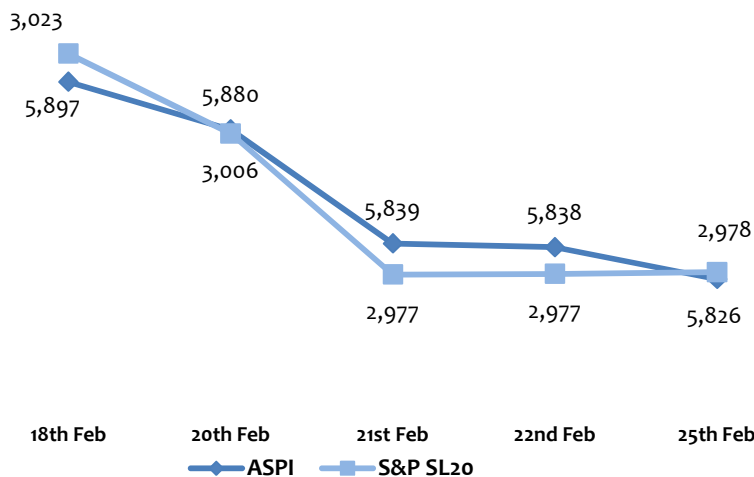
**ASHA PHILLIP
SECURITIES LTD**

Sri Lanka

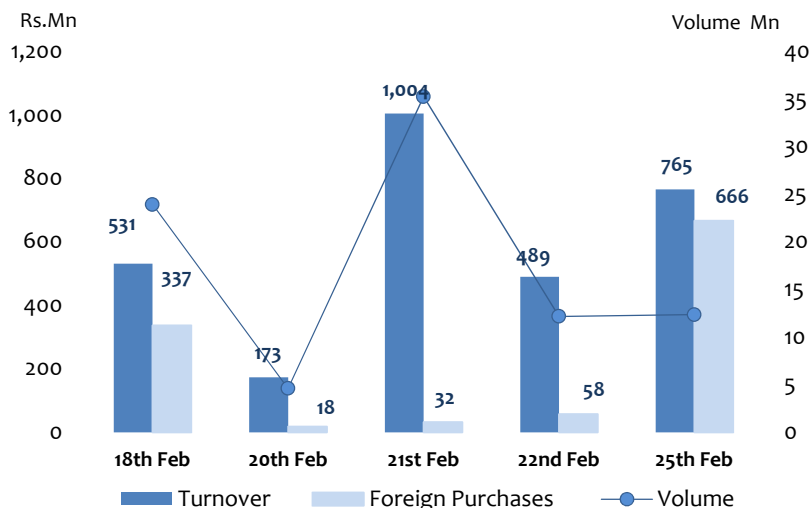
Daily Market Statistics

Index	25th Feb	22nd Feb	Change	% Change
ASPI	5,826.26	5,837.72	↓ (11.46)	↓ -0.20%
S&P SL20	2,977.83	2,977.47	↑ 0.36	↑ 0.01%
Market Stats (LKR, Mn)		25th Feb	22nd Feb	% Change
Turnover		765.33	489.34	↑ 56.4%
Domestic Purchases		99.25	431.84	↓ -77.0%
Domestic Sales		85.09	131.64	↓ -35.4%
Foreign Purchases		666.08	57.50	↑ 1058.4%
Foreign Sales		680.24	357.69	↑ 90.2%
Share Volume		12.35	12.17	↑ 1.5%
Market capitalization (Bn)		2,723.24	2,728.60	↓ -0.20%
PER		9.11	9.13	↓ -0.22%
PBV		1.15	1.15	↓ 0.00%

Market Indices



Turnover, Volume and Foreign Purchase



Performance of the Market

- Bourse was negative during most part of the session due to lower than expected financial results by COMB and CTCE; slight positive signs were noted during latter part of the session with increased investor interest shown in blue-chips.
- Benchmark index ASPI moved between 5,804.10 - 5,842.10 points and settled the day at 5,826.26 with a loss of 11.46 points (-0.20%).
- Major contributors for the movement in ASPI were **SLTL (+3.9)**, **SAMP (+2.1)**, **LOLC (+1.1)**, **TRAN (+1.1)**, **LLUB (+1.1)**, **CTCE (-8.1)**, **HHL (-4.8)**, **COMB (-2.2)**, **CARG (-2.1)** & **CCS (-2)**
- S&P SL20 index followed the same trend, but settled the day at 2,977.83 with a marginal gain of 0.36 points (+0.01%).
- The day's turnover was recorded as LKR 765.33Mn, up by 56% from its previously recorded LKR 489.34Mn. Foreign investors remained net sellers for the day.
- The total market capitalization stood at LKR 2.72Tn, indicating an YTD loss of 4.09%.
- The market PER & PBV were at 9.11x & 1.15x respectively.

Top Contributors – Turnover

1. Hemas Holdings PLC (HHL) contributed 43% (326.19Mn) of the turnover. HHL traded between LKR 80.00 & 83.80 and settled the day at LKR 80.10 with a loss of LKR 3.90 (-4.64%); majority (325.53Mn) of its turnover was contributed through an off board trade of 3.88Mn shares negotiated at the price of LKR 84.00
2. Commercial Bank of Ceylon PLC (COMB) had contributed LKR 271.23Mn. COMB traded between LKR 105.00 & LKR 107.80 and settled the day LKR 106.00 with a loss of LKR 1.10 (-1.03%); about 95.6% (259.17Mn) of its turnover was contributed through an off board trade of 2.42Mn shares negotiated at the price of LKR 107.10
3. John Keells Holdings PLC (JKH) contributed LKR 98.32Mn. JKH traded between LKR 153.00 & LKR 156.00 and settled the day LKR 154.80 with a gain of LKR 0.30 (+0.19%).

Top contributors - Traded Volume

1. Hemas Holdings PLC traded a total of 3.88Mn shares.
2. Commercial Bank of Ceylon PLC (2.53Mn shares)
3. Dialog Axiata PLC (1.07Mn shares).

Sectorial Overview

1. Diversified Holdings (DIV) sector stood on top providing LKR 429.16Mn capturing 56% of the total turnover.
2. Bank Finance & Insurance (BFI) sector provided LKR 294.3Mn to the daily aggregated turnover.
3. Manufacturing (MFG) sector provided LKR 18.83Mn

Daily Foreign Transactions

Net Foreign Purchases

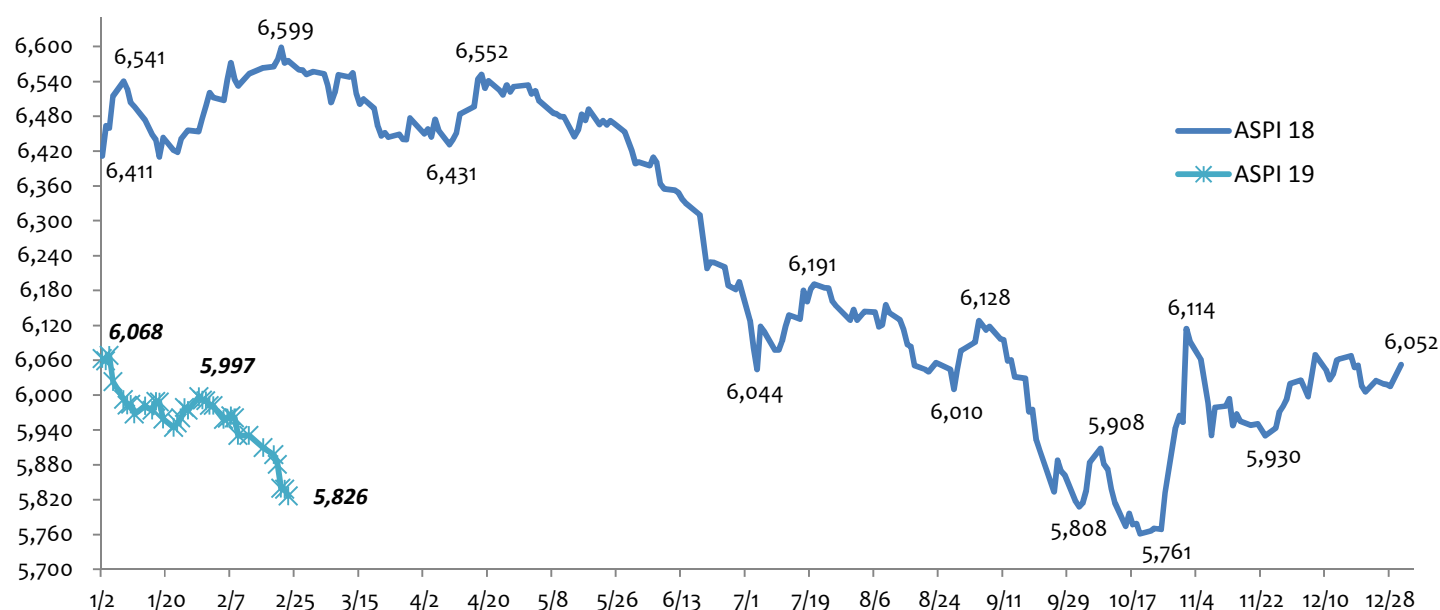
Company Name	Avg Price	Net change in Qty	Net Foreign Inflow
TOKYO CEMENT	23.00	586,122	13,480,806
HAYCARB	130.00	13,419	1,744,470
LO LC HOLDINGS	90.10	12,002	1,081,380
UNION ASSURANCE (+)	325.10	1,402	455,790
DISTILLERIES	16.00	15,000	240,000
JANASHAKTHI INS. (+)	26.80	7,060	189,208
CENTRAL FINANCE	90.0	2,086	187,740
RENUKA CITY HOT.	260.70	500	130,350
COMMERCIAL BANK[X.00	90.00	500	45,000
DANKOTUWA PORCEL	5.40	6,000	32,400

Net Foreign Sales

Company Name	Avg Price	Net change in Qty	Net Foreign Outflow
JKH	154.00	(143,646)	(22,121,484)
COMMERCIAL BANK (+)	105.00	(67,832)	(7,122,360)
DFCC BANK PLC	78.20	(20,000)	(1,564,000)
HEMAS HOLDINGS	80.10	(7,603)	(609,000)
DIALOG (+)	9.80	(42,108)	(412,658)
ROYAL PALMS	16.50	(401)	(6,617)
SIERRA CABL	1.80	(2,556)	(4,601)

- **Aggregate foreign buying** for the day totaled up to **LKR 666.08Mn**.
- **Foreign sales** for the day amounted to **LKR 680.24Mn**.
- **Net foreign outflow** for the day was **LKR 14.16Mn**, **YTD net foreign outflow** presently stands at **LKR 5.49Bn**.
- **TKYO** notched the “Top Net Purchasers” slot with a net inflow of **LKR 13.48Mn** whilst **JKH** notched the “Top net Sellers” slot with a net outflow of **LKR 22.12Mn**.

Year-to-Date ASPI Movement - 2018 & 2019



Key Announcements

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	TFC	KAPI
From	7-Sep 18.	25-Sep 18.	26-Nov-18.	10-12-2018.			18-Feb-19.	14-Feb-19.	
Reason	AQO	AQO	***	Non-submission of Annual Reports			AQO	For clarification	

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

Auditor's Qualified Opinion (AQO)

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
COMB	28-Mar-19	UBC	28-Mar-19
DFCC	28-Mar-19	SEYB	28-Mar-19
HASU	28-Mar-19	HNB	29-Mar-19

EGMs

Company	Date	Company	Date
PABC	29-Mar-19	SEYB	7-Mar-19
SAMP	29-Mar-19	FLCH	8-Mar-19
		BIL	8-Mar-19
		HDFC	14-Mar-19

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
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

Key Announcements

Cash Dividends

CODE	DIVIDEND PER SHARE (LKR)	TYPE	XD DATE	PAYMENT DATE	CODE	DIVIDEND PER SHARE (LKR)	TYPE	XD DATE	PAYMENT DATE
TJL	0.85	1st Interim	18.Feb.2019	28.Feb.2019	HASU	7.00	Final	29.Mar.2019	08.Apr.2019
TYRE	2.50	2nd Interim	21.Feb.2019	05.Mar.2019	CSD	1.00	First & Final	29.Mar.2019	08.Apr.2019
KFP	4.00	Interim	22.Feb.2019	06.Mar.2019	SLTL	1.06	First & Final	29.Mar.2019	08.Apr.2019
LLUB	1.50	4th Interim	28.Feb.2019	12.Mar.2019	OSEA	1.25	First & Final	01.Apr.2019	09.Apr.2019
DFCC	3.50	First & Final	28.Feb.2019	12.Mar.2019	SAMP	5.00	First & Final	01.Apr.2019	09.Apr.2019
CONN	2.50	2nd Interim	05.Mar.2019	13.Mar.2019	HNB	3.50	Final	01.Apr.2019	09.Apr.2019
NEST	25.00	Interim	05.Mar.2019	14.Mar.2019	NEST	25.00	Final	09.May.2019	17.May.2019
CCS	7.00	Interim	06.Mar.2019	15.Mar.2019	COMD	3.50	Final	16.May.2019	27.May.2019
NDB	1.50	First & Final	06.Mar.2019	15.Mar.2019	CTC	15.77	Final	Dates to be notified	
AEL	0.25	2nd Interim	07.Mar.2019	18.Mar.2019	DIAL	0.37	Final	Dates to be notified	
CTCE	25.00	First & Final	28.Mar.2019	05.Apr.2019	PINS	1.10	2nd Interim	Dates to be notified	
SEYB	0.50	Final	29.Mar.2019	08.Apr.2019					

Scrip Dividends

CODE	CMP	Cash Value	Propotion : 1 Voting for	Propotion : 1 Non-Voting for	XD DATE	PAYMENT DATE
SAMP	240.00	9.87	24.322912170	na	01.Apr.19	09.Apr.19
SEYB	70.00, 43.00	1.72	40.8720928942	25.5813924919	29.Mar.19	08.Apr.19
HNB	200, 157	3.00	67.1096360444	52.1594765342	01.Apr.19	09.Apr.19
HHL	84.00	3.08	27.2607815916991	na	Dates to be notified	
NDB	107.50	5.87	18.316095000	na	Dates to be notified	
COMB	106.6, 90.0	1.72	62.034884700	52.383720827	Dates to be notified	

Amalgamation [A]

Transferee	Transferor	Proportion	Effective Date
[A] Browns investments PLC (BIL)	Browns Capital PLC (FLCH)	2 BIL for every 1 FLCH	29 Mar 19.

Mandatory Offer

Type	Offeror	Offeree	Offer Closing	Offer Price per Share
	Serenity Lake Leisure (Private) Limited	Hunas Falls Hotels PLC (HUNA)	To be notified	LKR 187.00

Sub-Division of Shares

Company	Proportion	EGM & Entitlement Date	Dealings Suspension	Trading start
On'ally Holdings PLC (ONAL)	1 for 5		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.
Dialog finance PLC (CALF) @ LKR 40.00		LKR 764Mn	32 for 121	18 Mar 2019.	25 Mar 2019.	29 Mar - 5 Apr.	8 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	On'ally Holdings PLC (ONAL)	LKR 19.00	01 for 15

Market Highlights & Statistics

Market Capitalisation

Company Name	Symbol	Price	Issued Quantity	Market Capitalisation	(as a % of MKT Cap.)
CEYLON TOBACCO COMPANY PLC	CTC.No000	1,420.00	187,323,751	265,999,726,420	10.54
JOHN KEELLS HOLDINGS PLC	JKH.No000	154.80	1,318,167,659	204,052,353,613	8.08
COMMERCIAL BANK OF CEYLON PLC	COMB.No000	106.00	945,943,226	100,269,981,956	3.97
NESTLE LANKA PLC	NEST.No000	1,710.00	53,725,463	91,870,541,730	3.64
DIALOG AXIATA PLC	DIAL.No000	9.80	8,143,778,405	79,809,028,369	3.16
HATTON NATIONAL BANK PLC	HNB.No000	198.00	395,451,248	78,299,347,104	3.10
DISTILLERIES COMPANY OF SRI LANKA PLC	DIST.No000	16.00	4,600,000,000	73,600,000,000	2.92
SAMPATH BANK PLC	SAMP.No000	234.60	280,902,248	65,899,667,381	2.61
CEYLON COLD STORES PLC	CCS.No000	600.00	95,040,000	57,024,000,000	2.26
MELSTACORP PLC	MELS.No000	45.00	1,165,397,072	52,442,868,240	2.08

Highest Volume

Company Name	Turnover (Rs)	Share Vol.
HEMAS HOLDINGS PLC	326,193,790	3,883,636
COMMERCIAL BANK OF CEYLON PLC	271,228,981	2,534,561
DIALOG AXIATA PLC	10,530,064	1,074,485
SMB LEASING PLC	507,332	1,015,552
JOHN KEELLS HOLDINGS PLC	98,318,692	638,399
TOKYO CEMENT COMPANY (LANKA) PLC	13,646,822	593,339
SMB LEASING PLC [X]	102,072	510,361
TESS AGRO PLC	84,839	212,072
DANKOTUWA PORCELAIN PLC	960,668	175,699
MARAWILA RESORTS PLC	211,770	133,900

Highest Turnover

Company Name	Share Vol.	Turnover (LKR)
HEMAS HOLDINGS PLC	3,883,636	326,193,790
COMMERCIAL BANK OF CEYLON PLC	2,534,561	271,228,981
JOHN KEELLS HOLDINGS PLC	638,399	98,318,692
TOKYO CEMENT COMPANY (LANKA) PLC	593,339	13,646,822
DIALOG AXIATA PLC	1,074,485	10,530,064
AIA INSURANCE LANKA PLC	5,170	8,066,598
DFCC BANK PLC	33,798	2,639,585
AITKEN SPENCE PLC	53,515	2,433,213
HNB ASSURANCE PLC	15,680	1,975,612
HAYCARB PLC	13,429	1,745,770

Top Gainers

Company Name	VWA Days Close	Change (LKR)	Change %	Turnover (LKR)
BLUE DIAMONDS [X]	0.30	0.10	50.00	665
TESS AGRO [X]	0.50	0.10	25.00	338
LANKA VENTURES	43.00	6.40	17.49	42,630
BERUWALA RESORTS	0.70	0.10	16.67	4,201
MULLERS	0.70	0.10	16.67	70
ROYAL PALMS	16.50	1.30	8.55	6,617
LANKEM CEYLON	25.50	1.90	8.05	6,558
MAHAWELI REACH	14.20	0.90	6.77	4,260
DUNAMIS CAPITAL	30.70	1.90	6.60	70,653
RAIGAM SALTERNS	2.00	0.10	5.26	16,534

Top Losers

Company Name	VWA Days Close	Change (LKR)	Change %	Turnover (LKR)
S M B LEASING [X]	0.20	(0.10)	(33.33)	102,072
NUWARA ELIYA	1000.20	(174.80)	(14.88)	1,320,300
PRINTCARE PLC	27.20	(4.00)	(12.82)	87,511
SOFTLOGIC FIN	21.10	(3.10)	(12.81)	14,749
ANILANA HOTELS	0.90	(0.10)	(10.00)	28,000
NAMUNUKULA	66.40	(6.50)	(8.92)	291,483
A I A INSURANCE	1676.00	(122.60)	(6.82)	8,066,598
MARAWILA RESORTS	1.50	(0.10)	(6.25)	211,770
CITRUS HIKKADUWA	3.20	(0.20)	(5.88)	16,007
HDFC	26.50	(1.50)	(5.36)	27,060

Crossings

Name	Symbol	Price	Trades	T.Volume	Turnover
Hemas Holdings PLC	HHL.No000	84.00	1	3,875,412	325,534,608.00
Commercial Bank Of Ceylon PLC	COMB.No000	107.10	1	2,419,882	259,169,362.00

Market Highlights & Statistics

Sector Wise Summary

Sector	Price Index		Turnover			Sector	
	Today	Previous	Value (Rs)	Volume	Trades	P/E	PBV
BANK FINANCE AND INSURANCE	15,680.80	15,764.51	294,301,388	4,386,161	892	4.70	0.90
BEVERAGE FOOD AND TOBACCO	23,938.20	24,001.05	1,565,024	61,848	72	17.20	5.80
CONSTRUCTION AND ENGINEERING	1,376.41	1,376.41	1,775,778	200,273	90	15.20	0.50
CHEMICALS AND PHARMACEUTICALS	5,020.56	5,049.97	1,936,525	18,752	45	7.40	0.80
DIVERSIFIED HOLDINGS	1,509.63	1,514.52	429,163,663	4,785,352	258	10.60	0.90
FOOTWEAR AND TEXTILE	920.44	922.46	78,810	8,844	19	54.50	0.90
HOTELS AND TRAVELS	2,616.04	2,613.98	2,436,757	217,781	213	97.30	1.60
HEALTH CARE	813.16	813.03	493,917	53,447	22	16.60	1.80
INVESTMENT TRUSTS	8,964.97	8,956.10	314,261	26,438	27	0.00	0.40
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	24.41	24.96	9,922	2,420	5	0.00	0.00
LAND AND PROPERTY	537.78	536.29	1,020,932	76,740	81	5.40	0.60
MANUFACTURING	2,641.35	2,647.25	18,834,284	898,269	356	8.20	0.80
MOTORS	11,931.95	11,964.31	127,751	391	21	16.50	0.50
OIL PALMS	49,335.27	49,335.27	0	0	0	59.10	1.30
POWER & ENERGY	95.67	94.43	1,003,484	164,552	55	84.20	1.10
PLANTATIONS	752.38	754.39	893,983	62,233	92	25.20	0.70
STORES SUPPLIES	28,210.71	28,210.71	1,170	6	3	17.40	0.50
SERVICES	15,743.87	15,743.87	172,476	81,796	16	14.60	1.20
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	133.65	132.54	10,584,422	1,076,975	65	5.70	0.90
TRADING	11,072.30	10,797.89	615,002	225,051	56	50.80	0.60

GICS Industry Group Statistics

Industry Group	Price Index		Turnover			Sector	
	Today	Previous	Value (Rs)	Volume	Trades	P/E	PBV
Automobiles & Components	455.76	463.81	8,500	250	4	4.70	0.60
Banks	783.27	785.21	278,072,576	2,640,531	368	5.40	0.70
Capital Goods	815.38	817.62	430,546,976	4,764,002	291	10.50	0.80
Commercial & Professional Services	709.38	787.74	88,001	3,225	14	0.00	0.90
Consumer Durables & Apparel	750.89	755.16	2,904,437	256,677	135	39.00	1.00
Consumer Services	240.28	239.72	2,436,757	217,781	215	103.00	1.60
Diversified Financials	746.79	744.77	5,002,098	1,764,092	284	5.20	1.00
Energy	523.48	515.11	546,257	32,381	31	0.00	0.80
Food & Staples Retailing	1,233.59	1,250.22	602,754	215,773	53	22.40	2.10
Food, Beverage & Tobacco	915.84	916.78	3,300,176	306,492	245	16.20	2.70
Health Care Equipment & Services	873.32	872.89	503,909	55,967	28	16.60	1.80
Household & Personal Products	931.21	925.82	5,050	505	2	12.70	1.70
Insurance	2,040.69	2,088.39	11,459,573	55,362	285	3.50	1.60
Materials	504.83	501.97	17,231,214	652,931	219	8.20	0.90
Pharmaceuticals, Biotechnology & Life Sciences	1,632.30	1,632.30	14,825	37	8	4.70	1.30
Real Estate	735.50	733.34	1,040,680	71,675	85	5.10	0.60
Retailing	751.59	749.24	173,515	12,678	34	17.20	0.70
Technology Hardware & Equipment	0.00	-	0	0	0	0.00	0.00
Telecommunication Services	698.30	692.51	10,584,422	1,076,975	66	5.70	0.90
Transportation	702.71	719.44	253,711	61,793	15	7.70	0.70
Utilities	715.99	710.14	457,228	132,171	24	10.10	0.70

Economic Indicators & Other Statistics

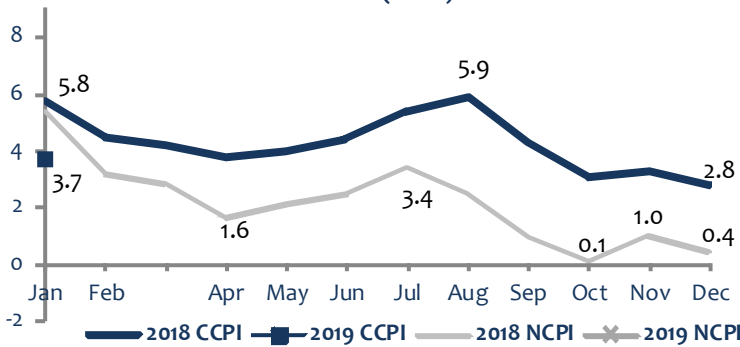
Exchange Rates

Currency	25th Feb		22nd Feb	
	Buying	Selling	Buying	Selling
Dollar (USA)	177.42	181.28	177.45	181.31
Pound (UK)	230.76	238.21	230.22	237.66
Euro (EU)	199.97	207.02	199.88	206.95
Dollar (Australia)	125.57	130.90	124.62	129.92
Dollar (Canada)	134.21	138.99	133.32	138.27
Franc (Switzerland)	176.43	182.69	176.14	182.38
Renminbi (China)	26.22	27.47	26.05	27.29
Yen (Japan)	1.5929	1.6518	1.5920	1.6509
Dollar (Singapore)	130.76	135.22	130.35	134.81

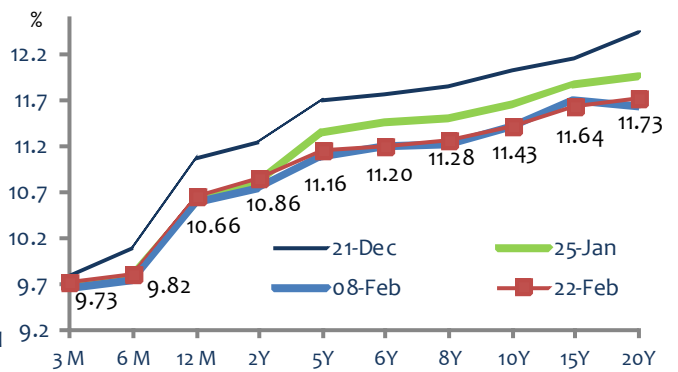
Indicative Rates

Currency	25th Feb	22nd Feb
	Ind: Value	Ind: Value
Yuan (Offshore)	26.8666	26.7019
Rupee (India)	2.5267	2.5219
Won (Korean)	0.1602	0.1596
Dinar (Kuwait)	591.1013	591.3526
Ringgit (Malay)	44.1422	43.9824
Rial (Oman)	466.1870	466.3852
Riyal (Qatar)	49.2981	49.3055
Riyal (KSA)	47.8574	47.8777
Dirham (UAE)	48.8632	48.8840

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



Government Securities - Secondary Market Yield

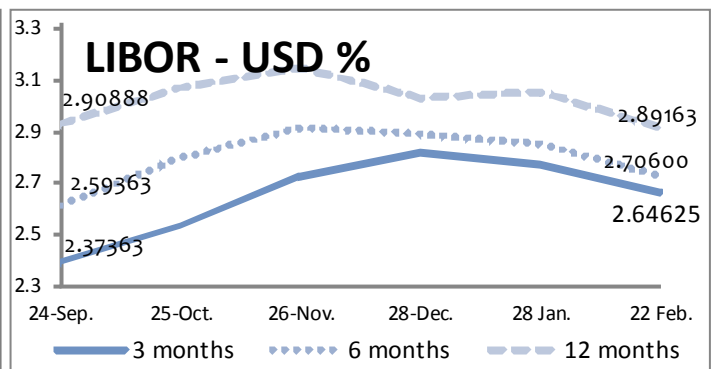
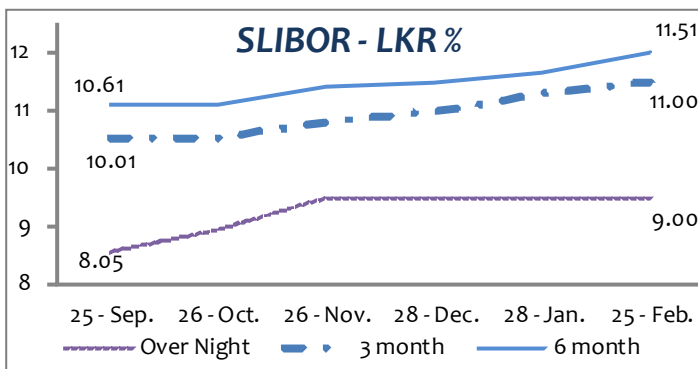


Central Bank's Policy Rates

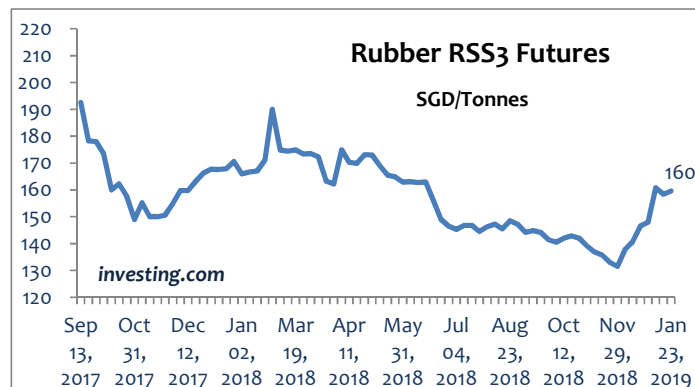
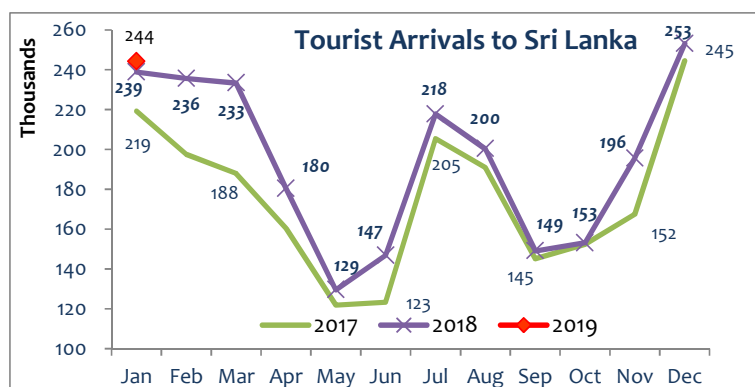
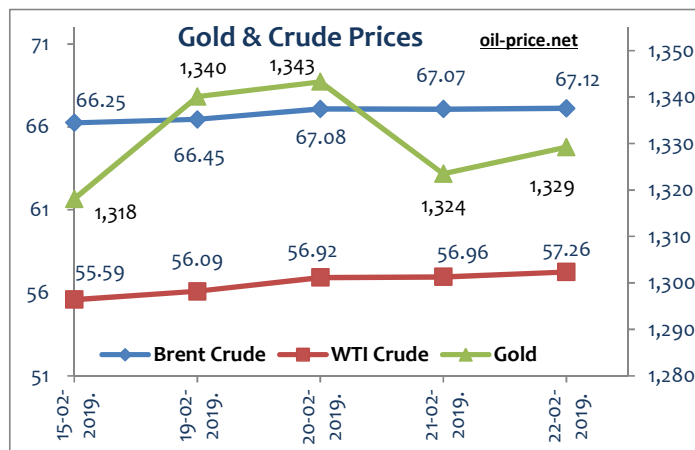
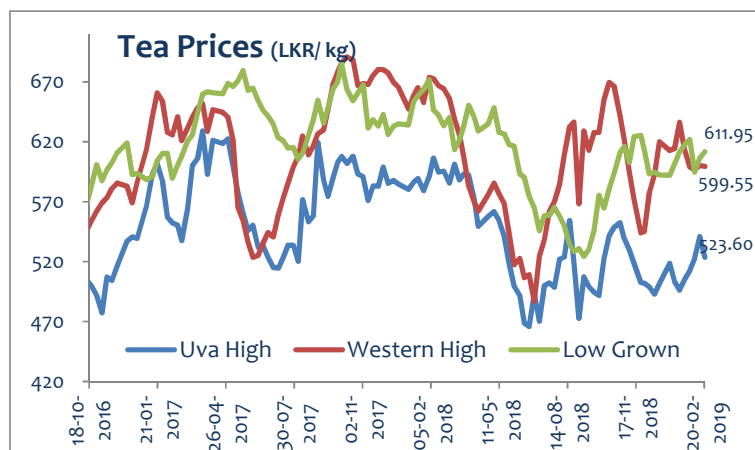
Description	Present	Previous		Treasury Bill Issuance			
				20.02.2019	13.02.2019	06.02.2019	30.01.2019
Standing Deposit Facility (SDF)	8.00%	8.00%	91 Days %	na	na	9.55	na
Standing Lending Facility (SLF)	9.00%	9.00%	182 Days %	9.87	na	9.87	na
Bank Rate	15.00%	15.00%	364 Days %	10.73	10.72	10.69	10.69
Statutory Reserve Ratio (SRR)	5.00%	6.00%	Amount	22.5Bn	21Bn	24Bn	21Bn

Treasury Bond Issuance

Date	05.02.2019	17.07.2016	11.01.2019	17.07.2016	17.09.2018	05.02.2019	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	10.85	11.14	11.58	11.21	10.32	11.30	11.73	11.90
Previous Auction	13.12.2018	15.06.2017	15.10.2018	15.06.2017	16.07.2018	13.12.2018	15.08.2018	16.07.2018
Previous Yield	11.88	11.37	11.69	11.38	10.53	12.23	10.20	10.88



Economic Indicators & Other Statistics



Local News

Sri Lanka to make Colombo 'smart port' with automated functions

Sri Lanka's ports and shipping ministry said it will spend 929Mn rupees to modernise information technology at Colombo port to make it a 'smart port' with many automated functions to improve efficiency. Ports, Shipping and Southern Development Minister Sagala Ratnayaka said he expects the process of IT upgrades to streamline terminal management and cargo systems to be completed in 12-18 months. The initiative will include using satellite-based DGPS or Differential Global Positioning Systems which provide improved location accuracy to make best use of container handling equipment within port terminals and increase productivity. It will also include business intelligence tools, web portals and simulation tools, Ratnayaka said in a statement. "In layman's terms, this means Colombo Port will operate with greater efficiency and handle a greater volume of activities within a shorter period of time with the use of advanced IT and information systems," Ratnayaka explained. (economynext.com)

CB puts ISBs first in quest for debt repayment funds

The Central Bank has 'recalibrated' its strategy to raise funds to repay debt, prioritising International Sovereign Bonds (ISBs) over bilateral arrangements, but the secondary options include a \$1.5 billion swap arrangement with People's Bank of China. Central Bank Governor Dr. Indrajit Coomaraswamy explained that the decision to return to the market was motivated by yields reducing significantly in January, largely motivated by the Government's signal to continue with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) program and repayment of the \$1 billion SBI in January. The Central Bank will have to raise \$5.9 billion to repay debt in 2019 with \$2.6 billion to be repaid in the first quarter. An additional \$500 million payment is also due in April. (ft.lk)

(LBO) –**Commercial Bank of Ceylon PLC** has reported an operating profit of 31.6Bn rupees for the year ended 31st December 2018, reflecting a growth of 12.8% before taxes on financial services. Profit before income tax improved by 10.4% to 25.6Bn rupees, a lower rate of growth attributable to the introduction of the Debt Repayment Levy (DRL) effective 1st October 2018. PAT at Rs 17.5Bn represented an increase of 5.8%. Commercial Bank paid a total of Rs 14.3Bn in taxes, approximately 45% of its profit. SLFRS 9, resulting in net assets reducing by Rs 5.3Bn. Impairment charges, provided for the first time under SLFRS 9, rose to Rs 8.6Bn, from Rs 677Mn provided in 2017 under LKAS 39. Total assets of the Bank grew by Rs 160Bn or 14 % at a monthly average of Rs 13.3Bn to Rs 1.3Tn as at 31st December 2018.

Net loans and advances to customers increased by Rs 123.7Bn or 16.8% over the 12 months of 2018 to stand at Rs 861.1Bn at the end of the year reviewed.

The Bank's deposits portfolio recorded a growth of 15.6% or Rs 132.9Bn to Rs 983.0Bn as at 31st December 2018.

Interest expenses grew by a lower 13.3% to Rs 72.5Bn through timely re-pricing of liabilities amidst a shift from low cost funds to high cost time deposits.

Total **other income** comprising of fees and commission income, exchange profit, net gains or losses on trading and net gains or losses on de-recognition of financial assets, grew by an impressive 92.1% to Rs 18.7Bn, mainly due to a **significant increase in exchange profit** resulting from a substantial increase in the Treasury's trading volumes and exchange income derived from a 16.4% depreciation of the Rupee against the US Dollar, the sharpest depreciation in the past decade.

Sri Lanka Telecom PLC (SLT) said the Group posted a revenue of Rs. 81.44 billion during the year under review with impressive growth of 7.53%. The growth was reported in all the segments, however it was largely driven by enterprise and carrier-related businesses, FTTH, IP TV and data-related services together with mobile operations. Understanding the worldwide trends, the Group is now more focusing on data-related products. **Net Profit after Tax of the Group for the year 2018 was reported at Rs. 4.95 billion with an impressive growth of 25.58%** compared to the previous year. (ft.lk).

Foreign News

Asia shares climb as Trump pushes out tariff deadline

Asian shares scaled a 5-month peak on Monday after U.S. President Donald Trump confirmed he would delay a planned increase on Chinese imports as talks between the two sides were making "substantial progress".

The Australian dollar, a liquid proxy for China investments, got a 0.4 percent lift from the news and the dollar touched a fresh seven-month low on the yuan. Shanghai blue chips jumped 2.8 percent. That brought gains this year to 20 percent, helped in part by Beijing's efforts to pump new credit into the financial system. MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan added 0.5 percent to the highest since October, and is up 10 percent for the year so far. Japan's Nikkei climbed 0.6 percent to levels last seen in mid-December. E-Mini futures for the S&P 500 edged up 0.3 percent, while Treasury futures slipped.

Trump on Sunday tweeted he would push back the March 1 deadline for higher tariffs and looked forward to a meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping when a deal was sealed. U.S. and Chinese negotiators were discussing the thorny issue of how to enforce a potential trade deal on Sunday after moving ahead on structural issues, a source said. Trump tweeted progress had been made on intellectual property, technology transfers, agriculture, services and currencies.

In currencies, the trade news deflated the safe-haven yen a little and lifted the dollar to 110.76. Against a basket of currencies the dollar was holding steady at 96.455. Sterling was idling at \$1.3065 as markets awaited some clarity on where Brexit talks were heading. Prime Minister Theresa May put off a vote on her Brexit deal until as late as March 12 - just 17 days before Britain is due to leave the EU - setting up a showdown this week with lawmakers who accuse her of running out the clock. The Telegraph reported May was considering whether to delay Britain's exit for up to two months.

In **commodity markets**, spot gold edged up a touch to \$1,328.91 per ounce. Oil prices were near their highest since mid-November, despite record output from the United States. U.S. crude was last up 12 cents at \$57.38 a barrel, while Brent crude futures rose 19 cents to \$67.31. (reuters.com)

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