



CNCI NEWS BULLETIN

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“CNCI ACHIEVER AWARDS”

PROGRAMME LAUNCHED FOR 2023

The Ceylon National Chamber of Industries (CNCI) had its official launch of the “CNCI Achiever Awards 2023” for Industrial Excellence recently, at “Hotel Galadari, Colombo. It is a unique event annually organized by the CNCI, the premier Industrial Chamber in the country to recognize the Sri Lankan Industrialists for their achievements, both in the manufacturing and service sectors. The Chief Guest at the occasion was Mrs Thilaka Jayasundara, Secretary, Ministry of Industries. To mark the significance of the 22nd launch of the CNCI Achiever Awards event, the Chief Guest unveiled the Gold Trophy at that auspicious hour.

The Achiever Awards scheme has been initiated by the CNCI especially to encourage the Sri Lankan industrialists by recognizing and rewarding for their businesses excellence. The contestant companies will be evaluated based on their performance shown in the areas of quality standards, productivity, corporate plan, research & development, employee benefits, labour relations etc. while paying concerns over the social and environmental obligations and to encourage these industries to reach further heights. The Achiever Awards scheme is highly popular among the industrial sector which is considered as a valuable opportunity to all industrialists of Extra Large, Large, Medium, Small & Micro categories, to be contested in provincial and National levels. Canisius Fernando, CNCI’s Chairman while welcoming the gathering said that he was certainly proud to mention that the CNCI Achiever Awards Competition is being organized in 2023 for the 22nd consecutive year.

Canisius Fernando expressed his deep gratitude to the Bank of Ceylon on behalf of the Industry Chamber for their magnanimous gesture in being the Business Development Partner for the CNCI Achiever Awards Scheme in this year. He also thankfully placed on record of the sponsorships given by the Ceylinco General Insurance Limited, Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Limited-ANCL (Lake House) and the Independent Television Network- ITN.

Pradeep Kahawalage, Vice Chairman CNCI and Achiever Awards Judging Chairman, introduced “Achiever Awards 2023” Programme to the media. He explained that the applications for the CNCI Achiever Awards are subjected to a stringent evaluation procedure. Initially the applications received are scrutinized by an external Audit team to verify the accuracy of the information given, especially the financial data.

Next is an internal panel of judges consisting of professionals such as Chartered Accountants, Engineers etc. Finally it is the external panel of judges which will be headed by Professor Upul Subasinghe, Acting Vice Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayawardenapura.

Addressing the gathering, Mrs Thilaka Jayasundara, Secretary to the Ministry of Industries who graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, mentioned that the evaluation is made on a detailed criteria encompassing not only the organizational and financial factors, but also the social, cultural and environmental factors. The application concerned at the CNCI Achiever Awards competition amply demonstrates the higher standards maintained which resembles the world class evaluation criteria. Mrs Jayasundara further said that we should not go against the environment as the reaction of the environment is painful. Today the time has come for the whole world to pay great attention towards the environmental aspect in particular and the social obligations in general. In conclusion she considered it a great pleasure to recognize and reward the industrialists for their entrepreneurial efforts to achieve excellence in the perspectives of the laid down evaluation criteria. She congratulated the CNCI for organizing this wonderful event.



**Unveiling the Gold trophy by the Chief Guest
Mrs. Thilaka Jayasundara, Secretary,
Ministry of Industries**

Over USD 2 Billion Investment Pledges for Port City



Chairman Port City Economic Commission Dinesh Weerakody notes that there are close USD 2 BN investment pledges in the pipeline. “Colombo Port City is not a

white elephant but a productive venture.”

Explaining the developments of the Port City Colombo he says that basic infrastructure is scheduled to be completed by the year end. The Developer plans to break ground in Q3 on the Colombo Port City Financial Centre (CIFC) Phase 1 with 3 towers, Villa Plot and the Marina Hotel.

“The Duty Free complex is set to open in May 2023. A PwC study shows that Port City Colombo can significantly impact GDP, FDI inflows, and improve our BOP and create over half a million new jobs.”

A realized master plan for the Port City provides 5.7 million square meters of built-up area valued at \$ 15 billion. Given the shifting external global environment, the challenges are obvious and they need to be managed going forward by hiring the right skills, meeting new international investment demand profiles and ensuring policy consistency. “The overall country’s environment will certainly play its part. Therefore economic stability is key. Playing down these challenges in favor of negative sound bites will be counterproductive and defeatist at best.”



He made these observations responding to international media reports under the headline “Port City stirs white elephant fears.”

Source: Daily News – 22nd February 2023

Banking Sector Rally Persists: Turnover hits a 1 1/2 Month

Bourse closed the week on a positive note while recording an intraday gain of 156 points and a 1 ½-month high turnover of LKR 4.2Bn. Optimistic Investor sentiment was largely on the back of progression of debt restructuring negotiations, as the Paris Club agreed to provide financing assurances to the country and Sri Lanka’s bondholders prepared to engage in debt restructuring talks with the authorities. Accordingly, index started on a solid footing and continued to surge high as investor interest continued on Banking sector counters and index heavyweights which led the market to close the week at 9,179, gaining 156 points.

Turnover substantially improved to LKR 4.2Bn (+127% cf. monthly average turnover of LKR 1.8Bn) where off-board transactions accounted for 42% of the market turnover. NTB witnessed a stake change of 9.7% via an off-board transaction, totaling to 25.3Mn shares changing hands at LKR 54.00. Accordingly, Banking sector led the market turnover with a contribution of 36%, followed by Capital Goods sector (29%).

NTB and JKH led overall turnover while NTB contributed LKR 1.4Bn (33%), while JKH contributed LKR 829.5Mn (20%). Accordingly, NTB continued to dominate the market volume with 25.4Mn shares (24%) while DIAL recorded the second largest volume of 14.4Mn shares (13%). Overall volume displayed a significant improvement compared to the previous session and recorded at 106.8Mn.

Top gainers for the day were SEMB.X (+33%), GEST (+13%), RPBH (+13%), TESS.X (+11%) and TJL (+9%). Meanwhile, top losers for the day were CALF (-14%), SOY (-10%), MHDL (-6%), RCH (-6%) and LPL (-4%).

Foreign investors remained net buyers for the fifth consecutive day displaying high participation and recorded a net foreign inflow of LKR 893.4Mn. Accordingly, JKH, TJL and SPEN were the top three shares to lead foreign inflow while DIAL, WAPO and EXPO were the three counters recording the largest foreign outflow.

Source: Daily News – 03rd February, 2023

National Tea Sales Average Up By Rs. 762.09 YoY



National tea sales average for the month of January 2023 recorded Rs. 1,466.76 (USD 4.04). In comparison to the January 2022 average of Rs. 704.67 (USD 3.51), shows a significant increase of Rs. 762.09 YoY.

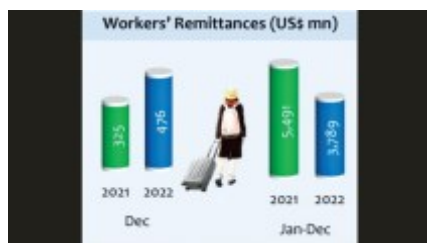
When analysing the respective elevational averages for the month of January 2023 - High Grown average of Rs. 1,395.03 (USD 3.84) has recorded an increase of Rs. 35.25 month on month vis-à-vis Rs. 1,359.78 (USD 3.74) of December 2022. When compared to the January 2022 average of Rs. 680.56 (USD 3.39), another

significant increase of Rs. 714.47 is recorded YoY according to Forbes & Walker Tea Brokers (Pvt) Ltd.

Medium Grown average totaling Rs. 1,242.82 (USD 3.42) for January 2023 has recorded a marginal increase of Rs. 04.96 month on month vis-à-vis Rs. 1,237.86 (USD 3.40) of December 2022. When compared to the January 2022 average of Rs. 626.73 (USD 3.13), shows an increase of Rs. 616.09 YoY. Low Grown average of Rs. 1,544.39 (USD 4.25) of January 2023 has recorded a marginal increase of Rs. 10.12 month on month vis-à-vis Rs. 1,534.27 (USD 4.22) of December 2022. When compared to the January 2022 average of Rs. 733.69 (USD 3.65), shows an increase of Rs. 810.70 YoY.

Source: -Daily News - 10th February ,2023

Export Turnover Increases by 4.9%



Earnings from exports in 2022 surpassed USD13 billion per year for the first time, recording an increase of 4.9% from the previous highest recorded in

2021 according to the Central Bank.

This improvement was a result of increased earnings from industrial exports, including garments, gems, diamonds and jewellery, machinery and mechanical appliances and petroleum products. Meanwhile, total import expenditure in 2022 amounted to US dollars 18,291 million, recording a decline of 11.4%, year-on-year, resulting from measures to restrict non-urgent imports and liquidity constraints prevailed in the market for the most part of 2022.

As a result, the deficit in the trade account in 2022 narrowed to the lowest level since 2010 to US dollars 5,185 million, from US dollars 8,139 million recorded in 2021. Merchandise trade deficit recorded the lowest in 2022, since 2010. Foreign investments in the government securities market and Colombo Stock Exchange (CSE) recorded a notable net inflow during 2022 compared to net outflow in 2021. The foreign inflows to the CSE, including primary and secondary market transactions, recorded a notable net inflow in December 2022.

Foreign investments in the government securities market recorded a cumulative net inflow of US dollars 51 million during 2022, with a marginal net inflow in December 2022. The recovery in earnings from tourism persisted in 2022 and marked a noticeable growth. Earnings from mineral exports increased in December 2022, compared to December 2021, mainly due to the increase in export of titanium ores.

Workers' remittances increase to USD 476 Mn

Workers' remittances increased to US dollars 476 million during December 2022, in comparison to US dollars 384 million in the previous month, recording the highest monthly remittances during 2022.

Total departures for foreign employment during 2022 were recorded at 299,934, contributed mainly by the unskilled (101,786), skilled (88,215) and domestic aid (73,781) categories. Total departures for foreign employment were recorded at 23,407 during the month of December 2022. However on an annual basis Workers' remittances in 2022 amounted to US dollars 3,789 million, in comparison to US dollars 5,491 million in 2021, recording a decline of 31.0 per cent, though a notable recovery was witnessed during the latter part of the year.

Source: -Daily News - 02nd February ,2023

Global Economy to Slow In 2023 And Rebound Next Year



The IMF announced on Monday, that global growth is expected to slow from 3.4% in 2022 to 2.9% in 2023 in a press briefing held in Singapore to mark the launch of the January update of the World Economic Outlook report.

“The global economy will slow down this year before rebounding in 2024. But a global recession is not in our baseline. The important factors shaping the outlook are: On the downside, Russia’s war in Ukraine and the global fight against inflation. On the upside, the reopening of China’s economy will have a mild upward revision to our projections. The global economy has shown a lot of resilience,” said Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas, IMF’s Chief Economist. “Labour markets are tight, household spending and business investment remains strong, and European economies proved quite resilient against the energy crisis. Global growth is expected to slow from 3.4% in 2022 to 2.9% in 2023. The slowdown will be more pronounced for advanced economies,” he said. Growth in emerging and developing Asia is expected to rise in 2023 and 2024 to 5% and 5.2% respectively, after the deeper-than-expected slowdown in 2022 to 4.3% attributable to China’s economy. China’s real GDP slowdown in the fourth quarter of 2022 implies a 0.2% point downgrade for 2022 growth to 3.0% the first time in more than 40 years with China’s growth below the global average.

Growth in China is projected to rise to 5.2% in 2023, reflecting rapidly improving mobility, and to fall to 4.5% in 2024 before settling at below 4% over the medium term amid declining business dynamism and slow progress on structural reforms. Growth in India is set to decline from 6.8% in 2022 to 6.1% in 2023 before picking up to 6.8% in 2024, with resilient domestic demand despite external headwinds. Growth in the ASEAN-5 countries (Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore

and Thailand) is similarly projected to slow to 4.3% in 2023 and then pick up to 4.7% in 2024.

China and India will account for 50% of global growth. Global headline inflation is expected to fall from 8.8% in 2022 to 4.3% in 2024. Core inflation, however, is more persistent and remains too elevated. To sum up, barring new shocks, 2023 could be the year of turning points, with growth bottoming out and inflation decreasing.”

However, the risks to the outlook remain tilted to the downside, even if adverse risks have moderated since October and some positive factors seem more relevant.

“An escalation of the war in Ukraine remains a major risk to the global economy, and a sudden repricing in financial markets could deteriorate financial conditions, especially for emerging and developing economies. On the upside, strong household balance sheets amid tight labor markets and robust wage growth could help sustain private demand,” added Gourinchas. Gourinchas stressed that the global economic outlook hasn’t worsened but the road back to a full recovery, with sustainable growth, stable prices, and progress for all, is only starting.

“The fight against inflation has started to bear fruit, but the battle is far from won. Central banks need to raise real policy rates above the neutral level and keep them there until inflation is on a sustained declining path.”

“Central banks and prudential authorities must closely monitor the buildup of risks and vulnerabilities, especially in the housing and non-bank financial sectors. Countries should also roll back the broad and untargeted support they provided households and firms to counter the cost-of-living crisis and instead adopt targeted measures to conserve fiscal space, allow the energy price signal to reduce energy demand and avoid overly stimulating the economy.”

“Finally, urgent action is needed to halt the forces of geo-economics fragmentation and strengthen multilateral cooperation in areas of common interest; international trade, the global financial safety net, public health preparedness, and the climate transition,” said Gourinchas.

Source: - Daily News - 02nd February, 2023

IMF Discuss SL 'Loan Approval' Even As China Stalls



(Bloomberg) - The International Monetary Fund is considering approving Sri Lanka's bailout even without the formal assurance of debt-restructuring support from China, the nation's biggest bilateral creditor, according to people familiar with the discussions.

Under a rarely used policy on lending into official arrears, the IMF may consider approving Sri Lanka's loan because China's assurance is the only prerequisite missing, according to the people who declined to be identified because the information isn't public.

This provision is aimed at preventing a creditor from blocking assistance to a country in dire need of financing and has shown commitment to meet loan conditions.

An IMF spokesperson said that it's premature to discuss the precise IMF policies that could be applied to lending to Sri Lanka, and that the nation's authorities continue to seek financing assurances so that the fund's executive board can consider their request for a loan. IMF staff also continues to engage with the Sri Lankan authorities who are working on completing upfront policy measures, the spokesperson said.

The development comes as World Bank President David Malpass said Thursday that long extensions of debt are among the options that G-20 nations and

others are considering to help ease the burden for poor countries.

The IMF, World Bank and Group of 20 nations chair India separately held virtual discussions Friday on global sovereign debt ahead of the finance ministers and central bank governors' meeting in Bangalore next week.

Sri Lanka and Pakistan count on IMF loans to provide immediate relief by shoring up their foreign-currency reserves and unlocking more funding.

Pending China's creditor assurance, Sri Lanka is trying to meet other reform conditions set by the IMF, including increasing electricity tariffs and clearing a new monetary law for parliament approval.

The Paris Club - an informal group of rich, mostly western creditors - and India have provided formal support to Sri Lanka's loan recast, leaving China as a holdout.

China, which accounts for about 52% of the bankrupt nation's bilateral debt, has instead offered term extensions via the state-owned Export-Import Bank.

Debt negotiations have dragged since Sri Lanka defaulted in May, causing severe supply shortage, depleting its foreign-currency reserves, sending inflation and borrowing costs soaring and pushing the economy into a recession.

While the nation has repurposed some funds to ease the shortage and damp price pressures, it would need IMF's bailout and other funding to turn the situation around.

Argentina is the biggest debtor to the IMF, with a total outstanding debt of \$42.2bn.

Source: -Daily News - 20th February, 2023

ASPI touches 4 ½ Month High

By Lahiru Fernando



Bourse continued to rally for the sixth consecutive day while hitting a 4 ½ -month high, as high net worth and institutional investors' interest persisted mainly on the fundamentally strong counters and blue chip companies during the session. Index displayed slight volatility in the beginning yet gradually recovered and gained sharply to break the 9,200 level to close the day at 9,256 gaining 96 points. After the weighted average yields recorded only a marginal dip during yester-

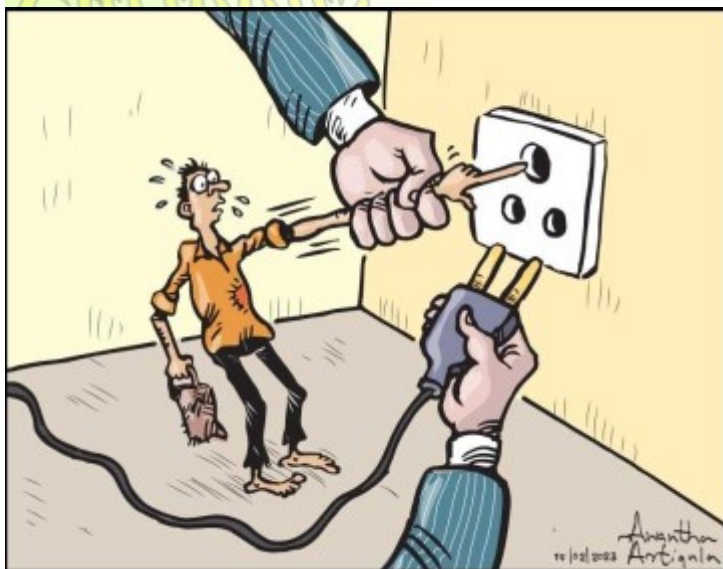
day's weekly bill auction, Treasury counters displayed a dull performance during the day. Meanwhile, as retailers continued to be on the sidelines waiting for a clear direction on the macroeconomic front (IMF approval) turnover skid to LKR 1.5 Bn (-18% cf. monthly average turnover of LKR 1.9 Bn). Off-board transactions of SAMP and HAYL together contributed 7% to the market turnover, accordingly, Food, Beverage and Tobacco and Capital goods sectors jointly accounted for 46%. HAYL and SAMP led overall turnover while HAYL contributed LKR 186.2 Mn (12%), while SAMP contributed LKR 143.0Mn (9%). Meanwhile, BIL dominated the market volume with 10.7Mn shares (17%) while UBC recorded the second largest volume of 5.2Mn shares (8%). Overall vol-

ume witnessed a slight dip compared to the previous session and recorded at 62.4Mn. Top gainers for the day were TAJ (+16%), SDF (+15%), PMB (+14%), SEMB (+14%) and COLO (+14%). Meanwhile, top losers for the day were SING (-25%), CSF (-17%), RENU (-9%), CHL (-7%) and BFN (-5%).

Foreign investors turned net buyers after 3 days despite low participation and recorded a net foreign inflow of LKR 40.7Mn. Accordingly, LION, TKYO.X and JKH were the top three shares to lead foreign inflow while UBC, MELS and DIST were the three counters recording the largest foreign outflow.

Source: Daily News : 24th February 2023

Cartoons



Source:cartoon- Daily Mirror - 02-17-2023



Source: cartoon - Daily Mirror 02-06-2023

Adani Green Energy Invests USD 442 Mn in BOI Project



The Board of Investment (BOI) signed one of the highest FDI generating agreements in recent times with Adani Green Energy Limited of India to the value of USD 442 million on Wednesday.

This is to construct and operate green energy projects in Mannar and Pooneryn. The wind power plant in Mannar will operate at a capacity of 250 MW while the wind power plant in Pooneryn will operate at a capacity of 100 MW. The two wind power plants of 350 MW are scheduled to be commissioned in two years and accordingly, they will be added to the national grid by 2025.

This venture will generate 1,500-2,000 new employment opportunities. Adani Green Energy Limited commissioned 1,915 MW renewable projects in the first nine months of Financial Year 2023 and the group and revenue from Power Supply increased by 39% YoY to Rs. 3,695 Indian Core. Over the years, the company has emerged as the largest renewable player in India and one of the largest in the world.

State Minister of Investment Dilum Amunugama replying to a Daily News Business query said that the Adani Group will not be given any 'special' benefits for this investment. "They will also receive the same tariff rate offered to local alternative power supplies" he said. The Minister said that Sri Lanka drains a huge amount of foreign exchange overseas to purchase fuel and coal. "The locally produced green energy can bring down this cost by huge volumes and these producers both local and forging should be egged on."

He said that sadly some of the unions, few engineers attached to CEB are not supporting this endeavor. Amunugama said that the restructuring process will help to overcome this to a great extent. He also said that with the revision of the CEB traffic the Ministry will have enough money to repay the alternative energy producers who were in arrears.

The Minister also disclosed that three more large renewable energy producing projects will be soon authorized by the BOI. The Adani Group is also building a 1.4-kilometre, 20-metre deep jetty in Colombo harbour which will be the only deep-sea container port between Dubai and Singapore.

The Board of Investment (BOI) enterprises have shown resilience and contributed to the national economy by generating a sum of USD 8.7 billion through merchandise exports, pulling in 8% of growth in 2022 compared to the year 2021.

Source: Daily News : 24th February 2023

US Assures All Support To Obtain IMF Assistance

A meeting was held yesterday between US Ambassador in Colombo Julie Chung and Finance State Minister Shehan Semasinghe at the latter's Ministry to discuss the further support required for Sri Lanka to receive the support of the International Monetary Fund.

The measures taken to achieve financial stability in the country were

also discussed. The State Minister said the support of the International Monetary Fund will lay the foundation for a strong economic stability. Commenting on the steps taken by the government to achieve financial stability in Sri Lanka, the US Ambassador stated that the unity of the country should be appreciated. The ambassador said that receiving the support of the International Monetary

Fund will be speedy with the support of all other countries. The Ambassador stated that in view of the optimistic decisions of the international creditors, Sri Lanka will achieve a more stable economy very soon, and that the US government will continue to provide all necessary support.

Source: Daily News - 01st February 2023

Trincomalee Port To Get Warehouse, Administrative Building And Several Other Infrastructure



it, Minister of Ports and Shipping Nimal Siripala De Silva said.

He said in addition the jetty would be deeper and will initiate programs to attract cruise and passenger vessels to the harbor as well.

He said that the Trincomalee Port has made profits in the recent past which would be ploughed in to invest to add these infrastructures. "Trinco Ports do not have outstanding loans and since Trinco is a profitable harbour we will not borrow in the future as well to add these facilities." He was speaking at the event in Trincomalee Port on Friday where Japan granted one million yen to install night vision to the Port making it a 24-hour operation.

The Minister recalled that he was the subject Minister for several ministers such as health and transport and in each of them Japan has provided grants which have helped Sri Lanka to a great extent. "These include Blood Bank in Colombo Anuradhapura, Jayawardanapura hospital, Jaya Container terminal and several other ventures as well."

In a bid to expand the Trincomalee Port the Sri Lanka Ports Authority (SLPA) will invest to build a warehouse, administrative building and add several other infrastructures to

Installing night navigation will increase the ports' activities round the clock and in turn help to earn more profits. "Some of the profits can go towards job creation and providing economic benefits to the eastern region."

Outlining further plans he said that they want to convert Trinco port from a cargo based cargo handling port to a venue that supplies several other services such as passenger transport and transshipment as well. "We are also looking at bunkering."

He said plans are now underway to clear the waterfront area of the Port to use it for ports related development and for these residents would be relocated and suitable compensation and alternative land found for them.

Several value added joint ventures for processing ilmenite too would be launched to the tune of USD 36 million soon. In addition, another venture will be launched soon with Lanka IOC to install an oil pipeline, De Silva said.

Japanese ambassador to Sri Lanka, MIZUKOSHI Hideaki recalled that the original grant to install night vision to Trincomalee was initiated by former Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe with then Prime Minister of Japan Shinzo Abe, and apologized for the delay in implementing it.

Chairman SLPA Keith D. Bernard said that along with the night vision a new vessel traffic monitoring system with 16 boyars too was launched with the assistance of the Japanese government.

Source: Daily News - 21st February 2023

CSE Amends Trading Rules On OTC Platform

The Colombo Stock Exchange (CSE) announces the amendment of Trading Rules on the Over the Counter (OTC) Platform, where Repurchase (REPO) transactions in Corporate Debt Securities would be permitted between two eligible investors operating through the same Trading Participant.

The amended rules have been approved by the Securities and Exchange Commission of Sri Lanka and will be effective from February 17, 2023.

Initially, the Repurchase transactions on the OTC Platform were permitted only between a Trading Participant and an eligible investor operating through such Trading Participant or between two Trading Participants.

The newly permitted transaction type ensures a minimum cost for both parties who engage in the Repurchase transactions.

The decision to amend the Trading Rule on the OTC Platform has been carried out by the CSE in response to the feedback received from the stakeholder institutions dealing in fixed income securities.

The amendment is an important step in the product expansion line-up of the CSE and is projected towards establishing a vibrant REPO market for Debt Securities listed on the CSE.

Last year, the CSE also made a downward revision of the transaction fee structure applicable to REPO transactions on Corporate Debt Securities carried out on the OTC Platform in order to encourage transactions which is a fixed percentage of 0.02% (per annum) of the transaction value.

Source: Daily News - 23rd February 2023

Decline In Headline Inflation In February Seen

The deficit in the merchandise trade account narrowed to US dollars 410 million in January 2023, from US dollars 857 million recorded in January 2022 due to a larger decline in imports, compared to the decline in exports.

However, the merchandise trade deficit in January 2023 widened, compared to the deficit of US dollars 358 million recorded in December 2022. The Colombo Stock Exchange (CSE) recorded a marginal net inflow, while foreign investments in the government securities market recorded a marginal net outflow during January 2023. Meanwhile earnings from merchandise exports declined by 11.3 per cent in January 2023, over January 2022, to US dollars 978 million, continuing the moderation observed since September 2022, though at a slower pace than expected.

This decline was observed across all main categories, and the compression of industrial exports was noticeable.

Industrial exports: Earnings from the exports of industrial goods declined in January 2023, compared to January 2022, with the greatest share for the overall decrease being contributed by garments resulting from lower demand in most of the major markets (the USA, the EU and the UK).

Meanwhile, earnings from the exports of petroleum products declined due to the decline in volumes of bunker and aviation fuel exports despite higher bunker prices. Further, the declining trend of exports of rubber products (mainly, household rubber gloves) continued, although earnings from gems, diamonds, and jewellery; and machinery and mechanical appliances (mainly, electronic equipment) increased. Earnings from the export of agricultural goods declined in January 2023, compared to a year ago, driven by lower export volumes of fibres and desiccated coconut, categorised under coconut related products. However, earnings from tea exports improved with the higher average export prices of tea amidst low volumes.

Earnings from mineral exports declined in January 2023, compared to January 2022, mainly due to the decline in exports of quartz and natural graphite powder.

Expenditure on merchandise imports remained at subdued levels in January 2023. Accordingly, expenditure on imports declined by 29.2 per cent (y-o-y) to US dollars 1,388 million in January 2023, compared to US dollars 1,959 million recorded in January 2022 and US dollars 1,426 million in December 2022. Expenditure on the importation of consumer goods declined in January 2023, compared to January 2022, due to the decline in both food and non-food consumer goods.

Expenditure on the importation of intermediate goods declined in January 2023, compared to a year ago, driven by lower imports of textiles and textile articles (primarily, fabrics) indicating lower garments exports in the period ahead.

Workers' remittances recovered to USD 437 million during January 2023, in comparison to US dollars 259 million in the corresponding month in the previous year.

Meanwhile, total departures for foreign employment were recorded at 24,236 during January 2023. Total departures of foreign employment comprised unskilled (7,556), skilled (7,283) and domestic aid (6,120) categories.

Gross official reserves reach USD 2.1 BN

Gross official reserves has reached USD 2.1 billion. This included the swap facility from the People's Bank of China, equivalent to around US dollars 1.4 billion, which is subject to conditionalities on usability.

The Central Bank recorded a net absorption of foreign exchange from the market in January 2023, resulting in a marginal improvement in liquid reserves by the end of January 2023.

Tourism revenue up to USD 162 Mn

Earnings from tourism in the month of January 2023 are estimated at USD 162 million, in comparison to USD 127 million in the previous month and US D 152 million in the corresponding month in the previous year. Tourist arrivals increased in January 2023 to 102,545, compared to 91,961 arrivals recorded in December 2022 and 82,327 recorded in January 2022.

Exchange rate remains stable

Exchange rate continued to remain stable through January 2023 with a marginal appreciation. Accordingly, during the year up to 28 February 2023, the rupee recorded an appreciation of 0.4% against the US dollar.

Meanwhile, reflecting cross-currency movements, the Sri Lanka rupee appreciated against the euro, the pound sterling, the Japanese yen, the Indian rupee and the Australian dollar during the year up to February 28 2023.

Real effective exchange rate (REER 24) depreciated marginally during January 2023 and remained largely below the threshold of 100 index points, indicating an improvement in Sri Lanka's external competitiveness.



Disciplinary Procedure & Conducting Disciplinary Inquiries

Date : 28th March 2023

9.30 am - 12.30 pm

(Registration starts from 9.15 am)

Online : Zoom

Content

- What is Misconduct
- Show Cause Letter / Explanation / Interdiction / Suspension
- Investigation Procedure
- Charge Sheet
- Holding Fomal Disciplinary Inquiry
- Final Report of the Inquiring Officer
- Punishments: Demotion, Termination, VOP, etc..
- Possible Actions Against the Disciplinary Decision
 - ⇒ Labour Tribunals
 - ⇒ Department of Labour: Arbitration
- Implementation of the LT / Arbitration Awards

Resource Person

Mr. K G Kumarasinghe; LL.B, LL.M
Attorney at Law
Senior Legal Officer, Department of Labour

Investment

For Members : Rs. 5,000/-
 For Non Members : Rs. 5,500/-

Language

Sinhala & English (Notes in English)

For

**Directors, Managers, Executives, Supervisors, All in HR / Admin fields
and all others interested in Labour Laws**

For More Information

Contact : Sumudu / Nilanthi
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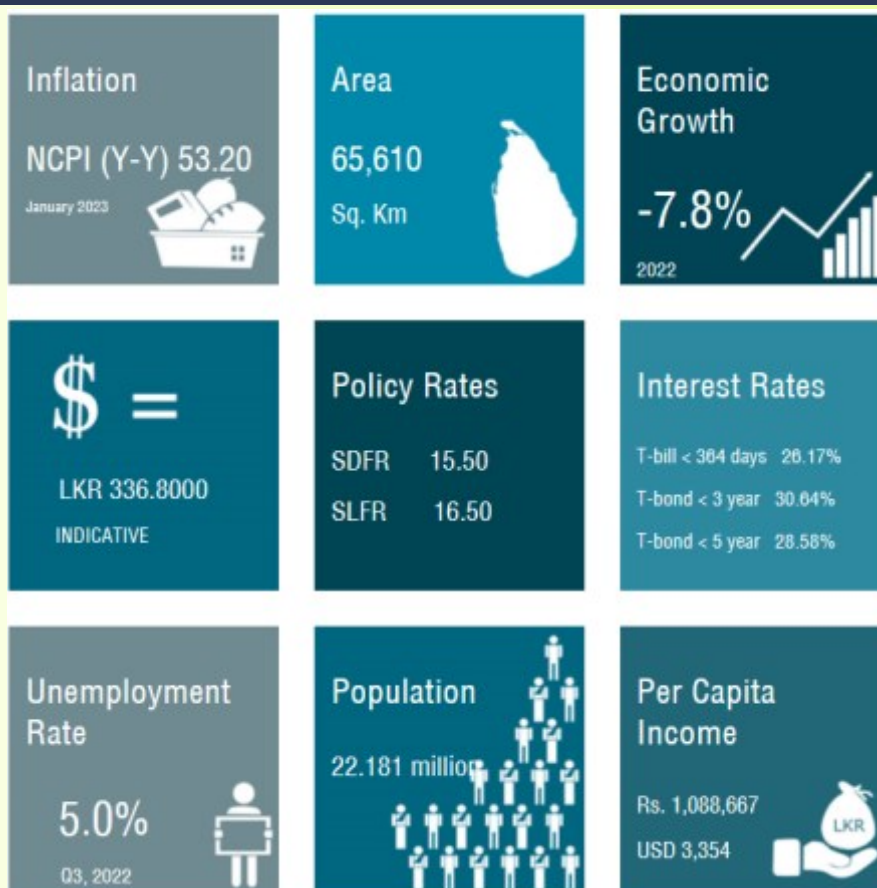
Ant. No. 20, First Floor, Galle Face Court - 2, Colombo 03, Sri Lanka

EXCHANGE RATES AS AT 28TH FEBRUARY 2023

Date	Buy Rate (LKR)	Sell Rate (LKR)
Australian Dollar	239.1034	249.7389
Canadian Dollar	261.3531	272.3942
Swiss Franc	378.0566	395.5988
Renminbi	50.4930	53.6064
Euro	376.3599	390.9386
British Pound	428.8705	444.3132
Yen	2.6049	2.7118
Singapore Dollar	263.3839	264.3299
United States Dollar	357.6822	366.9212

Source: <https://www.cbsl.gov.lk/en/rates-and-indicators/exchange-rates/daily-buy-and-sell-exchange-rates>

Sri Lanka Economy SNAPSHOT



Source : <https://www.cbsl.gov.lk/en/sri-lanka-economy-snapshot>