

BRS morning shout

20 November - 2023

Economic news	Links
The services sector continued its expansion in October but recent electricity hike and proposed higher VAT from January have clouded its outlook as per the Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) compiled by the Central Bank.	https://www.ft.lk/front-page/Services-sector-expands-in-October-but-electricity-and-VAT-rate-hikes-cloud-outlook/44-755354
Central Bank Governor Dr. Nandalal Weerasinghe has said the Government has shared the terms of a \$ 4.2 billion China debt deal with other creditors — a key sticking point with countries like India — paving the way for more loans from the International Monetary Fund.	https://www.ft.lk/front-page/SL-shares-terms-of-debt-deal-with-China-with-other-creditors/44-755347
Finance Ministry Tax Policy Advisor Thanuja Perera said the Government is poised to implement enforcement measures due to the persistently low voluntary compliance of the public in paying taxes.	https://www.ft.lk/top-story/Govt-to-enforce-tax-compliance-measures-amidst-low-voluntary-participation/26-755392
Nearly 200,000 new tax payers have been registered in 2023 so far whilst the Committee on Public Accounts (COPA) last week urged expeditious upgrade to the Revenue Administration Management Information System (RAMIS).	https://www.ft.lk/front-page/Nearly-200-000-new-tax-payers-in-2023-says-IRD/44-755391
The Central Bank on Friday announced new composition of the Governing Board and the Monetary Policy Board.	https://www.ft.lk/front-page/CBSL-announces-new-composition-of-Governing-Board-Monetary-Policy-Board/44-755385
Business News	
Distilleries Company of Sri Lanka PLC (DCSL) announced yesterday it has signed a Sales and Purchase Agreement with HEINEKEN Asia Pacific Ltd. to acquire the latter's Sri Lankan operations.	https://www.ft.lk/front-page/Distilleries-to-buy-HEINEKEN-s-Lankan-operations-share-price-gains/44-755348
Political news	
State Minister of Finance Ranjith Siyambalapitiya said value-added tax (VAT) which will come into effect from January 2024, is only a short-term measure to boost Government revenue	https://www.ft.lk/front-page/VAT-consolidation-temporary-measure-to-boost-revenue-Siyambalapitiya/44-755355
Nine parties have responded to the Expression of Interests (EOIs) to buy Hotel Developers Lanka Ltd., the owning company of popular five star Hilton Colombo, the State-Owned Enterprises Restructuring Unit (SRU) said yesterday.	https://www.ft.lk/front-page/9-parties-keen-to-buy-Hilton-Colombo/44-755352
International news	
Oil futures nudged higher on Monday, extending gains on expectations of OPEC+ deepening supply cuts to shore up prices, which have fallen for four weeks on easing concern of Middle East supply disruption amid the Israel-Hamas conflict.	https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/oil-extends-gains-opec-mull-deeper-cuts-2023-11-20/
Asia-Pacific markets started the week higher after most major bourses ended lower in the previous session, while China left its benchmark lending rates unchanged.	https://www.cnbc.com/2023/11/20/live-markets-asia-markets-set-to-bounce-china-lpr-eyed.html
Hamas gunmen battled Israeli forces trying to push into Gaza's largest refugee camp on Sunday, but despite the fighting U.S. and Israeli officials said a deal to free some of the hostages being held in the besieged enclave was edging closer.	https://www.cnbc.com/2023/11/19/hamas-battles-israeli-forces-in-north-gaza-hostage-deal-report-denied.html

Market Indices

	Current	Previous	Year open	Day's %	YTD %
ASPI	10,613.11	10,662.08	8,489.66	-0.46%	25.01%
S&P SL 20	2,996.86	3,007.36	2,635.63	-0.35%	13.71%

Forex market

	Buying	Selling	Year open	Bid-Ask Spread	YTD %
USD	322.84	333.25	371.62	-3.13%	-10.3%
EUR	348.76	363.88	396.76	-4.16%	-8.3%
GBP	399.32	415.43	449.06	-3.88%	-7.5%
JPY	2.14	2.23	2.79	-4.05%	-20.2%

Commodity Prices

	Current	Previous	Year open	Day's %	YTD %
Gold (USD/Ounce)	1,985.30	1,989.00	1,824.60	-0.2%	8.8%
Copper (USD/Pound)	3.76	3.70	3.83	1.6%	-1.9%
Aluminium (USD/MT)	2,207.00	2,182.50	2,371.50	1.1%	-6.9%
Crude Oil (USD/Barrel)	76.45	73.17	78.36	4.5%	-2.4%
Cotton (USD/Pound)	81.60	80.79	82.59	1.0%	-1.2%
Sugar (USD/Pound)	27.20	27.20	20.33	0.0%	33.8%
Palm Oil (USD/MT)	843.02	853.64	866.32	-1.2%	-2.7%

Market Rates

	Current	Week ago	Year open	Yearly %
182 day T bill	14.75	14.81	32.20	-54.2%
364 day T bill	12.96	12.99	29.27	-55.7%
AWPR	13.14	13.31	27.24	-51.8%
AWLR	15.62	16.20	18.42	-15.2%
AWDR	12.75	13.39	14.06	-9.3%
AWFDR	16.34	17.24	18.49	-11.6%

CBSL holdings in govt securities (LKR bn)

	Current	Previous	Year open	YTD %
Market liquidity - Surplus/(Deficit) (LKR bn)	108.30	25.49	-231.25	146.8%
CBSL holdings in govt securities (LKR bn)	2,799.35	2,819.35	2,598.18	7.7%