

"ASPI closes flat as bulls and bears lock horns"

The Colombo Bourse witnessed mixed sentiment today as investor caution grew over rising discussions surrounding potential tariffs. The ASPI opened on a bearish note, slipping early in the session due to selling pressure. However, as the day progressed, the market saw a modest recovery driven by bargain hunting, ultimately ending the session nearly flat at 18,032 with a marginal decline of 10 points. JKH, CTHR, HNB, RCL, and CTC emerged as the top negative contributors to the index. Investor activity remained strong across the board, with both retail and HNW participation driving daily turnover to LKR 8.9Bn, 82% above the monthly average of LKR 4.9Bn. Off-board transactions took center stage, with 77.4% of EAST's stake changing hands at LKR 30.2 per share across four trades, whilst a 1.0% stake in SAMP was traded at LKR 125.0 per share through 15 off-board transactions. The Real Estate sector led the turnover, accounting for 40% of the day's total, followed by the Banking and Diversified Financials sectors, which together contributed 38%. Foreign investors turned net sellers with a net outflow of LKR 561.1Mn.

