

## "Banking and Capital Goods lead market gains as investor confidence strengthens"

The Colombo Stock Exchange experienced improved investor sentiment following the holiday season. During the trading session, the ASPI opened with a slight uptick and then moved steadily upward throughout the trading session, showing consistent buying interest across the day. ASPI increased by 314 points to close at 22,446 while S&P SL20 moved up by 74 points closing at 6,111. Top positive contributors to the ASPI were DOCK, MELS, HNB, RICH and COMB. Daily turnover recorded at LKR 3.4Bn, which is about 3% below the monthly average level of LKR 3.5Bn. Both retail and HNW investor sentiment remained strong, with retail investors showing particular interest in Banking sector counters during the trading session. Consumer Services sector counters, particularly hotel stocks, attracted notable buying interest following the strong postcrisis tourism arrival numbers recorded. The Capital Goods sector accounted for 34% of total turnover, while the Banking, and Materials sectors contributed a combined 34%. Foreign investors remained net sellers, posting a net outflow of LKR 36.7Mn.

