

## December inflation reaches 4.9 pc

The rate of inflation accelerated to 4.9 per cent in December, up from 4.7 per-

cent in November, the Department of Census and Statistics said yesterday (30).

"The general price level increased in December 2011 compared to the prices in the previous month. The Colombo Consumers' Price Index (base: 2006/07=100) for all items for December was 154.4 as announced by the Prices Division of the Department of Census and Statistics. An increase of 1.8 index point or 1.2 percent was noted in

December 2011 from November 2011 index which was 152.6. This increase represents expenditure value of Rs.517.54 in the market basket," the department said.

"The food items that experienced increases in prices were most varieties of vegetables, fish and sea food, rice and coconut due to less supply to Colombo from main producing areas during the month of December 2011. On an average,

expenditure value on items in the food group increased by Rs. 490.27."

Price increases were also noticed in sub categories of clothing and footwear, furnishing, household equipment and routine household maintenance. However, housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels, health, transport, communication, recreation and culture, and education categories represented in the CCPI remained unchanged.



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