

# Economic growth...

The rupee depreciated nearly 20 percent against the US dollar as foreigners pulled out about US \$ 373 million from Lankan bonds and stocks.

The International Monetary Fund also suspended an ongoing loan programme, which heavily dented the investor sentiment.

With the reinstatement of Wickremesinghe as the Prime Minister and stabilizing of the economy for the moment, Finance Minister Mangala Samaraweera expects the economy to grow 3.5 percent this year.