

■ **IMF agrees to provide US\$ 2.9 Billion to Sri Lanka**

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Government of Sri Lanka has reached a staff-level agreement on 48-month, \$2.9 bn Extended Fund Facility which will also help it secure short-term funds from other donors. To avail the fund, Sri Lanka will have to put forward a concrete action plan on debt restructuring and tackling corruption. The Extended Fund Facility will support Sri Lanka's program to restore macroeconomic stability and debt sustainability, IMF said in a statement. Facing the worst-ever economic crisis, Sri Lanka is going through skyrocketing inflation, dollar crunch and devaluation of the local currency mainly due to faulty financial decision-making and extensive loans obtained for many white elephant projects. With a colossal 51 billion dollar foreign debt, Sri Lanka was expected to pay 7 billion dollars in debt serving but defaulted in April this year.