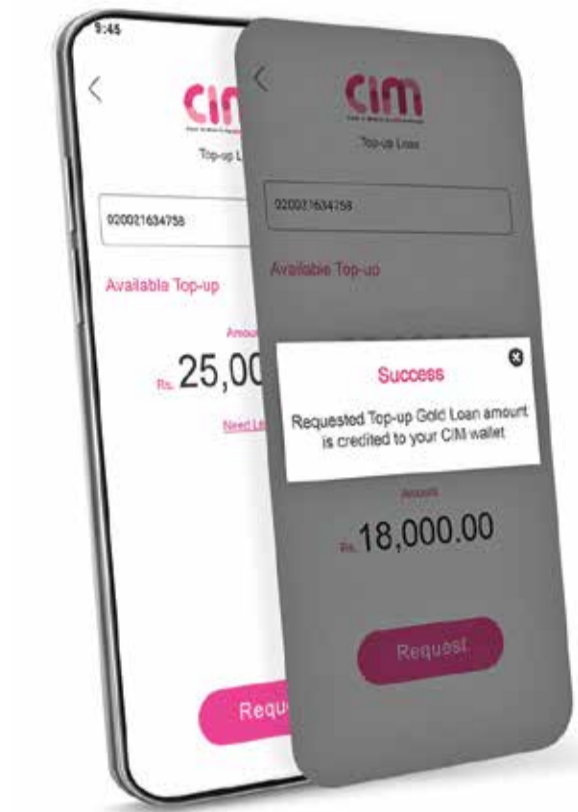


Through digital instant loans via LB CIM App LB Finance Revolutionises Traditional Gold Loans Business

LB Finance PLC, country's leading non-banking financial institution, recently introduced a revolutionary digital solution to boost its key Gold Loans business. With the latest solution Company's Gold Loans customers have the opportunity to avail an instant digital top-up gold loan through LB CIM (Cash-In-Mobile) smartphone app. This is a landmark development considering the lightning speed and efficiency of delivering a top-up loan in mere 30 seconds, directly crediting the loan proceeds to customer's LB CIM wallet. The move further epitomises Company's efforts to deliver cutting edge financial solutions in a highly competitive, rapidly evolving industry, fast adapting to digital financial services.

LB Finance PLC is the undisputed market leader for Gold Loans among NBFIs. Gold Loans currently account for nearly a third of Company's loans and advances and serves a large and diverse group of customers spread throughout the island representing every strata of the Sri Lankan society. LB CIM, the mobile app based digital wallet by LB Finance, performs the central role in LB customers' digital journey in availing an array of financial services provided by the Company.

Speaking on this pioneering solution, Suraj Karunanayaka, Chief Manager-Gold Loans, LB Finance PLC said, "We are delighted to enhance our unparalleled customer



Bimal Perera
DGM - Strategy & Digital Finance



Suraj Karunanayaka
Chief Manager - Gold Loans

experience using the Company's popular digital platform LB CIM. Keeping up with our customer needs and redefining our business to cater to changing consumer behaviours and industry dynamics have been the secret behind our success over the years. We take pride in our speedy and efficient service delivery that

differentiates our business from the competition. The nature and the demand patterns for Gold Loans necessitate an organisation to have delivery channels available in every nook and corner of the country geared to operate for extended business hours to serve the quick financing needs of our customers.

Integrating our core business with LB CIM app gives us this much-needed flexibility and dynamism to operate 24x7, not deterred by limitations of conventional branch banking during Government imposed travel restrictions. This is of greater significance during a time where physical branch operation has been somewhat challenged due to the pandemic-related health and safety concerns.

"Commenting on this breakthrough innovation, Bimal Perera, Head of Strategy and Digital Finance, LB Finance, stated, "CIM is more than just another mobile payment platform as it has a very high level of integration with our core banking system. This uniqueness enables our valued customers to enjoy an unhindered access to their portfolio of lease, loans and deposit accounts through one single digital platform. In Sri Lanka, Gold Loans are commonly perceived as a conventional, quick financing solution. This innovation has brought a new dimension to the product by allowing customers to obtain a top-up loan from the safety and comfort of their homes, regardless of the time or day. There are many use cases of customers needing quick and convenient additional financing for planned or unplanned expenses. Instant digital top-up gold loans from CIM addresses this very need. Customer are empowered to leverage their valuable gold articles whilst enjoying the

benefit of appreciated value of their collateral held with LB. Our Company has made considerable investments in key digital assets and technology infrastructure that is capable of churning out such robust solutions, he further added.

LB CIM mobile wallet is a solution conceptualised and developed by LB Digital Financial Services (DFS), a specialised unit that combines the strength and heritage of a five decades old financial institution with the entrepreneurial spirit of a fintech start-up. LB CIM is proud to be one of the few tri-lingual mobile wallets available in the market and champions the concept of simplicity in its UI/UX offering. Company believes CIM's ultra-simple design gives it an advantage over the completion to become a truly inclusive digital payment solution to Sri Lankan masses

From its humble beginnings in 1971, LB Finance has seen remarkable growth over the last five decades, establishing its position today as Sri Lanka's leading Non-Banking Financier. The hallmark of its success has been the Company's ability to adopt and innovate its product and service offerings to cater to the ever-changing needs of the local consumer. Company believes the agility and the dynamism in its business model are the key attributes in sustaining its performance at the highest level in this highly competitive financial services space.

To recognise Sri Lanka's most women friendly workplaces

Satynmag.com and CIMA Sri Lanka Women Friendly Workplace Awards on 2 November

The first-ever Women Friendly Workplace Awards (WFWP Awards) 2021 jointly pioneered by Satynmag.com, and CIMA Sri Lanka will be held on 2 November 2021, with COVID-19 protocols strictly observed.

The chief guest for the event is Ms. Sarah Twigg, Programme Manager, Women in Work, Sri Lanka at IFC.

The process of evaluation and judging of the WFWP Awards was held throughout the pandemic, and the event itself will highlight the importance of recognising companies where women experience an empowering culture.

A breakthrough initiative pioneered by www.satynmag.com, Sri Lanka's leading women's online magazine and CIMA Sri Lanka, the WFWP Awards has drawn a considerable level of interest from corporates and organisations with many taking part. Commenting on the initiative, Zahara Ansary, FCMA, CGMA, Country Manager, CIMA Sri Lanka says that the high level of participation affirms a healthy level of support towards creating women friendly work standards in Sri Lanka. "The interest and commitment shown by Sri Lanka's leading companies and the personal assurance of CEOs and senior management of these entities in endorsing the WFWP Awards as a

benchmark in gender relations in Sri Lanka is noteworthy. We were delighted to see the initiatives undertaken by various organisations to help women at their workplaces."

"Creating women friendly work places is no longer just a buzz word - giving time and space to include a key criteria in UN SDG goals, that of gender equality is a standard of global acceptance and endorsement for gender relations in Sri Lanka," says Nayomini Weerasooriya Founder/Editor of www.satynmag.com. Several rounds of evaluations were held - from the evaluation of initial applications to Presentations made to the Panel of Judges, attended by the senior management of each participating organisation. Ernst & Young are partnering the event as evaluation partners.

The awards will be held on 2 November at the Atrium Lobby of the Cinnamon Grand from 5:00 p.m. onwards and will recognise the Top Ten Women Friendly Workplaces, followed by five Honourable Mentions. The awards are a first for the corporate sector in Sri Lanka and will herald in a new chapter of recognition that elevates the current status of working and careerwomen.

Ceylinco Life once again certified 'Great Workplace'

Ceylinco Life has been certified a 'Great Workplace' in Sri Lanka for the second consecutive year with a five-mark improvement over the overall rating accorded to the life insurance leader last year, following an independent analysis conducted by Great Place to Work a global authority on workplace culture.

The analysis includes an assessment of the employee experience based on five principles (Credibility, Respect, Fairness, Pride, and Camaraderie) through the Trust Index Survey and an assessment of existing people practices through the Culture Audit Management Questionnaire. The survey which covered 100 per cent of Ceylinco Life's full-time employees revealed that the overall perception regarding the Company as a workplace is more positive than the collective perception of individual elements of workplace engagement. This was gathered from the employees' responses to feeling most positively about the pivotal and emotive statement "My work has special meaning: this is not just a job."

Furthermore, over 85 per cent of the survey participants awarded 'Great' and 'Fair' ratings to the investigative question that explored how much confidence the employees had in the management team's decisions.

This is a testament to the trust that Ceylinco Life has earned over the years and in turn translates to the success of its operation, including employee engagement and customer satisfaction, the Company said.

Ceylinco Life scored higher than the averages of the 40 Best Workplaces in Sri Lanka in 2020 published by Great Place to Work for the criteria of 'Business acumen' and 'Management clarity.' Additionally, 'Management reliability,' 'Pride' and 'Credibility' emerged as areas of relative strength for the organisation.

Great Place to Work also observed that 'Long-term association with the organisation' is the strongest performing Workplace Health Indicator for Ceylinco Life. "This certification is most encouraging, especially in the context of the times we find ourselves in," Ceylinco Life MD, Thushara Ranasinghe said.

Kotmale has introduced paper spoons to their yoghurt range, replacing the plastic spoon, which is a first in the Dairy industry. These spoons are made of biodegradable material, significantly reducing the amount of plastic used in the manufacturing process and taking Kotmale a step further in their endeavours to safeguard the environment.

Waste plastic has become one of the most pressing environmental issues in Sri Lanka as businesses and factories have increased the production and use of plastic over the last few years. From a user's point of view, plastics are durable, light and versatile. The down side, however, is that they take up to over 400 years to completely decompose. This impacts the environment significantly if action is not taken to reduce usage and manage waste plastic removal in a more efficient and effective manner. Identifying the position and falling in line with the Cargills Group's

Kotmale introduces paper spoons with yoghurt range



commitment in terms of sustainability, Kotmale took up a challenge to redirect their operations and value chain by integrating sustainability to their manufacturing process through the introduction of new plastic free initiatives. This initiative of

replacing the plastic spoon with paper acts as a catalyst in reducing plastic pollution, a spokesman for Kotmale said.

Kotmale has become one of Sri Lanka's national dairy brands contributing to the nourishment of the country and strengthening the local dairy farming community. Today Kotmale has established itself as the largest private sector collector of fresh milk, collecting over 180,000 litres on a daily basis, working with over 17,000 small-scale dairy farmers' islandwide and generating over Rs 5.2 billion of direct income annually for the Sri Lankan dairy farming community. Kotmale is a fully owned subsidiary of Cargills (Ceylon) PLC and it saves foreign exchange by sourcing and locally manufacturing value added dairy products, the spokesman added.



BoC Trincomalee City branch re-opens with a facelift

Having Served Customers of Trincomalee since 1981, the refurbished BoC Trincomalee City branch was ceremonially opened at No 9, Main Street Trincomalee. The opening was in keeping with health guidelines. BoC Chairman Kanchara Ratwatte opened the branch with the participation of the Bank's General Manager, K.E.D. Sumanasiri, DGM (Sales and Channel Management), Priyal Silva, DGM (Retail Banking Range II), Nilantha Menerapitiy, Assistant GM(Marketing), Aruna Hettiarachchi, Assistant GM(Eastern Province), W.M.A. Wanigasekera, customers and other well-wishers.

The new branch intends to enrich the socio-economic standards of customers with an array of financial services and products delivered via traditional and digital banking channels. It is connected with the rest of the 646 BoC branch network thus enabling customers of the area to transact seamlessly with other

BoC branches across the country.

Customers could obtain services such as Savings accounts, Fixed deposits, investment plans, development/agricultural loans, housing and personal loans, educational loans leasing, mortgage facilities, Ran Surekum Naya Sewa and special loan services from the branch. Furthermore, the branch offers debit cards, credit cards, and enables foreign remittance transactions including money transfers.

In keeping with BoC commitment to provide convenience of digital banking, customers of Trincomalee branch can obtain facilities such as SmartPay, Smart Online Banking, Mobile Banking (B App), Smart zone, Smart passbook SmartGen digital account. Bringing digital inclusiveness across the country, the Bank of Ceylon is in the process of strategically spreading its technology to all its branches.

Pacific Textiles Chairman Masaru Okutomi appointed Director of Teejay Lanka PLC

Teejay Lanka PLC has announced the appointment of Masaru Okutomi, the Chairman and CEO of Pacific Textile Holdings Limited of Hong Kong, as a non-executive Director of the Company with immediate effect.

Okutomi replaces Wan Wai Loi on the Board of Teejay Lanka PLC, consequent to a change in the latter's role on the Board of Pacific Textiles, which has a 28 per cent stake in Teejay Lanka, the Company said. Okutomi has a Bachelor's degree in Law from Hitotsubashi University, one of Japan's top universities, and held senior management positions including Managing Director of Toray Industries (South China) Co. Ltd. and of Toray Industries (Hong Kong) Ltd., Deputy Managing Director of Toray Industries (China) Co. Ltd. in the past. He was re-designated from Vice-Chairman to Chairman and CEO of Pacific Textiles, a leading manufacturer of customised knitted fabric with an annual production capacity of approximately 87 million kg, on 1 October 2021, and leads the Group's management team, overseeing overall production and operations, providing corporate direction and formulating business strategy.

