

Snapshot	Currency	Closing/ Ref Price	% Change
Equities			
BODCO	SCR	24	-
SACOS	SCR	120	-
SCRIF	ZAR	109	-
SHI	USD	1	-
SBL	SCR	66.00	-
FX (Bank rate – notes)			
SCR/USD		13.79	0.31
SCR/EUR		16.30	-1.07
SCR/GBP		18.41	0.11
Treasury Bills			
91-day	SCR	3.57	-5.19
182-day	SCR	5.02	10.05
Commodities			
Crude Oil (Brent)	USD/bbl	63.15	-0.46
Gold	USD/t.oz	1248.46	-2.10

Seychelles utilities company to host donor conference in seeking funds for sewage projects

The Seychelles *Public Utilities Corporation* will host a donor conference in January in a bid to mobilise funds for sewage projects. The corporation's chief executive told SNA that the company needs approximately \$60 million to implement these projects. "We hope through the conference to raise loans for the actual implementation. The amount we need is substantial, and we know we will not raise the whole amount, but we hope to do it in phases," said Morin. *Seychelles News Agency*

Increase in utilities tariffs as from March 1 next year

As from March 1 next year, domestic consumers will see an increase of 16% in electricity, 5% in water and 13% in sewerage tariffs, the Public Utilities Corporation has announced. Giving details on the increases, the chief executive of the Public Utilities Corporation (PUC) Philip Morin said they will reflect the corporation's operational and investment costs to maintain long term financial sustainability. *Seychelles Nation*

Air Seychelles to launch weekly direct flights to China in late December

The Seychelles' national carrier, Air Seychelles, will start flying weekly charter flights to Chengdu, China as of Tuesday, December 26, the airline said Wednesday. The flights to Chengdu on HM885 depart the Seychelles International airport at Pointe Larue on Tuesdays at 11.25 a.m. and return on Wednesdays on HM886 at 1.30 a.m. from December 26 to March 20 next year. Roy Kinnear, the airline's chief executive, said, "We are delighted to announce a new series of charter flights from Chengdu, which will offer more than 6,500 return seats between China and Seychelles over the next four months." *Seychelles News Agency*

Direct flights from Zurich, Switzerland to Seychelles to begin next year

Seychelles is set to get another direct flight to Europe when Switzerland's leisure airline, **Edelweiss Air**, begins flights to the island nation from September next year. The airline announced last week that it will be offering regular, non-stop service from its base in Zurich to Seychelles during the European winter season beginning on September 22, 2018. Departure flights from Zurich will be on Saturdays at 7.20 p.m. and return flights will leave the island nation's international airport at Pointe Larue at 11.05 p.m. Flights will be done by one of its four Airbus A340-300, with a capacity of 314 seats. The chief executive of the *Seychelles Tourism Board (STB)*, Sherin Francis, said the announcement "clearly demonstrates how the buoyancy of the various source markets has created confidence in the travel world." *Seychelles News Agency*

Bitcoin rises on futures trading debut on major US exchange

Bitcoin has begun trading on a major exchange for the first time in what is being regarded as a step towards legitimising the digital currency. The currency's futures were volatile for the first 20 minutes, rising to about \$16,600 before dropping back. Futures are a type of derivative contract that allows trading based on movements in Bitcoin prices, without requiring ownership of the currency itself. BBC