

HIGHLIGHTS FOR APRIL 2011

BIRLA SUGAR

SNAP SHOTS

No News

OTHER PLAYERS

Profit expectations do the trick for Arvind Mills

Arvind Mills posted gains on Thursday on profitability expectations. The scrip jumped to a 52-week peak of Rs 38.90 amid expectations that the company may post its highest ever net profit in the fourth quarter ended March 31, 2003.

Mawana Sugars to enter edible oil biz

Mawana Sugars is planning to foray into the branded edible oil segment and is targeting to capture 3-5 per cent market share within a year, with an initial investment investment of Rs 2 crore.

Parry Sugar profit declines 22 pc

Parry Sugar Industry said its net profit for the quarter ended March 31, 2011, declined by nearly 22 per cent to Rs 12.51 crore compared with Rs 15.97 crore in the crore in the corresponding period of the previous financial year.

INDIAN SUGAR INDUSTRY

Sugar imports may attract 60% duty

With India's sugar production set to exceed domestic demand, the government is likely to re-impose 60% import duty on sugar from Friday.

“The duty free notification lapses on today and from April 1 it automatically reverts back to the old duty structure,” the official source said. Import duty on sugar was abolished in early 2009 to boost domestic supply in view of production dip in the 2008-09 sugar year (October-September)

Bargain Buying Seen In Sugar To Convene Summer Demand

Sugar futures might garner some buying at lower levels on the heels of export permission to domestic sugar millers along with strong stockiest demand ahead of summer demand.

As per market sources, latest announcement of Indian government to allow the domestic sugar exports of around 5 lakh tonnes under unrestricted sales might boost the stockiest demand at lower levels. Moreover, government has also hiked the sugar stockholding limit to 500 tonnes per trader from 200 tonnes, this may allow the stockiest to stock some of the sugar ahead of upcoming summer demand.

Small sugar declines on low demand

Small sugar prices declined at the Vashi wholesale market here today on subdued retail demand amid adequate stock positions.

While, Medium sugar witnessed a mixed pattern of trading on the back of alternate bouts of buying and selling.

Small sugar (S-30) quality fell by Rs 10 per quintal to Rs Rs 2,781/2,831 from yesterday's closing level of Rs 2,791/2,831.

Medium Sugar (M-30) were quoted at Rs 2,831/2,916 per quintal as compared to Rs 2,826/2,921.

Sugar output in TN set to slip for third year in a row

Sugar output in Tamil Nadu is set to remain lacklustre with sugarcane acreage and sugar recovery continuing to languish below peak levels, according to industry representatives.

Percentage of sugar recovery for a tonne of cane also continues to be low either due to drought or un-seasonal rain. Against normal recoveries of close to 10 per cent in the State, sugar mills recovered 8.8 per cent in 2009-10 and in the current year, it continues below 9 per cent.

Going by indications of sugarcane planting in February and March, the 2011-12 sugar season (October-September) could see a 5-10 per cent increase over the current year's anticipated sugar production of about 15-16 lakh tonnes. Last year (2009-10), sugar output was about 12.5 lakh tonnes, according to the Southern Indian Sugar Mills Association - Tamil Nadu.

Sugar exports to bring sweet returns for cane co-ops

With the Centre lifting ban on sugar exports, cash registers at sugar co-operative societies in the country are set to ring louder. What's more, as a move for incentivising sugarcane cultivation, the societies are expected to pass on the returns by around Rs 200-500 per tonne of the crop production.

Sugar futures down on low demand, higher free-sale quota

Amid weak spot demand and higher free-sale quota, sugar futures prices fell 0.25 per cent to Rs 2,819 per quintal today.

At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, sugar for delivery in June fell by Rs 7, or 0.25 per cent, to Rs 2,819 per quintal, with an open interest of 5,100 lots.

Upcountry buying boosts sugar

Spot sugar prices on the Vashi wholesale market showed a marginal positive trend on Tuesday with an increase of Rs 5/quintal in spot and Rs 8-10 in Naka delivery.

Mill tender rates ruled steady with higher production and less than expected demand. Arrivals and dispatches were at the usual level, keeping the volume positive. Freight rates were steady at the higher level. Some upcountry buying by States was also witnessed, said traders.

Sugar declines on rush to exhaust sale quota

Sugar prices continued to decline on selling by mills as they tried to complete the balance of last month's carryover stock, the deadline for which was till Thursday. Mill tender rates came down to their lowest of the current calendar year.

At the mill level, prices for S-grade fell by Rs 10-15. M-grade was quoted unchanged. In the spot, less-than-expected local demand and higher arrivals pushed prices down. Spot rates declined by Rs 8-10. Accordingly, naka rates fell by Rs 10. Arrivals were higher than dispatches. Sentiment for stock buying at the lower rate was discouraging, said traders.

Sugar output in UP to touch 5.88 mt

Cane crushing in the second-largest sugar producing state, Uttar Pradesh is almost over with the total production of sugar being seen at 5.88 million tonne, which would be less than the earlier estimate of 6 million tonne.

More than 100 sugar mills in the state have shut down operation. Only two dozen odd mills are still operating - that too at low capacity levels. Barring two mills in western Uttar Pradesh, all are expected to close by the end of next week.

Panel to monitor sugar exports set up in Maharashtra

The Maharashtra co-operative sugar industry has set up a separate sugar export committee so as to ensure guidelines for exports by state sugar mills in Maharashtra.

UP to miss cane harvest target

It's almost curtains for the sugar season in Uttar Pradesh, the second largest sugarcane producing state in the country, this year. While more than 100 sugar factories have already closed by the first week of April, the remaining 25 are expected to close by next week. The season, which began in December last year, has seen the state produce 58.19 lakh tonne sugar so far.

Mills' sales continue to put pressure on sugar

Sugar price on the Vashi wholesale market ruled weak on continued selling by mills on Monday. On fresh support of local demand and upcountry buying, the sentiment was positive for volumes as the arrivals and dispatches were at par. Spot rates were down by Rs 10 initially, but bounced back on retail demand. Naka and Mill tender rates witnessed a steady trend.

Food ministry on sugar export license

In the wake of high food inflation, Food Ministry today said it is in no hurry to issue licence for 5,00,000 tonnes of sugar export and would be "cautious" while allowing overseas shipment of wheat.

The Food Ministry has not been issuing the sugar export licence despite the Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) approving the export of five lakh tonnes of the sweetener via the Open General Licence (OGL) on March 22.

Sugar-free delicacies, a hit in Sangam city

If you are calorie conscious persons, you need not to worry, as sweet shops in Sangam City are offering a lot of varieties of sweets with low-calorie and free from sugar. In fact, some of them have brought special sugar-free preparations (traditionally made) from neighbouring Varanasi city to serve the consumers.

Such range of sugar-free delicacies has become quite popular among devotees, who are aged above 45.

India offers expertise to modernise sugar industry in Ethiopia

India, the world's second largest sugar producer, has offered expertise and latest technology in sugar processing to Ethiopia.

"We have offered to provide our expertise and latest technology to modernise the sugar industry in Ethiopia," Food Minister K V Thomas told reporters after meeting the Ethiopian sugar delegation, here.

At present, sugar production in Ethiopia is around three lakh tonnes and the Horn of Africa nation plans to scale up its sweetener output in the coming years.

Low inventory likely to drive up sugar prices

Environmental uncertainties have taken toll on food prices globally, as shortfall/surplus conditions created by erratic food production cause frequent imbalances in the demand-supply equilibrium. On account of higher sugar production expectation of around 24.5 million tonnes (mt) in SY11 (sugar year, or SY, is October-September period) and another expected increase of around 2 mt in SY12 (against consumption of around 23.5 mt), domestic sugar realizations are expected to remain stable.

Sugar grains as local buyers build stocks

Sugar prices on the Vashi wholesale market increased Rs 10-15 a quintal on local demand for the summer and firm trend at the mills level on Wednesday. Mills, in absence of buying by neighbouring States, continued to sell in the local market and on other side, local stockists are active as they believe that current prices are lower. In fact, sugar prices at mill levels are the lowest this calendar year. Mills are selling to avoid a large inventory. Naka and Mill tender rates also increased by Rs 10-15 on buying support.

Buyer resistance drags spot sugar

Sugar prices ruled almost steady on Monday after witnessing some upside momentum last week.

Spot prices slipped by Rs 5-7 a quintal again on buyer resistance in tandem with slightly weak naka rates. Mill tender rates were expected to be Rs 4-5 higher. Price decline was limited to S grade as early month retailer demand eased along with selling pressure by mills.

Sugar delivery may exceed 3,50,000t

The delivery for the expired May futures contract for white, or refined, sugar may be more than 3,50,000 tonnes, according to Swiss Sugar Brokers and Sucden Financial Ltd. That would be equivalent to more than 7,000 lots, compared with 1,668 lots for the march contract, according to data from NYSE Liffe.

Maharashtra coop sugar mills resort to distress sale for want of liquidity

Cooperative sugar mills in Maharashtra have resorted to distress sale of the commodity to make urgent payments. In the last one week alone, nearly 800,000 quintals of sugar worth Rs 200 crore was sold in the free market as mills were in desperate need to make payments for cane, staff and transportation.

Against the ex-mill price of Rs 2,550 a quintal, some of the mills have paid Rs 2,400 a quintal while others paid Rs 2,555 a quintal against the ex mill price of Rs 2,730 a quintal. This is also due to excess non-levy quota announced by the Centre and lack of adequate storage facility

Sugar futures up on hopes of pick up in spot demand

Sugar futures traded 0.15 per cent higher today as speculators created fresh positions, anticipating a pick-up in spot demand by bulk customers in the traditional summer season.

At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange , sugar for delivery in April traded Rs 4, or 0.15 per cent higher at Rs 2,619 per quintal, with an open interest of 11,260 lots.

Bumper grain production to cool off food inflation

Food prices are expected to remain stable this summer as abundant stocks of rice, wheat, pulses, sugar, and edible oil would keep a lid on volatility. That should come as a relief to millions of households struggling to cope with 9% inflation in an economy where food takes away one out of every two rupees they earned.

List steps against sugar co-ops'

The Bombay high court on Monday asked the state government what action it had taken or proposed to take against the directors of sugar co-operatives which defaulted on loan payment of crores of rupees and have gone into liquidation. On the guarantee of the state government, these loans were advanced to various sugar co-operatives.

500,000 tonnes of sugar to be exported

The government on Tuesday notified export of 500,000 tonnes of sugar-nearly a month after the decision was approved by a panel of ministers-but traders are not happy because global prices have fallen sharply in the past few weeks.

The global price of white sugar have declined by 11% to \$626.9(around Rs 28,000 cr) per tonne since 22 March, leaving very little incentive for mills in north India to export.

Sugar export notified, traders unhappy

The government on Tuesday notified export of 5 lakh tonne of sugar—nearly a month after the decision was approved by a panel of ministers—but traders are not happy because global prices have fallen sharply in the past few weeks.

The global prices of white sugar have declined by 11% to \$626.9 per tonne since March 22 (when the empowered group of ministers on food decided to allow exports), leaving very little incentive for mills in North India to export.

Sugar drops as mills resort to distress sale

Sugar prices ruled weak on Tuesday on report of producers resorting to distress sale for making payment and wanting liquidity. Continued selling by mills dragged naka rates by Rs 8-10 a quintal and spot prices also slipped Rs 5-7.

Tender rates dropped by Rs 5-10 a quintal. Higher demand for summer was met by higher arrivals and higher volume, as mills are continuously offloading to reduce stocks. The sentiment was weak, said traders.

Millers blame elections for delay in sugar export notification

The delay in issuing an official notification permitting export of five lakh tonnes (lt) of sugar - despite an Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) giving the go-ahead on March 22 - has upset domestic millers.

“We have missed the bus. Even if the notification comes now, it is too late as the May 2011 white sugar contract at London expires on April 15. The subsequent month contracts are trading much lower, which makes exports unattractive”, a miller said.

The May contract on NYSE Liffe settled at \$ 699.70 a tonne on Friday, as against the corresponding quotes of \$ 651.60 and \$ 642.50 for August and October 2011.

The actual reason for the delay in issuing the formal export notification is not known.

Cargill takes large quantity sugar delivery

Cargill Inc took delivery quantity of the white, or refined, sugar after the expiration of the may futures contract on NYSE Liffe. The amount was about 323,750 tonnes, Cargill spokesman MR Francis DeRosa said by e-mail on Monday. The total delivery from the contract expiration was 375,150 tonnes, the most since May 2007, according to NYSE Liffe and data on Bloomberg.

Entry tax on sugar abolished

Three-and-a-half years after imposing a 4% entry tax on sugar imported from outside the state with an aim to safeguard the interest of local industry and generate more revenue for the state, Punjab government finally abolished the tax following directions from the Punjab and Haryana high court early this month.

Sugar prices rule weak

On Tuesday (19 April 2011), the sugar prices ruled weak on report of producers resorting to distress sale for making payment and wanting liquidity. Continued selling by mills dragged naka rates by Rs. 8-10 per quintal and spot prices also slipped Rs. 5-7. Tender rates dropped by Rs. 5-10 per quintal. According to the Bombay Sugar Merchants Association, the sugar rates were: Spot rates: S-grade Rs. 2,752-2815 (Rs 2,766-2,815) and M-grade Rs. 2,801-2,900 (Rs 2,801-2,901). Naka delivery rates: S-grade Rs. 2,720-2,750 (Rs 2,720-2,760) and M-grade was Rs. 2770-2,850 (Rs 2,780-2860).

Government Permits 5 Lakh Tonnes of Sugar Exports Under OGL

As per latest release from Agriculture Ministry, Government has permitted the export of 5 lakh tonnes of sugar under the Open General License (OGL) for the first time in more than two years.

Though the Government has already announced the export orders but formal order has been due for more than three months in the wake of inflationary concerns in the domestic economy

The ministry has allowed mills to export 4.45 lakh tonnes of sugar, while keeping aside 0.51 lakh tonnes for exports to neighboring countries such as Bangladesh, Nepal and the Maldives to honor diplomatic commitments.

Sugarcane cultivation cools local climate

Besides being an eco-friendly substitute for gasoline, sugar canes in fields reflect sunlight back into space, lowering the temperature of the surrounding air as the plants 'exhale' cooler water.

Spot sugar continues to rule weak

Spot sugar prices continued to be weak on Wednesday with a decline of Rs 5 a quintal, due to need-based retailers' demand on the Vashi wholesale market. Despite distress sale, naka and tender rates were steady. Stockists are active with continuous covering/buying at current low price level. Arrivals and dispatches were at usual level with higher retail business activities.

Sugar production is expected higher at 245/250 lakh tonnes in 2010-11 (October-September) from 190 lakh tonnes the previous year.

Mechanisation helps sugar mills tackle rising cane harvest costs

Runaway increase in labour cost for sugarcane harvest has hit growth of area for the crop in Tamil Nadu. Mechanisation is emerging the only long term option, say sugar millers.

Labour for harvest that was around Rs 375-400 a tonne at the start of the season has increased to about Rs 550 and even Rs 600 in some places. This is about a third of the sugarcane price that farmers get, making it unattractive to them. In addition to the cost, the shortage of labour aggravates the problem.

Sugar gains on supply concerns

Sugar rose for a second day in London on concern supplies from Brazil, the world's largest producer, may be delayed as millers focus on making ethanol.

White, or refined, sugar for August delivery climbed \$5.60, or 0.9 percent, to \$ 630.60/ tonne on NYSE Liffe in London. Raw sugar for July delivery advanced 0.41 percent, or 1.8 percent, to 23.03 cents/ pound on ICE Futures US in New York.

Sugar ends on mixed trend

April Sugar futures contract settled lower by 1.04% due to contract expiry. However, May Sugar futures settled higher on Wednesday as the Indian government on Tuesday

notified exports under OGL for 5 lakh tonnes.

LIFFE White Sugar Futures ended 2.19% higher on Wednesday on short coverings, whereas Ice Raws continued to trade lower on commencement of Brazils cane harvest.

Sugar export notified by Indian Government

The government on Tuesday notified export of 5 lakh tonne of sugar nearly a month after the decision was approved by a panel of ministers but traders are not happy because global prices have fallen sharply in the past few weeks.

The global prices of white sugar have declined by 11% to \$626.9 per tonne since March 22 (when the empowered group of ministers on food decided to allow exports), leaving very little incentive for mills in North India to export.

Decline in spot sugar

On Wednesday (20 April 2011), the spot sugar prices continued to be weak with a decline of Rs. 5 per quintal, due to need-based retailers' demand on the Vashi wholesale market. Despite distress sale, naka and tender rates were steady.

Sugar production up 24% at 21.8 mt

BJP for allowing rice export, plans to meet PM

BJP on Friday said it planned to meet Prime Minister Manmohan Singh along with all party farmers' representatives and farmers associations to press for rice export in the wake of increased production and drop in prices. This year, wheat output forecast is 84.34 million tonne and rice output is estimated at 102 million tonne.

Low UP sugar output to upset national estimate

It's now curtains for the sugar season in Uttar Pradesh this year. The second largest sugar producing state in the country closes this year with a total production of 58.75 lakh tonne sugar after crushing 643.01 lakh tonne of cane.

Spot sugar slips on limited retail offtake

Spot sugar prices on the Vashi wholesale market ruled slightly weak on Thursday on hand-to-mouth retail buying. In the ready market, M-grade sugar declined Rs 4-5 a quintal and S-grade was unchanged. The steady trend in *Naka* and mill tender rates

extended for the third consecutive day despite less-than-expected demand. Local buying was limited.

Runners need to beware of sugar boosts

The legs are heavy, the heartbeat rapid, the fatigue total. Many long-distance runners have experienced this state. Some then immediately ingest large amounts of glucose. Others say this only makes the fatigue worse.

In his bestselling book “Ultra-marathon Man: Confessions of an All-Night Runner,” American running guru Dean Karnazes writes that he has completely eliminated refined sugar from his diet. Is sugar really so bad? It is a main ingredient, after all, in many energy drinks.

USDA revises India’s sugar output forecast

The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) has revised its estimate of India’s sugar production in the ongoing 2010-11 sugar year slightly upward to 24 million tonnes (MT), but this is still lower than the government’s forecast of 24.5 MT.

Earlier, the USDA had pegged the country’s sugar production at 23.6 million tonnes during the ongoing 2010-11 sugar year (October-September).

Govt may consider more sugar exports as output rises

India, the world’s second-biggest sugar producer, may consider allowing additional exports as production expands for a second year, a government official said.

A decision on shipments will be made after assessing the actual production in the crop season that began on October 1, Food Secretary B C Gupta told reporters in New Delhi on Tuesday. Output may total 24.5 million tonnes this year, according to the food ministry, the first time in three years supply exceeds demand.

S-grade sugar falls below Rs 2,600 a quintal

Spot sugar prices on the Vashi wholesale market extended loss by Rs 10-15 a quintal on Tuesday. Naka and tender rates also declined by the same margin on selling pressure. Prices for S-grade at mill tenders fell below the level of Rs 2,600 a quintal for first time this year, said traders.

Continued selling by mills to exhaust this month's free sale quota and a hand-to-mouth buying by retailers kept the volume stagnant and the sentiment weak.

Govt clears 30,000 tonne sugar export

The government has approved around 30,000 tonne of unrestricted sugar exports, kicking off overseas sales of a total 5,00,000 tonne given an official green light on April 19, government sources said on Thursday.

A total of 16 mills have been allowed, for about 30,000 tonne, one of the sources, who requested anonymity, said. The government had asked mills to register starting April 19 for exports. It asked mills to ship out the sweetener within four and half months.

INTERNATIONAL SUGAR INDUSTRY

Barons pressurising govt to allow TCP to buy sugar from mills

Sugar barons are pressuring the government to allow the commodities trading agency to buy sugar from millers, but leave it in their silos, reviving memories of a similar move a couple of years ago which caused the kitty losses of Rs2.5 billion and created shortage of the sweetener in times of need.

Sugar prices may further increase

Consumers may soon be paying more for sugar - as the Fiji Sugar Corporation proposes a further increase in the price of sugar they sell to wholesalers. The Commerce Commission is currently screening a proposal from FSC to increase the wholesale price of sugar from \$1.43 cents to \$2.00 a kg.

Maple sugar producers expect better year

Local maple sugar producers are hoping cold nights and warm days will make for a sweet spring.

The warm-cold combo is the perfect recipe for making maple syrup, roughly 50,000 gallons of which are produced annually in Massachusetts. Cool nights and warm days helps the sap flow, which is drawn from maple trees by tools ranging from taps to tubes and vacuums.

Researchers out to boost sugarcane output

Sugarcane researchers are planning to import quality seeds, provide growers with equipment and urge them to pool their farms in a campaign for increased output of the commodity.

The move aims at covering the 30 per cent gap between local production and demand, according to Dr Dennis Issa, Chief Researcher from Kibaha Sugarcane research Centre. He was speaking during the opening of a two-day conference held recently in Moshi. The seminar brought together over 50 sugar industry professionals, under the sponsorship of the Sugar Board of Tanzania (SBT), the National Sugar Institute (NSI) and the Sugar Research Institute (SRI).

South Africa's sugar output falls 12 pct on drought

South Africa recorded a 12 percent decline in sugar output for the 2010/11 season, touching fresh 15-year lows, after drought scorched sugar-growing areas last year, data showed on Monday.

The country's 2010/11 sugar output fell to 1.909 million tonnes from 2.18 million tonnes in the previous season, the South African Sugar Association (SASA) said in a statement.

East Africa: COMESA Advises On Sugar Reforms

Kenya could gain temporary reprieve of COMESA safeguards against unlimited importation of sugar from the bloc's members if it shows tangible progress in privatizing its state-owned sugar companies by the time the safeguards expire in February 2012.

Uganda's sugar industry to invest \$195 million

KAMPALA (Reuters) - Uganda's three main raw sugar producers are planning to invest \$195 million over the next two years to expand cane processing and power generation capacity at their plants, an industry report showed.

Ethiopia invites sugar firms to set up shop

Lucknow: In what can be sweet tidings for the Indian sugar industry, the Ethiopian government has sent a high level delegation under the leadership of the Director General of the Ethiopian Sugar Corporation, Abay Tsehaye to woo the Indian sugar industry to set up business in their country. The industry is being offered a slew of incentives such as cheap land, cheap labour and easy repayment options. The 5-member delegation is on a 10-day study tour to India and is visiting all the major sugar producing states in the country, including Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.

US sugar beet area seen up 1.3% in 2011

The area sown to sugar beet by US farmers is expected to reach 1.1871 mln acres, up 1.3% from 1.1714 mln in 2010 and also marginally above the 1.1858 mln sown in 2009, the US Department of Agriculture said in its annual Prospective Plantings report.

Government pleased with sugar divestment

The Government said it is satisfied with how the divestment of the two sugar factories in Trelawny is currently proceeding.

Proposed sugar bill could end national program

ONTARIO Sugar beet producers who have been fighting to continue use of Round-up Ready beet seed, which has become the industry standard in helping weed control, now face another challenge.

The Sugar Barons by Matthew Parker - review

In Jamaica recently, I was invited to lunch at a Restoration-era plantation house. The sound of crushed ice clinking against glass greeted me, as bow-tied waiters served guests at a long table draped in linen. The top brass of the island's sugar industry was there. For three centuries the plantation's slave-grown sugar had satisfied the British craving for cakes, confections and the popular version of coffee and tea (that "blood-sweetened beverage", the abolitionist poet Southey called it).

Kenya: Soin Sugarcane Farmers Ask KSB for Voting Rights

At least 2,000 sugarcane farmers have petitioned Kenya Sugar Board to declare Soin sugar-belt an electoral zone. The zone is currently under Muhuroni.

Key Plant Traits Yield More Sugar For Biofuels

New clues about plant structure are helping researchers from the Department of Energy's BioEnergy Science Center narrow down a large collection of poplar tree candidates and identify winners for future use in biofuel production.

What lies behind the sugar conundrum

FOR 80 years, Queensland Sugar Limited and its predecessors, the Sugar Board and the Queensland Sugar Corporation, have marketed Queensland's raw sugar production to the world.

North Queensland Rural Report, Friday 1st April 2011

Industry observer refutes QSL's claim that it's losses in 2010 were the result of an "unfortunate and extreme weather event".

Sugar industry holds congress

LABOR Secretary Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz is the keynote speaker in Wednesday night's opening ceremonies of the two-day national consultative congress of the district tripartite councils (DTCs) in the sugar industry.

Sugarbeet growers look at a variety of issues

During his presentation Luther Markwart, American Sugarbeet Growers Association executive vice president, touched on a variety of those issues ranging from the upcoming farm bill discussions to the current world sugar supply and demand outlook.

Mackay imports sugar from Thailand

IT'S like selling ice to the Eskimos: about 40,000 tonnes of Thai sugar is being shipped into Mackay to top up dwindling reserves after a disastrous, waterlogged harvest.

GuySuCo upbraids Yesu Persaud over political interference' charge

The Guyana Sugar Corporation (GuySuCo) said yesterday that it has noted comments attributed to Chairman of IPED, Dr Yesu Persaud regarding political interference in the current operations of the industry and published in the Friday, April 1, 2011 business section in Stabroek News

South Africa's sugar output falls 12.4% in 2010/11

South Africa's sugar output fell 12.4% in 2010/11 to 1.909 mln tonnes, the South African Sugar Association (SASA) said. A drought in the rain-dependent cane growing area of Kwazulu Natal Province hurt output and caused production to touch a 15-year low, down from the previous season's 2.178 mln. The sugarcane crush declined to 16.016 mln tonnes from 18.655 mln a year ago.

AGZAM Plans \$251 Million Sugar Project In Zambia -Development Agency

South Africa-based AGZAM Project Developers Ltd. is planning to invest at least \$251 million to develop a sugar plant and at least 15,000 hectares of sugar plantations in Zambia's southern province, the state-run Zambia Development Agency said late Friday.

Mawana Sugar to cut debt by business rejig, land sale

Mawana Sugars is looking to reduce debt on its books by restructuring its business and monetizing part of its land holding in the North India, said two people close to the development on the condition of anonymity.

S.Africa's sugar output falls 12 pct on drought

JOHANNESBURG (Reuters) - South Africa recorded a 12 percent decline in sugar output for the 2010/11 season, touching fresh 15-year lows, after drought scorched sugar-growing areas last year, data showed on Monday.

Ugandan Sugar Producers Plan to Invest \$197 Million to Expand, Diversify

Uganda's three main sugar producers plan to spend a combined \$197 million to boost capacity and diversify their operations, the Uganda Sugar Cane Technologists Association said.

Australian expertise helps Indian sugar industry

Sugar producing countries like India and Pakistan are becoming more mechanised and therefore more efficient.

Guv: Not all employers can afford new pay hike

Negros Occidental Gov. Alfredo Maraon Jr. yesterday said not all employers in Western Visayas can afford a wage increase at this time.

Cuban Sugar Ministry says 2011 production to be similar or just higher than last year

CALIMETE, Cuba (AP) - Cuba's 2011 sugar production will be similar to or slightly higher than last year's total, which was the worst in more than a century, officials said Wednesday

Sugar price to decrease in August

The current increase in the price of sugar is expected to end in the month of August - three weeks after the start of the 2011 crushing season. The 2011 crushing season is expected to start by the third week of June or in July. Once Fiji starts crushing and producing its own sugar - local consumption will be satisfied and imports halted.

Sugar May Drop on Rising Supply from Brazil, India, Survey Shows

Sugar may fall next week on bets that supplies are increasing from Brazil, the world's biggest producer, and that India will expand exports. Eleven of 12 traders, analysts and brokers surveyed by Bloomberg News said that raw sugar traded in New York will decline, while one said prices will gain. Before today, the commodity fell 7.9 percent this week to 25.27 cents a pound.

Sugar board loses bid to claim Sh1bn

The High Court has rejected an application by the Kenya Sugar Board to recover about Sh1 billion from a former receiver-manager of the Muhoroni Sugar Company. High Court judge Kihara Kariuki has rejected KSB's application to re-initiate a case for a claim of Sh992.3 million in damages against Mr Ndung'u Gathinji, the former receiver-manager.

Wanda's Sugar Shack home of vintage candies, hand-made chocolates

Wanda Hornack leaves the other big candy holidays to the chain stores and supermarkets. Easter is the big season at Wanda's Sugar Shack. The candy store that has operated in downtown Milford for more than 35 years has homemade chocolate and enough vintage treats to fill everyone's basket.

Tully Sugar awaits new suitor

A second takeover offer for north Queensland's Tully Sugar could emerge as early as this week, putting pressure on the world's second largest sugar trader, Bunge, to modify a non-binding bid it has put to the Tully board.

Queensland Sugar buys up in Tully

Queensland Sugar Ltd (QSL) has purchased a further 4.51 per cent stake in Tully Sugar Ltd today.

Illness-stricken sugar workers from Nicaragua seek German help

Former sugar cane workers from Nicaragua suffering from chronic kidney failure are trying to gather support in Germany to fight the most powerful company in their country.

Malaysia's FELDA hires CIMB, Maybank for sugar IPO

KUALA LUMPUR: The investment banking arms of Malaysian lenders CIMB and Maybank will manage the \$200 million-\$300 million initial public offering of Malayan Sugar

Manufacturing, the sugar processing arm of the federal land authority, Thomson Reuters publication IFR reported.

Philippines may lose US sugar quota

If the United States adopts a globalized quota allocation for the importation of sugar after the review of the US Farm Bill, the Philippines may lose its sugar quota to the US under the Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ) Scheme.

NSL Sugars to raise Rs 288 crore debt

HYDERABAD: NSL Sugars Ltd , part of city- based Nuziveedu Seeds (NSL) group, which is in process of achieving financial closure for expansion plans for its Aland unit (Karnataka) is set to raise Rs 288 crore debt from various banks, a top NSL Group official said today.

Sugar policy reform bills attract industry support

Sugar policy reform is back on the US legislative agenda, as two new bills that aim to end the sugar price support program have attracted broad food industry support.

Sudan: Kenana Sugar Company to Export Its First Shipment of Ethanol to EU

Khartoum The Kenana Sugar Company first shipment of ethanol for the year 2010-2011 production will be exported to the European Union on Sunday. The shipment is expected to bring 10 millions and 500 thousand litres.

Kenya: Sugar Board Loses Bid to Claim Sh1 Billion

Nairobi the High Court has rejected an application by the Kenya Sugar Board to recover about Sh1 billion from a former receiver-manager of the Muhoroni Sugar Company.

Najib: Felda to list sugar ops

KUALA LUMPUR, April 12 Felda will list its sugar business in July, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said today, confirming an earlier Reuters report.

Sugar Cane Fertilises Its Own Soil

RIBEIRO PRETO, Brazil, Apr 12, 2011 (Tierramrica) - The mechanisation of sugar cane harvesting, originally aimed at curbing the pollution caused by the burning of cane fields, has resulted in an added bonus: it has helped to improve soil quality, according to growers and technical experts in the southern state of So Paulo, where most of Brazil's sugar and ethanol is produced.

Competition fierce for Tully sugar mill

At least four different groups are trying to strengthen their grip on a North Queensland sugar mill.

Boost for sugar cane farmers

Economic Development MEC Mike Mabuyakhulu made the announcement while speaking on a visit to one of the sugarcane projects at Ndwedwe near Tongaat earlier today.

Help for KZN sugarcane farmers

KwaZulu-Natal's small scale sugarcane farmers will receive R60 million to help them expand their farms, the provincial government said on Tuesday.

Fijian cane farmers worried about industry collapse

Cane farmers in Fiji are predicting the sugar industry could collapse as people walk away from their farms.

Is sugar a cancerous poison?

Just about everyone admits that eating too much sugar can rot your teeth and expand your waistline. But Dr. Robert Lustig, an expert in childhood obesity at the University of California, San Francisco, believes sugar can be lethal. Lustig says sugar causes heart disease, diabetes, hypertension, and many forms of cancer. "It has nothing to do with the calories. It's a poison by itself," he says. Here, a brief guide:

Sugar: The toxicity question and what to do about it

Sugar is toxic, argues a recent incendiary article that, as could be expected, has drawn attention from health experts, journalists and the people who really count those who eat.

GM sugar 'way of future'

GENETICALLY-modified sugar cane that is resistant to pesticides and wet weather and has a high sugar content could be the future for Far Northern growers.

Sugar consumption on the rise in Mozambique

Maputo, Mozambique, 19 April New industries in the food sector in Mozambique and improved systems for distribution are expected to further drive domestic sugar consumption to 200,000 tons this year, accounting for 57 percent of total expected national production, estimated at 350,000 tons, according to Mozambican newspaper Noticias.

Cuba meets raw sugar plan of estimated 1.1 mln t

The Cuban sugar industry has met its production plan of around 1.1 mln tonnes of raw sugar for the 2010/11 season, with 18 of 39 mills still crushing, state media said. The industry has not met a production plan in some 20 years, let alone in April. When the harvest began, officials said they hoped to match the previous year's dismal 1.1 mln tonnes, the lowest since 1905/06, though the actual plan was never announced.

China makes second payment on sugar factories

FROME, Westmoreland The Government will this week receive US\$2.5 million from the president of the China National Complete Plant Import Export Corporation (Complant), representing the second tranche of the proceeds from the sale of three state-owned sugar factories to the Chinese company in July. Read more:
http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/news/China-makes-second-payment-on-sugar-factories_8688347#ixzz1K303FdSB

Report could spark return to sugar beet production

A specially commissioned report into the revival of Ireland's sugar beet industry is to be presented to the government within a month.

Zimbabwe: Starafrika Loses Glitter

STARAFRICA shareholders have lost US\$9,6 million since the beginning of the year, with former Red Star stockholders losing a significant 67 percent of their investments, after their integration into the conglomerate.

Mozambique: Sugar Associations Denounce Xinavane Sugar Mill

Maputo Eight associations of farmers who supply sugar cane to the Xinavane sugar mill in Maputo province on Saturday accused the company management of violating its legal obligations to the producers.

Swazi Village Tastes Sweet Success With Sugarcane

The previously impoverished community of Malibeni, previously ravaged by drought, is bustling with farmers who have transformed the area into a bread basket.

Kenya: Nyando Sugar Farmers' Plea

SUGARCANE farmers in Nyando Sugar Belt have urged the state to increase its investment in maintenance of state owned sugar mills to help them compete effectively.

Sugar increases on Brazil Supply Drop

Sugar rose for a second day on signs that Brazil, the world's biggest grower and exporter, will reduce cane output and increase ethanol production. Cocoa fell, while cotton gained.

Almost all the sugar cane processed last week was used to make biofuel, according to Cepea, a University of Sao Paulo research group. The risk of crop damage from frost has increased in Brazil with the weakening of the La Nina weather pattern, an agronomist at the Somar Meteorologia said on March 28. Prices are up 43% in the past year.

Cocoa slides; sugar declines

Cocoa fell in London, paring yesterday's gain, on speculation regular shipment may soon commence as reopened in Ivory Coast, the world's biggest producer. Sugar slid.

Thai sugar output seen at record level

Sugar output in Thailand, the biggest exporter after Brazil, will exceed a forecast to reach a record after rainfall increased yields, boosting shipments to an all-time high, according to the Office of the Cane & Sugar Board.

Sugar falls on talk of higher Thai supply

Sugar fell to the lowest level in more than a week in London on speculation rising production in Thailand, the world's second- largest exporter, may limit price gains this year.

SP seeks magna carta to protect sugar industry

The Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Negros Occidental yesterday approved a resolution requesting Governor Alfredo Maraon Jr. to create a technical working group that will formulate the magna carta aimed at protecting the sugar industry.

Europe's sugar beet crop seen developing well

LONDON, April 27 (Reuters) - Sugar beet crops across Europe are developing well, although adverse weather delayed sowing in Russia and Italy, beet industry officials said.

Construction halts at historic sugar factory for repairs

Taipei's Department of Cultural Affairs promised to halt a construction project and restore a broken platform at the Sugar Refinery Cultural Park in Wanhua District after confirming that the platform, which dates back to the Japanese colonial period, was damaged.

Climate change: Sugar cane cools climate

The rapid expansion of sugar cane cultivation (pictured) for biofuels in Brazil may be cooling the local climate.

Zimbabwe: Scramble for Sugar Case Postponed

THE case in which 17 looting suspects arrested in Beitbridge recently for allegedly assaulting policemen and security guards during a scramble for sugar that spilled from a haulage truck after an accident has been postponed to June 13 for continuation of trial.

Tate & Lyle sells Vietnamese sugar business

Tate & Lyle announced today that it has agreed to sell its Vietnamese sugar business in a cash deal worth 33m subject to regulatory approval.

New Pantene shampoo bottles made of sugar cane

Procter & Gamble said Tuesday that it has started producing some of its shampoo bottles from a plastic made from sugar cane because it's a renewable resource. Customers won't notice a difference, the company said, but the environment will: Most traditional plastics are petroleum-based.

ETHANOL

Industry association projects drop in Brazil ethanol exports

Sao Paulo The group representing Brazilian sugarcane producers is projecting that ethanol output will remain virtually unchanged and that exports of that biofuel will drop sharply.

Rising sugar prices and US tariffs force Brazil towards ethanol imports

Brazil's status as one of the world's leading biofuel economies could be under threat, according to reports that the country imported a record level of ethanol in the last quarter due to poor crops and high sugar prices.

FoodMin mulls direct ethanol manufacture

The Ministry of Food and Consumer Affairs is considering the direct manufacture of ethanol from sugarcane on a standalone basis and not only as a by-product of sugar manufacturing. The proposal has been forwarded to the law ministry for its views as it

would require the amendment of the sugar control order under Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act.

Analysis: Market doubts Brazil can sacrifice sugar for ethanol

Local cane mills, world sugar markets and analysts were unmoved by the Brazilian government's threats to boost ethanol output by any means, saying ideas of a sugar export tax or credit limits would be hard to implement or ineffectual.

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Sugar gains on supply concerns

Sugar rose for a second day in London on concern supplies from Brazil, the world's largest producer, may be delayed as millers focus on making ethanol.

White, or refined, sugar for August delivery climbed \$5.60, or 0.9 percent, to \$ 630.60/ tonne on NYSE Liffe in London. Raw sugar for July delivery advanced 0.41 percent, or 1.8 percent, to 23.03 cents/ pound on ICE Futures US in New York.

British Sugar drawn into ethanol plant dispute

BRITISH Sugar has become drawn into an increasingly bitter labour dispute over the construction of a 200m bioethanol plant, near Hull.