

HIGHLIGHTS FOR APRIL 2010

BIRLA SUGAR

SNAP SHOTS

Important developments that has taken place in the Sugar Industry and in the business of the other players

India is likely to produce 18.0-18.5 million tonne of sugar this year, a leading industry body said, raising the forecast by 7-10% but analysts said the country still needs 2-3 million tonne of imports. Higher output in India, the world's top consumer and the second-biggest producer, will put further downward pressure on benchmark New York prices that have fallen 41% from a 29-year-high of 30.40 cents a lb on February 1 on expectations for bigger production in Brazil and India.

Shree Renuka Sugars Ltd on reported a nearly sevenfold rise in consolidated profit to Rs. 224.2 crore for the quarter ended in March 2010. The company had a consolidated profit (after prior period adjustments) of Rs 33.2 crore during the March quarter a year earlier. In the last three months, the firm's consolidated total income increased to Rs. 1806.9 crore from rs. 442.5 crore a year ago.

DIRECT NEWS UPPER GANGES & OUDH SUGAR MILLS LIMITED

Coverage appeared in:

- The Hindu Business Line
- Moneycontrol.com

OTHER PLAYERS

Rana Sugars in pact with Tata Power

Sugar producer Rana Sugars, which also generates electricity from bagasse, a by-product obtained during manufacturing the sweetener, said it had entered into an agreement with Tata Power for sale of power of up to 40 Mw a day during off season.

Nifty seeing huge investor interest around 5400 level

Over two years closing high for Nifty and the important thing was that the market was led by all the largecaps. As you mentioned Reliance, Bharti, Tata Steel, all these were stocks which were flying but you have to say that in the last leg we saw major build up happening in the last one hour of trade. Also the volumes picked up. Shree Renuka Sugars or most of

the sugar stocks were up today. Shree Renuka was up nearly 3.5% with a huge build up of nearly 20 lakh shares in open interest and that led the stock to rally nearly 3.5%. One stock which was laggard was Noida Toll Bridge where we saw short build up happening in the market today.

Don't see prices coming back to Jan peak: Balrampur Chini

Sugar stocks have been battered over the last couple of months on fears of prices being topped out and prices will only grind lower. Sugar manufacturers believe sugar prices, locally, should not fall more but the market does not appear convinced. In an interview with CNBC-TV18, Vivek Saraogi, Managing Director of Balrampur Chini Mills said he believes sugar prices have seen peak. "I don't see prices coming back to January peak levels." However, he said some rally in sugar price from current levels is very much a possibility. "The current low prices are not justified by fundamentals.

Bajaj Hindustan moves SC challenging UP govt decision

Shishir Bajaj-owned sugar producer Bajaj Hindustan has approached the Supreme Court challenging the decision of the Uttar Pradesh government to allot two sugar cane purchase centres to its rival Dwarikesh Sugar Industries. Bajaj Hindustan also challenged the order of Allahabad High Court which declined to stay the order of the state government and referred the allotment of the centres back to the Cane Commissioner directing it to re-consider its decision.

Shree Renuka eyes 8% more in Equipav

The biggest cross border deal by an Indian sugar maker has reached a delicate stage with Shree Renuka Sugars demanding a higher stake in the Brazilian firm Equipav SA because of a slump in the international market. The country's largest sugar refiner Shree Renuka is insisting on at least 8% more equity in Equipav - Brazil's largest sugar maker. On February 21, Shree Renuka announced that it would acquire at least 51% stake in Equipav for Rs. 1,530 crore, subject to an 'acceptable' debt restructuring package by the Equipav's creditors.

Parry takes over GMR farm unit

Sugar major EID Parry on Sunday announced acquiring a majority stake in GMR Industries, the agri-business arm of Hyderabad based GMR group, with purchase of minimum 65 per cent equity, currently worth Rs 145 crore.

GMR Industries to sell majority to EID Parry

Sugar major EID Parry on Sunday announced acquiring a majority stake in GMR Industries, the agri-business arm of Hyderabad based GMR group, with purchase of minimum 65 per cent equity, currently worth Rs 145 crore. For the transaction, EID Parry has entered into a definitive agreement with GMR holdings Pvt Ltd, the companies said in a joint statement.

Managing raw material costs will be a big test

Higher revenues driven by capacity addition on back of acquisition and better realisation helped the South based sugar producer Shree Renuka Sugar (SRSL) which reported more than seven folds increase in its consolidated net profit to Rs 224 crore for the quarter ended March '10. Pursuant to the acquisition of Vale Do Ivaí S.A. Acucar E Alcool (VDI) from November 2009, the prior period figures are not comparable at the consolidated level. The stock price has not responded too positively after the results, as the scrip appears to have factored in its expectations of good results as well as impact of decline in sugar prices in last two months. The stock has registered a 20% decline in last one-month; clearly underperforming the benchmark index Sensex.

Shree Renuka profit up sevenfold to Rs 224 cr

Shree Renuka Sugars Ltd on Tuesday reported a nearly sevenfold rise in consolidated profit to Rs. 224.2 crore for the quarter ended in march 2010. The company had a consolidated profit (after prior period adjustments) of Rs 33.2 crore during the March quarter a year earlier. In the last three months, the firm's consolidated total income increased to Rs. 1806.9 crore from rs. 442.5 crore a year ago.

Riga Sugar sips into red in Q2

Riga Sugar registered a net loss of Rs. 422 lakh for the second quarter ended in March 31, 2010. Against a net profit of Rs. 501 lakh during the corresponding period last year, according to a company notification on BSE on Monday. The net sales dropped 5 per cent to Rs. 2,858 lakh (Rs 3,020).

EID Parry (India) pays Rs. 4 final

EID Parry (India) has announced a final dividend of Rs 4 per share in the year ended March 31, 2010, making with the interim a total of Rs. 10 per share against the total dividend of Rs. 20 for the whole of 2008-09.

Balrampur Chini

The sugar maker's net profit dropped to rs 27.55 crore for the quarter ended March 31, 2010 compared with rs 66.19 crore same period last fiscal. Total income increased from Rs. 357.34 crore to Rs. 471.22 crore for the second quarter.

Balrampur Chini output up 10%

Balrampur Chini Mills' 2009-10 sugar output from cane rose 10% but falling prices will put pressure on profitability in coming quarters, a senior company official said on Thursday.

INDIAN SUGAR INDUSTRY

Asset Mgmt company for sugar mills in state soon

The state cooperatives department is mulling over the possibility of setting up an asset management company to oversee the valuation of sick sugar mills in Maharashtra. 'This is turning out to be a major problem. There is no asset management company that could look into the valuation of such mills; Harshvardhan Patil, state cooperatives minister said.

Sugar output seen much higher

If 2008-09 was a year of the centre and the industry both overestimating the country's sugar output, the 2009-10 season is turning out to be just the other way round. The output for the current year is seen at over 170lt.

Sugar production: This season, it is under estimation

If 2008-09 was a year of the Centre and the industry both overestimating the country's sugar output, the 2009-10 season is turning out to be just the other way round. At the start of the 2008-09 sugar season (October-September), the Centre reckoned production at 220 lakh tonnes (lt), assuming Uttar Pradesh (UP) to contribute 70 lt and Maharashtra 61 lt. As the season progressed, these were pared, first to 205 lt, 62 lt and 57 lt and then to 188 lt, 59 lt and 51 lt, respectively. Even right up to August, the Centre maintained production to be in the 150-155 lt range. However, when the season ended, the final all-India number came to 145.38 lt, while being 40.64 lt for UP and 45.78 lt for Maharashtra. And

predictably enough, the Union Food and Agriculture Minister, Mr Sharad Pawar, laid the blame for this divergence of nearly 75 lt between initial and final estimates on the industry. At the Indian Sugar Mills Association's annual meeting on December 22, Mr Pawar even threatened to penalise factories for "late and incorrect reporting" of their production figures to the Sugar Directorate. This time though, it is quite the opposite. On November 6, the Food Ministry convened a meeting of State Cane Commissioners and based on their inputs, production for the 2009-10 season was pegged at 146.14 lt. This included 47 lt from Maharashtra and 39.60 lt from UP.

Cane arrears in Uttar Pradesh touch Rs 638 crore

Cane arrears of sugar mills in Uttar Pradesh (UP) during the ongoing 2009-10 season has touched Rs 638 crore as on April 1. "Mills are required to pay growers within 14 days after taking delivery of cane. The Rs 638 crore figure represents the amount payable by March 17, but has not been paid," a State Government official said. In Maharashtra's case, all mills have paid their first cane advance of Rs 2,000 to Rs 2,500 a tonne, which excludes harvesting and transport charges of about Rs 275.

Cane surplus: Maharashtra mills extend crushing to Mid-may

The sugarcane crushing season in Maharashtra, unlike last year, will continue till mid-May due to a rise in output. So far, around 53.8 million tonnes (mt) cane has been crushed to produce 6.1 mt sugar, compared to crushing of close to 40 mt to produce 4.56 mt sugar in the corresponding period last year. The state government and the Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories have predicted an output of 6.5 mt by the time the crushing season is over. "Crushing will go on till mid-May as sugar mills from Pune and Solapur regions have ample sugarcane to crush. These mills will close operations in phases by that time. The higher production is due to a 10-tonne increase in the per-acre yield," Prakash Navare, managing director of the federation told Business Standard.

Sugar output rises 22% in first half of 2009-10

Sugar output in the first six months of the 2009-10 season ending in September is estimated at 16.7 million tonnes, nearly 22 per cent more than the output in the same period last season, according to an industry body. The increased output is due to higher supply in cane in Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh, two top sugar producing states in the country, the National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories (NFCSF) has said. India produced 13.7 million tonnes in the same period last year, the NFCSF said.

Lifestyle, prices to hit sugar demand

The Indian consumer has a famously sweet tooth, but that may not stop demand in the world's top sugar user flatlining this year even as global prices plummet. With the affluent worrying about diabetes and heart disease and the poor seeing their food budgets decimated by double-digit inflation, a five-year period of 3-5% annual increases in sugar demand may be coming to an end. And the likely renewal of import duties will mean Indian consumers won't see all the benefit of a one-third fall in global white sugar prices from their peak at the start of the year. "Given the dominant role India has in the global market, these developments will cast a shadow on prices," said Mukesh Kuvadia, secretary general of the Bombay Sugar Merchants Association.

UP sugar output set to reach 52 lt

Breaking all apprehensions of a bad sugar year, Uttar Pradesh, the country's second largest sugar producing state, has breached last year's sugar production of 40.64 lakh tonne (lt) and produced 50 lakh tonne of sugar till March 31 and if things remain favourable, officials expect sugar production in the state to reach 52 lakh tonne. Speaking to FE, an official of the cane department said the biggest reason for this turnaround has been the good remuneration offered to the farmers. "Mills have paid Rs 11,120 crore as cane purchase price to farmers till March 31. This is more than 100% of what was paid last year. Last year's cane purchase price for the entire season stood at Rs 5,678 crore," he said, adding that this means that more money has gone to the farmers.

Sugar relief

The government has allowed bulk sugar users like soft drink and ice cream manufacturers to import 'raw sugar' at zero duty from today to keep the prices of the sweetener at a reasonable level.

Trouble for sugar mills as molasses prices crash

The crash in sugar prices over the last month or so has impacted mills' realisations from molasses as well. Right through January and up to around February 10, mills in Maharashtra were selling molasses for Rs 5,200-5,600 a tonne and denatured spirit at Rs 25-26 a litre.

Liquor from grains

That was the time when ex-factory prices of sugar were ruling at Rs 40-plus a kg, and distilleries were finding it cheaper to manufacture liquor from grains after factoring in a Rs 10-a-litre subsidy from the Maharashtra Government. But now, even as sugar realisations have slumped to Rs 25-26 a kg, molasses are fetching Rs 3,200-3,300 a tonne, having hit Rs 2,500-levels about 10 days back. Denatured spirit used by alcohol-based chemical makers have, likewise, fallen to Rs 20-21 a liter.

AP sugarcane acreage may rise to 1.60 lakh ha

With sugar production coming down in 2009-10, the Andhra Pradesh Government has asked officials to ensure that sugarcane acreage is increased to 1.60 lakh hectares in 2010-11, from 1.20 lakh ha. At a review meeting here on Wednesday, Mr K. Rosaiah, the Chief Minister, said the availability could easily be increased by 30 per cent against the backdrop of better pricing environment. During 2009-10, sugar factories in the State crushed 56 lakh tonnes of cane resulting in a production of 5.06 lakh tonnes. The quantity of cane crushed is expected to be 75 lakh tonnes during 2010-11.

Sugar slides to 6- mth low

Indian spot sugar extended the previous session's losses to reach the lowest level in nearly six months on Tuesday after millers raised supplies in an attempt to sell last month's unsold stocks. In Kolhapur, a key market in top sugar producer Maharashtra, the price of the most traded S-variety sugar dropped 2.32% to rs 2,750 (\$61.9) per 100 kg, the lowest since October 10.

Sugar Rises

Medium sugar quality (M-30) spurted by Rs 20-70 a quintal to Rs 3,035 - 3,090. Small sugar quality (S-30) also gained Rs 10-65 a quintal to Rs 2,965-3,010.

Sugar output seen at 18 mt

India's sugar production in the year to September is seen at 18.0-18.1 million tonne, food and agriculture minister Sharad Pawar said on Thursday. The estimate is in line with industry forecast of 18.1-18.5 million tonne, but higher than pawar's forecast on March 18 that the country would produce 17 million tonne. We are expecting a production of 18-18.1 million tonne, Pawar told reporters.

Sugar Declines

Sugar prices dropped modestly on the Vashi wholesale market on Thursday due to ample stock positions. Small sugar quality (S 30) slipped by Rs 20-45 a quintal to Rs 2,920-2,990. Medium sugar quality also moved down by Rs 10-35 a quintal to Rs 3,000-3,080.

No more sugar imports, prices to cool further

The country may this year turn self-sufficient in sugar after two years of import dependence. In a two-part series Business Standard takes a look at the outlook and impact of higher production on users of byproducts such as ethanol, alcohol and chemical industries. The three-million-tonnes (mt) upward revision in current season's sugar output projection by India, the world's biggest consumer, has aided a fall in global prices. India has also revised next season's forecast from 20 to 23 mt, putting an end to speculation about further imports. Moreover, with production season beginning in Brazil, the world's biggest producer, which is anticipating a bumper output, global prices are certain to remain under pressure. Brazilian mills, which started the 2010-11 season from April 1, are expected to produce over 34 mt, an increase of nearly 19 per cent over 28.63 mt produced in 2009-10.

Output of sugar to rise: pawar

The government on Thursday said India's sugar production may touch 18.1 million tonnes in the current season ending September. This is a 13 per cent increase over the earlier estimate of 16 million tonnes. However, the output is still short of India's annual demand of 23 million tonnes. "The sugar output may touch 18.1 million tonnes in the current season," food and agriculture minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar, said.

Modest recovery seen in sugar

A bearish outlook continues for wheat and soyabean while a modest rebound is likely in sugar prices. Corn prices on the other hand, are likely to be range bound. The second half of the year could see some strengthening in the prices but they would be within the range in the last 18 months.

Modest rebound seen in global sugar prices

A bearish outlook continues for wheat and soyabean, while a modest rebound is likely in sugar prices. Corn prices, on the other hand, are likely to be range bound, according

Rabobank monthly commodities outlook. “It will take a rally in outside markets such as corn or soyabean to prevent world wheat prices falling even further over the next couple of months,” said the outlook. Fundamentals for wheat are bearish despite lower plantings of the grain in the US. “Exporters will need to free up additional storage capacity prior to new crop harvest,” it said.

Sugar co-ops move HC against Centre

Around half a dozen sugar cooperatives from Maharashtra have moved the Bombay High Court questioning the Union government’s authority to issue an order for the conversion of unsold non-levy sugar to levy sugar. On Monday, according to a senior advocate representing the government, the Bombay High Court adjourned the hearing of the matter to Wednesday and allowed sugar factories to sell unsold sugar in the open market subject to the condition that they execute a bond in favour of the government if the HC ruling goes against them.

Sugar prices look southward during peak demand season

A global frenzy in sugar prices last year prompted panic buying and stringent price control in India, the world’s biggest consumer, and the country might be staring at its first damp summer, traditionally the peak season. Besides, an upward revision in production estimate and a sharp drop in global sugar prices since early February will not allow prices to surge in domestic market, officials said.

Sugar prices fall by 20%

Retail sugar prices, which were ruling high at nearly Rs 50 a kg in January, have fallen up to 20 per cent in March across the country, according to government data. “As per weekly retail and wholesale price analysis available for four weeks ending March 31, 2010, wheat and sugar prices are showing either a declining trend or have ruled steady at all the reporting centres throughout the country,” an official statement said.

Sustainability of rally in sugar prices questionable

International sugar prices (both raw and white) have gained approximately 7% over the last six sessions. Domestic prices have bounced back in tandem, arresting the steep fall in prices and bringing back realizations to a relatively stable level of Rs29-30 per kg. Our interactions with sugar manufacturers suggest that it will take some more time for sugar demand to revive completely. While sugar stocks may witness some rally over the near

term, the sustainability of such an upward movement appears difficult due to the turnaround in the sugar cycle in the medium to long term.

Sugar prices crash on panic sales in Maharashtra

Fears that the Centre will convert unsold free sale sugar quota to levy (for distribution through ration shops) have led to panic sales of the commodity by mills, particularly in Maharashtra. “Some mills in Maharashtra sold sugar at Rs 2,500 a quintal on Monday,” said a trade source. Mr Prakash Naiknavare, Managing Director, Maharashtra State Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories, said fundamentally, there was no reason for the steep fall in the prices.

Sugar stock norms for bulk users to be eased

The government may relax restrictions on sugar stocks that bulk consumers can keep in the wake of prices of the sweetener falling by about 30% in the past three months, according to sources. A proposal to allow bulk users such as ice-cream and beverage makers, who consume 60% of the country’s total demand of 23 million tonne, to hold stocks good for 15 days against 10 days now is under the food ministry’s consideration, the sources said.

Sugar prices touches a new low

The sugar industry is worried over prices hitting a new low of Rs 2,500 per quintal. In the past seven days, prices of the commodity have fallen by over Rs 400 per quintal from Rs 2,900 a quintal.

Govt to hike sugar, lentil base prices

The Centre is set to hike the minimum support price (MSP) for sugar and lentils, a key policy move aimed at boosting production of the two scarce commodities that have pushed up food inflation sharply. MSP is the assured price the government offers farmers, which also serves as the base price for private traders, helping avoid less-profitable sales. Support price for sugar is set to go up 8.5 per cent, from Rs 129.84 to Rs 140, when the new crop cycle begins in October, a government source said.

India May Halt Sugar Imports as Production Surges

India, the biggest sugar consumer, may cease to be an importer next year as domestic production surges on increased cane planting, a producers group said.

UP Sugar output could jump 35%

Sugar production in Uttar Pradesh, India's biggest grower, may gain for a second year as farmers increase plantings after a global deficit drove prices to near a three-decade high in February, a producers' group said. Output may surge 35% to 7 million tonne in the year beginning October 1, from an estimated 5.2 million tonne this season, Shyam Lal Gupta, secretary general of the Uttar Pradesh Sugar Mills Association, said by phone. The area under the crop will widen by as much as 25%, he said.

Cane remunerative price for 2010-11 hiked 7.15% to Rs 139.12 / quintal

The Centre has fixed the 'fair and remunerative price' (FRP) of sugarcane for the ensuing 2010-11 sugar season (October-September) at Rs 139.12 a quintal. This marks a 7.15 per cent increase over the Rs 129.84 a quintal level for the current season. The new Rs 139.12 a quintal FRP, approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs here on Friday, is linked to a sugar recovery of 9.5 per cent. Mills would have to pay a Rs 1.46 premium on every 0.1 percentage point increase over this basic recovery rate. For 2009-10, the corresponding premium was Rs 1.37 a quintal.

50,000 quintals of sugar damaged in fire

A fire broke out at a sugar mill godown here on Tuesday at maha Sur Pur area, officials said. Around 50,000 quintals of sugar was damaged in the fire, fire service station in charge Ajay Sharma said, adding the cause of the blaze was not known so far. No loss of life was reported so far in this incident.

USDA forecasts India's sugar output at 23 mt

India's sugar production is likely to rise by 28% to 22.7 million tonnes (mt) in the 2010-11 season starting October on account of expected higher cane supplies, the US department of agriculture has said in a report. For the 2009-10 season, production is estimated at 17.7 mt. Higher sugar production in the next season will help the government in keeping prices under control.

INTERNATIONAL SUGAR INDUSTRY

China's Bright Food offers \$1.6B for CSR's sugar

Australian sugar, energy and building materials producer CSR Ltd. said on Thursday it had received a 1.75 billion Australian dollar (\$1.6 billion) conditional offer from China's Bright Food Group for its Sucrogen division, including its sugar and renewable energy business.

Sugar production likely to rise to 23 mt in next season

The countrys sugar production may increase to meet the yearly demand of 23 million tonnes in the next 2010-11 season, a senior Food Ministry official told PTI.

Sick sugar mills to be sold in Uttar Pradesh

Decks have finally been cleared for the sale of 33 state-run sugar mills that turned "sick" many years ago.

Tereos goes global with starch, sugar and biofuel plans

Tereos has combined its European cereal assets with its Brazilian subsidiary and Indian sugarcane business to create Tereos Internacional, and is setting itself up as a leader in starch ingredients, sugar and bioethanol.

Sugar Festival to go on

Last weeks closure of the Sugar Manufacturing Company Ltd meant the end of the industry, seven years after the closure of Caroni (1975) Ltd.

Serious sugar shortage looms

The country will soon face a serious sugar shortage, as most millers have refused to supply the commodity to the Commerce Ministry for a special 80,000-tonne allocation aimed at easing the tight market situation.

Attorney Tate on Imperial Sugar lawsuit

It has been more than two years since the Imperial Sugar Refinery explosion and families are learning the hard way about the long process of suing large corporations.

Sugar producers seek reduction in levy quota

With Indias sugar production estimated to be 20 per cent higher than the initial projection of 15 million tonnes, the sugar industry has asked the government to bring down the levy quota to 15 per cent for the current season.

Trouble for sugar mills as molasses prices crash

The crash in sugar prices over the last month or so has impacted mills' realisations from molasses as well.

Indonesia: Rajawali to Invest in Sugar

March 31 - Indonesia's Rajawali Group said on Wednesday it will use the \$1.08 billion in proceeds from a share sale to invest in sugar plantations and mining, possibly including BHP Billiton's Maruwai coal mine project.

Malaprabha sugar factory MD attacked

Nine members of the new Board of Directors of the Shree Malaprabha Sahakara Sakkare Karkhane, M.K. Hubli in Bailhongal taluk, attacked the factory's managing director, Devappa Venkappa Desai, for refusing to sign certain documents on Thursday.

Siboney Sugar mill the first to accomplish sugar harvest plan

Triumph whistles and joyful music beats characterized the spontaneous celebration of the workers to celebrate the achievement: Siboney sugar mill became the first one of its kind to complete the sugar production plan in the whole country.

Sugar slips on higher crop hopes

ICE raw sugar futures edged down in choppy trade on Tuesday as traders tracked increased crop expectations in Brazil and India. ICE may raw sugar futures were down 0.16 cent or 1 percent to 16.24 cents a lb at 10:58 GMT, while London (LIFFE) may white sugar was up \$ 483.00 a tonne in thin turnover of 1,384 lots.

Uganda: MPs Meet Kakira Team Over Land

Kampala Three MPs from Busoga region have met with the management of Kakira Sugar Works over reports that the company plans to grab land in Buyengo sub-county in Jinja district.

Uganda: Smugglers Overwhelm Revenue Body

The struggle against smugglers is far from over, the Uganda Revenue Authority (URA) northern region area enforcement supervisor, warned last week.

Uganda: Outgrowers Resume Supplies to Kakira

The standoff between Kakira Sugar Works and its displeased sugarcane suppliers seems to be nearing an end, Daily Monitor has learnt.

Sugar Rises on Demand as Economy Recovers; Orange Juice Gains

Sugar rose for the fourth time in five sessions in New York on speculation that demand for commodities may climb as the economic recovery broadens. Orange juice also advanced.

OSHA Hearing Set for Imperial Sugar

A hearing is scheduled for May 18 in Savannah on the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration's attempt to fine Imperial Sugar Co. \$8.8 million.

Wangkanai set to tap organic sugar market

Major sugar refiner Wangkanai Group yesterday signed a three-year deal with Japanese trading company, Toyota Tsusho Corporation, in a move to tap Japan's organic sugar market.

Uganda: Farmers Stop Cane Supply to Kakira

Kampala A SECTION of Kakira sugar cane outgrowers have stopped supplying Kakira Sugar Works factory. This was after Kamigo residents in Kakira threatened to burn or vandalise any lorry ferrying sugar cane to the factory. The firm belongs to the Madhvani Group of Companies.

Uganda: Sugar Firms to Make Fuel for Cars

Kampala Uganda's sugar industry plans to invest \$100 million in ethanol production within two years if the Government puts the policy on fuel blending in place, an industry executive said on Tuesday.

Zimbabwe: Interfin Gets Stake in Starafrika

Harare interfin Banking Corporation Limited has acquired more than 12 percent of Starafrika Corporation after existing shareholders failed to follow their rights in a US\$10 million rights issue.

Sugar imports to proceed despite waning interest

The government is planning to bring in 45,100 more metric tons (MT) of sugar through an auction of import contracts to private traders and importers on April 20, despite what appears to be waning interest following stabilizing local prices.

Sugar mill worker commits suicide, GM booked

An employee of a sugar mill, who had been staging a sit-in to protest non-payment of salary since the past year and a half, allegedly committed suicide by consuming a poisonous substance, police said today.

Residents protest against sugar firm over evictions

Hundreds of Msambweni residents on Sunday took to the streets to protest at alleged injustice by a sugar company.

British Sugar gets back in gear

When a worm gear drive crown wheel failed due to overload on a crucial conveyor belt at British Sugars Wissington plant in Kings Lynn, which produces bioethanol, amongst other sugar products.

Kakira, Ugandas Biggest Sugar Producer, May Increase Output

April 12 (Bloomberg) -- Kakira Sugar Works Ltd., Ugandas biggest producer of the sweetener, plans to increase output to 160,800 metric tons this year after some independent farmers resumed supplying cane to the company, an official said.

Research and Markets: Some Good News for Colombia's Agriculture Industry Come from the Sugar Sector Where 2010 is Shaping up to Be a Bumper Year

Colombia Agribusiness service provides proprietary medium term price forecasts for key commodities, including corn, wheat, rice, sugar, cocoa, coffee, soy and milk; in addition to newly-researched competitive intelligence on leading agribusiness producers, traders and suppliers; in-depth analysis of latest industry developments; and essential industry context on Colombia's agribusiness service.

Kenya: Residents Protest Against Sugar Firm Over Eviction

Nairobi Hundreds of Msambweni residents on Sunday took to the streets to protest at alleged injustice by a sugar company.

Residents protest against sugar firm over evictions

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Sugar may fall on firm dollar

Sugar may decline in London as the dollar strengthens, diminishing the appeal of commodities as an alternative investment. White, refined, sugar for August delivery slipped \$ 1.20, or 0.2 per cent to \$ 502.20 a tonne at 12.08 p.m on the LIFFE exchange.

Uganda: Govt to Sell Kinyara Shares Next Year

Kampala The government plans to sell its 49 % stake in sugar producer Kinyara Sugar Works to the public early next year as output increases sharply, an official said yesterday.

Tanzania: EU Faults Actionaid Biofuels Report

Dar Es Salaam THE European Union has dismissed as unfounded a report by ActionAid that accuses the 27-member bloc's energy policy of fuelling hunger and land grabbing in poor countries such as Tanzania.

Uganda: Five Detained Over Kakira Land Saga

At least five people were last week detained by police over incitement of violence after the Madhvanis stated a claim on land in Kamigo, Kamuli District to extend their sugar operations.

Smuggled sugar rising

The Philippines plans to step up efforts to curb the smuggling of sugar into the country as unauthorized traders seek to take advantage of higher local prices.

Raw Sugar Rises to Highest Price This Month as Demand Revives

April 14 (Bloomberg) -- Sugar rose to the highest price this month in New York on speculation that importing countries will boost purchases.

Maha co-op mills worried as sugar prices fall

Maharashtra sugar mills are facing financial pressure due to a continuing fall in sugar prices, currently in the range of Rs 2,670-2,725 per quintal ex-mill, against Rs 3,250 per quintal in March. Cane is being procured at Rs 2,500 a qtl and the production cost is Rs 2,800 a qtl.

Malaysia: No plan yet to focus on sugar palms

The Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities has no plan yet to make "sugar palms" or palm trees which produce sugar, as a new commodity source.

Rising sugar prices sweeten property market

Strong sugar prices have reinvigorated the property market in Far North Queensland.

Renewed confidence in sugar beet sees Grimme launch six-row trailed harvester

Grimme has launched a new six-row trailed machine called the Rootster 604 as a viable alternative to a self-propelled machine on farms with a small to medium sugar beet acreage.

Brushfire scorches old sugar cane land in Kekaha

About five acres of former sugar cane land across the old mill in Kekaha were scorched by a brushfire yesterday.

ICE US Review: Sugar down on US\$, large Brazilian crop

ICE SUGAR futures closed lower on Wednesday, pressured by the stronger US dollar and large Brazilian crop prospects. Brazilian weather conditions were said to be favourable for the sugar cane harvest in the country.

Asbestos Concerns May Still Sour China Sugar Bid

A Chinese food firm's \$1.6 billion bid for Australia's top sugar refiner will likely be determined by a court ruling on whether the Australian group has enough money set aside to pay victims of asbestos-related illnesses. The court is due to rule later this month on an appeal by Australian building and sugar conglomerate CSR Ltd against an earlier decision blocking its plans to demerge Sucrogen, its sugar business.

Sugar federation, union locked into meeting

Up to news time, the Sugar Producers Federation and the unions representing sugar workers were still locked in a meeting at the Ministry of Labour.

Hopes high of Sugar Industry bouncing back

Hopes are high that the sugar industry will bounce back and provide more to the growers, the millers and the nation as a whole.

The Story Of Baseball And Sugar In A Small Town

What do Rico Carty, Alfredo Griffin, Pedro Guerrero, George Bell, Julio Franco, Juan Samuel, Sammy Sosa, Alfonso Soriano and Robinson Cano have in common? They all come from the small sugar mill town of San Pedro de Macoris in the Dominican Republic, which, according to Mark Kurlansky in his new book, *The Eastern Stars*, "has given the sport of baseball the most major-league players of any small town in the world."

Uganda: Govt to Sell Kinyara Shares Next Year

Kampala The government plans to sell its 49 % stake in sugar producer Kinyara Sugar Works to the public early next year as output increases sharply, an official said yesterday.

Tanzania: EU Faults Actionaid Biofuels Report

Dar Es Salaam THE European Union has dismissed as unfounded a report by ActionAid that accuses the 27-member bloc's energy policy of fuelling hunger and land grabbing in poor countries such as Tanzania.

Uganda: Five Detained Over Kakira Land Saga

At least five people were last week detained by police over incitement of violence after the Madhvanis stated a claim on land in Kamigo, Kamuli District to extend their sugar operations.

Smuggled sugar rising

The Philippines plans to step up efforts to curb the smuggling of sugar into the country as unauthorized traders seek to take advantage of higher local prices.

Sugar-to-diesel maker Amyris files for IPO

Biofuel company Amyris Biotechnologies said it plans to raise \$100 million through an initial public offering, one of a number of energy start-ups now seeking to tap the stock market for capital.

GLG and Sugar Australia in stevia partnership

Stevia experts GLG Life Tech have signed a memorandum of understanding with Sugar Australia to bring stevia-based sweeteners to Australian consumers.

Tully out of Qld sugar merger

Tully Sugar's continued rejection of Maryborough Sugar Factory's takeover offer has left it isolated from industry consolidation, with its would-be suitor instead opting for a merger with rival producer Bundaberg Sugar.

Sugar giants move towards joint venture

Two of Queensland's biggest sugar milling companies are pooling their northern operations.

Queensland sugar millers join forces

Maryborough Sugar Factory will pay \$20 million to jointly own the South Johnstone, Babinda and Tableland mills with Bundaberg Sugar.

Guatemala sugar exports double in March

GUATEMALA CITY, April 19 (Reuters) - Guatemala exported 360,571 tonnes in March, more than double the 176,206 tonnes exported in the same month a year ago, the country's sugar producers association Asazgua told Reuters on Monday.

Kenya: Foreign Investors Safeguarded From Obligations to Locals

Nairobi Parts of the Tana Delta on Kenya's northern coastline are being leased to foreigners to grow food and bio-fuels for export. Civil society organisations are worried about such deals as they are done without public consultation while safeguarding investors from requirements that could benefit local communities, such as technology transfer.

Agriculture: Reform slows sugar sector

Uncertainty over South Africa's land reform programme had slowed investment in the sugar sector, an industry official said yesterday.

South Africa's land reform slows sugar sector investment

Uncertainty over South Africa's land reform programme meant to hand over 30 percent of farm land to the country's black majority by 2014 has slowed investment in its sugar sector, an industry official said.

Scientists push for soil quality institute

Ugandan soil scientists want a soil quality institute that would promote soil quality and agricultural productivity.

5 firms join bidding for Philippine sugar import rights

Five companies submitted offers totalling 33,400 tons of sugar imports at a state auction on Tuesday, below the 45,100 tons volume the Philippines was seeking, government officials said.

SRA seeking GMA help to curb sugar smuggling

Sugar Regulatory Administrator Bernardo Trebol yesterday said he is asking President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo to direct the Bureau of Customs to act on sugar smuggling in the country that has become rampant.

Meltdown continues, sugar prices hit new lows

The sugar industry is worried over prices hitting a new low of Rs 2,500 a quintal. In the past seven days, prices of the commodity have fallen by over Rs 400 per quintal from Rs 2,900 a quintal. Industry experts and traders fear if the fall continues, it will lead to a problem of non-lifting of sugar. Huge quantity of sugar is yet to be lifted and millers are being forced to sell at low prices. This would adversely affect timely payment to cane farmers.

Tate & Lyle enters into agreement with Jamaican government for supply of raw sugar

Tate & Lyle announces that it has entered into a pre-financing agreement with the Jamaican government for the supply of raw sugar. The agreement requires the supply of 100,000 tonnes of raw sugar to Tate & Lyle during the 2011 calendar year, of which approximately 40 percent is expected to be received during Tate & Lyles financial year ending 31 March 2011.

Jamaica in sugar export deal with Tate & Lyle

Jamaica has reached a forward sale export agreement with Tate & Lyle PLC (TATE.L: Cotizacin) to provide the British firm with 100,000 raw tonnes of sugar, according to Prime Minister Bruce Golding.

Jamaica Sugar enquiry costs \$15 million

University of the West Indies professor, Alvin Wint has been selected to chair the commission which will conduct an enquiry into the sugar industry.

China group seeks sugar hit

CHINA'S Bright Food group is finalising plans to send a senior delegation to Sydney late next week as part of the due diligence process following its sweetened \$1.75 billion offer for CSR's sugar and renewable energy business.

Indonesia Sees 9 pct Shortfall in Sugar Production in 2010

Jakarta, April 21 - Prolonged rains may reduce the sugar content in Indonesian cane, leading to a domestic production shortfall this year of around 270,000 tonnes, an agriculture official said on Wednesday.

CSR Says Hasnt Received Japanese Group Approach for Sugar Unit

April 21 (Bloomberg) -- CSR Ltd. said it hasnt received an approach from a Japanese consortium to acquire its sugar and renewable energy business. CSR added that its in discussions with Bright Food regarding its conditional non-binding offer to acquire the unit.

Sugar industry wants to enter EU agreement

The SA Sugar Association (Sasa) was in talks with the government to tap into the EU's plan to import about 3.5 million tons of sugar annually from African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries, Sasa executive director Trix Trikam said yesterday.

Deciphering the media campaign against Nicaragua Sugar Estates and the Pellas Group

A stone in the shoe In a recent article, the most conspicuous organizer of ANAIRCs disinformation campaign against Nicaragua Sugar and the Pellas Group (Grupo Pellas) and the boycott against Flor de Caa finally decided to make an incursion into a new territory, without completely abandoning his repetitive disparaging epithets, in an attempt to give a

new appearance to ANAIRC's claims and make them seem serious. Let's carefully examine what this is all about.

Weak realisation likely to affect sugar cos' earnings

Sugar prices have crashed almost a quarter, after hitting a peak in January this year. Current prices are still marginally higher than what they were in the same period last year, but the earnings of sugar makers in the next few quarters are likely to take a hit, as prices are expected to soften further on the back of improved supply.

Stakeholders to buy shares in Fiji Sugar Corporation

The Fiji Sugar Corporation is exploring options on how farmers, landowners and FSC employees can buy shares into the corporation.

Added sugar is no good for your heart - study

Chicago - Eating a lot of sugar not only makes you fat. It may also increase a person's risk for heart disease, United States researchers said on Tuesday.

White sugar pares gains

White sugar pared its advance in London as the dollar strengthened and on speculation buyers will wait before committing to fresh purchases. Egypt's state run Sugar and Integrated Industries Co cancelled a tender to buy Rs 50,000 tonnes of sugar because of high prices, Mr. Ramadan Suleiman, Purchasing manager at SIIC, said on Thursday. SIIC won't be issuing another tender for at least two weeks, he said. Sugar prices more than doubled last year as excess rains in Brazil and a weak monsoon in India curbed output.

Bearish outlook for sugar

The world benchmark contract for raw sugar trading is the Sugar No.11 contract (on Friday closed at 15.66) that is traded at Intercontinental Exchange (ICE), in New York. The white sugar contract is known as the No. 5 contract which is traded at the London Futures Exchange (LIFFE) in London.

CSR Wins Federal Court Appeal on Sugar Spin-off Plan

CSR Ltd., Australia's second-largest building products maker, won court approval to spin-off its sugar unit as it considers a A\$1.75 billion (\$1.6 billion) offer from China's Bright Food Group Co.

CSR wins appeal to vote on sugar demerger

THE Federal Court has upheld an appeal from CSR against an earlier rejection of its proposal to demerge its sugar business.

Move to privatise' sugar units flayed

The Andhra Pradesh Sugarcane Farmers Association has demanded that the government drop its move to privatise cooperative sugar factories by leasing them to private players on the pretext of losses.

ABFs sugar profits exceed expectations

Interim results to the end of February revealed that profit from its sugar businesses was 39% above last year at 85m. There was a very strong performance from the UK, which benefitted from market stability following completion of EU sugar regime changes, plus there was also a recovery of domestic sugar prices in China.

Bid to improve sugar yield

IN an effort to emphasise the importance of reviving the sugar industry, the Fiji Sugar Corporation informed landowners of the need to improve the yield of sugar cane on farms.

Biofuels not to blame for high sugar prices, Brazil avers

The biofuels industry cannot be blamed for the increase in the international sugar prices, states Brazilian Ambassador to South Africa Jos Vicente de S Pimentel.

Conservation' noises again

Punjab chief minister Shahbaz Sharif presented his nine-point plan to get the country out of the grips of load-shedding. Highlights included banning billboards, exploiting coal reserves, allowing sugar barons to burn their bagasse and the euphemistic "launch" of a countrywide campaign to conserve energy.

Parliament Speaker Ensures Food Security Despite Biofuels Production

Luanda The speaker of the Angolan National Assembly, Antnio Paulo Kassoma, Friday here assured that the production of biofuels in Angola will not affect food production, as the food and nutritional security have been safeguarded.

North Queensland sugar harvest no better than last year

Cane farmers in northern Queensland are expecting a setback when it comes to this year's harvest, because of too much rain.

Suedzucker pays EU for surrendering sugar quota

Says paid 13.9 million eur for surrendering 1.16 million tonnes of sugar quota

Sugar Agency to Sign Sweet UK Import Deal

The Ethiopian Sugar Development Agency (ESDA) is expected to sign an agreement on Monday, April 27, 2010, with the UK based ED&F Man Sugar Limited Company for the supply of 40,000tn of sugar.

Peru allows sugar imports to counter rising price

Peru allows sugar imports to counter rising price.

Uganda: Jinja Factories Face Closure Over Waste

Kampala Factories which do not comply with the standards set by the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) on waste management will be closed.

Sugar becomes cheaper by 19pc

Sugar is 19 per cent cheaper than the government approved price.

Indonesia Still Needs Sugar Imports

Indonesia is set to import sugar in several years ahead as local sugar mills are still unable to meet growing demand, a sugar producer said.

Sugar supply normalises

Sugar supplies have normalised with most supermarkets confirming they have enough stock.

Foreign Companies Set to Invest Heavily in Sierra Leone as President Koroma Creates a Climate of Security and Stability

Sierra Leone is progressing towards becoming an investment hub in Africa. The country's leadership has ensured a climate of security and stability that has attracted companies from the UK, China, the UAE and even other African countries. Since Ernest Bai Koroma

assumed the leadership of Sierra Leone, he has made it his priority to put his country on the path from aid dependency to a dynamic, self-sustaining economy that focuses on investment and reform in the key strategic sectors which are most critical to unlocking the full productive potential of the countrys economy. Sierra Leone is now one of the top five countries in Sub-Saharan Africa when it comes to investor protection and the ease of starting a business. The government is also unveiling a new investment incentives schedule that creates a level playing field for investors, while improving fiscal responsibility.

B2bn in loans to help sugarcane planters

The Office of the Cane and Sugar Fund (OCSB) plans to provide 2 billion baht in loans for sugarcane planters to help fight the impact of drought, says Prasert Tapaneyangkul, the OCSB secretarygeneral.

Angola: President Dos Santos Promulgates Law on Biofuels

Luanda Angolan president, Jos Eduardo dos Santos, promulgated today the law on biofuels, approved by the National Assembly (Parliament) on March 22.

Ethiopia: Sugar Agency to Sign Sweet UK Import Deal

The Ethiopian Sugar Development Agency (ESDA) is expected to sign an agreement on Monday, April 27, 2010, with the UK based ED&F Man Sugar Limited Company for the supply of 40,000tn of sugar.

Mozambique: Zimbabwean Manager Loses Work Permit

Maputo Mozambican Labour Minister Helena Taipo has cancelled the work permit of a Zimbabwean citizen, Stewart Goss, who is accused of ill-treating Mozambican workers and of racist attitudes.

Sugar industry suffers \$87m loss to scrap metal thieves

SCRAP metal thieves have hit the sugar cane industry hard over the past 21 months, removing more than \$87 million worth of irrigation equipment and frustrating CEO of the Sugar Company of Jamaica (SCJ) Holdings, Aubyn Hill.

Peru allocates US \$25 million to import 50,000 tons of sugar

Peru will allocate a US \$25 million line of credit, through the state-run Banco Agropecuario (Agriculture Bank), in order to import up to 50,000 metric tons of sugar and supply internal demand, announced Peru's Minister of Agriculture Adolfo De Crdova.

Bolivia Sugar Plant Burned In Protest

An angry mob of protesters set fire to a sugar refinery sunday night

China will sell 100,000 tonnes of its state-owned sugar reserves

China will sell 100,000 tonnes of sugar from its state-owned reserves on Wednesday April 28, according to the countrys Commerce Ministry.

Fire breaks out in sugar mill godown

A fire on Tuesday broke out at a sugar mill godown in Muzaffarnagar at Maha Sur Pur area, officials said. Around 50,000 quintal of sugar was damaged in the fire, fire service Station Incharge Ajay Sharma said, adding the cause of the blaze was not known so far.

China's Bright Food team rolls in for a sugar fix

THE first delegation of five officials from China's Bright Food Group has arrived in Sydney to conduct due diligence on CSR's sugar busines.

Indonesia needs to import sugar

Indonesia is set to import sugar as local sugar mills are unable to meet growing demand.

Ethanol

Ethanol as underdog

With key decisions pending that affect the corn-based fuel's future, the industry goes on the offensive

Uganda: We Need a Policy On Ethanol

Kampala There was perhaps no better news yesterday than reports that Uganda's sugar industry plans a \$100m (sh200b) investment to produce ethanol in two years if the Government puts in place a policy for fuel blending.

Ethanol supporters in Congress try to prevent a repeat of biodiesel mothballing

Four months after a \$1-per-gallon biodiesel tax credit expired, putting some 29,000 out of work in that industry, backers of the ethanol industry are trying to prevent that from happening on an even larger scale.

Bunge increases investments in sugar and ethanol segment

Bunge should invest nearly US\$750 million in the next three years to expand the first three sugar and ethanol plants which it purchased or constructed in Brazil since it entered the segment in 2008.

Petrochem dept throws spanner in mills ethanol pricing works

The department of chemicals and petrochemicals (DoCP) seems to have put a damper on the attempts of an empowered group of ministers to expeditiously clinch the price of ethanol supplied to oil marketing companies (OMCs) by sugar mills.

Website aims to forge ethanol partnerships

A businessman from New Iberia is starting a national website that aims to match renewable-energy investors with local landowners and farmers.
