

HIGHLIGHTS FOR February 2011

BIRLA SUGAR

INDUSTRY SNAP SHOTS

The government may not consider export of sugar under open general licence (OGL) in the medium term. Sources in the food ministry said there was no decision to forward any such proposal to the group of ministers (GoM), as was proposed earlier. “The main agenda of the ministry now is food security. Sugar exports can be revisited later or when full sugar production estimate is available,” said a source. The GoM had put sugar exports on hold in the first week of January. A review was proposed later. To this effect, a proposal was mooted by food and consumer affairs ministry, to be forwarded to Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM), so that exports could start by February 2011 to take advantage of high global prices. However, the proposal was dropped, said official sources.

More than a month after high food prices forced it to take a U-turn on its notified decision to allow free sugar exports of 5 lakh tonnes, the food ministry has yet to approach the empowered group of ministers on the subject. This delay is adding to the woes of the sugar industry that is already faced with a cyclical tailspin marked by unpaid dues to farmers, high stocks, and plunging prices, say sectoral analysts.

With a favourable climate and more area sown, the Indian Sugar Mills Association (Isma) says production in the coming year will be well above its earlier, high, estimate. The sugar year starts in October and runs till the following September. Isma’s earlier forecast was 23 million tonnes (mt) for 2010-11; it has revised this to 25 mt. “Our internal assessment reveals this...on higher acreage, followed by better yield,” said Vivek Saraogi, president of Isma and managing director of Balrampur Chini.

OTHER PLAYERS

Govt embargo on exports shocking, says Rajshree Sugar

South India based Rajshree Sugars reported net sales down 13% at Rs 183 crore for quarter ended December compared to Rs 209 crore for the same period last year. The

company incurred a loss of Rs 32 crore versus a profit after tax Rs 19 crore, year-on-year.

Dwarikesh Sugar Industries swings to loss for Dec '10 qtr

Dwarikesh Sugar Industries swung to loss for the quarter ended December 2010.

During the quarter, the company reported loss of Rs 36.44 million compared with a profit of Rs 334.37 million in the same quarter last year. Net sales for the quarter for the quarter rose 5.30% to Rs 1,739.16 million, while total income for the quarter rose 6.26% to Rs 1,757.42 million, when compared with the prior year period.

Renuka Sugar, Balrampur strongest bets in sugar: JV Capital

Sugar is probably more for the traders. It is a sector the speculators do like and considering the markets being pretty lousy over the last couple of months, sugar stocks have held up really well. With the budgets around the corner, there might be some rumours and talk again about some decontrol on sugar prices, you might see the stocks on any given day will give you another 5% to 10% move but again a highly volatile sector.

Sugar EID Parry's Q3 down by 70 pc

Sugar major E I D Parry today reported a net profit of Rs 63.35 crores for the quarter ended on December 31, 2010, a near 70 per cent decline as compared to the corresponding period of previous year. The company has reported a net profit of Rs 171.17 crore for the quarter ended on December 31, 2009, EID Parry said in a filing to Bombay Stock Exchange. The company's total income in the quarter under consideration rose by 16.1 per cent to Rs 2474.85 crores as against Rs 2131.64 crores in the same period previous year.

INDIAN SUGAR INDUSTRY

Maharashtra sugar traders want equality with futures players

Disparities in norms between futures and spot trading in sugar may force traders in the physical markets to move court. Physical traders say they require a mandatory licence, with a stock limit of 200 tonnes. However, any person can purchase or sell sugar without a licence on commodity exchanges in futures trading. The limit on commodity exchanges is 8,000 tonnes for a single month and 20,000 tonnes on a cumulative basis. Traders, who met in Pune, said they might petition the Bombay High Court in a day or two. They said they were also concerned at the volatility in futures trading, which resumed from December 26.

Maharashtra sugar mills expect Rs 177 cr loss in Jan-Feb

The sugar industry in Maharashtra says it expects to lose Rs 177 crore in January and February. Reason: Widening gap between production cost and ex-mill realisation, non-lifting of stocks by traders and the Centre's decision to increase the levy-free quota (LFQ; also known as non-levy quota, meaning the amount mills may sell in the open market) for January and February.

Haryana sugar mills to crush more cane

Sugar mills in Haryana are expected to crush around 400 lakh quintal of cane this year, up from 264 lakh quintal of cane crushed during the last season. Sugar mills in cooperative and private sector will crush around 200 lakh quintal of cane each.

Govt releases 18.39 lakh tn sugar for Feb 2011

The government has made 18.39 lakh tonnes of sugar available for sale through open market and ration shops for the month of February 2011, which is marginally less than the current month. "This quantity of 18.39 lakh tonnes is sufficient to meet the internal demand of sugar for the month of February, 2011," an official release said. The government had released 19.18 lakh tonnes of the sweetener for the current month. Of the total allocation for the month of February, 2.16 lakh tonnes of sugar will be for supply through ration shops and 16.23 lakh tonnes in the open market, the statement added.

UP cuts sugar output forecast

Uttar Pradesh, a major sugarcane producing state, has cut its sugar output forecast by 3.3%, government sources said on Monday; potentially further delaying any unrestricted exports from the world's biggest consumer. The fall in output now expected in Uttar Pradesh, which produces roughly a quarter of total sugar output for India, is a result of lower recovery of sugar from the crop and poor cane yield from plantings. Output in Uttar Pradesh will fall to 6 million tonne in 2010-2011 from an earlier estimate of 6.2 million tonne, the government sources said.

Maharashtra may miss sugar target

Sugar output in Maharashtra, the country's biggest producer, may be less than forecast after heavy rain ahead of the harvests reduced the recovery rate and yield, a producers' group said. Production may be 9 million tonnes in the year that began on October 1, less than the 9.2 million tonnes forecast last month and 9.5 million tonnes estimated in September, said Mr Prakash Naiknavare, Managing Director of the Maharashtra State Cooperative Sugar Factories Federation Ltd.

Sugar mills look at power, alcohol to buffer margins

Faced with a severe squeeze on margins, sugar mills are looking at alternatives, largely in potable alcohol and energy. The government's decision to set the benchmark ethanol price at Rs 27 per litre has given a push to this. With rising raw material and labour costs and stagnant realisation from sugar sales, many mills are not even breaking even. The situation is grim, said an industry official. Any rise in sugar prices isn't always followed by a demand to pay a higher cane price to farmers.

Centre releases 18.39-lakh tonnes of sugar

The Centre has made available for domestic consumption 18.39-lakh tonnes of sugar for the month of February. This includes 2.16-lakh tonnes of levy sugar to be sold through the public distribution system (PDS) and 16.23-lakh tonnes of non-levy sugar for open market sale. The non-levy sugar quota includes 13-lakh tonnes of free-sale quota, 0.23-lakh tonnes of refined sugar processed out of the imported raw sugar, and 3-lakh tonnes of unsold/un-dispatched sugar released in January. The quantity of 18.39-lakh tonnes can meet the internal demand for sugar in February, government

sources said. The validity period for sale/dispatch of the non-levy sugar quota meant for sale in January is now February 14.

Rains to hit Maharashtra sugar output

Sugar output in India's Maharashtra state, the nation's biggest producer, may be less than forecast after heavy rain ahead of the harvests reduced the recovery rate and yield, a producers group said.

Sugar output may fall short of official estimates; 23 million tonnes more likely

The country's sugar production during the 2010-11 seasons (October-September) may fall well short of the Centre's estimates of 245.40 lakh tonnes (lt). The latest available trends suggest an output figure closer to 230 lt or even less.

In Maharashtra, factories had, till Wednesday, crushed 398.57 lt of cane - 17.3 per cent more than the 339.81 lt achieved during the corresponding period of the 2009-10 season.

Sugar continues to remain range-bound

Spot sugar prices on the Vashi wholesale market ruled steady on Thursday with range-bound price movement of Rs 5-10. *Naka* and mill tender rates witnessed mixed trend on stagnant demand and steady reports from producing centres. Local demand was at the usual level showing no sign of improvement. Millers continued to sell at current levels. The volume was as usual and most of the mill tenders were open, said wholesale traders.

Global price spike revives demand for sugar exports

Sugar prices in the global market scaled a new high on Thursday at \$851.5 per tonne in London trading, a 10 per cent high in the past 10 days trading sessions, though it moderated later in the day. The surge was largely due to fear of a heavy fall in Australia's sugar production due to the Yasi cyclone crossing into northern Queensland, a region accounting for a third of the country's cane output. There have been adverse climatic conditions in other producing countries such as Brazil, Thailand and China and prices in recent weeks have been at a 30-year high.

Sugar price at 30-yr high, stocks up 9%

Sugar stocks surged by as much as nine per cent on BSE after the price of the commodity rocketed to a 30-year high in the international market.

The gain in the sugar sector stocks was led by Dhampur Sugar Mills, which rose by 9.08 per cent to settle at Rs 74.50 a piece on the Bombay Stock Exchange.

India sugar recovers on short covering

Thursday was choppy trading session for Indian sugar derivative market. Market opened the day on a weaker note extending its previous losses on subdued trading activity. But, later prices recovered on short covering and fresh buying. Overall, trading in futures market was limited as it can be seen with low volumes. Steady trend in the physical market with limited trade activity led the futures market to show a thin trading. Futures market ended the day on a flat note after witnessing both sided trading.

Sugar Futures to Gain on Decline in Production Estimates

Sugar futures are likely to be supportive today on the heels of decline in production estimates of sugar in Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh.

As per latest data compile by Maharashtra State Co-operative Sugar Factories Federation Ltd., the total sugar production in Maharashtra is estimated at 90 lakh tonnes in 2010/11 , down 5 lakh tonnes from the previous estimate due to erratic rainfall during the sugarcane crop formation stage.

Sugar falls on adequate supplies

Sugar prices declined by up to Rs 80 per quintal on the wholesale sugar market today, on adequate stocks following increased arrivals from mills amid reduced offtake by stockists and retailers. Market analysts said comfortable stocks following increased arrivals from mills against reduced offtake by stockists and retailers, mainly pulled down wholesale sugar prices.

CCI probes alleged sugar cartel

With agricultural commodities under the watchful eye of an inflation-wary government, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) has launched a probe into alleged cartelisation in the sugar industry. It is enquiring into the Maharashtra

Cooperative Sugar Association's decision not sell sugar below a price of Rs 2,700 a quintal last July. The director-general of the CCI has called heads of sugar industry associations to appear personally, after which a report will be given to the commission. CCI last month launched a probe to ascertain if cartels were responsible for the recent sharp rise in the price of onions, another essential commodity.

Sugar ends down sluggish demand

Sugar futures ended weak on Tuesday owing to comfortable stock position in the domestic markets with 18.39 lakh tonnes of Sugar quota released for the month of February. The government has made 18.39 lakh tonnes of sugar available for sale through open market out of which, 2.16 lakh tonnes of sugar will be for supply through ration shops (levy sugar) and 16.23 lakh tonnes in the open market (Non levy sugar).

By-products to drive sugar mill profitability

The government's determination to keep a lid on inflation has meant that runaway international sugar prices do not feed into local market prices. Still, against the losses they suffered in fiscal 2011 (year ended September), sugar firms are expected to do better. Balrampur Chini Mills Ltd and Bajaj Hindusthan Ltd recently declared their results; both are large sugar firms with mills in Uttar Pradesh, which produces nearly one-fourth of India's sugar output. In a conference call, Balrampur Chini's managing director Vivek Saraogi said that by his calculations, final sugar output would be closer to about 24 million tonnes (mt).

How to get sugar up, up and away

A kilo of Indian sugar is worth 27 in New Delhi and 36 in New York. No wonder then that sugar companies are desperate to export. When global prices are at a 30-year high, it makes sense. But spooked by food inflation, the government says no. Is there a way out of this deadlock that lets mills gain without pinching our pockets? ET helps you join the dots. It is not that mills are greedy. They are content exporting half a million tonnes – proposed by the government – or just 2% of this year's output. They just wish to export now, when it is most valuable.

Inflation drops to 8.23% in Jan on cheaper sugar, wheat

Inflation declined marginally to 8.23 per cent in January from 8.43 per cent in the previous month, as prices of certain commodities such as wheat, pulses and sugar eased, although essential items such as onion and other vegetables continue to remain dearer. The fall in inflation has been mainly on account of declining prices of sugar (down 14.99 per cent), pulses (12.78 per cent), wheat (4.94 per cent) and potato (1.21 per cent).

Advance licence holders gain from sugar export opportunity

With global sugar prices on the boil, mills would obviously jump at any opportunity to export rather than sell in the domestic market. But with the Centre permitting only holders of advance licences (AL) to export - in fulfilment of their overdue re-export obligations - the handful of companies with these entitlements are taking full advantage of the opportunity thus presented. Take Sakthi Sugars Ltd (SSL), which had, at the start of the 2010-11 sugar season (October-September), a pending re-export commitment of 1.63 lakh tonnes (lt). “Out of this quantity, we have already discharged the obligation in respect of 1.53 lt. That leaves about 9,700 tonnes, which we will fulfil by the second week of March”, said Mr M. Manickam, Managing Director, SSL.

Sugar continues downtrend on production estimates

Domestic Sugar prices which had continuously declined by more than 10% MTD had shown some signs of recovery during the last week on expectations that the Indian government might allow exports under Open General License very soon. Also, reports of lower output in UP, the second major Sugar producing state in India, also provided support to the prices. The Indian government is considering “at the highest level” the Maharashtra Chief Minister, Mr Prithviraj Chavan's demand – echoed by the Union Agriculture Minister Mr Sharad Pawar as well – to completely lift the ban on export of onion and sugar.

India sugar surges on short covering

The sugar futures staged a strong rally on Saturday on heavy short covering ahead of expiry of February contract. There was shift in trade from February to March, which can be seen with change in open interest. Market participants bought March on

expectation of revival in demand for summer season especially from beverage and ice-cream industry. However, spot markets witnessed weak off-take amid higher supply of the produce.

Maharashtra sugar body seeks govt nod to export extra molasses

Faced with the problem of excess production of molasses in Maharashtra, a top sugar factory body has sought the government nod to allow its export. "The produce has touched a historic high of 17-lakh metric tonnes (MT) till this month on account of good monsoon last year. However, due to lack of adequate storage facilities, we are looking at exporting the surplus stock," Maharashtra State Cooperative Sugar Factory Federation (MSCSFF) managing director Prakash Naiknavare said.

Triveni Q1 FY 12 net sales up 21% at Rs 592 cr

Triveni Engineering & Industries Ltd. ('Triveni'), one of India's leading companies engaged in the manufacture of sugar and engineered-to-order mechanical equipment, such as steam turbines, high speed gears and water and wastewater treatment equipment, today announced its performance for the quarter ended 31st December 2010 (Q1 FY 11). In the Q1 FY 10, the sugar operations generated record profits due to higher realization prices and low cost of opening sugar inventories sold. In the subsequent quarters, the results suffered enormously due to complete mismatch between the sugar prices and cane price paid. After three successive quarters of losses in sugar operations, during Q1 FY 11 the trend has reversed.

Lack of retail offtake drags spot sugar

Spot sugar prices on the Vashi wholesale market, dropped Rs 20-25 for S-grade due to lack of fresh retail demand and selling pressure from re-sellers for December 15 maturity. M-grade sugar price ruled steady. Stockists were busy adjusting time-bound (December 15) purchases, keeping fresh tender buying at a bay. This resulted in mill tender rates dropping Rs 25-30 a quintal. Naka delivery rates declined Rs 20-25 on back of poor support of ready market. Wholesale traders said there was pressure for taking goods from mills for December 15 maturity. In resale, naka delivery S-sugar was quoted at Rs 2,870-.2,930 and M-grade Rs 2,930-2,970 a quintal.

Jan inflation eases to 8.23% on cheaper pulses, sugar

Inflation, based on the annual Wholesale Price Index (WPI), eased in January to 8.23 per cent from the 8.43 per cent reported in December, according to data released by the Government on Monday. However, the headline inflation estimate for November was raised to 8.08 per cent from the 7.48 per cent reported earlier.

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Haryana Coop sugar mills produce 11.93 lakh quintal sugar

Ten Cooperative Sugar Mills in Haryana have produced 11.93 lakh quintals of sugar by crushing 155.60 lakh quintals of sugarcane till yesterday. An official spokesperson said here that the production was much more as against merely 5.19 lakh quintals of sugar produced during the corresponding period last year. He said Shahbad Sugar Mill recorded the highest crushing of 28.11 lakh quintals of sugarcane.

Maharashtra sugar mills expect Rs 177 cr loss in Jan-Feb

The sugar industry in Maharashtra says it expects to lose Rs 177 crore in January and February. Reason: Widening gap between production cost and ex-mill realisation, non-lifting of stocks by traders and the Centre's decision to increase the levy-free quota (LFQ; also known as non-levy quota, meaning the amount mills may sell in the open market) for January and February.

Sugar units told to continue crushing till stocks last

State co-operation minister Harshvardhan Patil on Tuesday directed all sugar factories in the state to continue with sugarcane crushing till the entire stock is consumed. The minister stated that around 161 sugar factories have undertaken crushing in the ongoing season, which includes 123 co-operative and 38 private sugar factories.

Sugar tumbles on ample supply

Sugar futures settled marginally lower as higher supplies continued to weigh on the prices. Supply situation is worrying for millers as they might not sell allocated non-levy sugar quota for February. Sugar prices in coming days are expected to recover on expectations that the government may very soon take a positive decision on Sugar exports coupled with downward revision of India's 2010-11 Sugar output. However, the upside may be capped to some extent due to huge supplies in the domestic markets owing to higher quota of levy Sugar.

Haryana sugar mills to crush more cane

Sugar mills in Haryana are expected to crush around 400 lakh quintals of cane this year, up from 264 lakh quintals in the last season. Sugar mills in cooperative and private sectors will crush around 200 lakh quintals of cane each. Haryana's additional cane commissioner C P Malik told The Financial Express that the cooperative sugar mills expected to produce over 36 lakh quintals of sugar at an expected overall recovery of 9.5%. Sharing details about production, Malik told the paper, "The production of sugar cane in the last crushing season of 2009-10 was recorded to be 533 lakh quintals, of which 264 lakh quintals was crushed in the sugar mills. About 24 lakh quintals of sugar was produced out of it. In the current season of 2010-11, the production is likely to go up to 600 lakh quintals out of which 400 lakh quintal will be crushed in the sugar mills."

Decision on lifting sugar, onion export ban tomorrow: Chavan

Maharashtra Chief minister Prithviraj Chavan Wednesday said the Centre is likely to take a tomorrow a decision on lifting the ban on export of sugar and onion. The CM was speaking after inaugurating the crushing season at a sugar factory owned by the daughter of MLA Dileep Deshmukh in Deoni teshil here in Central Maharashtra. Chavan

said Maharashtra has a large number of private and cooperative sugar factories and there are many proposals pending with the government to open such units.

Haryana Co-operative Mills Produces Almost 12 lakh Quintals of Sugar So Far In the Current Year

Ten Cooperative Sugar Mills of Haryana have produced 12.26 lakh quintals of sugar by crushing 159.32 lakh quintals of sugarcane so far this season as against merely 5.36 lakh quintals of sugar produced during the corresponding period last year. The Haryana State Federation of Cooperative Sugar Mills said Shahbad sugar mill recorded the highest crushing of 29.05 lakh quintals of sugarcane followed by Gohana sugar mill with 19.01 lakh quintal, Karnal sugar mill 16.18 lakh quintals and Kaithal sugar mill 16.17 lakh quintals.

Govt to decide on freeing up sugar exports on Monday

The union minister of state for food and civil supplies K V Thomas assured the problem-ridden Maharashtra cooperative sugar industry that the empowered group of ministers would take a decision on sugar exports at its meeting slated for Monday. He admitted that the decision to export 500,000 tonnes of sugar under open general license has been kept in abeyance but assured that decision is expected at Monday's meeting.

Better days ahead for sugar companies

While higher input costs negated volume and price gains of sugar companies in the December quarter, prospects appear bright on lower costs and firm prices. Despite a strong revenue performance, leading sugar majors reported a significant fall in net profits for the quarter ended December 2010. While the positives for the companies have been higher sugar prices as well as volume gains, it was not enough to cover the increase in input costs of sugar cane and higher other operating expenses. Importantly as a result of paper thin operating margins, higher interest costs impacted profits considerably.

Sugar worth Rs 8,400 crore rots in Maharashtra

More than half the sugar produced so far this year in Maharashtra – about 3.4 million tonnes valued at Rs 8,398 crore – remains unsold. It is lying in the godowns of the

state's sugar mills, according to the Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories in Maharashtra. This has queered the pitch for relaxation of norms for levy-free sugar, which has to be sold the same month. The higher levy-free quota (LFQ) for January and February, allotted by the Centre, has not yet been used up. The LFQ for these two months was raised by 84.25 per cent and 17.39 per cent, respectively, over last year. The total production in Maharashtra is estimated to tip the scales at 9.1 million tonnes before this year is out, which will be more than a third of the country's total production.

Sugar factories face credit troubles

First, the good news. In spite of losing money, sugar factories have not stopped clearing cane bills within the statutory period. What is, however, disturbing is that the factories are fast using up their credit limits for the season with banks and once the limits are exhausted cane dues will start building up. It is not proving easy for factories to get credit accommodation in line with their handling a much bigger crop in their respective areas as the banks expectedly are also factoring in the industry's poor financial records in the recent past. Banks have reasons to wonder, if factories could not make money in the past two short crop seasons, how their fortunes will improve in times of plenty now!

Government support driving up sugar's prices

On 18th February 2011, at Multi Commodity Exchange the prices of Sugar for the March month contracts increased by almost 0.75% to reach Rs 2,950 per kg. The total traded quantity of the commodity stood at 149 slots representing Rs 438.96 crore in value terms. According to industry experts the ongoing marriage season is supporting the increase in the prices of the commodity. Along with it the government decision to take necessary steps to protect sugar sector from making losses is also driving up the prices of the commodity.

Sugar price remains quiet on some support

Sugar prices continued to be at previous levels in the wholesale market today due to adequate stocks position against scattered small buying. Marketmen said apart from heavy stocks position, small buying from retailers and bulk consumers mainly held sugar prices around last levels.

Sugar rises on fresh buying

Mixed sentiments prevailed across Sugar markets on Wednesday with spot prices ending marginally lower by 0.14%, whereas, futures closed higher by 0.68%. After testing a low of Rs. 2795 per qtl levels, Sugar futures bounced back and touched a high of Rs. 2843 per qtl after the positive statement of farm minister on sugar exports.

As per latest statement of Farm Minister, Indian government can once again re-think on white sugar exports in order to take the benefit of high global prices.

India sugar drops on selling pressure

The sugar futures were on a downward trend in first part of Wednesday on continued selling pressure. Poor buying interest in the physical market also kept the market under pressure.

Sugar Recovers On Export News

Short covering seen in sugar futures in the afternoon trading after the positive statement of Agri minister on sugar exports. The NCDEX Benchmark March contract increased by almost Rs. 15 per quintal from its intraday low in today's trading. As per latest statement of Indian Agricultural Minister, Indian government can once again re-think on white sugar exports in order to take the benefit of high global prices. However, government sources mentioned that a decision on whether to allow 500,000 tonnes of unrestricted sugar exports under the Open General Licence (OGL) scheme could take another three weeks.

Sugar output up by over 16% at 13.4 mn tn till Feb

The government data stated that in the initial 4 and half months of the 2010-11 crop years, India's output of sugar surged by more than 16 per cent to 13.4 million tonnes against 11.5 million tonnes in the initial 4 and half months of the 2009-10 crop years. Meanwhile, the mills recorded a production of sugar of 13.4 million tonnes till February 15 of this crop year whereas the output is more by 16 per cent from last year.

Sugar mills survive on byproducts in a dull year

Depressed prices and a lower offtake have strained the finances of sugar companies this season. But about a half of cooperative mills in Maharashtra have managed to stay afloat thanks to byproducts such as power, ethanol and carbon credits. Sugars prices have dipped to Rs 26/kg and mills have not been able to sell the February quota till now. They have to pay anything between Rs 1,500/quintal and Rs 2,000/quintal for cane excluding the harvesting and transport charges. With sugar prices becoming uneconomical, mills having no by-products have been affected the most. The Bhima Patas Cooperative Sugar Mill in Pune district falls in this category.

Sugar production rises over 16%

The country's sugar output rose by over 16% to 13.4 million tonne in the first four-and-half months of the 2010-11 crop year, as against 11.5 million tonne in the year-ago period. "Mills have reported sugar production of 13.4 million tonne till February 15 of this crop year. The output is higher by 16% from the year-ago period," a senior government official said. The government has estimated sugar output at 24.5 million tonne in the ongoing 2010-11 crop year (October-September), as against around 19 million tonne in the previous year.

Sugar ends flat in thin trade

Lethargic conditions persisted on the wholesale sugar market at national capital today as prices continued to be asked at previous closing levels in scattered deals against adequate stocks position. Market analysts said selective buying by retailers and bulk consumers against ample stocks position, mainly kept sugar prices around overnight levels.

Export hopes sweeten sugar

Spot sugar prices on the Vashi wholesale terminal market increased by Rs 10-15 on Monday on hopes the Centre will allow exports of at least 5 lakh tonnes. At naka and mill levels, prices gained by Rs 15-20 a quintal. The volume improved on higher demand from local and other State markets. The undertone of the market was bullish as retailers rushed to buy after the weekend holidays. Mr Jagdish Rawal, Joint Secretary of the Bombay Sugar Merchants Association said that the sentiment improved on hopes the Government may allow sugar exports of 5 lakh tonnes.

Kenya: Sh11 Billion Sugar Factory Stalls Over Land Dispute

Nairobi The construction of a Sh11 billion sugar factory on the outskirts of Kisumu has been halted after a government agency raised questions over the ownership of land on which it's to be built.

Ethiopia: Hiber Sugar Shortlists Two Candidates for Feasibility Study, Design

Hiber Sugar SC (under formation) shortlisted JP Mukarji & Associates (JPMA) Plc and HVA International Consultants as candidates to conduct a feasibility study and design its planned factory, three weeks ago.

Sugar project needs investors

A sugar cane plantation project seeking to tap idle and lahar-devastated lands in Central Luzon is up for grabs after the Lotte Group of Korea decided to shift its attention to Northern Luzon for a similar project.

Florida sugar cane growers end second shortest season with crop down 20 percent

BELLE GLADE December's record-breaking freezes decreased its sugar cane crop by an estimated 20 percent, the Sugar Cane Growers Cooperative of Florida said today.

New measures to boost sugar supply

The European Commission confirmed, at the meeting of the EU's agriculture ministers on 21 February in Brussels, its intention to implement measures in March to address sugar supply problems in the Union. Agriculture Commissioner Dacian Ciolos...

Brazilian ethanol use will decline on high sugar prices

ETHANOL consumption in Brazil should fall in the 2011/12 season as high sugar prices buoy prices of the fuel, making it less competitive than gasoline at filling stations, Datagro analysts said yesterday.

EU to vote Thursday on extra sugar imports

AN EU committee will vote on Thursday on whether to open a new import quota for sugar at reduced duties, to ease a supply shortage on the EU market, the European Commission (EC) said on Monday.

Katter urges union to save sugar industry

Federal independent MP Bob Katter has urged the Australian Workers' Union to help save Queensland's sugar industry from ruin by campaigning for wider ethanol use.

Bunge to Pursue Australia Sugar Opportunities as Bid Blocked

Bunge Ltd. will continue to seek acquisition opportunities in the sugar industry in Australia, the third-largest exporter, after it's A\$126.7 million (\$127 million) bid for Tully Sugar Ltd. was blocked.

International Sugarbeet Institute set March 16-17 in Fargo

FARGO, N.D. Sugarbeet growers will want to circle March 16-17 on their calendars as a note to attend the 49th annual International Sugarbeet Institute.

FSC board meeting in Suva

The Fiji Sugar Corporation board of directors is meeting in Suva today to discuss a number of important issues and challenges facing the sugar industry.

Babinda sugar mill workers prepare for closure

Workers at a far north Queensland sugar mill will be farewelled today with the closure of the Babinda mill, south of Cairns.

Babinda sugar mill workers say goodbye

Maryborough Sugar Factory has confirmed that it will close the gates at the Babinda sugar mill in far north Queensland for the final time this Friday.

Sugar industry gets E118m for tar roads

MBABANE- The local sugar farming industry has received a boost of about E118m to help tar routes used to transport cane to mills.

Sugar factories face credit troubles

First, the good news. In spite of losing money, sugar factories have not stopped clearing cane bills within the statutory period. What is, however, disturbing is that the factories are fast using up their credit limits for the season with banks and once the limits are exhausted cane dues will start building up.

Documentary shows sour side of sugar industry Price of Sugar category

The Price of Sugar, an award winning documentary about the conditions Haitian workers face on sugar plantations in the Dominican Republic, will be shown on Wednesday, Feb. 23, at 6 p.m. in Amphitheater III on the Worcester campus. The film, which is narrated by Paul Newman and highlights the human cost of producing sugar, follows Father Christopher Hartley, a Spanish priest, as he organizes workers to fight for basic human rights

QSL rejects constitutional change at Tully Sugar

QSL (Queensland Sugar Ltd) has confirmed that its Board has voted unanimously to reject a constitutional change proposal put forward by Tully Sugar Ltd (Tully) as a condition of a takeover bid by international agri-business firm Bunge.

Sugar ends higher on limited stocks

Sugar spot prices ended marginally higher 0.04% while Sugar futures settled marginally lower as markets are flooded with huge stocks of levy quota.

The Central Government has decided to make available 18.86 lakh tons of sugar for the month of March, 2011 which includes, levy sugar - 2.02 lakh tons, non-levy normal sugar quota - 13 lakh tons, White/refined sugar processed out of imported raw sugar - 0.34 lakh tonnes and unsold non levy quota of February - 3.5 lakh tonnes.

Medium-term prospects for sugar look strong

Indian sugar companies faced a margin squeeze with declining product prices and higher raw material costs in the last sugar season (October 2009-September 2010). This has changed for the better in the past five months as sugarcane cost has moderated and prices have firmed up marginally with expectations of lower than projected production.

Govt releases 18.86 lakh tonnes of sugar for March

The government has made 18.86 lakh tonnes of sugar available for sale through open market and ration shops for the month of March 2011, which is marginally more than the current month. "This quantity of 18.86 lakh tonnes is sufficient to meet the internal demand of sugar for March," said an official release. The government had released 18.39 lakh tonnes of the sweetener for February.

Physical sugar traders seek parity with futures traders

The high court here has been approached on the different norms applicable for traders engaged in physical trading of sugar, as opposed to futures trading. The Maharashtra Sugar Merchant & Brokers Association, representing the physical traders, has argued that the high volumes on the commodity exchange due to the different norms are affecting the price. Its petition appeals for uniformity in the treatment of both types of traders.

INTERNATIONAL SUGAR INDUSTRY

Kenya: Chemelil Vow to Reverse a Sour Season

Nairobi Some of the finest players in Kenyan football are a product of Chemelil Sugar FC.

Kenya: Mumias Sugar Invests Sh451 Million On Cash Projects

Nairobi Mumias Sugar Company invested Sh451.3 million in the last six months of last year in a number of projects expected to boost its earnings this year.

Mumias Sugar of Kenya Falls Most in Two Years as First-Half Profit Drops

Mumias Sugar Co. Ltd., Kenyas biggest maker of the sweetener, slumped to its lowest close in a year after saying fiscal first-half profit declined 22 percent as heavy rainfall hampered sugarcane deliveries.

Ethiopia offers India farmland for investment

In what could give a big boost to India's efforts at food security, Ethiopia has offered 1.8 million hectares of its farmland to Indian investors that equal nearly 40 percent of the total area of the principal grain-growing state of Punjab.

Ethiopia: Waterworks Enterprise Begins Surveying for New Sugar Devt

The state owned Ethiopian Waterworks Design and Supervision Enterprise (EWDSE) began surveying work on Kuraz Sugar Development Project earlier this month, following the signing of a contract with the Ethiopian Sugar Development Corporation, on December 28, 2010.

NFU calls for 'rebalancing of risk' on sugar beet

The NFU's sugar board chairman has warned British Sugar that there needs to be a "rebalancing of risk" to give farmers confidence to continue growing the crop.

Farmer Geoff Hotchkin of Litte Hale, Lincolnshire, faces destroying 23 acres of sugar beet after freezing temperatures, followed by thaw, left the crop rotting in the field.

Mr Hotchkin told Farmers Weekly chief reporter Johann Tasker that the state of the field and the variability in condition of the beet meant it was impossible for a contractor to lift as a whole crop.

NFU and British Sugar announce exceptional measures

AGAINST a backdrop of increasing grower anger and frustration during what has turned out to be one of the most disastrous sugar beet lifting campaigns in living memory, British Sugar and the NFU have issued a statement of exceptional measures to maximise remaining processable beet through the factories.

Regulatory fast-tracking needed to remedy sugar deficit, says food and drink lobby

The food and drink sugar users lobby has warned the European Commission that any further delays in intervention to remedy the sugar deficit in the market could result in even greater supply repercussions this autumn.

Sugar exec warns of artificial sweeteners in food, beverage

BACOLOD CITY, Philippines: sugar industry leader has warned that some food and beverage manufacturers might be using artificial sweeteners or sugar substitutes, which are harmful to the health.

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Fiji's peak sugar producer has not ruled out trying to enter the Australian market to fill the huge production-short fall caused by recent flooding in the state of Queensland.

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Cosan makes the most of strong sugar/ethanol markets

STRONG sugar and ethanol sales at good prices have put Brazil's Cosan on track for an impressive set of quarterly results. Brazil's largest sugar and ethanol group said net revenue climbed 25% versus a year earlier to reais4.74bn in a provisional statement ahead of its full results on February 9.

LARGEST AND OLDEST SUGAR MILL IN ECUADOR MODERNIZES WITH WEG AUTOMATION SOLUTION

Responsible for 33% of the sugar produced in Ecuador, the Ingenio Valdez sugar mill will operate with a completely automated extraction process, following the installation of WEG automation and control equipment. In addition to increasing the processing capacity of the mill, the WEG equipment will also enable Ingenio Valdez to reduce its energy costs, and cut manual plant input.

Kenyan sugar miller optimistic over new ethanol plant

KENYA'S biggest sugar miller, Mumias Sugar Company yesterday forecast it could earn Ksh2bn (\$24.58m) from a new ethanol distillation plant once it is in production next year.

Sugar rises to 30-year high on Australian cyclone fears

Sugar rose to a 30-year high in New York and reached the highest price since 1989 in London on speculation Cyclone Yasi will damage the crop in Australia, the world's third largest exporter. Sugar-industry losses from Yasi may start at A\$500 million including crop losses and damage to sheds and machinery, growers group Cane growers said on Wednesday. Sugar gained 18% in the past year in New York on crop damage in Brazil, Pakistan and parts of Europe.

Uganda: Mumias Eyes Sh2 Billion From Ethanol Plant

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PRESIDENT Yoweri Museveni has castigated members of the opposition from northern Uganda who wanted to sabotage the building of a sugar factory in Amuru district.

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Cyclone shuts refinery, ports, sugar mills

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Group calls on feds to impose a sugar tax

OTTAWA A Quebec coalition wants the federal government to impose a new tax on soft drinks and energy drinks to help pay for the fight against obesity.

Sugar beet harvest is beaten by the cold

SEVERE wintry weather has had a disastrous impact on sugar beet yields outside Boston, with some farmers ready to turn their back on the crop for good.

EU commits to reviewing sugar regime - after 2015

The campaign by former beet growers to revive the Irish sugar industry received some encouragement this week when the EU's Agriculture Commissioner confirmed that the current sugar quota system would be reviewed.

All beet growers feeling the pinch

FOLLOWING the NFU and British Sugars announcement of a programme of exceptional measures in a bid to restore some confidence in the sugar beet crop, Farmers Guardian spoke to growers and hauliers to discover their experiences this season.

Cuba says sugar harvest off to good start

HAVANA, Feb 3 (Reuters) - Cuba's sugar harvest got off to a good start in January with all 39 mills scheduled to open now grinding and yields higher than expected, state-run radio said on Thursday, as the country strains to top a million tonnes of raw sugar by May.

Duty Free Fuel for Cane Farmers

With the ever increasing cost of fuel in the country, the Government of Belize has once again decided to assist the cane farmers in the northern districts of Corozal and Orange Walk through a direct subsidy for the price that they pay for fuel.

Cane Farmers thank PM for saving Sugar Industry

In a small but heartfelt gesture, the Cane Farmers Association expressed their appreciation to the Prime Minister Hon. Dean Barrow for rescuing the industry from the brink. On Tuesday, February 1, the Prime Minister was presented with a plaque of appreciation by representatives of the Cane Farmers Association.

Industry: Sugar bill won't pass

A bill introduced last month in the Senate that would scrap much of the U.S. sugar program stands little chance of passage, according to industry officials.

Australia cyclone may have destroyed 15 pct of sugar crop

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Rains to hit Maharashtra sugar output

Sugar output in India's Maharashtra state, the nation's biggest producer, may be less than forecast after heavy rain ahead of the harvests reduced the recovery rate and yield, a producers group said.

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Zim's Sugar Conglomerates Take-Over Okayed

Masvingo - A closed door meeting which was attended by Zimbabwean Vice President John Nkomo (Pictured) is believed to have given a green light for the complete takeover of sugar conglomerates Hippo Valley and Triangle and parcel out the land to indigenous black farmers who are Zanu (PF) supporters.

Uganda: Residents Accept Sugar Factory in Amuru

RESIDENTS of Amuru district have finally accepted the establishment of a multi-billion sugar project at Lujoro village, near River Nile.

Uganda: Alam Group Says It Won't Poach Kakira Cane Farmers

THE Alam Group, which is setting up a new sugar factory in Jinja, has promised to introduce sugarcane collection centres in Busoga region to cut on the transport costs incurred by farmers.

Uganda: Why Madhvani Opposes New Sugar Plant

MAYUR Madhvani, the managing director of the Madhvani Group told us why they are opposed to

British Sugars drive to process East Anglias beet crops

An operation to salvage as much sugar beet in East Anglia as possible is making better progress than many had expected, it emerged yesterday.

U.S. OKs planting of Monsanto's modified sugar beets despite court ban

Move comes after USDA estimates of a sugar shortage. Regulators place some restrictions on the plantings pending a court-ordered review. Opponents say they'll go to court again to try to stop the action.

Biotech sugar beets get USDA's OK for spring planting

Farmers this spring can continue planting Monsanto's genetically modified sugar beets, federal regulators announced Friday, despite an earlier court ruling that government approval for planting the beets violated environmental law.

U.S. Says Farmers May Grow Engineered Sugar Beets

The Department of Agriculture said on Friday that American farmers could resume growing genetically engineered sugar beets that had been barred by a federal judge.

Sugar shortage likely after Australia cyclone

World sugar supplies will probably fall short of demand, said Rabobank Groep, after a cyclone with winds stronger than Hurricane Katrina destroyed homes and smashed crops in Australia, driving prices to 30-year highs. Read more: <http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/11038/1123621-82.stm?cmpid=nationworld.xml#ixzz1DFfHvOT8>

Guyana pledges US\$5m to state-owned sugar company

GEORGETOWN, Guyana (AP) The Government of Guyana says it will give the state-owned sugar company a US\$5-million grant to spur production following last year's large-scale strikes and heavy rains.

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Capisterre Farm Sews Seeds of Self Sufficiency

Basseterre, St. Kitts, February 04, 2011 (SKNIS): With the launching of the Capisterre Farm Project last Friday, the Government of St. Kitts and Nevis and the Sugar Industry Diversification Foundation (SIDF) commenced a new era in large-scale farming operations in the Federation.

Sugar will bounce back after cyclone: Rabobank

TOWNSVILLE - Australia's sugarcane industry is likely to recover from last week's devastating cyclone and boost production as demand for the sweetener increases, a Rabobank executive said on Tuesday.

Maryborough and Bundaberg Sugar to close mill

A venture run by Australian sugar processors Bundaberg Sugar and Maryborough Sugar Factory is to close a mill in northern Queensland.

Hope remains for Babinda as sugar mill goes

The Member for Mulgrave says the closure of the Babinda Sugar Mill is bad news for the far north Queensland town but he is hopeful it will bring new opportunities.

Canegrowers sour over Babinda sugar mill closure

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Babinda Mill will be put up for closure

AUSTRALIA'S last remaining listed sugar company The Maryborough Sugar Factory Ltd says it is seeking to close its Babinda Mill joint-venture with Bundaberg Sugar Ltd in Queensland.

Sugar industry dealt another blow

MACKAYS waterlogged sugar industry has been dealt another blow. It will be slugged up to \$15 a tonne of sugar for three years after Queensland Sugar Limited (QSL) was forced to buy from international markets to meet supply commitments.

QSL says lessons to take from shocking sugar season

SUGAR exporter Queensland Sugar Ltd (QSL) says there is light at the end of the tunnel in its 2010 season update in which it assesses the extreme weather conditions during the 2010 season and the impacts on the industry of the 25 per cent drop in raw sugar export volumes in 2010.

Family rum distillers have fire in the belly

AUCTIONING off a bottle of home -brewed rum for \$200 at the Kununurra Agriculture show in 1996 was the first step towards establishing Canefire Rum and the Kimberley Rum Company for the Passmore family.

Sugar policy must create export surplus, not induce imports (Comment)

There is a huge opportunity this year for the sugar industry to sustain a high output. But meaningless controls will only convert the opportunities to threats and create hurdles for stake-holders, including cane farmers at the end of the line.

Planters offer solution for premix sugar

THE national officers of the Confederation of Sugar Producers Association, Inc. presented their solutions to the sugar industrys problem of the surge in imported premix sugar.

Cane Industry At Crisis Crossroads

The cane season is at a crisis crossroads tonight after Belize Sugar Industries today announced that it will have to shut down for three weeks.

Opponents file competing suits in fight over RR sugar beets

Competing legal maneuvers are throwing an already uncertain situation surrounding biotech sugar beets into further chaos.

High-speed trading blamed for sugar rises

By Javier Blas in London , Financial Times, 8 Feb 2011 Ten years ago it took the sugar market six months to move 2 cents. In the past three months, it has moved 2 cents in just one day on five occasions. Last Thursday, it moved this much in a single second.

Sugar Cane Growers Council pays tribute

The Sugar Cane Growers Council has described the late former President of Fiji and Tui Vuda Ratu Josefa Iloilo as a true statesman who always had time for the people including many cane farmers

Ugandas raw sugar output increases

UGANDA'S 2011 raw sugar output is forecast to expand by 20%, lifted by a capacity upgrade at one of the major producers, as well as favourable weather, a senior industry official said on Tuesday.

Uganda: Assist Sugarcane Out-Growers

THE Madhvani Group has written to President Yoweri Museveni protesting the establishment of a new sugar plant in Jinja by Alam Group.

Tanzania: Villagers Wreak Havoc on Farm Properties

About 900 irate villagers of Kiru in Babati district on January 29 invaded two properties owned by large scale farmers and set on fire factories, tractors, cars and farm produce.

Tanzania: Babati's Kiru Valley Erupts in Chaos

For the about 30 Members of the Asian community living within the Kiru valley January 29 and 30 was apocalyptic. They are now reported to have fled Babati-Rural, fearing for their lives after armed irate peasants invaded their farms and went ahead to destroy crops, premises and setting the estates on fire.

Assist sugarcane out-growers

THE Madhvani Group has written to President Yoweri Museveni protesting the establishment of a new sugar plant in Jinja by Alam Group. The Madhvanis argue that the setting up of the new factory just nine kilometres away from their plant in Kakira, does not only contravene the national sugar policy, but that the new investor was likely to infringe on the out-growers that the Madhvani group has developed over the past 80 years.

Sugar mill to close in blow to cyclone town

The far north Queensland community of Babinda survived Cyclone Yasi, but is now reeling after news the town's sugar mill will be closed down.

Babinda Mill put up for closure

Australia's last remaining listed sugar company The Maryborough Sugar Factory Ltd says it is seeking to close its Babinda Mill joint-venture with Bundaberg Sugar Ltd in Queensland.

Australia's Maryborough Sugar mulls ceasing JV with Bundaberg

Australia-based sugar maker MARYBOROUGH SUGAR FACTORY LTD (ASX:MSF) says it's seeking to close its Babinda Mill joint-venture with BUNDABERG SUGAR LTD in Queensland. Under the proposal, which is subject to consultation with staff and union representatives, operations at Babinda, south of Cairns, would be transferred to the Mulgrave and South Johnstone mills.

Sugar mill jobs in doubt

The owners of the Babinda Sugar Mill in far north Queensland say it is no longer viable and they are considering closing it, putting more than 60 jobs at risk.

Toyo Sugar Refining 9-mth group results

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Sugar cane options

THERE are a lot of areas in which the sugar cane plant can be utilised, and if the industry is to be further developed and to progress here in Barbados, those involved in

the industry must begin to think beyond the traditional, to identify other possibilities that exist.

USDA partially deregulates genetically engineered sugar beets

USDA has partially deregulated genetically engineered sugar beets that are resistant to the herbicide glyphosate as an interim measure while it completes a court-ordered environmental review.

Cane and confusion!

Belize Sugar Industries (BSI) is reporting that it will be forced to temporarily close down operations at the Tower Hill processing factory for up to four weeks after two steam turbines generating about 25 megawatts worth of electric power to supply the sugar mill, as well as power for Belize Electricity Limited (BEL), developed serious problems in the past few days.

BSI catastrophe

Whenever you hear us talking about certain things, like sports or culture or politics, we at this newspaper have a really good idea whereof we speak. Where we are not authoritative, we have access to experts and consultants whose knowledge we trust and whose integrity we prize.

Turbine Failure Shuts Down BSI - Estimated downtime: 4-5 weeks!

Six thousand sugarcane farmers will be out of work for a month because the Belize Sugar Industry (BSI) has shut down its factory to give Belize Co-generation Electricity Limited (BELCOGEN) time to service its malfunctioning turbines.

Barbados sugar industry broke

The industry doesn't have any money, he told reporters. He was briefing the media on yesterday's round of wage negotiations between the Barbados Workers Union (BWU), the Barbados Sugar Industry Limited (BSIL) which he chairs, the Barbados Agricultural Management Company Ltd (BAMC) and the Barbados Employers Confederation (BEC).

Business Monday: Increased output, stronger euro needed for higher sugar earnings

IN order for this years sugar crop to top the more than \$25 million earned last year, the industry would have to increase output while at the same time hoping for an appreciation in the euro vis a vis the US dollar.

Viva la revolucion? Cuba to remove sugar subsidies

In another measure designed to reduce the states control of the economy and promote private enterprise, the Communist government of Cuba announced it will liberalize the sale of sugar, after subsidizing its price for decades

Hot weather leads to sugar production reduction - report

Swazilands sugar production has decreased due to hot weather conditions that led to lower sucrose content, the Central Bank of Swaziland (CBS) says in its quarterly review report. The bank says sugar production decreased by 7.2% during the first year of the 2010/11 cropping season despite an increase in sugar cane produced in the same period. Sugar production was 445 366 metric tonnes, a decrease from 479 847 metric tonnes produced in the 2009/10 season, the bank says.

Egypt sugar stocks can last until October

CAIRO Feb 13 (Reuters) - Egypt's state-owned Sugar and Integrated Industries Company (SIIC) has sugar stocks to last until October, Hussein Mohamed, the firm's purchasing manager said.

Full extent of sugar beet crisis still unfolding

The full extent of this disastrous sugar beet campaign for growers and British Sugar is still unfolding. Both face substantial losses - more than 1500 for every condemned hectare for growers and millions in lost profits for the processor.

High sugar prices help US farmers pay off debt

NEW ORLEANS (AP) A series of disasters in Australia's sugarcane region and foul weather in Brazil, India and China have driven up world sugar prices, and many U.S. farmers are making enough to pay off loans and buy new equipment.

Food ministry to seek nod for sugar export

Under pressure from various quarters and buoyed by higher estimates of sugarcane production, the food ministry is now set to fast-track the process of seeking sugar export approval from an empowered group of ministers headed by Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee.

Factories refuse pay revised prices to sugarcane farmers

PUNE: Despite the decision taken at a meeting of representatives of farmers, co-op sugar factories and the government, some factories in Ahmednagar district are not paying the revised advances to sugarcane farmers.

Sugar Falls for Third Day on Speculation Brazil Supply to Rise

Sugar fell for a third day in London on speculation supplies from Brazil, the world's largest producer, will increase when the new harvest begins. Cosan SA Industria & Comercio said yesterday it plans to boost its capacity for producing sugar and processing cane. It also said cane output in Center South, Brazil's main growing region, may come to as much as 575 million metric tons this year. Production in the area was 542 million tons in the previous marketing season, according to figures from the Brazilian Sugarcane Industry Association, or Unica.

Guyana tells EU stop criticizing and help

GEORGETOWN, Guyana, Wednesday February 16, 2011 Agriculture Minister Robert Persaud has told the European Union that instead of criticizing the countrys sugar production targets, it should just fulfill commitments it has made to the Guyana government.

Loss of EU aid more proof of sugar mismanagement

The Alliance For Change (AFC) has criticized the administration over the loss of \$3.8B in European Union aid for the sugar industry. Guyana will lose out on the aid after government failed to reach certain commitments and according to the AFC

FSC will maintain faulty boiler

THE problem-plagued Rarawai Mill boiler will not be replaced. This was confirmed by Fiji Sugar Corporation executive chairman, Abdul Khan to The Fiji Times yesterday.

Sugar beet decision comes in nick of time for Michigan farmers

LANSING With sugar beet planting in Michigan only about a month away, farmers received a bit of good news today with an announcement from the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) that Roundup Ready sugar beets can continue to be grown, but under certain conditions while USDA completes a full environmental impact statement.

Meet the Sugar Beet

I hadn't thought much about sugar beets since, at least until they hit the news as one more of Monsanto's contested, genetically modified crops. Like GM alfalfa, GM sugar beets are thought to pose a threat to organic farming by potentially spreading their tinkered-with genetic code via pollen to other crops. Because of that risk, a federal judge banned this spring's planting of so-called Roundup Ready sugar beets, a biotech beet modified to withstand Roundup, a Monsanto herbicide that kills weeds but not the genetically immune beet itself. But then, two weeks ago, the United States Department of Agriculture partially lifted that ban prompting environmental groups to file suit and the sugar beet industry to file counter suit.

Kenya sugar sector reforms underway

The government has so far disbursed Sh18.87 billion through the Kenya Sugar Board (KSB) to the sugar industry.

Sudan: Profits of Kenana Sugar Company Amount to 20 Million U.S. Dollars

Khartoum A meeting of the Executive Committee and Board of Directors of Kenana Sugar Company Thursday approved a proposal put forward by the Managing Director of the Company, Mohammed Al-Mardi Al-Tigani, with regard to the distribution of profits, amounting to 20 million US dollars, among the share-holders prior to forwarding this proposal to the meeting of the General Assembly next March.

Kenya: Mumias Bets on New Improved Rating to Win Financiers for Projects

Mumias Sugar Company is seeking soft financing to venture into the acquisition of stakes in local sugar firms that are set for privatisation.

Kenya: Sugar Sector Reforms Underway

Nairobi The government has so far disbursed Sh18.87 billion through the Kenya Sugar Board (KSB) to the sugar industry.

Tereos Internacional benefits from booming sugar market

Sugar and ethanol producer Tereos Internacional, a unit of France's Tereos Group, said it increased its total revenues in Q4 2010 by 31% on the year to BRL1.6 bln (\$1=BRL 1.661), mainly driven by increasing sales from its sugar and ethanol mills in Brazil and the Indian Ocean (La Runion and Mozambique).

Iraq makes move to ease shortage of sugar

IRAQ'S recent purchase of more than 200,000 tonnes of white sugar, more than a quarter of its annual requirement, has eased a severe shortage in the nation's food rationing programme, the head of the state-run Iraqi Foodstuff Trading Company said on Sunday.

British Sugar will shutter four beet plants within days

BRITISH Sugar plans to close four UK processing plants temporarily after fluctuating temperatures devastated the beet crop.

Russian raw sugar refining ahead of last year

Russia produced 137,900 tonnes of white sugar from imported raws between January 1 and February 11, compared with 45,900 tonnes in the same period a year ago, the Russian Sugar Producers Union Soyuzrossakhar said. During the period refineries processed 140,500 tonnes of raw sugar compared with 46,700 tonnes a year ago. Raw sugar refining is expected to remain strong after local beet white sugar production remained below earlier expectations following a summer drought.

Tully Sugar cuts output forecasts ahead of vote on Bunge offer

AUSTRALIA'S Tully Sugar today cut its estimate of raw sugar output next season by 30 per cent to 175,000 metric tons, citing damage by the category-five Cyclone Yasi.

Tanzania: Dar es Salaam Set to Expand Sugar Production

The government plans to expand sugar production targeting the huge East African market.

Fall out of the sugar industry

THERE could be both financial losses and employment fall out if Barbados decided against restructuring the sugar industry.

Sugar cos refuse to pay revised prices to farmers

PUNE: Despite the decision taken at a meeting of representatives of farmers, co-op sugar factories and the government, some factories in Ahmednagar district are not paying the revised advances to sugarcane farmers.

EU readies sugar market intervention

The European Commission has fleshed out imminent plans to intervene on the EU sugar market, it emerged this week.

Redefining Indonesian sugar policy

Agus Pakpahan, in his article "Seeking a made in Indonesia policy" (The Jakarta Post, Jan. 17), was correct on a number of points. Its true that Indonesia must be concerned about the future price of sugar.

Study tours for young sugar beet growers

Young sugar beet growers will get to see how the sugar industry works in joint programme launched by British Sugar and the NFU.

"Al Khaleej Sugar" Sponsors and Supports "Kingsman Dubai Sugar Conference 2011"

ubai, United Arab Emirates; 15 February 2011: In its leadership to spread its message to the world and make a difference in the sugar industry, "Al Khaleej Sugar (AKS)", the largest standalone refinery in the world announces its diamond sponsorship of the 7th Dubai Sugar Conference 2011. Hosted and organized by Kingsman, who built a first class reputation for market analysis and research in the sugar industry since 1990 this

event will be held in Dubai at Ritz Carlton Hotel (DIFC) from the 20th till the 22nd of February 2011.

ISO Egypt sugar conference postponed, expected 2012

An International Sugar Organization (ISO) conference set to take place in Aswan between March 5-8 has been postponed due to political upheaval in Egypt.

Katter urges union to save sugar industry

Federal independent MP Bob Katter has urged the Australian Workers' Union to help save Queensland's sugar industry from ruin by campaigning for wider ethanol use.

Qld waits on more national disaster aid

The commonwealth has room to step up aid for Queensland's farmers and businesses after a summer of natural disasters, the state's Primary Industries Minister Tim Mulherin says.

Kenya: Sugarcane Workers to Get Paid Via Phones

Nairobi Over 13,000 sugarcane cutters in Mumias Sugar zone will start receiving their pay electronically following a deal between Mumias Sugar Company, Family Bank and mobile phone money transfer service providers.

Morocco struggles to secure sugar from local crops

MOROCCO'S plan to raise its self-sufficiency in sugar through more local beet and cane has not been going well.

Brazil's Cosan, Shell To Boost Output At Raizen Ethanol Venture

SAO PAULO -(Dow Jones)- Brazilian sugar and ethanol group Cosan Industria e Comercio SA (CSAN3.BR) and Royal Dutch Shell (RDSA.LN) disclosed more details Monday about the \$12 billion ethanol joint venture the companies formed last year, which will be called Raizen.

Shell, Brazil's Cosan form \$12 billion ethanol unit

SAO PAULO, Brazil (AFP) Anglo-Dutch energy giant Shell and Brazilian sugar-production group Cosan said Monday they were forming one of the biggest joint ethanol fuel ventures in the world, with an estimated market value of \$12 billion.

Bunge reports weak sugar and bioenergy result

US agribusiness major Bunge Ltd. in its Q4 (Oct/Dec) 2010 report announced weak results for its sugar and bioenergy division.

BCSML to sale power to GRIDCO, export quality sugar

Bhubaneswar, Feb 11 : Bijayananda Cooperative Sugar Mills Limited (BCSML) Bolangir has planned to sale power generated from bagasse to Grid Corportaion and export quality sugar by setting up a refinery to make the unit a profitable one.

Co-operative sugar mills produce 11.93 lakh quintals of sugar

Chandigarh, Feb 14 : Ten Cooperative Sugar Mills in Haryana have produced 11.93 lakh quintals of sugar by crushing 155.60 lakh quintals of sugarcane so far this season as against merely 5.19 lakh quintals of sugar produced during the corresponding period last year.

Cargill starts shipping sugar from Louisiana Sugar Refining

Cargill has started shipping sugar from Louisiana Sugar Refining (LSR), of which it holds a one-third stake, the company has said.

More Western sugar may go East -refiner

LONDON, Feb 14 (Reuters) - More sugars from Western hemisphere origins such as Latin America could be shipped to the Far East if Australian output falls due to the impact of floods and a cyclone, a senior Indian refinery executive said.

Shaheen tours Lindt HQ, calls for end to sugar subsidies

STRATHAM Politics got a little sweet on Valentine's Day when U.S. Sen. Jeanne Shaheen visited Lindt USA's headquarters in Stratham to discuss a new bill that would address America's high sugar prices.

Shaheen: Sugar bill is sweet

STRATHAM Politics got a little sweet on Valentine's Day when Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, D-N.H., visited Lindt & Sprungli USA's headquarters in Stratham to discuss a new bill that would address America's high sugar prices.

ETHANOL

Ethanol supply crosses one-crore litre mark

Ethanol producing sugar factories in the state so far have supplied more than 1.45 crore litre of the bio-fuel to various depots of public sector oil companies for mixing it with petrol. The factories are still waiting for orders from public sector companies to start supply for the adjacent states of Maharashtra, as those states produce less ethanol than their actual requirement.
