

HIGHLIGHTS FOR January 2011

BIRLA SUGAR

INDUSTRY SNAP SHOTS

Global prices are over Rs 3,100 as against the current ex-mill price of Rs 2,775/qtl Sugar mills in Maharashtra are expecting a jump in exports on the back of a bumper crop and high global prices. The estimated sugar output in the state is 9.5 million tonnes, despite crop damage due to unseasonal rain. Sugar prices in the global market are over Rs 3,100 a quintal as against the current ex-mill price of Rs 2,775 a quintal (without duty). Agriculture and Food Minister Sharad Pawar had announced that 5,00,000 tonnes sugar would be exported under the open general licence (OGL). The government has notified OGL - a permit the government gives to mills to export sugar without restriction and conditions - for exports.

Faced with high food inflation, the government today exempted sugar imports from customs duty till March 31, 2011, even as the country has started exporting the sweetener and output is set to exceed demand this year. In April 2009, the government had abolished import duty on sugar as domestic output had declined sharply to nearly 15 million tonnes against the annual domestic demand of 23 million tonnes. The zero-duty regime lapsed on December 31, 2010, bringing into effect the earlier duty structure of 60 per cent. A fresh notification issued by the Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) dated January 8 has again brought down the import duty on sugar to zero till March 31, 2011.

OTHER PLAYERS

Bajaj Hindusthan, Balrampur Chini get to export 33,000 tonnes of sugar

The government has notified the procedures for the recently-allowed export of five lakh tonnes of sugar. The country's top two producers Bajaj Hindusthan and Balrampur Chini have together got a quota of more than 33,000 tonnes. Share prices of Balrampur Chini rose 3.24% on the NSE while that of Bajaj Hindusthan was up 1% against a 0.38% rise in the Nifty. Renuka sugars have been allowed to ship nearly 5,000 tonnes of sugar.

Balrampur Chini can be accumulated at lower levels: Avinash Gorakshekar, Anagram Capital Ltd

Pure sugar/cement plays may not be benefited significantly going forward. But an integrated player like a Balrampur Chini or may be a Dhampur Sugar , may be at lower levels one can look at sugar because sugar prices are firming up because of the shortage of sugar and more importantly in terms of the positioning. Over the next 6-8 months, agro as a sector is definitely going to be in flavour. So sugar companies - probably after say another 5-6% correction - could possibly be a good strategy to start accumulating.

Dharani to enter refined sugar biz

Chennai-based Dharani Sugars & Chemicals Ltd, is planning to enter refined sugar business to cater to bottling, hospitality and large scale chocolate manufacturing industries.

The company has set up its sugar refinery facility in its integrated sugar complex at Sankarapuram taluk in Tamil Nadu, with an investment of Rs 35 crore. The branding and commercial activities will go on stream in a year's time, said Palani G Periasamy, chairman, PGP group.

Dhampur Sugar Oct-Dec quarter net down 91%

Dhampur Sugar Mills today reported a net profit of Rs 7.41 crore for the quarter ended on December 31, 2010, a 91 per cent decline over the corresponding period in the previous year.

The company had posted a net profit of Rs 82.53 crore for the quarter ended on December 31, 2009, Dhampur Sugar Mills said in a filing to Bombay Stock Exchange. The company's total sales rose by 47.43 per cent to Rs 502.95 crore during the quarter (October-December period) under consideration, as compare to Rs 341.14 crore in the corresponding period.

Lower offtake turns sugar bitter

Sugar prices, ready and naka delivery, on Monday declined Rs 10-20 on higher free sale quota for the current month. This put the pressure on mills to offload stocks before the due date. Mill tender rates declined Rs 15-20 a quintal on limited buying support. The sentiment was weak. The Government has declared free sale quota of 17 lakh tonnes for the current month, said traders.

Expect to produce 35 lakh tonne sugar this year: Dhampur

Gaurav Goel, Managing Director of Dhampur Sugars, in an exclusive interview with CNBC-TV18, says that the company expects to manufacture 35 lakh tonne sugar for full year. He sees the sugar prices to be stable and to cost around Rs 25.4 per kg. Goel also expects the coming quarter to be positive. Our sales for the quarter are Rs 502 crore. Our EBITDA is Rs 40.81 crore and our profit after tax (PAT) is Rs 7.42 crore. Last year our sales were at Rs 341 crore for the same period while the profit was at Rs 57.7 crore last year.

Parrys Sugar Industries loss widens in Dec `10 qtr

Parrys Sugar Industries reported the loss for the quarter ended December 2010 has widened. During the quarter, the loss of the company increased to Rs 185.22 million compared with a loss of Rs 160.88 million in the same quarter last year. Net sales for the quarter for the quarter jumped 95.65% to Rs 613.12 million, while total income for the quarter jumped 95.65% to Rs 613.12 million, when compared with the prior year period. It posted loss of Rs 9 a share during the quarter compared with loss of Rs 8 a share in previous year period.

Simbhaoli forms JV with UK co to set up Rs 228 cr sugar refinery

Simbhaoli Sugars (SSL) on Friday announced a joint venture with UK-based trading firm ED&F Man Holdings (EDFM) to set up a sugar refinery in Gujarat at an investment of 228 crore. The green field sugar refinery will be set up in Kandla, West Coast, Gujarat with a capacity of 1,000 tonnes per day. This will be the second sugar refinery in Kandla. Shree Renuka Sugars has also planned to set up a sugar refinery in the region. The two refineries at Kandla could be an ideal raw sugar processing and export destination on account of their proximity to deficit markets around India. Their port-based refineries would enable them to reduce transportation charges.

INDIAN SUGAR INDUSTRY

Import duty on sugar restored

The government has reimposed an import duty of 60 per cent on sugar from tomorrow on expectations of better domestic production. However, this is unlikely to affect the retail prices of the sweetener. Sugar output in India, the world's second largest producer, had declined to 14.7 million tonnes in 2008-09 against an annual domestic demand of 23 million tonnes.

MCX discontinues 3 sugar futures contracts on poor response

Leading commodity bourse Multi Commodity Exchange has discontinued futures trading in sugar (medium grade) contracts for April, May and June, 2011, due to the tepid response from traders and lack of adequate stocks. These three medium-grade sugar contracts have been discontinued with effect from December 29 due to low business volumes and lack of trading interest, it said.

Maharashtra sugar co-ops may have to pay Rs 2,500-cr tax arrears

Around 100 cooperative sugar mills in Maharashtra have lost one round of a battle on income tax (I-T) arrears dating back to 1992-93, with an appellate authority rejecting their argument on dues. If the decision, by the commissioner of income tax (appeals), is not appealed again, the mills may have to pay Rs 2,500 crore in arrears.

FIRs against UP sugar mill owners, industry cries foul

Sugar industry in Uttar Pradesh is crying foul over lodging of FIRs against top functionaries of several sugar companies, accusing them of committing non-bailable offences under the Essential Commodities Act, forgery, cheating and alleged underweighing of sugarcane. Among those named in the FIRs registered last week are Shishir and Kushagra Bajaj of the Bajaj group, Gautam Morarka of Dwarikesh group, Dhruv Sahani of Triveni group and Gurumeet Singh Maan of Simbhaoli group.

Uncertainty over sugar production continues

India is all set to produce more sugar this season than the 188 lakh tonnes (lt) during 2009-10 (October-September). But how much more is a question on which there is no clarity yet. In Maharashtra, mills have crushed 236.64 lt of cane during the opening three months of this season. This is more than 211.99 lt they did in October-December 2009. But with sugar-to-cane recovery rates dropping (9.85 per cent versus 10.39 per cent), cumulative sugar output is only marginally up, from 22.03 lt to 23.31 lt.

Sugar futures below Rs. 3000 per quintal

On the last day of the year 2010, January sugar futures traded mainly below Rs. 3000 per quintal at NCDEX. Open interest for the near month, mid month and far month futures at the day's closing stood at 26,660, 7,290 and 2,490 tons respectively. In five days after the commencement of sugar futures from 27th December this week, the sweetener's trade at the Exchange has attained the volumes of Rs. 377.6 crores.

India to reinstate sugar import tax this year

India, the second largest producer and the biggest consumer of sugar will levy a 60 percent tax on the imports of sugar this year. The supply of sugar this year in India is speculated to override the demand, which is happening first in three years time. Forward Market Commission (MCX) of India last week decided to resume sugar futures trading in India. MCX has decided to launch six contracts initially as the country revives exports and the government looks for ways to moderate food price inflation. Production of sugar in India this year may total up to 24.5 million metric tons while last year sugar output was only 18.9 million tons.

Centre allows export of 5 lakh tonnes of sugar

The Centre has allowed export of 5 lakh tonnes of sugar. It has asked sugar mills to register themselves for seeking the Release Order for exports under Open General Licence (OGL). They have been allowed to export raw, white and refined sugar, but no export subsidy will be given. Allaying apprehensions of price increase in the domestic market as a result of export, official sources said steps would be taken to keep prices under check. Already stockholding limits for bulk consumers and traders were extended till March 31. India is the second largest producer of sugar, after Brazil, and the biggest consumer of the sweetener in the world.

Mills' reluctance to sell supports sugar

Sugar prices on the Vashi wholesale market ruled almost steady with a Rs 3-5 range-bound movement on Monday. As mills were not keen to sell at a lower price, naka rates were also steady. Due to New Year celebrations, there were no tenders in the last two working days. All are expecting fresh demand to pick up from this week. According to Bombay Sugar Merchants Association, sugar rates were Rs 2,960-3,000 (Rs 2,950 / Rs.3011) for S-grade and rs 3,001-3,051 for M-grade (Rs 2,996-3,061). Naka delivery rates were: S-grade Rs 2,930-2,960 (Rs 2,940-2,957) and M-grade Rs 2,970-3,000 (Rs 2,970-2,997).

India asks sugar mills to register for exports

India has asked sugar mills to register for unrestricted sugar exports from Monday, a government statement said, a step that could help mills make timely payment to cane growers by taking advantage of the current high global prices. India, the world's top producer after Brazil, last month allowed exports of 500,000 tonnes of sugar under

unrestricted exports, popularly termed as sales under Open General Licence (OGL), as production looks set to exceed demand. Higher global prices make overseas sugar sales attractive. Last Friday, U.S. sugar futures ended their most volatile year in three decades at a near 30-year high. London front-month white sugar futures ended 2010 up 9.5 percent year-on-year at \$777.50 per tonne, compared with a close of \$710.20 per tonne on Dec. 31, 2009.

Despite good output, prices may stay firm on global supply woes

Sugar prices are expected to remain firm in 2011. Traders, analysts and millers expect the ex-mill prices to remain in the range of Rs 34-35/kg. The sugar production in India in 2010-11 is expected to be 24.5-25 million tonne (MT) while the carry forward stock is 5.4 MT. The country consumes about 22 MT. The farmer is going to make a good profit for a second consecutive year. This has already led to a record plantation for 2011-12.

UP sugar millers served summons over cane weight

Prominent sugar mill owners including Kushagra Bajaj and Shishir Bajaj, Vivek Sarogi and Gautam Dalmiya have been served with police summons by the Uttar Pradesh government for complaints against their units for under-weighing of sugarcane bought from farmers. Sources in the sugar industry alleged the government was using arm-twisting tactics which would make it difficult for industry to survive in the state.

Panel proposes makeover for sugar economy

A high-level government panel has recommended a radical overhaul of the sugar market, including partial indexing of cane prices to the retail price of the sweetener and relaxing restrictions on setting up of sugar factories. If implemented, the measures will reduce government intervention, usher in competition and make at least a section of the farmers happy with the ruling United Progressive Alliance. At present, the sugar market is controlled, with the government deciding several factors from the price of cane to the quantum of offtake of sugar from the mills. To be sure, cane prices vary across the country as individual states fix the procurement price.

Sugar: The bitter story of Indian reforms

SUGAR prices in the last quarter (October-December) of 2010 have gone up by approximately twenty per cent. On an annualised basis that works out to eighty per cent (Yes 80 %). And that is the unnoticed, uncommented bitter-sweet story.

Interestingly, this increase has been achieved gradually on a weekly basis. That this has come in a period when the festival season is well and truly behind us makes the matter all the more absorbing.

Sugarcane fair price likely to be hiked by Rs 4 to 143 a quintal

Sugarcane farmers in India, the world's second biggest producer of the sweetener, may earn more in the 2011-12 crop year as the Centre plans to raise the Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of cane by 4 a quintal to 143. The Centre had fixed the FRP at 139 per quintal in the 2010-11 sugar years, which runs from October to September.

Sugar mills halt exports on hopes of rally

Sugar millers in Tamil Nadu who can export around 43,000 tonne of the sweetener under the open general licence (OGL) plan are going slow as they expect global prices to pick up in the coming days. While the government has opened exports under OGL with a cap of 5 lakh tonne for this season, quite a few sugar mills in Tamil Nadu are mainly looking to complete their export obligation under the advance licence (ALS).

Sugar ends lower on sluggish demand

Sugar prices softened by Rs 50 per quintal in the national capital today on ample supply amid reduced offtake. Marketmen said, increased arrivals from mills against slack demand pulled down the sugar prices. Weakening of prices in futures markets also dampened the trading sentiment to an extent, they said. Sugar mill delivery medium and second grade prices lost from Rs 2,875-3,040 and Rs 2,860-3,025 to close at Rs 2,850 -3,000 and Rs 2,825-2,975 per quintal. Sugar spot medium and second grade price also fell from Rs 3,125-3,225 and Rs 3,100-3,200 to end at Rs 3,100-3,200 and Rs 3,075-3,175 per quintal. The following were today's quotation in Rs per quintal. Sugar ready M-30 3,100-3,200 and S-30 3,075-3,175 Mill delivery M-30 2,850-3,000 and S-30 2,825-2,975.

Underlying fundamentals of sugar become tighter

Not many would have noticed the news item of Portugal briefly running out of sugar a few weeks ago. But the fact that in nearly three decades a European country had to contend

with zero stock of an essential commodity, however short-lived that might have been was a kind of rude awakening for the European Union (EU). This alongwith harsh winter in Europe has led Brussels to not consider sanctioning new sugar licences immediately.

No reversal of sugar export decision, claims Pawar

The Union Food and Agriculture Minister, Mr Sharad Pawar, has said that the Centre would start issuing permits for export of five lakh tonnes (lt) of sugar under open general license (OGL) after January 30. Speaking to presspersons here on Monday, Mr Pawar denied any reversal of the earlier decision to allow the five lt of exports following the recent, sudden spike in food prices. Ex-factory sugar prices in Maharashtra have eased by about Rs 50 a quintal since rumours began circulating from Friday about an impending suspension, if not ban, on shipments of the already-permitted OGL quota.

Maharashtra may miss sugar output estimate

Maharashtra, the country's biggest sugar producer, may miss its sugar production estimate of 95 lakh tonne for 2010-11 by at least five lakh tonne due to a drop in sugar recovery and a likely decrease in cane production. The sugar production in India in 2010-11 is expected to be 24.5-25 million tonne (MT) while the carry forward stock is 5.4 MT. The country consumes about 22 MT. Thus there is an 8 MT excess sugar of which, 4 MT is to be stocked for next year's consumption. There are global supply worries due to a drought in Brazil, the world's largest sugar producer, and a record rainfall in Australia. Indian mills are desperate to take advantage of this situation.

New sugar industry will fail without workers

The main sugar workers union said the recently publicized plans for a new industry where operations are mechanized would not work without sugar workers, and is calling for full consultations before anything is finalized.

Sugar workers will not abandon the struggle as long as the daily wage cannot buy a daily meal

Sugar workers experienced one of their worst years in 2010 and in an effort to ameliorate the public outcry, the President announced a one-off 5% payment on Wednesday. This will give them a little bonus for the holiday, but will make life no better in the New Year. This will also be the third consecutive year that sugar workers will receive small or no wage increases, as opposed to other public sectors. It will also be the first time in nearly five

decades that the workers will receive no Annual Production Incentive (API) with the future of the sugar corporation hanging in the balance, although the world sugar price has been steadily rising and now stands at US33.5 cents per lb, the highest since 1982 and rising further.

Stay away from Core Projects: Tulsian

Tulsian told CNBC-TV18, "In Aban there has been news that they have been able to deploy their one rig and the share has been lying quite low. With the crude prices going up, we see all these support services, the oil drilling services kind of companies, they start going up. Aban being the largest player, because of that, the share has started moving up."

FIRs against UP sugar mill owners, industry cries foul

Sugar industry in Uttar Pradesh is crying foul over lodging of FIRs against top functionaries of several sugar companies, accusing them of committing non-bailable offences under the Essential Commodities Act, forgery, cheating and alleged underweighing of sugarcane. Among those named in the FIRs registered last week are Shishir and Kushagra Bajaj of the Bajaj group, Gautam Morarka of Dwarikesh group, Dhruv Sahani of Triveni group and Gurumeet Singh Maan of Simbhaoli group. Morarka is also a member of the national executive of the BJP.

Sugar mills produce 3.71 lakh quintal sugar in Haryana

Chandigarh, Dec 29 : The Haryana State Cooperative Sugar Mills produced 3.71 lakh quintals of sugar by crushing 54.89 lakh quintals of sugarcane up to December 28 during the current crushing season, against only 1.94 lakh quintals of sugar from 27.24 lakh quintals of sugarcane during the corresponding period last year.

Uncertainty over sugar production continues

India is all set to produce more sugar this season than the 188 lakh tonnes (lt) during 2009-10 (October-September). But how much more is a question on which there is no clarity yet.

NCDEX Sugar to Open In Red on Strong Production in Uttar Pradesh

Selling is likely to resume in sugar futures today in the wake of latest sugar production estimates of Uttar Pradesh. As per latest release from Uttar Pradesh Sugar Mills Association, the total sugar output in Uttar Pradesh between October and December augmented by 9% to 1.71 million tonnes. The Ministry of Agriculture has also estimated the

total production estimate of sugar in the current year is at 24.5 million tonnes against 19 million tonnes in 2009-10.

Sugar export put on hold; decision to be taken by EGOM

In view of high food inflation, the Food Ministry today decided to put on hold the export of five lakh tonnes of sugar and referred the matter to an empowered group of ministers (EGOM) on food. The government had allowed export of five lakh tonnes of sugar under OGL on the back of expectations of higher output, but the ministry was yet to issue the release order to mills. The decision to refer the matter of allowing sugar exports to EGOM was taken during a meeting convened by the Food and Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar to review the prices.

Six sugar mills in rehab mode

After years of efforts, the state government is making some progress in disposal of its closed sugar mills owned by the Bihar State Sugar Corporation, which will pave the way for their renovation and recommissioning. Of the 15 mills under the Corporation, six sugar mills have been auctioned to private entrepreneurs in the last three years.

Price rise: Chidambaram questions Pawar on sugar exports

Differences within the ruling government alliance over food management came to the fore on Tuesday with home minister P Chidambaram questioning agriculture minister Sharad Pawar's pitch for resuming export of sugar. A meeting convened by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to discuss measures to calm soaring food prices saw sugar become a key focus area with Pawar plumping for freeing its export, citing an expected bumper crop this year.

Ministers' panel to review sugar exports: Sources

A panel of ministers will review 500,000 tonnes of sugar permitted for overseas sales, two government sources said on Tuesday, a day after Farm Minister Sharad Pawar said plans to allow the exports were in place. Any delay in the overseas sale of the unrestricted sugar from India is likely to push up global prices. At 1425 GMT, ICE March raw sugar was up 0.9 cent or 2.8% at 32.62 cents an lb.

Punjab Govt fixes SAP for sugar at Rs 220-230 a quintal

The Punjab Government has fixed the state advisory prices (SAP) of the advanced, medium and late varieties of sugar cane at Rs 230, Rs 225 and Rs 220 per quintal for the crushing season 2011-12, an increase of Rs 30 per quintal over last year, according to a report in The Tribune. This is against Rs 142 FRP (fair and remunerative price) being fixed by the Centre for the year 2011-12.

Slack buying dissolves sugar

A sharp decline in sugar prices on the Vashi wholesale market was witnessed on Tuesday with spot and naka rates sliding Rs 35-40 a quintal on lack of demand. According to Bombay Sugar Merchants' Association, spot rates were: S-grade - Rs 2,896/2,942 (Rs 2,941/2,965) and M-grade - Rs 2,921/3,001 (Rs 2,946/3,021). Naka delivery rates were: S-grade - Rs 2,850/2,880 (Rs 2,880/2,920) and M-grade - Rs 2,900/2,940 (Rs 2,930/2,960).

Decontrol a solution to sugar industry's weaknesses

Nothing could be more encouraging for the sugar industry than its voice on major issues like control removal and making exports a sustainable proposition finding resonance in the corridors of New Delhi. The point could not have been missed at the recent annual meet of Indian Sugar Mills Association (Isma) with the Union food minister Sharad Pawar endorsing industry leader Vivek Saraogi's proposition that decontrol would create ideal condition for new capacity creation at a "much faster rate."

Maharashtra co-ops ask FMC, bourses for help on sugar futures

Maharashtra cooperative sugar factories have asked the Forward Markets Commission (FMC), the regulator for commodity markets, and the two exchanges, the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) and National Commodity & Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX), to organise statewide workshops on sugar futures. The objective is clarify doubts on futures trading and thereby encourages more and more cooperative mills to enter into forward trades. The Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories in Maharashtra, representing 150 mills, aims to organise workshops region-wise in the near future.

UP sugar mills asked to enter 'web world'

The Uttar Pradesh government has asked the sugar mills in the state to develop their websites for better information flow to their stakeholders, specially farmers.

There are about 130 sugar mills in the state operating in the private, government and cooperatives sectors. So far, 113 sugar mills have developed their websites and collected

mobile phone details of almost 75 per cent cane farmers. There are about four million cane farmers in Uttar Pradesh.

The state is targeting intercropping over an area of 200,000 hectares in next season. The cane farmers adopting intercropping would be given incentives by the agriculture department through cane societies.

Sugar factories fail to submit data on crushing

The directorate of sugar under the Union ministry of consumer affairs, food and public distribution, which is required to keep updated information about sugar production during the crushing season does not have any information about the 2010-11 crushing, even two months after commencement of the season. Sugar factories have failed to furnish the data despite receiving notices. The directorate of sugar is supposed to have detailed information of sugar industry in the country, which comprises number of sugarcane growing states, area under sugarcane plantation, number of cooperative and private sugar factories, their crushing capacity, sugar production, recovery among others. This information helps the government assess availability of sugar and make suitable planning.

Maharashtra Govt to sell 29 sick sugar factories: Minister

Maharashtra Government is considering selling 29 sick sugar factories, Cooperation and Parliamentary Minister Harshawardhan Patil said today. He said 100 state-run sugar factories are functioning smoothly, but the government had no option but to consider selling 29 sick units. Speaking at a function here in central Maharashtra, Patil hinted at drastic changes in the cooperative sector. The cooperative sector, governed by a 1960-enacted law, would be categorized. Separate laws for housing, factories, processing units and banks would be considered, the Minister said.

Sugar Future down Almost 1% On Extension Of Export Ban By Government

Sugar futures have reported strong selling in today's trading on the back of extension in sugar export ban by Central government. The NCDEX Benchmark contract wilted almost Rs. 15 per quintal today. As per latest update from Food Ministry, restrictions may be imposed on sugar export until domestic prices cool off. In order to moderate the prices of key commodities that have pushed the food inflation to 18.32 per cent, the government plans to place severe restrictions on exports of several commodities.

Sugar cane yield dips further in Tamil Nadu

Cane recovery has dropped for the third successive season in Tamil Nadu due to excessive rain and literally no sunshine in the 2010-11 season. Sugar juice recovery, which went down to 8.88% in the last season from 9.62% in the previous season, is expected to fall further to 8.4% this season. Due to adverse weather conditions, a drop of around 0.5% to 1% in cane recovery has been recorded. Millers are worried now because they have to pay the state advisory price (SAP) of Rs 1,900 per tonne for sugarcane linked to a sugar recovery of 9.5% despite poor recovery.

Factory-wise export licences getting delayed: Shree Renuka

The sugar sector has recently been under pressure on concerns of the government going easy on the export licences because of the inflation scare. In an interview with CNBC-TV18's Udayan Mukherjee, Narendra Murkumbi, MD of Shree Renuka Sugars confirmed that there has been a delay in issuing factory-wise export licences.

On the pricing front, Murkumbi divulged that India has seen deflation in sugar with domestic sugar prices down 33% (YoY).

TN to seek ban on sugar futures

The Tamil Nadu government will seek a ban on futures trading in sugar to control sugar price, according to an official press release. The Chief Minister said that the State Government will immediately urge the Union Finance Ministry to remove sugar from the purview of futures trading.

Pawar rules out decontrol of sugar for now

Rising prices have taken a toll on major reforms in the sugar industry. Decontrol of sugar is off the government's agenda. Union Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar today told Business Standard that, especially in the wake of an estimated production of 25 million tonnes of sugar, decontrol was not under the Centre's consideration. This had been the major demand of the sugar industry and Pawar said he had received representation from India Sugar Mills Association to decontrol the industry. He, however, indicated that sugar exports have not been put on hold.

Co-op sugar mills in Haryana to produce more sugar this year

Buoyed over increase in area under sugarcane in Haryana, the co-operative sugar mills this year are aiming to produce about 24 lakh quintals of sugar at an expected overall recovery of 9.6 per cent. Haryana has 10 sugar mills in the co-operative sector with the crushing season generally extending from December till May.

Sugar stocks are in an intermediate downtrend: Deepak Mohoni

Sugar as a packet moves on its own. It is already in an intermediate downtrend. The long term trend has never been up in sugar stocks. Renuka came maybe somewhat close to that but none of the others did. So once in a while some rally is here or there in sugar but overall, you could expect sugar to lose out quite a lot in a bear market and unless there is some policy thing that changes but that is very very unlikely.

Sugar output forecast grim on UP figure

The initial optimism that India will ride a major sugar production wave this year and produce almost 25 million tonne of the sweetener on the back of higher area under cane cultivation could come under serious cloud as the country's biggest sugarcane growing state, Uttar Pradesh, may fall short on the estimated production figures.

Sugar zooms on short covering

Sugar futures might recover in the intraday due improved buying at lower levels. Also higher price parity of the international Sugar prices may support the domestic prices from falling further. We expect spot prices at Kolhapur to trade in the range of Rs. 2750 and Rs. 3000 per qtl levels for the rest of the month. In the medium to long term domestic Sugar prices are expected to recover due to supply tightness in the global markets amidst higher parity of the international Raw as well as white sugar.

7 sugar mills raided for tax evasion of Rs 15 cr

The trade tax department raided seven sugar mills of west UP on Friday and, reportedly, caught tax evasion of Rs 15 crore and unaccounted trade of Rs 750 crore. According to trade tax commissioner Chandra Bhanu, as per rules, sugar mills situated in a municipal limit have to pay 2% tax on the sale of sugar in another municipal limit. However, he said, the trade tax department was receiving information that some sugar mills were evading tax by showing on record books that they were selling sugar outside the state but, in reality the sugar was being sold in other parts within the state. The trade tax officers

came across several trucks which were shown as transporting sugar to other states but, in reality they were offloading the sugar within UP, he said.

Maharashtra sugar prices dip 6% in a month

Sugar prices have remained bearish in Maharashtra, India's top sugar producer, dropping by 6% from mid-December. According to Maharashtra Co-operative Sugar Factories Federation, the average tentative ex-mill sugar price derived by deducting the excise duty from the APMC prices was Rs 26.70/kg on Monday. Sugar prices are gradually heading downward. The average ex-mill sugar price in the state on December 18, 2010 was Rs 28.40, which came down to Rs 27.80/kg on the first day of 2011. Thus, within a month from mid-December, sugar prices have declined by 6%.

Sugar ends quiet in thin trade

Sugar prices closed on a quiet note in the national capital today owing to adequate stocks position against ongoing demand. Market analysts said fall in demand due against sufficient stocks position for ongoing demand, held sugar prices around last levels. The following were today's quotation in Rs per quintal. Sugar ready M-30 3,100-3,200 and S-30 3,075-3,175. Mill delivery M-30 2,850-3,000 and S-30 2,825-2,975. Sugar mill gate prices (excluding duty): Kinonni 2,980, Asmoli 2,960, Mawana 2,925, Titabi 2,920, Thanabhavan 2,880, Budhana 2875 and Dorala 2,910

Traders halt off-take of sugar, fear price freefall

Stocks are mounting in Maharashtra's cooperative sugar factories, after traders halted lifting the commodity because of a continuous fall in its price. They fear prices may soon bottom out due to the huge supply of sugar for January. During the ongoing crushing season, mills have so far produced 3.36 million tonne (mt) of sugar and unsold stocks have touched 1 mt. Sugar prices are at Rs 2,585-2,630 a quintal, compared with Rs 2,850 a quintal on December 31. The Centre has issued 1.7 mt of non-levy sugar for January, against 1.1 mt in January last year at the national level. In Maharashtra, sugar mills received 0.67 mt of non-levy sugar for January, against 0.37 mt last January.

Sugar extend losses on sluggish spot demand

Amid weak demand and comfortable stocks in the spot market, sugar continued its slide to trade one per cent lower at Rs 2,880 per quintal in futures trade today. At the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), sugar for delivery in current-month January fell by Rs 29, or

one per cent to Rs 2,880 per quintal, with a turnover of one lot. In a similar fashion, sugar for delivery in February also fell by Rs 15, or 0.50 per cent, to Rs 2,984 per quintal, with a turnover of one lot. Market analysts said continued fall in sugar futures is driven by subdued demand from bulk consumers and surplus stocks at spot markets, and pick up in cane crushing at key producing states.

Decline in spot sugar prices

On Tuesday (18 January 2011), the sugar prices at Vashi market declined by Rs. 20-25 for ready and naka delivery on lack of demand and selling by mills trying to reduce the burden of this month's higher quota. According to Bombay Sugar Merchants Association, the spot rates were: for S grade Rs. 2,861-2,901 (Rs 2,881-2,921) and M grade Rs. 2,891-2,951 (Rs 2,906-2,981). Naka delivery rates were: for S grade Rs. 2,830-2,850 (Rs 2,830-2,870) and M grade Rs. 2,870-2,900 (Rs 2,880-2,930).

Sugar drops on sluggish demand

Sugar prices are expected to remain under pressure in the intraday due to sufficient supplies in the domestic markets. Currently Sugar prices at Kolhapur are trading around Rs. 2800 per qtl levels. We expect Spot prices at Kolhapur to trade in the range of Rs. 2750 and Rs. 3000 per qtl levels for the rest of the month. Ongoing crushing may put some pressure on the prices. However any significant decline in the prices due to crushing may be treated as a good buying opportunity for the medium term. In the medium to long term domestic Sugar prices are expected to recover due to supply tightness in the global markets amidst higher parity of the international Raw as well as white sugar.

Case registered against four officials of sugar mill

A case has been registered against four senior officials of a sugar mill in connection with alleged irregularities in cane purchasing by it, police said today. The case under Essential Commodities Act has been registered yesterday against Unn sugar mill Managing Director Rejitalal, General Manager P K Malhotra and two others for their alleged involvement in irregularity during cane purchasing, District Magistrate Santosh Kumar said.

Pakistani millers oppose import of Indian sugar

Pakistani millers oppose sugar imports from India because of fears New Delhi may dump surplus product and hurt the domestic industry, an industry official said on Wednesday.

Pakistan imposes no import duty on White sugar and the government in September waived a 25% duty on raw sugar. This was to encourage the private sugar sector to import sugar to meet feared shortages after August flood damage reduced the 2010/11 crop to 3.2 million tonnes. But government and industry officials now expect production of between 3.7 and 3.8 million tonnes, and millers say that with the imported stocks of roughly 400,000 tonnes, there should be enough to meet domestic demand.

Pakistan consumes about 4.2 million tonnes sugar a year.

Small sugar remains sluggish on lower demand

Small sugar prices continue to rule weak at the Vashi Wholesale market here today on fewer demand from retailers coupled with adequate stock positions. Meanwhile, medium sugar variety moved up slightly owing to stray buying support.

Sugar output seen up 15% in Oct-Jan

India's sugar output is seen at 8.4 million tone as at January 15 in the current season from October, a senior government official said reinforcing expectations of a higher output following a good cane harvest. The production is more than 15% up from what the country produced a year ago. Sugar output is expected to rise 12% to 11.2 million tonne until January 31 in the current season from October 1, a producers' body said last Friday, raising hopes for overseas sales. Traders have been concerned about a delay in supplies from India, the world's top sugar producer after Brazil, as it battles with high food inflation.

UP mills operate at low capacity on slow cane arrivals

Sugar mills in Uttar Pradesh (UP), country's second-largest producer, are operating at 65-70 per cent capacity owing to shortage in sugarcane arrivals. Usually, mills in the state operate at over 90 per cent of the capacity around this time of the season. The country's top sugar companies – Bajaj Hindusthan, Balrampur Chini and Triveni Engineering – have their operations in the state.

Sugar industry worried after Pawar's exit

Sharad Pawar's exit from the food ministry after the Cabinet reshuffle has evoked dismay from the sugar industry. Sugar was the only big and organised industry under Pawar's administrative control as the food minister. Under Pawar's leadership, the domestic sugar output has nearly doubled to around 25 million tonnes (mt) – the estimate for the current

season – from 12.69 mt in 2004-05. Domestic output also touched a record high of 28.36 mt in 2006-07. During his tenure, ethanol blending with petrol and power generation from bagasse, a by-product of sugarcane got a push.

Maharashtra sugar mills start panic selling, traders keep away

Maharashtra mills have started panic selling with sugar prices falling significantly, but traders have decided not to purchase sugar until previous contracts are cleared. Wholesalers cannot purchase and store more than 2,000 quintal of sugar, so traders from sugarcane-rich Pune, Ahmadnagar, Srirampur-Kopargaon have decided not to participate in the sugar tendering process. Traders from other sugarcane growing regions are also expected to follow suit if the trend continues. Mills are selling at Rs 2,610 a quintal against the production cost of Rs 2,700.

Refining margins turn negative on high raw sugar prices

Sugar mills in India are staying away from raw sugar imports, due to negative processing margins and an abundant availability of cane for crushing from local sources.

“Raw sugar imports are currently halted, despite nil duty, due to negative refining margin. Also, domestic yield of cane is enough to feed local consumption,” said Sanjay Tapriya, director - finance, of the Simbhaoli Sugar Mills Ltd.

Sugar industry loses its godfather after Pawar's exit from food ministry

Sharad Pawar's exit from the food ministry was a major blow for the sugar industry in the country. Sugar was the only big and organised industry under Pawar's administrative control as the food minister. Pawar's NCP controls 70% of the cooperative sugar factories in Maharashtra, the largest producer of sugar in the country. Hailing from Baramati, Pawar knew the nitty-gritty of sugar production and the problems of both the farmers and the mill owners.

Sugar declines on production estimates

Sugar spot prices and futures declined 0.19% and 0.34% respectively on Wednesday with sugarcane crushing gathering pace in major producing regions. Sugar output is up 15% till January 15, 2011 according to the official of the food ministry. According to the agri ministry, Sugar exports have not been put on hold and mills are asked to fulfill the

necessary conditions by January 31. 5 lakh tonnes of Sugar exports are allowed under Open General License (OGL).

Relief for Maharashtra sugar co-ops in I-T case

The Maharashtra co-operative sugar mills , which were facing the trouble of paying income tax of `2,500 crore before March 2011, have got some relief after a meeting with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Wednesday. The mills will not have to pay the tax immediately as the government has asked the industry to apply for a ‘stay or go’ in appeal against the decision of the Income Tax Appellate Authority.

Sugar futures inch lower on weak spot demand, higher supply

Amid weak demand and adequate stocks in the spot market on higher supplies, sugar continued its losing streak to trade nearly one per cent lower at Rs 2,808 per quintal in futures trade today. At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX), the sugar for delivery in February fell by Rs 28, or 0.99 per cent, to Rs 2,808 per quintal, having an open interest of 34,820 lots. In likewise fashion, sugar for delivery in March also fell by Rs 27, or 0.96 per cent, to Rs 2,896 per quintal, with an open interest of 19,780 lots, while delivery in April contract fell by Rs 28, or 0.93 per cent to Rs 2,980 per quintal, with an open interest of 3,250 lots.

Sugar rises on strong demand

Sugar spot prices and futures rose by 0.53% and 0.18% respectively due to improved demand from the local stockists particularly Haryana and Rajasthan on Saturday. International markets settled higher at \$790.7/tonne. Lower carryover stocks and increase in the demand helped prices to end higher yesterday. According to reports, floods caused by the heaviest rainfall in Brazil, the largest sugar producer in the world, in almost four decades haven’t affected the sugarcane crop areas.

Rise in spot sugar prices

On Monday (24 January 2011), the spot sugar prices at the Vashi market increased sharply by Rs. 15-20 per quintal on fresh retail demand and expectation of lower quota for February along with the extension for this month's unsold balance quota.

Pawar expresses pessimism over sugar decontrol

After losing his food, PDS (Department of Food and Public Distribution) and civil supplies portfolio, Sharad Pawar dropped a virtual bombshell by maintaining that sugar sector decontrol was not possible since several in the industry itself, including mills in top cane producer state UP, were opposed to the decision. "States like Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Karnataka are not ready for decontrol of the sugar industry, while Gujarat and Maharashtra have expressed their willingness. If only three-four states accept, it is difficult to implement. And Prime Minister had always said that for this kind of policy, states should be taken into the confidence,"

Sugar firms up on better demand

Sugar prices firmed up at the Vashi Wholesale market here today on pick up in the demand from stockists and bulk traders amidst good retail offtake. Small sugar quality (S-30) moved up by Rs 16/20 per quintal to Rs 2,851/2,882 from last Saturday's closing level of Rs 2,831/2,866.

Cooperative Sugar Mills in Haryana produced 8.34 lakh quintals of sugar

Ten Cooperative Sugar Mills in Haryana have produced 8.34 lakh quintals of sugar by crushing of 112.67 lakh quintals of sugarcane till yesterday which is almost double of the production of 4.06 lakh quintals sugar last year. While stating this here today, a spokesman of the Haryana State Federation of Cooperative Sugar Mills said that the Shahbad sugar mill recorded the highest crushing of 20.90 lakh quintals of sugarcane followed by Gohana sugar mill with 13.29 lakh quintals; Karnal 11.66 lakh quintals; Meham 11.32 lakh quintals, Kaithal 10.94 lakh quintals, Panipat 10.51 lakh quintals, Sonipat 10.54 lakh quintals, Jind 9.17 lakh quintals, Rohtak 8.26 lakh quintals and Palwal Cooperative sugar mill 6.08 lakh quintals.

Judicial commission to probe hike in sugar price

Finance Minister Dr Abdul Hafeez Shaikh said a judicial commission headed by a judge of Supreme Court or high court has been formed to find out the reasons of sugar price hike in the country, a private TV channel reported on Wednesday. Talking to journalists after the third round of dialogue between the parliamentary committees of the government and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) in Islamabad, Dr Hafeez said the negotiations on national economic reforms agenda were heading in right direction resulting in the economic revival of the country.

Sugar futures extend gains on bargain buying

Extending its yesterday's gains, sugar futures traded 0.20 per cent higher at Rs 2,956 per quintal today on the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX), even as it weakened at the spot markets on sluggish demand. At the NCDEX, sugar for delivery in April rose by Rs 6, or 0.20 per cent, to Rs 2,956 per quintal, clocking a business turnover of 5,640 lots. Similarly, the delivery for March contract also edged higher by Re 1, or 0.03 per cent to Rs 2,863 per quintal in a turnover of 23,870 lots. Analysts said bargain buying by speculators as prevailing levels are attractive, influenced sugar prices at the futures trade here but subdued spot demand, limited the gains.

Sugar rises on fresh buying support

Sugar prices rose up to Rs 25 per quintal in the national capital today on fresh buying support by stockists and retailers to meet the ongoing marriage season demand. Sugar ready medium grade prices moved up by Rs 25 each to Rs 3,000-3,125 and Rs 2,975-3,000 per quintal. Similarly, the mill delivery medium and second grade prices went up by the same margin to Rs 2,800-2,950 and Rs 2,785-2,925 per quintal.

Sugar up on mild retail offtake

Sugar prices moved up slightly at the Vashi Wholesale market here today owing to stray retail buying. Medium sugar quality (M-30) edged up by Rs 5 per quintal to Rs 2,876/2,931 from Thursday's closing level of Rs 2,871/ 2,931 per quintal. Small sugar quality (S-30) also looked up to Rs 2,821/ 2,872 per quintal as compared to Rs 2,821/2,871 yesterday. The following are today's closing rates per quintal, with the previous rates in brackets Small sugar (S-30) quality Rs 2,821/2,872 (Rs 2,821/ 2,871) and medium sugar (M-30) quality Rs 2,876/2,931 (Rs 2,871/2,931).

Commission set up to look into increase in sugar price

The Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs appointed a one-man commission of inquiry, comprising Justice (r) Sardar Muhammad Raza Khan, to inquire in to the sugar price hike scam and related matters with immediate effect. According to a notification, the commission shall start the inquiry at a place and date to be fixed by it and complete the inquiry and submit a report to Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani with findings within 45 days. The notification also stated that the commission should fix responsibility and recommends action against those responsible for the omissions and commissions, while keeping in view the provisions of PPRA Rules 2004, and shall recommend effective

measures to prevent recurrence of such incidents in the future that involve corruption and corrupt practices and also create price hike, hoarding or scarcity. The notification directed that it shall be the duty of every person in the service of Pakistan and government agencies to render such assistance to the commission in the performance of its functions as may be required of him.

Cane harvesters promise end to 'labour' pains

Introduction of sugarcane harvesters in Punjab may be the answer to the acute shortage of agricultural labour in the state. The Punjab government has decided to promote harvester use in a big way and has offered a subsidy of 25 per cent on the Rs 1-crore harvester. The sugarcane harvester imported from Australia is useful on all types of landholdings, including small and medium sized landholdings, and is capable of efficiently harvesting more than 200 tonnes per day. It also helps in reducing cane loss.

INTERNATIONAL SUGAR INDUSTRY

Tight Markets Seen for Coffee, Sugar, Cotton

A scarcity of commodities such as cotton, sugar and coffee that propelled prices to historic highs late in 2010 is expected to continue into 2011, and it could mean more price increases for consumers. Cotton, sugar and coffee are seen remaining in recent high price ranges as supplies remain low. Sugar prices have also seen a dramatic run-up, touching nearly three-decade highs in 2010. The prices are expected to stay strong as India cautiously weighs increasing exports and wet weather hampers the crop out of Australia. Raw sugar futures gained 19% in 2010, ending the year at 32.12 cents a pound.

Clock ticking for sugar industry

Kenya's sugar industry has 13 months to shape up or be plunged into stiff market competition by other COMESA countries.

Other voices: Ethanol from beets

The use of a specialized sugar beet to produce ethanol could be a breakthrough in weaning the industry off corn. An announcement a few days ago of plans to build a small-scale beets-to-ethanol plant in North Dakota is more than promising. It's intriguing.

Sugar refinery layoffs Friday It remains unclear if laid off workers will be rehired

CONVENT Employee union leadership at Imperial Sugars Gramercy refinery recently told the St. James Parish Council that workers are concerned they will get overlooked for jobs when layoffs at the plant take place at the end of this week.

Sugar gains as rains curb Indian production

Raw sugar rose for a second day in New York on speculation that wet weather will curb shipments from Australia, the world's third-biggest exporter, and erode production in India. A sugar shipment from Australia was delayed after flood damage closed the port of Bundaberg in Queensland, according to Maryborough Sugar Factory. Sugar output in Maharashtra, the nation's biggest producer, may fall because of heavy rain. Raw sugar for March delivery climbed 0.55 cents, or 1.7%, to 32.67 cents a pound on ICE Futures Us in New York.

Zim Minister Orders Zanu (PF) Youth To Invade Sugar Farms

Masvingo, January 06, 2011- Zimbabwe's Youth Indigenisation and Empowerment Minister Saviour Kasukuwere on Wednesday ordered boisterous Zanu (PF) youths to invade sugar conglomerates Triangle and Hippo Valley over a land dispute.

Kasukuwere urges youths to seize plantations

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Kenya: Cane Miller Rivalry Wafting Across the Western Sugar Belt

Nairobi Cane farmers in the western Kenya sugar zone have been caught up in the midst of a raging controversy triggered by a dispute over licensing of a second sugar factory in Kakamega North district.

Algeria to waive sugar import duties

Algeria is to suspend customs duties and value added tax on imports of white sugar until August 31, the government announced in response to a wave of riots over rising food prices.

Carlow sugar factory closure was 'low point' for TD

MJ NOLAN is against the abolition of the Seanad. The Fianna Fil Carlow-Kilkenny TD believes it should be used instead to enhance government capability through outside

expertise. The taoiseach appoints 11 of the Seanad's 60 members and a senator may serve in any cabinet position except as taoiseach, tnaiste or minister for finance.

Ex Irish sugar growers consider legal action over industry closure

Five years after the sugar industry was closed down in Ireland it is back in the headlines, with growers considering legal action over the loss of production rights and interest growing in re-starting production for both sugar and alcohol for the Irish drinks industry.

Sugar beet harvest drags on for Richard Cobbald

We finally got rid of the snow just before the new year, to expose crops that seem to have coped quite well with the freezing conditions. Some of the later drilled wheat will be in need of early nitrogen, which will probably mean we will do all the wheats earlier than usual and with a higher rate.

Sugar beet growers still in limbo

La Junta, Colo. As 2011 begins, sugar beet growers still don't know if they'll have adequate supplies of seed and other inputs this spring or whether they'll be able to honor their production contracts with processors.

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High sugar prices no comfort for WA producers

Despite the price of sugar reaching a 30 year high, growers in the Ord Valley region of Western Australia aren't expecting the industry to make a comeback.

Sugar industry loses stalwart

THE Queensland sugar industry lost one of its giants when Ned Churchward died in Bundaberg last week.

AUS: Queensland floods to hit sugar sector

Australian sugar industry body Canegrowers has warned that the sector has been severely impacted by the floods in Queensland, with some 20% of crops left unharvested.

Farmers undeterred

DESPITE floodwaters wreaking havoc on sugarcane being transported to the Rarawai mill yesterday Friday, farmers are working around the clock to transfer cane to the mill.

Mill disruptions call for industry unity

FIX the mill and farmers will plant the cane, National Farmers Union Ba president Gaffar Ahmed said yesterday.

Zimbabwe: Under-Performing Businesses Face Chop

Diversified conglomerate starafriacorporation, whose takeover of minority interests in retailer, Red Star was recently approved by the minority shareholders, has pledged to sell unprofitable business units during the second half of its current financial year.

Angola: Govt to Spend U.S.2 Billion in Projects' Implementatio

Luanda The minister of Geology and Mining and of Industry, Joaquim David, on Friday here affirmed that the funding planned by the state to revive various factories in the country is of more than two billion dollars.

Kenya: Sugar Sector Set for Major Boost As Sh24 Billion Mill Project Begins in May

Nairobi Construction of a Sh24 billion sugar factory in Kwale is expected to start within the next four months, providing a major boost to the sector.

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Mill disruptions call for industry unity

FIX the mill and farmers will plant the cane, National Farmers Union Ba president Gaffar Ahmed said yesterday.

China Freeze Hurts Sugar Cane, May Cut Guangxi Output

Sugar output in China, the third- biggest producer, may decline by as much as 300,000 metric tons after snow and frost this year damaged crops, Beijing-based brokerage Wanda Futures Co. said.

Gov't seeking more cane lands

FROME, Westmoreland - Convinced that widening sugar cane cultivation can drive the production of sugar and value-added businesses, the Government has embarked on a massive drive to get idle lands suitable for sugar cane cultivation into production.

Sugar factories fail to submit data on crushing

PUNE: The directorate of sugar under the Union ministry of consumer affairs, food and public distribution, which is required to keep updated information about sugar production during the crushing season does not have any information about the 2010-11 crushing, even two months after commencement of the season. Sugar factories have failed to furnish the data despite receiving notices.

U.S. Sugar lambastes rival Florida Crystals over low proposed lease rate

After blasting U.S. Sugar Corp. for trying to lease sugar cane land from the South Florida Water Management District for just \$50 an acre two years ago, rival Florida Crystals Corp. might now be close to landing a similar deal for itself.

Pakistan to provide cement, sugar plants on credit

President Asif Ali Zardari on Monday assured Sri Lanka of providing soft term credit facilities for the export of Pakistani cement and sugar plants.

Kenya: Big Two Asked to Help End Row Over New Sugar Miller

Nairobi Cane farmers have petitioned President Kibaki and Prime Minister Raila Odinga to intervene in the dispute over licensing of a new sugar factory in Kakamega North District.

Sugar sector set for major boost as Sh24bn mill project begins in May

Construction of a Sh24 billion sugar factory in Kwale is expected to start within the next four months, providing a major boost to the sector.

Mudavadi okays licensing of Butali Sugar Mills

Deputy Prime Minister Musalia Mudavadi has said further delays in giving Butali Sugar Mills a crushing license would be "immoral".

Government 'powerless' to save sugar industry

THE CONTROVERSY over the ending of the sugar industry in Ireland was addressed by the director general of the Department of Agriculture, Tom Moran, at an Oireachtas committee yesterday.

Resumption of sugar production ruled out

The secretary general at the Department of Agriculture has ruled out growing sugar beet here for the production of sugar.

Department rules out sugar production

The Secretary General at the Department of Agriculture has said that there is no possibility at present for the growing of sugar beet here for the production of sugar.

Mitr Phol's Aussie buy to help meet sugar demand

Mitr Phol Sugar Corp, Thailand's biggest sugar company, hopes that its investment in Australia will help the company comfortably accommodate demand for sugar, particularly in Asia.

Training Sukhothai's sugar farmers

The Sai Jai Thai Foundation, under Royal patronage, has joined Thai Identity Sugar in establishing a learning centre and a 50-rai demonstration sugar field at the Sawankhalok Cooperatives' Industrial Estate in Sukhothai province. The centre aims to train farmers in modern plantation techniques to boost their competitiveness

Sugar Output in China May Drop 300,000 Tons on Southern Freeze, Wanda Says

Sugar output in China, the third- biggest producer, may decline by as much as 300,000 metric tons this year after snow and frost damaged crops, Beijing-based brokerage Wanda Futures Co. said.

Jamaica's first shipment of 2010/11 crop sugar to leave for US

JAMAICA'S first shipment of sugar for the 2010/11 crop, consisting of 6,200 tonnes and valued at \$5m, is expected to leave the island next week for the US.

Losses to sugar theft on the rise

The sugar industry last year lost 750 tonnes of the raw product valued around J\$34.5 million, believed to have gone missing while in transit from the sugar factories to the vessels that ship the sweetener to the export markets.

Tufton optimistic of achieving production target for sugar

With one month into the 2010/11 sugar crop season, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, Hon. Dr. Christopher Tufton, is optimistic that the production target of 150, 000 tonnes will be reached.

Sugar rises on firm domestic demand

After declining by more than 7% since the beginning of the week, Sugar futures bounced back on Thursday due to increased demand at lower levels. According to the member of Bombay Sugar Merchant Association, There was a slight improvement in demand due to sharp fall in prices in the last few sessions. According to industry sources, unrestricted exports of 500,000 tonnes of sugar from India may be delayed as the country tries to check rising food prices. A panel of Indian ministers will review the same very soon. Raw-sugar futures for March delivery gained 0.1 percent, to 32.06 cents a pound in New York. In London, refined-sugar futures for March delivery climbed \$6.40, or 0.8 percent, to settle at \$787.40 a ton. In the international markets, traders are waiting for decision by India to export 500,000 tonnes of sugar and thus market is hovering in a narrow range since last one week.

Egypt and Sudan to establish joint sugar plant

Egypt and Sudan agreed to build a new plant for sugar on the White Nile. The new factory will have a production capacity of 450,000 tons of sugar. Its investment costs are estimated at about 400 million euros and it will serve the sugar needs of the Egyptian and Sudanese people.

Mauritius: Renewable Energy Gets a Boost

Port-Louis A new initiative to support production of renewable energy in Mauritius may provide a model for other countries to follow suit.

Mauritius Beats Sugar Forecast, Warns on 2011 Harvest Because of Drought

Jan. 12 (Bloomberg) -- Mauritius is unlikely to this year match the 452,518 metric tons of sugar produced in 2010, which beat an industry forecast, said the countrys Chamber of Agriculture

Tongaat cuts Zimbabwe sugar forecast

South African sugar manufacturer Tongaat-Hulett has cut back sugar production forecasts for Zimbabwe and Mozambique in the current financial year through to March 2012.

South African sugar producers see better crop in 2011

JOHANNESBURG (January 16, 2011) : South African sugar producers expect to have a better April 2011-March 2012 season due to good rains, after drought weighed on output the

previous season, a senior industry official said. Last year's drought in South Africa's rain-dependent sugar-growing area of KwaZulu Natal, is expected to push the 2010/11 sugar output in Africa's biggest economy to fresh 15-year lows.

Mary Valley sugar producers 'unscathed' by floods

Maryborough sugar producers say the industry in south-east Queensland has come out of the recent floods relatively unscathed

New sugar plant looking at Imperial workers

CONVENT The St. James Parish Council on Wednesday heard from a representative with Louisiana Sugar Refining regarding the companys hiring practices during its takeover of Imperial Sugars Gramercy refinery.

GuySuCo expected to set cautious 2011 target

Projections for the sugar industry as outlined in the turnaround plan had indicated a huge production year in 2011 with a target of 359,000 tonnes, but the Guyana Sugar Corporation (GuySuCo) will likely chase a less ambitious target given the ongoing problems.

Sugar cane still viable

THERE is a viable future for the local sugar cane industry. However, head of the local agricultural association, James Paul, is suggesting there are different products that can be derived from the sugar cane, which will require a level of investment and a level of seriousness on the part of Government.

Sugar beet harvesting set to last into March

The sugar beet harvesting campaign is set to drag on into early March again this year after frozen conditions delayed lifting in December.

Co-op sugar mills in Haryana to produce more sugar this year

Buoyed over increase in area under sugarcane in Haryana, the co-operative sugar mills this year are aiming to produce about 24 lakh quintals of sugar at an expected overall recovery of 9.6 per cent.

Dharani to enter refined sugar biz

Chennai-based Dharani Sugars & Chemicals Ltd, is planning to enter refined sugar business to cater to bottling, hospitality and large scale chocolate manufacturing industries.

Statistics belie PSMA estimates: 3.9-4 million tons of sugar output likely

ISLAMABAD (January 15, 2011) : The first monthly statistics of sugar production have contradicted the Pakistan Sugar Mills Association (PSMA) projections and brightened prospects that crushing season 2010-11, may end up between 3.9 to 4 million tons against the industry's estimates of 3.1 to 3.2 million tons.

Uganda: Sugar Corporation Outgrowers Selling Sugarcane to Rival Firms

THE Police have impounded two trucks loaded with sugarcane from outgrowers under Sugar Corporation of Uganda (SCOUL), which was being diverted to other sugar manufacturing companies. The sugarcanes were harvested from Kayunga.

Sugar refinery layoffs Friday It remains unclear if laid off workers will be rehired

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Our Voice: Enough foot-dragging on modified beet study: Do it, but hold Michigan sugar industry harmless this year

Michigans sugar beet industry the farmers, their suppliers and the sugar makers who employ hundreds are about to suffer for federal foot-dragging and an environmental lawsuit over genetically modified seeds.

Sugar refinery implosions rescheduled for Sunday

The Imperial Sugar Company refinery implosions originally scheduled for earlier in the month have been rescheduled for Sunday, December 19 at 7 a.m.

Uganda's Three Biggest Sugar Producers Increased Output by 3.4% Last Year

Sugar output at Ugandas three biggest producers climbed 3.4 percent in 2010 after they expanded their operations, the Uganda Sugar Cane Technologists Association said.

Farmers support sugar-growing campaign

TILLAGE FARMERS are showing interest in growing sugar beet again, with nearly 2,000 former growers, contractors and factory workers attending a series of meetings in recent weeks.

Egypt and Sudan to establish joint sugar plant

Egypt and Sudan agreed to build a new plant for sugar on the White Nile. The new factory will have a production capacity of 450,000 tons of sugar. Its investment costs are estimated at about 400 million euros and it will serve the sugar needs of the Egyptian and Sudanese people.

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South African sugar manufacturer Tongaat-Hulett has cut back sugar production forecasts for Zimbabwe and Mozambique in the current financial year through to March 2012.

South African sugar producers see better crop in 2011

JOHANNESBURG (January 16, 2011) : South African sugar producers expect to have a better April 2011-March 2012 season due to good rains, after drought weighed on output the previous season, a senior industry official said. Last year's drought in South Africa's rain-dependent sugar-growing area of KwaZulu Natal, is expected to push the 2010/11 sugar output in Africa's biggest economy to fresh 15-year lows.

Mary Valley sugar producers 'unscathed' by floods

Maryborough sugar producers say the industry in south-east Queensland has come out of the recent floods relatively unscathed

New sugar plant looking at Imperial workers

CONVENT The St. James Parish Council on Wednesday heard from a representative with Louisiana Sugar Refining regarding the companys hiring practices during its takeover of Imperial Sugars Gramercy refinery.

GuySuCo expected to set cautious 2011 target

Projections for the sugar industry as outlined in the turnaround plan had indicated a huge production year in 2011 with a target of 359,000 tonnes, but the Guyana Sugar Corporation (GuySuCo) will likely chase a less ambitious target given the ongoing problems.

Sugar cane still viable

THERE is a viable future for the local sugar cane industry. However, head of the local agricultural association, James Paul, is suggesting there are different products that can be derived from the sugar cane, which will require a level of investment and a level of seriousness on the part of Government.

Sugar beet harvesting set to last into March

The sugar beet harvesting campaign is set to drag on into early March again this year after frozen conditions delayed lifting in December.

Co-op sugar mills in Haryana to produce more sugar this year

Buoyed over increase in area under sugarcane in Haryana, the co-operative sugar mills this year are aiming to produce about 24 lakh quintals of sugar at an expected overall recovery of 9.6 per cent.

Dharani to enter refined sugar biz

Chennai-based Dharani Sugars & Chemicals Ltd, is planning to enter refined sugar business to cater to bottling, hospitality and large scale chocolate manufacturing industries.

Statistics belie PSMA estimates: 3.9-4 million tons of sugar output likely

The first monthly statistics of sugar production have contradicted the Pakistan Sugar Mills Association (PSMA) projections and brightened prospects that crushing season 2010-11, may end up between 3.9 to 4 million tons against the industry's estimates of 3.1 to 3.2 million tons.

Fire Extinguished at Ga. Sugar Refinery

Firefighters say they quickly extinguished a fire at the Imperial Sugar refinery near Savannah, where an explosion and fire killed 14 workers nearly three years ago

Tully sugar mill 'about to be sold'

The Federal Member for Kennedy, Bob Katter, says Tully's only sugar mill, south of Cairns in far north Queensland, is likely to be sold to an overseas company in the coming months.

Sugar farmers leave cane in field

Cane farmers in Mackay estimate their harvest this year could be down by more than a quarter.

Whan visits sugar cane industry for local flood perspective

NSW Minister for Primary Industries Steve Whan today met with local cane growers and industry officials in the Clarence Valley to see first-hand the impact recent floods have had on the sector

Fiji sugar reps meeting EU in Jamaica

Three stakeholder representatives of Fiji's sugar industry are currently meeting European Union representatives in Jamaica at the invitation of the EU.

Greencore says no: ethanol and sugar plants 'not viable'

GREENCORE WILL not get involved in sugar or ethanol production at its former Irish Sugar plant in Mallow, its chief executive Patrick Coveney told the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Food yesterday.

Sugar industry worried after Pawar's exit

Sharad Pawar's exit from the food ministry after the Cabinet reshuffle has evoked dismay from the sugar industry. Sugar was the only big and organised industry under Pawar's administrative control as the food minister.

Khon Kaen sees sugar price boosting profit

KHON Kaen Sugar Industry, Thailand's top listed sugar producer, expects higher net profit in 2010/11 due to a rise in prices spurred by worries about supply shortages, plus the start-up of a new plant.

Pakistani millers oppose import of Indian sugar

Pakistani millers oppose sugar imports from India because of fears New Delhi may dump surplus product and hurt the domestic industry, an industry official said on Wednesday.

EU funds could help revive sugar beet sector

An Irish MEP has suggested accessing funding from the European Investment Bank to help kick-start the revival of the Irish sugar beet industry.

Selling by mills pulls down sugar

Sugar prices at Vashi market declined by Rs 20-25 on Tuesday for ready and naka delivery on lack of demand and selling by mills trying to reduce the burden of this month's higher quota. Higher quota is pressing mills to offload the quantity before due date. Fresh buying is absent as less-than-expected local demand is keeping stockists at bay. Limited buying pulled down mill tender rates too by Rs 10-15 a quintal. Morale was weak. Sugar prices have been falling since Friday.

Cane issue: Court stays arrest of top officials of sugar cos

The Allahabad High Court has stayed the arrest of Mr Shishir Bajaj, Chairman-cum-Managing Director of Bajaj Hindusthan Ltd, Mr Siddharth Shriram, Chairman of the DCM Group, besides top officials of other private sugar companies.

Ugandas 2010 sugar output below forecast

Ugandas 2010 sugar production rose slightly on a year earlier but fell short of forecasts, hit by technical problems at the leading producer and poor rains, an industry association said on Tuesday.

Fiji Sugar Corporation to discuss industry reforms

The Fiji Sugar Corporation board is meeting today to discuss ways to speed up reforms of the sugar industry.

FSC looks off-shore for CEO post

FIJI Sugar Cooperation is looking off-shore for a suitable candidate to steer FSC into a new direction.

Iscal Sugar wil zonnepanelen

Iscal Sugar gaat in beroep tegen de weigering van de stedenbouwkundige vergunning. Zo hopen ze toch een zonnepanelenveld van 40 hectare aan te leggen. Robert Van Gaever, directeur van de landbouwkundige dienst van Iscal Sugar. We willen onze rechten zo vrijwaren. Volgens Van Gaever is een van de beste oplossingen om op de voormalige bezinkingsbedden van de suikerfabriek een zonnepanelenveld aan te leggen.

Uganda: Sugar Corporation Outgrowers Selling Sugarcane to Rival Firms

THE Police have impounded two trucks loaded with sugarcane from outgrowers under Sugar Corporation of Uganda (SCOUL), which was being diverted to other sugar manufacturing companies. The sugarcanes were harvested from Kayunga.

Sugar refinery layoffs Friday It remains unclear if laid off workers will be rehired

CONVENT Employee union leadership at Imperial Sugars Gramercy refinery recently told the St. James Parish Council that workers are concerned they will get overlooked for jobs when layoffs at the plant take place at the end of this week.

Our Voice: Enough foot-dragging on modified beet study: Do it, but hold Michigan sugar industry harmless this year

Michigans sugar beet industry the farmers, their suppliers and the sugar makers who employ hundreds are about to suffer for federal foot-dragging and an environmental lawsuit over genetically modified seeds.

Sugar refinery implosions rescheduled for Sunday

The Imperial Sugar Company refinery implosions originally scheduled for earlier in the month have been rescheduled for Sunday, December 19 at 7 a.m.

Uganda's Three Biggest Sugar Producers Increased Output by 3.4% Last Year

Sugar output at Ugandas three biggest producers climbed 3.4 percent in 2010 after they expanded their operations, the Uganda Sugar Cane Technologists Association said.

Farmers support sugar-growing campaign

TILLAGE FARMERS are showing interest in growing sugar beet again, with nearly 2,000 former growers, contractors and factory workers attending a series of meetings in recent weeks.

Sugar rises on report of Russian demand

Sugar climbed in London after a report that Russia, the world's largest importer, may boost purchases two months early. The tax on Russia's imports of raw sugar may be cut in March, rather than May, to help control inflation, Mr Yevgeny Ivanov, an analyst at Moscow-based researcher Institute for Agricultural Market studies, said today.

White, or refined, sugar for March delivery climbed \$1.10, or 0.1 percent, to \$772.70 a tonne in London on NYSE Liffe. Raw sugar for March delivery was unchanged at 31.8 cents a pound on ICE Futures US in New York.

Fiji likely to begin sugar export to Japan

There is a possibility of Fiji exporting sugar to Japan soon. However this is expected to happen if Fiji officials are able to impress a visiting Japanese delegation that will arrive during the first quarter of 2011. The Chief Executive Officer of Fiji Sugar Corporation, Abdul Khan said that they are expecting a team from Sojitz Corporation early this year and there is a possibility of Fiji re-entering the Japanese Market. Discussions between the Fiji embassy in Japan and Sojitz Corporation officials are on going to explore the possibility of resuming sugar imports to Japan from Fiji.

Sugar cane season worst in history

WITH the wet finish to the Queensland sugar harvest resulting in most central and north district mills being left with cane to stand over, the 2010 season will go down in the record books as one of the worst in history, with the Burdekin region the hardest hit.

More sugar per ton

The numbers for the 2010 sugar cane harvest are in, and despite posting lower tonnage than in 2009, the good outweighed the bad.

Salt the roads? Sugar works far better in big freeze, councils find

A range of sugar-based chemicals is being mixed with salt to clear ice and hard-packed snow in temperatures below -8C. The products cost up to 12 times as much as salt, but would only be used in extreme conditions. The Scottish Government's Transport Scotland agency, which commissioned the trials in Aberdeenshire, said the chemicals worked in temperatures down to -20C but did not harm the environment.

Sugar cane yields new edible fibre

A NORTH Queensland company that makes a revolutionary new dietary fibre is about to significantly expand its operations and help bolster Australia's \$2.5 billion sugar cane industry.

Barbados says sugar industry must expand to survive

In Barbados, Dr Atlee Brathwaite, chairman of the Barbados Sugar Industry Limited and Barbados Cane Industry Corporation, in an interview with the Daily Nation that the sugar industry must be expanded in order to save it. Brathwaite noted that just selling sugar was not a viable option, explaining, when you look at the various products that sugar cane can produce, you can sense levels of viability. If you produce ethanol and you start restructuring how you utilise say the gas say replace ten per cent of your gas by ethanol then it is a very viable undertaking, because we import petrol from Trinidad at a fantastic price.

Heed Growers' Demand, Disband KSB - Minister

Nairobi Planning minister Wycliffe Oparanya has joined those calling on the government to disband the Kenya Sugar Board over failure to account for cane growers' funds

Special cane payment requested

Many cane farmers are in dire need of money for their children's education as the first school term begins from tomorrow.

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Experts push to end chronic sugar shortage in EA

Arusha. East African states must develop strategies to step up sugar production so as to forestall a recurrent shortage that have forced the region to be a perpetual importer of the essential commodity.

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Sugar Output by Kakira, Uganda's Biggest Producer, May Climb 13% This Year

Production by Kakira Sugar Works Ltd., Ugandas largest producer of the sweetener, may rise as much as 13 percent this year because of improved cane supply and repairs at one of its mills, General Manager Richard Orr said.

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British Sugar abandons processing beet at Newark plant

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POLL - Sugar market seen balanced, prices to fall in 2011

Sugar supply will just cover demand this year and prices will fall by the end of 2011, a Reuters poll showed, although that fine balance could easily be upset by dire weather or logjams at Brazilian ports. Adverse weather in several key producers, which has pushed sugar prices near 30-year highs, eroded the median forecast in the biannual Reuters poll of 20 analysts from a 4.5 million tonne surplus in the previous July poll.

What does sugar market have in store for investors?

The market of sugar keeps consolidating within a range. On the one hand, the market is pressed by the following factors: Offered by India, intensified the bearish market sentiments (on Wednesday the Indonesian state trader Bulog announced an intention to buy 20K tons of white sugar from India with Feb delivery for satisfying domestic needs. It is a part of Indonesia's sugar import program with net volume of 450K tons).

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Biofuels failed promise

THE biofuels law of 2007 is supposed to save foreign exchange, raise income of farmers and lead to cleaner air. Well, it has not delivered on its first two promises and is unlikely to do so on the third. Here is another case of a law whose purported benefits are proving to be unrealizable because there were no solid studies underpinning it.

American Crystal Sugar has outsized influence in DC

Washington If you made a list of the Minnesota-based companies that spend the most money lobbying the federal government, you'd see some familiar names, with Medtronic and Target at the top. But there is one relatively small Minnesota company that has become a big political player.

More sugar per ton

The numbers for the 2010 sugar cane harvest are in, and despite posting lower tonnage than in 2009, the good outweighed the bad. For the three parishes of the Teche Area, the 2010 harvest finished with similar results.

2010 good year for sugar beet growers

Although the fate of Roundup Ready sugar beets is still uncertain, area growers are enjoying the return on their 2010 crop, which was about 95 percent Roundup Ready

A Tale Of Two Seed Farmers: Organic Vs. Engineered

The Cold War phrase "peaceful coexistence" has been revived in a new context: as a potential solution in the clash between organic agriculture and genetic engineering.

Department urged by food industry to prevent sugar shortages in EU

SUGAR shortages in the European Union will leave Irish food companies facing price increases and ingredient sourcing difficulties this year, according to the food wing of employers body IBEC.

Sugar exit leaves Greencore with a bitter aftertaste

Greencore's decision to get of sugar production at the earliest available opportunity to concentrate on its international chilled foods business is increasingly looking questionable.

British Sugar has let suppliers down - NFU

THE NFU has called on British Sugar to improve its communications with growers over the current sugar beet crisis.

NFU criticises British Sugar for beet harvest woes

The NFU has criticised British Sugar for its lack of communication with growers on difficulties with this season's beet crop.

Maharashtra sugar co-ops to rope in professionals

State sugar cooperatives are all set to get a professional touch. State cooperatives minister Harshawardhan Patil said the industry needs to be professionally managed and has therefore mooted the formation of a panel that would look into the creation of skilled manpower for the industry. The state envisages creating about 250 head of departments (HODs) for the Rs 20,000-crore sugar sector in the state.

Coca Cola, GSK, Nestle snub sugar packed in jute bags

In a body blow to the ailing jute industry in the country, major corporates like Coca Cola India, Cadbury, Nestle India and GlaxoSmithkline have outright rejected the supply of sugar in jute bags. These firms have argued that the jute fibres are contaminating the sugar that they use for manufacture of their products.

OMCs raise profit margin with ethanol-blended petrol

Sale of ethanol-blended petrol has turned more profitable for the oil marketing companies (OMCs) with the recent increase in petrol prices. Their margin on a litre of ethanol has moved up from Rs 7.90 per litre to Rs 12.43 since November when blending was reintroduced.

Sugar is sweet for Darren Byfield

Byfield has been out since September with a knee injury but hopes, after a series of sugar injections, he can make a long-awaited comeback.

A Pinch of Sugar for Pain

A syringe full of sugar water may not sound like a cutting-edge medical technique, but a growing number of doctors say sugar injections called prolotherapy can stimulate healing

and provide relief from a range of chronic pain conditions. Scientific literature on prolotherapy, however, is inconclusive.

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Beet growers' showdown talks with British Sugar

BEET growers have met with British Sugar chiefs in Newark today (Thursday, January 27).

Talking point: William Martin, NFU Sugar Board chairman

Building a long-term relationship with a customer was never going to be easy, but the NFUs Sugar Board certainly didnt expect there to be so many big, early challenges to our new and improving relationship with British Sugar.

British Sugar in crisis talks on beet

British Sugar says it is exploring options to help growers mitigate losses after struggling to process this year's beet crop.

EU policy reversal could lift sugar price

A sugar marketing analyst says the sugar price could be pushed to nearly 40 US cents a pound within the next three months

EU meeting on possible revival of sugar industry

EU Agriculture Commissioner Dacian Ciolos is to meet with Irish MEPs and sugar producers to discuss the possible re-opening of the sugar beet factory in Mallow.

EU sugar supply deficit threatens Irish industry, says trade group

The deficit in the EU sugar supply could put production at risk for confectioners and other food and drink industry users of the commodity if market intervention does not occur, said Irish trade body FDII, who are calling on the EC to keep out-of-quota sugar within the bloc.

Hundreds turn out for 2011 Sugar Beet Research Reporting Session at Bay City's Doubletree Hotel

BAY CITY As Michigan Sugar Co. continues efforts to increase sugar content in its beets, it appears area growers and industry experts are equally invested.

Senate bill aims to reform US sugar policy

US Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) introduced a new bipartisan bill in the Senate this week intended to phase out the sugar support program, claiming sugar prices are artificially high and cost American jobs.

Close monitoring of premix sugar to start soon

SUGAR Regulatory Administrator Ma. Regina Bautista-Martin assured sugar planters on Wednesday that her office will soon come out with an order to regulate the entry of imported premix sugar in the country.

MSF raises \$49m in funds

The Maryborough Sugar Factory Limited has announced it has raised a total of \$49 million in equity since mid December 2010.

Sugar factory to halve smoke stack

PAUL, Idaho (AP) A 230-foot-tall smoke stack that has towered over Minidoka County for nearly a century is being shrunk to half its size. The Times-News reports the Amalgamated Sugar Co. plans to shorten the stack, which is no longer in use at its factory in Paul.

Golden Sugar signs agreement for \$143.3m new plant

Golden Sugar Company Limited on Wednesday signed a \$143.3m, five-year syndicated multi-currency medium-term facility to finance the construction of a sugar refinery complex in Lagos State.

Kenya: Mumias Sugar Sees Net Income Down 12 Percent

Nairobi Mumias Sugar Company's net income for the six months to December 31, 2010 fell by 22 per cent from Sh1 billion to Sh816.3 million.

Nigeria: Golden Sugar to Construct U.S.\$143 Million Refinery in Lagos

Lagos Golden Sugar Company Ltd, a subsidiary of Flour Mills of Nigeria Plc, has signed a \$143.3 million, five-year loan to finance the construction of a state-of-the-art sugar refinery complex in Lagos.

Dangote Sugar turnover hits N65.22bn

Dangote Sugar Refinery plc, a member of the Dangote Group has announced a turnover of N65.22 billion for the third quarter ended September 30, 2010.

Southern Africa: the push for clean power

Continuing our coverage of developing markets, Dr Samuel Fenwick takes a look at ambitious plans to boost the use of renewable energy in Southern Africa as well as a more general look at how the countries in the region are looking to address their power deficit.

Siphofaneni sugar tycoon dies

THE countrys sugar industry has suffered a blow as one of its most influential and successful growers have died.

FSC shleves plan

THE Fiji Sugar Corporation has shelved plans to shut down the rail network in the country pending a detailed study of the economic viability of the system as a whole.

Sour sugar export - Jamaica facing stiff penalty if US confirms report that sub-standard product was shipped to that country

The problem-plagued sugar industry is facing more trouble in the wake of allegations that a substandard supply of the product was shipped to the United States last week. Leading players in the sugar industry are now scampering to determine the accuracy of the reports as Jamaica could be hit with a hefty fine if this is so.

Save new cane plantation, farmers urged

The Fiji Kisan Sangh is appealing to all cane farmers to do all they can to protect their cane planted under the \$6 million cane development programme - last season.

Terraforming Maui: The Hawaiian Sugar Industrys Technological Revolution

Spreckelss major [irrigation] ditch was the Haiku Ditch, constructed by Japanese workers using hand drills and requiring a capital outlay of \$US500,000, the largest amount spent on any irrigation project in the Hawaiian Islands to date. The ditch spanned 50km and delivered 190 million litres of water daily, irrigating 20 times as much land as had previously been irrigated. In 1880, when William Hammond Hall was experimenting with debris dams along Californias rivers, the San Francisco Commercial Herald reported that Mauis dry plains had become a mine of wealth, a bonanza, pouring out its ceaseless floods of treasure. Capital, the reporter continued, went out into the wilderness, and made the desert blossom into cultivated fields, and smiling gardens and happy homes.

Michigan Sugar Co., area farmers at Bay City Doubletree for 2011 Sugar Beet conference

BAY CITY-- Nearly 150 company representatives, researchers and farmers mingled in the hallways of the Doubletree, 1 Wenonah Park Place, preparing to hear the results of year-long research regarding the sugar beet industry.

Kenyan sugar firm Mumias H1 profit down 22 percent

Kenya's biggest sugar miller, Mumias, forecast an improved second half after six-monthly pretax profit fell to 1.18 billion shillings from 1.52 billion because heavy rain disrupted cane deliveries. Production in the six months to the end of December 2010 fell to 113,521 tonnes from 123,183 tonnes while sugar sold was down 7 percent to 108,110 tonnes.

Earnings from the sale of electricity – generated as a byproduct of the milling process – were also down by a similar margin to 161 million shillings.

Sugar to stay costly

The government will not be imposing the suggested retail price (SRP) of sugar just yet as the supply is foreseen to remain tight, the chief of the Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) said. SRA Administrator Gina Martin, in a recent interview, said the SRP of sugar of

P52 per kilo remained “suspended indefinitely.” She noted that the price of supermarket sugar was P68 per kilo while smaller retailers were charging P65 per kilo.

The government in December suspended the SRP of sugar at the behest of retailers, who complained that P52 was way below the market price. According to the retailers, sugar should have been selling at P63-P65 per kilo.

ETHANOL

European Commission approves merger of Shell Brazil Holding and Brazilian sugar and ethanol firm Cosan S.A

The European Commission gave the nod to the merger of Shell Brazil Holding B.V. and Brazilian sugar and ethanol producer Cosan S.A. Indústria e Comércio. In its ruling, the Commission argued that the merger between the two firms will not hamper competition but rather strengthen the region’s ethanol industry. The merger was finalized realized last year September, pegged at about \$12 billion. The merger is for the production and commercialization of sugar cane based ethanol and power with an approximate yearly production capacity pegged at more than 2 billion litres.

Cosan to Acquire Zanin

Sugar and ethanol producer **Cosan Limited (CZZ - Analyst Report)** entered into a definitive agreement to acquire Usina Zanin Acucar e Alcool Ltda. (Zanin), a sugarcane producer based in the Araraquara region. Completion of the transaction is subject to satisfaction of certain required conditions.

Ethanol price may be fixed under 27/litre

An expert panel is expected to suggest a price of slightly less than 27 per litre for oil marketers to buy ethanol for a nationwide fuel-blending programme, an official said. But the sugar industry protested, saying that the committee did not have the mandate to go into the availability issue. The food ministry too said the committee exceeded its brief. The ethanol-blending programme could not take off in the last sugar season (October -

September) because of lack of availability. But the prospects look much better this year because a bumper sugarcane crop is expected. Ethanol is produced as a by-product in sugar making.

OMCs raise profit margin with ethanol-blended petrol

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Ethanol prices to be lower than interim price?

The party time seems suddenly over. Not only did food minister Sharad Pawar rule out implementing sugar sector decontrol anytime soon, but persistently nosediving prices over the last month have sharpened apprehensions within the sugar industry over Saturday's meeting of the expert panel on ethanol headed by Plan panel member Dr Saumtira Chaudhury. The panel is authorised to come up with a long term formula for fixing the price of ethanol and to periodically review the formula but indications are that the price for ethanol will be lower than the interim price of Rs 27/litre fixed by the government. Current indications from officials are that ethanol price could be lower by upto Rs 2/litre compared to the interim price.
