

HIGHLIGHTS FOR JULY 2011

BIRLA SUGAR

SNAP SHOTS

First in Birla History, a Daughter's Son to enter family's sacrosanct office

In an absolute first in Birla history, the son of a Birla daughter will be moving into the sacrosanct 15th floor of Birla building on R N Mukherjee road in Kolkata. It has been decided that Chandra Shekhar Nopany, son of Nandini and Bimal Kumar Nopany and grandson of Krishna Kumar Birla, will move into KK Birla's sprawling office room on that exclusive floor and operate from there.

OTHER PLAYERS

ACE to shift sugar contract base to Delhi from Kolhapur

Kotak-anchored Ace Derivatives & Commodity Exchange Ltd plans to rejig its sugar contract and major delivery base from Kolhapur in Maharashtra to Delhi, to capture the mass consumer market in the north.

NSL Sugars acquires sugar complex in Maharashtra

NSL Sugars, a city-based NSL Group company, today said it had acquired the integrated sugar complex of Jay Mahesh Sugar Industries located in Beed district of Maharashtra.

The sugar complex has a capacity of 5,000 tonnes of cane crushing per day (TCD).

NSL Sugars has acquired the entire stake in Jay Mahesh, having a total asset base of over Rs 300 crore from the existing shareholders, Chandigarh-based Spray Engineering Devices.

Simbhaoli Sugars to spin off power biz

Simbhaoli Sugars has decided to hive off its power business into a separate company Simbhaoli Power. The move will help the company enhance power generation capacity at all three locations at Simbhaoli, Chilwaria and Brijnathpur in Uttar Pradesh. The three sugar mills have an aggregate crushing capacity of 20,100 tonnes of cane crush per day.

Rana Sugars aims to export 1 MT of sugar

Integrated sugar manufacturer Rana Sugars has pitched for allowing export of one million tonne (MT) of sweetener so that domestic sugar firms can take advantage of its high global prices.

Parrys Sugar's June qtr net loss at Rs 27 cr

Parrys Sugar Industries today reported a net loss of Rs 27.07 crore for the quarter ended June 30, 2011.

The company had a net loss of Rs 31.07 crore in the same period a year ago, it said in a filing to the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE).

The total expenditure of the company in the first quarter of the current fiscal rose by almost 53% to Rs 132.64 crore as compared to Rs 86.93 crore in the year-ago period.

Balrampur Chini Mills

Balrampur Chini Mills reported net loss of Rs. 19.86 crore for the quarter ended June 2011, on the back of loss in the Sugar division and high interest costs. However, net revenues grew by 5% to the Rs. 563.67 crore for the same period, primarily on account of increased volumes and realizations from the allied segments. Revenues from distillery business grew by 68% to Rs. 49.78 crore where as revenues from cogeneration segment grew by 38% to Rs. 71.77 crore.

Valiant Mauritius sells 16.53 lakh shares of Dalmia Sugar

Valiant Mauritius Partners Limited sold 1,653,951 shares of Dalmia Bharat Sugar and Industries at Rs 18.25 on the BSE and Valiant Mauritius Partners Offshore Limited sold 1,102,635 shares at Rs 18.25 on the BSE.

However, DBEL Employees Welfare Trust bought 2,756,856 shares at Rs 18.25 on the BSE.

INDIAN SUGAR INDUSTRY

Shortage of sugar looms over state

Threat of sugar shortage looms large over the state with the traders' deadline to stop import expiring.

"We are forced to stop sugar import from July 1 because the government did not reconsider its decision on 4 per cent VAT on the essential commodity," said B K Mohanty, general secretary, Federation of All Orissa Traders' Association (FAOTA). The

association on June 19 had given a deadline of June 30 to take the drastic step in case government didn't remove VAT on sugar.

Maharashtra seeks hike in sugar exports

A high-level delegation led by Maharashtra Chief Minister Prithviraj Chavan on Thursday petitioned the Centre for raising the quantity of sugar allowed for exports. The delegation met Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Food Minister K V Thomas.

The delegation is learnt to have urged the PM to enhance the quantity of sugar allowed for exports to 40 lakh tonnes as against 10 lakh tonnes allowed by the Centre so far.

Government's anti-inflationary stance to keep a check on sugar prices

Will the government allow sugar prices to go up? That is the question investors must answer when faced with talks about a possible surge in sugar prices. Currently, the government's decision to allow sugar exports of about half a million tonnes and news from Brazil about lower output are contributing to the buzz.

Sugar rises on brisk buying

Sugar prices rose further by Rs 30 per quintal in the national capital today following increased seasonal buying.

Market analysts said sustained buying by stockists and bulk consumers like ice-cream and softdrink makers pushed up the prices.

Sugar ready medium and second grade prices moved up further by Rs 25 each to Rs 2,950-3,050 and Rs 2,925-3,025 per quintal, respectively.

Maharashtra co-op sugar firms receive bitter I-T pill

Maharashtra's ailing cooperative sugar industry has received yet another shock after income tax department started issuing demands for the payment of dues pending since 1992. These arrears are of the order of Rs 2,500 crore.

The mills under the Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories in Maharashtra, would soon seek the intervention of Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee with a plea that the sugarcane price paid to farmers fixed by the state government be treated as business expenditure and not profit.

Experts call for reforms to clear mess in sugar sector

Experts and industry players have demanded major reforms in the way sugarcane prices are fixed and ethanol is produced to clear the mess in the sugar sector.

Their demand followed criticism of India's sugarcane pricing policy by a recent report of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

The report says there is no link between sugarcane prices and the relatively market-driven prices of sugar.

Govt hints at sugar decontrol this week

The Union government is expected discuss sugar decontrol in a meeting in the next 8-10 days, agriculture minister Sharad Pawar has said. The industry is upbeat that at least the first phase of sugar de-control is likely to take place soon. In the current sugar year, mills are suffering from overproduction and selling sugar below the cost of production. India is expected to have bumper sugar production in the next sugar year October 2011-September 2012.

Sugar prices hit 15-month high

With the prices rising, narrowing the gap between ex-mill and retail levels, experts have started looking it at as a turnaround in the sugar industry. The government's active discussion on decontrolling the sector and possibility of a further export quota has raised favourable hopes for the industry.

Between February and June, the ex-mill sugar price declined to Rs 2,600 a quintal in Uttar Pradesh. It recovered Rs 100-150 a quintal on positive news, to trade currently at Rs 2,750-2,800 a quintal. Similarly, in Maharashtra, the ex-factory sugar price recovered by Rs 150 to trade at Rs 2,600 a quintal.

Govt may ease sugar stockholding limit

The government will take a decision on lifting the monthly stockholding limits on sugar for traders by the end of August or early September, as it expects supply to exceed demand in the current crop season.

Official sources said an empowered group of ministers had recently decided to consider the issue within the next two months after the food ministry consulted with all ministries and departments concerned. The sugar crop season continues from October to September.

Retail demand sweetens sugar

Sugar prices on the Vashi wholesale market improved further on Tuesday tracking positive trend at upper naka and tender levels.

Talk of permission to allow more sugar export and decontrol of sugar sector kept the sentiment bullish.

With a rise of Rs 175-200 a quintal in the last three weeks, market sources said that traders hope that market will stabilise and there will not be any big upside move, considering the higher production this year.

Zero import duty on sugar to stay for another 2 months

The import duty on sugar will continue to remain nil till August 31, till the new crushing season starts in October.

Faced with high food inflation, the government in January exempted sugar imports from Customs duty till March 31, further extended till June 30.

CII welcomes Government's decision to decontrol Sugar Industry

The Union Government's decision to discuss the decontrol the Sugar Industry is a welcome step said Mr Ajay Shriram, Chairman CII National Committee on Sugar and Chairman and Managing Director, DCM Shriram Consolidated Ltd. Since 1993, the regulatory environment has considerably eased, but sugar still continues to be an essential Commodity under the Essential Commodity Act.

Maharashtra sugar mills suffer due to manpower shortage, poaching

Poaching of technical manpower has begun in Maharashtra's co-operative sugar sector because of a paucity of skilled manpower. Private sugar mills have increased salary and incentives to the scarcely-available technical talent.

Technical manpower is at the root of profitable working of sugar mills. There are four

main departments in sugar factories: agricultural, engineering, chemical and accounts. The agricultural department head has to ensure availability of cane with better sugar content.

Mills seek growers' help to end control on sugar sector

The Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA) has asked sugarcane growers in Karnataka to help it have obligation to supply sugar for the public distribution system removed as also the monthly regulated release mechanism.

TN sugarcane production pegged at over 18 lakh tonnes this season

Sugar mills in Tamil Nadu expect to close 2010-11 with a higher than anticipated production pegged at over 18 lakh tonnes. Planting for the coming season is also up on water availability and attractive sugarcane pricing.

Industry estimates forecast a sugar production of about 15-16 lakh tonnes for the year but as of June, sugar production in the cooperative and public sector mills crossed 15 lakh tonnes.

Sugar sector: Excess output likely to negate policy support

Sugar companies reported better financial numbers for the March 2011 quarter unlike the dull performance in the previous three consecutive quarters. Improved sugar volume and lower raw material costs were the major triggers of revival in the March quarter. In the near term, the government's decision to reconsider deregulation of the sector and policy on sugar exports would largely drive valuations of sugar companies.

Isma seeks additional 1 mt sugar export to ease pressure on mills

The Indian Sugar Mills Association (Isma), the industry body representing private and public sector sugar mills in the country, has urged the government to allow export of around one million tonnes (mt) of additional sugar on the back of a higher stock level and estimates of a good crop season next year.

Earlier, the government had allowed export of 500,000 tonnes to check falling prices of the commodity in the domestic market. However, the association feels the opening balance for 2011-12 would be about six mt, which is one mt higher than the last year.

TN sugar mills ask Govt to offer support package

Sugar mills in Tamil Nadu have sought a comprehensive support package including sugarcane pricing reform, capital subsidy for mechanised harvesting and tax reforms to bail out the industry.

In a representation through the South Indian Sugar Mills Association - Tamil Nadu, the industry has suggested that the State Government take steps to link sugarcane price to prices of sugar and by-products. An expert committee constituted by the Centre in August 2010 suggested that sugarcane price could be set at 62 per cent of the gross realisation from sugar and by-products - molasses and bagasse - or simply at 70 per cent of sugar realisation.

Sugar futures rise on better demand, low July quota

Supported by a pick-up in demand and low quota for July, sugar futures prices rose by 0.61 per cent to Rs 2,817 per quintal today as speculators enlarged their positions.

At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, sugar for delivery in August moved up by Rs 17, or 0.61 per cent, to Rs 2,817 per quintal, with an open interest of 25,480 lots.

UP sugar industry demands removal of levy

Uttar Pradesh sugar industry today demanded sweeping reforms in the sugar sector, including abolition of sugar levy and linking sugarcane and sugar prices.

The industry is of the opinion that the government should directly bear the cost of providing subsidised sugar to poor rather than making the industry shoulder the burden.

Sugar levy is a percentage of sugar produced by mills, which is procured by government at below market prices for subsidised distribution under public distribution system (PDS).

Global sugar price at new high of \$874 a tone

Sugar prices have zoomed to a new high at \$874.5 per tonne in the global market (LIFFE near month futures) compared to \$860 a tonne reported in January. The rise in global prices is attributed to uncertainty about sugar production in Brazil, the largest producer and exporter. The Brazilian sugar industry is expected to crush 536 million

tonnes of cane to produce 33.7 million tonnes sugar, against the earlier projections of 573 million tonnes and 35.9 million tonnes, respectively.

Food ministry seeks cap on sugar export till Sept

Fearing a sudden increase in prices, the food ministry has asked for restrictions on sugar exports till September. The industry has been demanding further relaxation in export curbs.

Food minister KV Thomas is of the view that any decision to lift restrictions on export will be taken only after September. He said that by September sugar stocks would be around 6.3 million tonne, just enough to meet the demand for the next three months.

Sugar prices to stabilize, output to touch 25mt

The Indian sugar industry output is expected to touch 25 million tonne in the current season as against 18.92 million tonne in the previous season. The prices will more or less stabilise at the current level. Despite adverse climatic conditions across the world coupled with a few unfortunate situations, India will end with a minor surplus over demand.

Higher support price for sugar in UP puzzles CACP chief

The Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) is puzzled at the large gap between the fair and remunerative price (FRP) for sugarcane set by the Centre and the State Advised Price (SAP) fixed by the Uttar Pradesh government.

For 2010-11, the UP price was R205 a quintal, 47% more than the centrally-set R139.12. This year, the Centre has nudged up FRP by 4.2% to R145 per quintal while the state is yet to fix its price.

India rushes for sugar sales as world market rallies

Indian sugar traders are asking \$775 per tonne free on board (FOB) as they take advantage of record-high international prices to sell 500,000 tonnes of exports approved three weeks ago, three dealers and one analyst told Reuters.

Good demand from neighbours and Gulf countries will mean exporters can easily ship out the quota, allowed under the Open General Licence scheme, by mid-August even at the higher prices, they added.

Maha ups radius of sugarcane factory area from 15 km to 25 km

In an attempt to control the number of sugar factories in the state, Maharashtra Government has decided to increase the radius of a factory's sugarcane area from 15 km to 25 km. The decision was taken at a meeting of the state cabinet here, chaired by Chief Minister Prithviraj Chavan. There are 163 cooperative and 42 private sugar factories in the state. The measure is expected to ensure optimum use of crushing capacity of existing sugar mills in the state.

Good factory health will mean fair returns for cane growers

The sheer number of farmers growing cane is too important a constituency that ruling parties in states like Uttar Pradesh would stop pandering to, for the sake of an ideal, long-delayed reform. Its entry would allow the Centre alone to fix incentivised prices of an important cash crop, without the states getting involved. It is because of the stifling of factory operations by the governments at the Centre and in cane-growing states that the Indian Sugar Mills Association (Isma) president, Narendra Murkumbi, has described sugar as the “most controlled of all industries”.

Sugar prices up on better offtake

Sugar prices rose by Rs 35 per quintal in the national capital today following pickup in demand amid restricted supply from mills.

Marketmen said fall in supply from mills against better offtake by stockist and bulk consumers, such as soft-drink and ice-cream makers, mainly pushed up sugar prices.

Sugar ready medium and second grade prices improved by Rs 35 each to Rs 2,960-3,110 and Rs 2,950-3,060 per quintal.

Traders line Up for sugar export licence

Because of the impending bullishness in world sugar market, traders are aggregating licences for selling five lakh tonnes sugar allocated in the second round of exports. Mills in the remote parts of Maharashtra, which could not find takers for their export licences in the first round of exports, now find traders queueing up for their licences.

Food min issues sugar export order for 1.56 lakh tone

The food ministry has approved export of over 1.56 lakh tonne of sugar so far, out of 5 lakh tonne quantity that the government had allowed last month.

On June 28, the government had notified export of 5 lakh tonnes of sugar under Open General Licence (OGL), which means unrestricted shipments. Sugar mills need to obtain release order (RO) from the food ministry before undertaking exports.

Maharashtra cane farmers gear up to fight for a higher price

The Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) is getting farmers' inputs before deciding the fair and remunerative (FRP) price of sugar cane for the 2012-13 crushing season. But farmer organisations are gearing up to fight for a higher price for the 2011-12 crushing season which is three months away.

Wholesale traders protest VAT on sugar, stop buying

Sugar prices in the retail market in Andhra Pradesh have increased sharply in the last few days. They have gone up to Rs 30-31 a kg from Rs 26-27 last week. Wholesale traders have stopped purchases in protest against levy of 4 per cent VAT (value added tax) on sugar. This would mean a tax burden of Rs 125 on every quintal.

The Government slapped the tax with effect from July 11, 2011.

Maharashtra sugar cooperative mills to get pre-seasonal loan of Rs 1,150 cr

There is good news for about 110 cooperative sugar mills in Maharashtra, as the State Cooperative Bank (SCB), an anchor for agriculture and crop loans, has okayed pre-seasonal loans. This loan is necessary for overhauling, payment of advances to harvesting and transportation contractors, purchase of stores materials and payment of off-seasonal wages to labours.

Cane output estimated to rise 11% this year

Sugarcane production is estimated to be around 350 million tonnes (mt) as against 315 mt last year, according to the latest estimates of the agricultural ministry for the year 2011-12.

This is part of the annual projections of the agricultural ministry for the year.

Sugarcane is an important cash crop, mostly used for manufacturing sugar, an essential commodity.

Cooperatives mills want Centre to allow 5 lakh t additional sugar exports

Cooperative sugar mills have sought the Centre's nod for export of an additional five lakh tonnes (lt) under open general license during the current 2010-11 season (October-September). This is over and above the already permitted quantity of 10 lt.

Allow another 1mt export, sugar millers urge govt

With an eye on a nearly 25 per cent higher realisation from export and a downward revision in Brazilian sugar output, Indian sugar millers are pushing for allowing export of another million tonnes of the sweetener by October.

Indian Sugar Mills Association (Isma), in a letter to the food ministry on Friday, made a case for allowing export of one million tonnes over and above the million tonnes allowed by the government earlier this year.

MSC Bank attaches assets of 26 co-op sugar, spinning mills

The Maharashtra State Cooperative Bank (MSCB) has attached the properties of 26 cooperative sugar and spinning mills and agro industries for the non-payment of dues worth Rs 788 crore between 2003 and March 31, 2011. The bank is also exploring options of an outright sale of these units.

Sugar prices up on reduce supply, better offtake

Sugar prices improved by Rs 40 per quintal in the national capital today following pick-up in demand amid restricted supply from mills.

Market analysts said reduced arrivals from mills due to adverse weather conditions following heavy rains against pick-up in demand mainly pushed up sugar prices.

Sugar Futures Down More Than 5% On Export Dissent By Government In The Current Year

Sugar futures plunged by almost Rs. 120 per quintal in the last two days after the export denial by Food ministry in the near future. Traders are expecting some more correction in the short term.

As per latest update from Food Ministry , India is not keen to allow more sugar exporters before the completion of the current marketing season ie, 30th September 2011 as they are expecting steady global prices until January.

Government to consider sugar exports after Sept

India is not in a hurry to allow additional sugar exports, union minister of state for food consumer affairs and public distribution K.V. Thomas said on Tuesday, responding to a demand made by an industry body to allow half a million tonnes more for overseas sales to cash in on high global prices.

Sugar set for steep hike in coastal areas

Sugar looks all set to turn bitter for some consumers in the coastal districts. They are at their wit's end with reports indicating that a kg of sugar could cost Rs 60 in the coming days. At present, the sugar price is hovering around Rs 35-40.

The wholesale traders have stopped purchasing the commodity from millers since July 20 following the imposition of 4 per cent value added tax (VAT) on sugar. This has led to steep rise in the price, as the stocks are depleting in the retail market.

This festive season may turn bitter as sugar turns dear

This festive season is starting on a bitter note. With sugar traders protesting against the 4% VAT and refusing to lift stocks from sugar mills, the cost of sugar in the city is northbound.

Worse, sugar stock is shrinking in the city's wholesale markets and retailers say that the white granule would turn too precious for citizens to afford in the next few days.

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Sugar To Encounter Selling At Higher Levels

Selling is likely to persist in sugar futures at higher levels after the export denial by Food ministry in the near future. The NCDEX futures are likely to encounter some selling around Rs. 2735- 2740 per quintal in the short term.

As per latest update from Food Ministry , India is not keen to allow more sugar exporters before the completion of the current marketing season ie, 30th September 2011 as they are expecting steady global prices until January.

Kenya: Sugar Board Aspirants Allege Poll Rigging Plot

An aspirant in the Kenya Sugar Board elections in the Nzoia sugar belt have accused the outgoing officials of planning to rig in the forth coming elections.

India sugar surges on firm physical demand

Bullish trend in sugar futures continued on Wednesday on strong buying interest from whole sellers and stockiest. Futures started the on positive note continuing the earlier gains.

Lorry operators happy with MOU

A meeting between the Vanua Levu Cane Lorry Operators, the Fiji Sugar Corporation and the Sugar Industry Tribunal has been successful says acting CEO of Sugar Cane Growers Council Sundresh Chetty.

Ministry to re-open sugar institution

The Ministry for Sugar has plans to re-open the agriculture school in Drasa, Lautoka that will specialise in the production of sugar.

Cuba intensifies efforts to boost sugar industry

HAVANA, June 30 (Xinhua): The Cuban government doubled the purchasing price of sugarcane in order to encourage farmers to increase crop output, a senior industry official said Wednesday.

Govt may consider further sugar exports

New Delhi: The government may consider allowing further exports of sugar after assessing the impact on retail prices due to shipment of one million tonnes of the sweetener, Food Minister K V Thomas said Thursday.

RDC calls on Coke to buy local sugar

The Western Visayas Regional Development Council yesterday approved a collegial resolution calling on Coca-Cola and other similar industries to buy sugar produced domestically.

Sugarcane grower of the year announced

A far north Queensland cane grower has taken out the top prize at the sugar industry's first-ever national awards night.

Sugar Australia Buys Thai, Brazil Supplies for Second Time in Three Years

Sugar Australia, a unit of Wilmar International Ltd.-owned Sucrogen, imported sugar for a second time in three years to meet domestic demand after a cyclone in February and wet conditions in growing regions cut supply in the world's third-biggest shipper.

SuperGIS Desktop Selected by Mitr Phol in Thailand

SuperGeo Technologies, the leading global provider of complete GIS software and solutions, is pleased to announce that SuperGIS Desktop 3, its powerful desktop GIS product, is selected by Mitr Phol Sugarcane Research Centre in Thailand.

Negros lawmakers want probe on entry of premix sugar

FOUR congressmen in the province and Bacolod City filed a joint resolution to investigate the entry of premix sugar and High Fructose Corn Syrup (HFCS) in the country that has prejudiced the sugar industry.

Sugar industry stakeholders hold picket vs Coke

ABOUT 7,000 sugar industry stakeholders staged a picket Wednesday denouncing Coca Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc. before its bottling plant in San Fernando, Pampanga.

Barbados spending millions to diversify sugar industry

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, Wednesday June 29, 2011 Government plans to embark on a BDS\$200 million (US\$100 million) project to diversify the sugar industry with bagasse, ethanol, special sugars and molasses.

Bunge dreams of sweeter profits from sugar unit

The sugar and bioenergy unit, centered heavily on Brazil, includes businesses involving sugar production, milling, trading and merchandising, as well as sugar-based ethanol production.

Zimbabwe: Star Africa Set to Sell Red Star

STAR Africa Corporation is set to dispose of its Red Star subsidiaries as part of efforts to streamline its business operations to focus on core activities of sugar refining and packaging

A spoonful of sugar (could) make the world go around

The current frank discussions internationally and in South Africa on the role of biofuels are both timely and welcome -- because biofuels, along with bio-energy sources such as solar, wind, wave and hydropower, have a prominent role to play in creating a sustainable future, and especially one in which the rising global temperature is curtailed.

SA sugar groups eye post-drought recovery

SA's two largest sugar and associated agri-processing groups, Tongaat Hulett and Illovo Sugar, are looking forward to better results in the year to next March after drought cut their profits in the 2010-11 period .

EU grants J\$840 million to Jamaica's sugar sector

The reform of Jamaica's sugar sector is to benefit from another significant injection of funds from the European Union. This as the EU will disburse over 6.9 million or roughly J\$840 million to the government of Jamaica under one of its three Sector Budget Support programmes to the island. The funds have been approved under the EU's Accompanying Measures for former Sugar protocol countries (AMS) and were officially signed off on Saturday July 2, following a ceremony in Frigate Bay, St. Kitts which will be attended by Prime Minister the Hon. Bruce Golding and European Union Commissioner for Development Andris Piebalgs and other Caribbean Ministers.

Jamaica gets more sugar money

Jamaica has received another \$860 million from the European Union as part of a programme to help the country adjust to changes in the sugar trading regime with Europe.

COFCO poised for Tully sugar mill takeover

CHINESE Government-owned food and oil giant COFCO has taken control of Tully Sugar mill, promising an era of more cane farms, more jobs and greater wealth.

Tully Sugar mill in Chinese hands

CHINESE state-owned food and oil giant Cofco has taken control of north Queensland's Tully Sugar mill.

Katter's 'towering rage' over Tully sale

CHINESE-government owned COFCO has taken control of Tully Sugar one of the last major sugar assets in north Queensland after New York commodities trader Bunge pulled out of the race.

CII suggests plan to decontrol sugar industry

New Delhi, Jul 6 (PTI) Industry body CII today suggested an action plan for the complete liberalisation of the Rs 75,000 crore sugar industry.

Maharashtra sugar mills suffer due to manpower shortage, poaching

PUNE: Poaching of technical manpower has begun in Maharashtra's co-operative sugar sector because of a paucity of skilled manpower. Private sugar mills have increased salary and incentives to the scarcely-available technical talent.

Zero import duty on sugar to stay for another 2 months

Officials said a final decision will be taken by the finance ministry. It may decide to align the duty structure according to the recommendations of the food ministry.

Russia Fixes Import Duty on Raw Sugar at \$140 a Ton for August

The customs union joining Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan fixed the import duty on raw sugar at \$140 a metric ton for August, Bloomberg reported.

Unions tried to own FSC says Vaniqi

Entrenched politics within the sugar industry made it seem like the unions were the owners of the Fiji Sugar Corporation says the permanent secretary for Sugar Colonel Manasa Vaniqi.

South Africa: Economy Still Faces Tough Time - Minister

The deputy minister was speaking at an event hosted by the Sugar Industry Trust Fund for Education in Durban on Wednesday.

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COFCO poised for Tully sugar mill takeover

CHINESE Government-owned food and oil giant COFCO has taken control of Tully Sugar mill, promising an era of more cane farms, more jobs and greater wealth.

South Africa: SA, European Firms in Agribusiness JV

South African firm Senwes is entering into a joint venture with the European division of Bunge, a leading global agribusiness company, to develop grain and oilseed operations in South Africa both for the domestic market and for export to African countries.

Kenya: Cane Farmers Unhappy With Nzoia, Mumias Plan

Farmers contracted to supply cane to Nzoia Sugar Company are crying foul over a move by the company to supply their cane to Mumias Sugar Company. Speaking during a farmers meeting in Mabanga, the farmers said that the move had increased the transport cost which is levied on them and consequently reducing profits.

Coke promises to buy local sugar

BACOLOD CITY Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines has assured leaders of the sugar industry that it will buy five millions bags of locally produced sugar next year after it cancelled importation of premix sugar for the third and fourth quarter of this year.

NSL Sugars acquires Jay Mahesh Sugar Plant

Hyderabad, Jul 7: NSL Sugars, a part of Hyderabad-based NSL Group, announced today that it has acquired the integrated sugar complex of Jay Mahesh Sugar Industries located in Beed district of Maharashtra.

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FAO says int'l food prices up in June on surging sugar prices

International food prices rose 1 percent in June, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) said Thursday.

Drop in sugar output from Brazil expected

PanARMENIAN.Net - Sugar output from Brazil, the world's biggest exporter, is expected to fall this year for the first time in five years according to Unica, Brazil's cane industry association.

ISMA wants sugar industry to be deregulated

BANGALORE, 7 JULY: The powerful Indian Sugar Mills Association today urged the government to deregulate the sugar industry, even if in a phased manner, by abolishing the levy sugar obligation in addition to the monthly regulated release mechanism. The ISMA has argued that nowhere in the world are such levies imposed on the industry, not even in small countries such as Kenya and Tanzania. The decontrol would help the industry and the country immensely in tiding over the surplus sugar production year and the unprecedented stocks that the mills are burdened with.

Katter's 'towering rage' over Tully sale

CHINESE-government owned COFCO has taken control of Tully Sugar one of the last major sugar assets in north Queensland after New York commodities trader Bunge pulled out of the race.

Sugar Industry continues to suffer burden of excessive controls: Narendra Murkumbi

Sugar industry in India is totally controlled by the Government. Certain percentage of sugar produced by the sugar manufacturers has to be given to the Government on administrated price for distribution of the same under PDS. In no other country in the world not even in small countries like Kenya, Tanzania etc such type of levies have been imposed on sugar industry. We have raised our demand before the Government to de-regulate the industry in phased manner. To start with, the following two steps may be initiated by the Government:-

Fiji sugar industry reform to squeeze out unions, politics

The Fiji Ministry of Sugar says it will try and identify the right people to reform the sugar industry.

Cane cutters fund construction of church

THE impact of the sugar industry is far reaching and one distant tangible benefit includes the construction of a church in Vatulele.

Tully Sugar mill in Chinese hands

CHINESE state-owned food and oil giant Cofco has taken control of north Queensland's Tully Sugar mill.

Katter's 'towering rage' over Tully sale

CHINESE-government owned COFCO has taken control of Tully Sugar one of the last major sugar assets in north Queensland after New York commodities trader Bunge pulled out of the race.

CII suggests plan to decontrol sugar industry

New Delhi, Jul 6 (PTI) Industry body CII today suggested an action plan for the complete liberalisation of the Rs 75,000 crore sugar industry.

Maharashtra sugar mills suffer due to manpower shortage, poaching

PUNE: Poaching of technical manpower has begun in Maharashtra's co-operative sugar sector because of a paucity of skilled manpower. Private sugar mills have increased salary and incentives to the scarcely-available technical talent.

Zero import duty on sugar to stay for another 2 months

Officials said a final decision will be taken by the finance ministry. It may decide to align the duty structure according to the recommendations of the food ministry.

Russia Fixes Import Duty on Raw Sugar at \$140 a Ton for August

The customs union joining Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan fixed the import duty on raw sugar at \$140 a metric ton for August, Bloomberg reported.

Unions tried to own FSC says Vaniqi

Entrenched politics within the sugar industry made it seem like the unions were the owners of the Fiji Sugar Corporation says the permanent secretary for Sugar Colonel Manasa Vaniqi.

South Africa: Economy Still Faces Tough Time - Minister

The deputy minister was speaking at an event hosted by the Sugar Industry Trust Fund for Education in Durban on Wednesday.

Nigeria: Savannah Sugar Produces 18,175 Metric Tonnes Annually

Savannah Sugar Company Limited (SSCL), Numan in Adamawa State, with staff strength of 5,472, is the second largest employer of labour in Adamawa State, according to the firm's Acting Managing Director, Ta'aziya Akila Todi.

No shortage of sugar as enough stocks available in the country

RAWALPINID: Chairman Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP) Sheikh Anjum Bashir said that there would be no shortage of sugar particularly during Ramazan as TCP has enough stocks of the commodity.

NSL Sugars expands with Rs231 crore purchase of Jay Mahesh Sugar Industries

Bangalore-based NSL Sugars, a unit of the Hyderabad-based NSL Group has gone in for an expansion by acquiring the integrated sugar complex of Jay Mahesh Sugar Industries, for Rs231 crore.

Coke confirms nixing premix importation

COCA-COLA confirmed that it has already cancelled contracts for premix importation for the third and fourth quarter of this year, and that it is buying domestic sugar because of the very reasonable price now.

Mill picks up steam

GOVERNMENT'S decision not to close the problem-plagued Rarawai sugar mill is now paying dividends.

Brazil sugar industry prospects challenging, but sweet

The volume of cane produced and processed by the Brazilian cane industry rose by an impressive 60 percent in the last six years. However, the wave of investment in milling capacity that drove this expansion is coming to an end, and cane production in the current season is expected to fall short of last season's output. Meanwhile, despite the robust demand outlook for Sugar and ethanol, and high commodity prices, few new mills are expected to be commissioned in the near future; says a Rabobank report.

Ill fate blooms in Brazil's sugar fields

To the untrained eye, Brazil's sugarcane plantations have never looked better. Rare, feather-like violet flowers have shot up from the top of the plants, filling the shimmering skyline of São Paulo's countryside.

However, local farmers know it is an ominous sign. The flowers, which are induced when the sugarcane plant comes under acute physiological stress, are a testament to the terrible climatic conditions the crop endured last year and a warning of the poor harvest to come.

Kenya: New Nzoia Sugar Chair Assumes His Position

The new Nzoia Sugar Company Chairman Lawrence Sifuna reported at the factory yesterday. Sifuna was appointed to the position three days ago by President Kibaki through a Kenya Gazette notice. He was escorted to the factory by hundreds of farmers who were optimistic that his appointment would solve their problems. "We expect that the incoming chairman will put the interests of farmers before all else and we shall no longer be poor," said Webster Wechuli, a farmer from Bukembe.

Uganda: Sugar and the Economy - the Solution is Around the Corner

You don't need anybody to tell you that sugar plays a central role in the lives of our people.

Mackay Sugar holds off Sucrogen

MACKAY Sugar has asked Proserpine Co-operative Sugar Milling growers to reject a \$115 million offer by foreign-owned Sucrogen, while it prepares to table an offer itself

First British Sugar strikes in 30 years loom

Unite the Union is preparing to ballot members at four British Sugar plants on industrial action over pay, in what could lead to the first strike action at the firm in 30 years.

Russian sugar refineries raise output by 19%

White sugar production from imported raws amounted to 2.184 mln tonnes between January 1 and July 18, up 19% from the level seen one year earlier, the Russian Sugar Producers Union said.

More women getting cane industry jobs

The Bundaberg Canegrowers' chairman says more women are being employed in the industry to cover the loss of jobs to the mining sector.

Sugar industry pleads for freedom from control

Constrained by various regulations on pricing, sales and stock holdings, the industry asks why it can't be free like others, writes Dilip Maitra

Tufton: We created believers in agriculture

DR Christopher Tufton remembers taking heavy flak for the sugar industry divestment programme and the introduction of the Farmers' Markets during his tenure as agriculture and fisheries minister but remains convinced that his actions were justified.

PROPOSED PURCHASE OF SUGAR FACTORY DEBATED

The issue of the proposed investment in Belize Sugar Industries Limited by the Honduras-based Banco Atlantida was brought up at the adjournment of the House of Representatives meeting this afternoon in Belmopan. Leader of the Opposition John Briceo questioned the sincerity of the Prime Minister on the issue of the nationalism saying that while he expended millions to acquire BTL and BEL from foreign ownership, he is, quote selling out end quote, the sugar industry to a foreign entity.

CANEFARMERS TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE SALE OF SUGAR FACTORY

The Belize Sugar Cane Farmers Associations is preparing to propose the purchase of shares in BSI. On Friday, Prime Minister Dean Barrow and representatives of Honduran, Banco Atlantida will meet with the BSCFA to discuss Banco Atlantida's interests in BSI. We spoke today with BSCFA's Chairman of the Committee of Management, Alfredo Ortega who gives us his take.

Zimbabwe: Hulett Rolls Out Private Grower Rehab Programme

South Africa's largest sugar producer, Tongaat Hulett, this month rolled out a multi-million dollar private grower rehabilitation programme to boost sugarcane production by Zimbabwe's communal farmers.

Kenya: Sugarcane Farmers Retain Director

Nairobi A director with the Kenya Sugar Board, Mr Okoth Obado, retained his seat after he trounced six rivals during elections.

Kenya: New Sugar Chiefs Wants Sale of Factories Speeded Up

The newly-elected Kenya Sugar Board directors from Mumias and Busia want privatisation of sugar factories speeded. The directors Mohammed Mukhwana and Billy Wanjala, a former Sugar Development Fund board chairman, said the sale of sugar firms will improve efforts to revive the ailing industry.

Kenya Power - Massive Power Rationing Begins Wednesday

Nairobi Kenya Power has announced a power rationing regime that will affect most parts of the country except the coast region. The rationing will be between 6.40 PM and 9.30 PM, and will mostly be confined to industrial areas.

Strong returns forecast for sugar growers

A RECENT a recent upswing in global raw sugar prices has lifted expected returns for Australian growers and millers this season, according to an outlook update from Queensland Sugar Limited (QSL).

American Crystal lockout planned without contract

MOORHEAD, Minn. (AP) American Crystal Sugar says it plans to lock out its 1,300 workers at five Red River Valley sugar mills and hire replacements if a new labor agreement isn't reached by Monday.

Sugar does not melt, it decomposes: Study By ANI | ANI 17 hours ago

Washington, July 26 (ANI): Sugar doesn't melt, it decomposes, a new study by University of Illinois researchers has revealed.

Japan, Indonesia place orders for PHL sugar

Two Asian countries are buying excess sugar production of the Philippines, the Sugar Regulatory Administration said on Monday.

Boeing, Embraer and IDB to research using jet fuel sourced from sugar cane

Boeing, Embraer, and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) have announced a joint initiative to fund a sustainability analysis of producing renewable jet fuel sourced from Brazilian sugarcane. The partners will conduct a study led by ICONE, a research think-tank in Brazil, to evaluate environmental and market conditions associated with the use of renewable jet fuel produced by Amyris. World Wildlife Fund (WWF) will serve as an independent reviewer and advisor.

Fiji - PM highlights importance of sugar industry

The Prime Minister Commodore Voreqe Bainimarama highlighted the socio-economic importance on the sugar industry further adding the Fijian Government is fully committed to ensure the industry regains its former status as a key foreign exchange earner and remained a major employer on a competitive and sustainable basis.

Ethanol production hit as fuel plants cease operations

Farmers in Yorkshire and the rest of the North-East have been adjusting to the unexpected closure of the Ensus bio-ethanol plant at Wilton, near Middlesbrough, which opened in January 2010, and which promised to be a major market for local wheat growers.

Kenya: Busolo Retains Sugar Board Seat for Nzoia Belt

SAULO Busolo has retained his seat as Kenya Sugar Board director for Nzoia Sugar belt in Bungoma County.

Kenya: Chaos At Sugar Board Elections As Kidero is Elected

Claims of rigging, tension and confusion marred Kenya Sugar Board elections in western Kenya yesterday even as machete wielding youths took control of security in favour of their preferred candidates in most polling station that saw Evans Kidero, Mumias Sugar Managing Director elected to represent millers.

Cane Sugar Refining Industry in the US and its International Trade [2011 Q3 Edition]

This U.S. industry comprises establishments primarily engaged in refining cane sugar from raw cane sugar. This 6-digit NAICS industry (311312) is under the hierarchy of Sugar Manufacturing Industry (31131), Sugar and Confectionery Product Manufacturing Industry Group (3113), Food Manufacturing Subsector (311), and the Manufacturing Sector (31-33). Its SIC equivalent code is: 2062 - Cane Sugar Refining.

Parrys Sugar's June qtr net loss at Rs 27 cr

Parrys Sugar Industries today reported a net loss of Rs 27.07 crore for the quarter ended June 30, 2011

Kandla sugar refinery with 3,000 tons per day capacity commissioned

Shree Renuka Sugars Ltd (Bloomberg Symbol - SHRS : IN, Reuters Symbol SRES.BO, SRES.NS) has announced that it has commissioned its new sugar refinery on the West coast of India near the port of Kandla on 25th of July 2011. The rated capacity of the sugar refinery is 3,000 tons per day (1 million MT per year) of raw sugar refining and 45 MW of co-generation capacity.

Improving the cogeneration cycle for India's sugar industry

India's sugar industry is a major user of steam turbine cogeneration technology and that technology is improving to maximize performance both during the production season and during the off season, when power exports are the priority. Triveni Turbine's Engineering & Product Development Team explain.

Proposed suspension of diuron a major blow for the sugarcane industry

The proposed suspension of key agricultural chemical diuron would be yet another major hit for the sugarcane industry still recovering from one of the worst seasons in history, says Canegrowers CEO Steve Greenwood today.

Government committed to sugar

Government wants to put sugar back as one of Fiji's main source of income in the next few years says Sugar Permanent Secretary Colonel Manasa Vaniqi.

Kenya: Firm May Close As Sugarcane Shortage Bites

One of the three sugar milling companies in Kakamega County might close shop due to acute shortage of sugarcane. West Kenya Sugar Company yesterday announced that raw material shortage had led to a drop in the amount of sugarcane crushed - from 3,500 tonnes of cane per day to 1,000 tonnes.

Kenya: Sugar Millers Shed Jobs As Cane Shortage Bites

Sugar millers have cut production and are laying off workers as they struggle to cope with shortage of sugarcane that could also hurt farmers' earnings and reduce the commodity on shop shelves.

Kenya: Cane Farmers Threaten to Paralyse Mumias Sugar

THE residents of Nasewa, a sugar growing zone in Nambale district, Busia County have threatened to paralyze the activities of Mumias Sugar Company in Busia unless the company returns the 341.2 acre land it has acquired without the consent of the owners.

Kenya: Faster Cane the Key to Success

Sugar millers and farmers face a bleak future unless they diversify and invest in fast maturing cane.

Kenya: Mumias Sugar's Power Output Falls As Demand Peaks

Sugar producer Mumias is unable to meet its power supply quota to the national grid as contracted under a power purchase agreement with Kenya Power, amplifying the electricity deficit particularly in Western Kenya.

Nigeria: Savannah Sugar - FG Inaugurates Probe Committee

The Minister of state for Trade and Investment, Dr Samuel Ortom has inaugurated a 5-man fact finding and peace restoration committee to look into the closure of the Savannah Sugar Company Ltd, Numan in Adamawa state.

Nigeria: Savannah Sugar Crisis - FG Inaugurates Seven-Man Committee

The federal government yesterday in Abuja, inaugurated a 7-man fact finding/peace restoration committee for Savannah Sugar Company, Numan, Adamawa State, which was closed due to security threats arising from labour disputes within the company and from the host community.

Sugar-based jet fuel studied

RIO DE JANEIRO, July 28 (UPI) -- Boeing, Embraer and the Inter-American Development Bank will fund a sustainability analysis of making renewable jet fuel from Brazilian sugarcane.

Brussels rakes in 150 000 tonnes more sugar

The EU has given the green light to some 152 208 tonnes of sugar for import, after avid bidders snapped up last week's major tender and a series of highly over-subscribed duty-free import quotas

Sugar beet workers to vote on contract

Gov. Dayton is to meet with parties Friday to help stave off a lockout by Moorhead-based American Crystal Sugar.

Contract awarded for biofuel plant at sugar mill

A major contract has been handed out for part of the construction of a co-generation plant in northern Queensland.

Admuda plans sugar refinery

KUALA LUMPUR: Admuda Sdn Bhd has signed an MOU with CGS International (Chongqing) Co Ltd to build a RM160mil sugar refinery plant in Kuching.

EU, EC urged to release funds for Fiji

The Sugar ministers from the African Caribbean and Pacific or ACP states have urged the European Union and the European Commission to ensure that the funds designated for Fiji are immediately released to assist the affected farmers and the sugar industry.

PUP trying to cause Sugar Industry Collapse?

There is an intense debate taking place with the investment proposal being offered by Banco Atlantida from Honduras in trying to secure majority ownership in Belize Sugar Industries Ltd (BSI). The background to this scenario is that in 2007 BSI secured a wide portfolio of financing for the upgrade of the Sugar Factory and for the construction of Belize Co-generation Ltd (Belcogen) to the tune of approximately BZ \$130 million. This single largest investment in Belize was apparently hinged on the premise that sugar production would improve each year thereafter to exceed 125,000 tons, and cane harvesting would reach 1.4 million tons by 2010, when Belcogen was to come on stream.

Release sugar money: ACP

SUGAR ministers from the African Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) states have urged the European Union and the European Commission to ensure that funds earmarked for Fiji are immediately released to assist the affected farmers and the sugar industry in their adjustment and adaptation process.

German Sugar Association sees 2011/12 crop up strongly on the year

Germany is likely to produce "significantly" more beet white sugar in the upcoming 2011/12 campaign due to a rise in the area under cultivation and favourable weather conditions so far in the growing season, the head of German Sugar Industry Association WVZ, Dieter Langendorf, said.

ETHANOL

Brazil sugar industry prospects challenging, but sweet

The volume of cane produced and processed by the Brazilian cane industry rose by an impressive 60 percent in the last six years. However, the wave of investment in milling capacity that drove this expansion is coming to an end, and cane production in the current season is expected to fall short of last season's output. Meanwhile, despite the robust demand outlook for Sugar and ethanol, and high commodity prices, few new mills are expected to be commissioned in the near future; says a Rabobank report.