

HIGHLIGHTS FOR November 2010

BIRLA SUGAR

INDUSTRY SNAP SHOTS

The sugarcane crushing is off to a sluggish start in Uttar Pradesh with about 10 units in western region functioning and 50 odd commencing procurement of cane as a prelude to crushing. Of the 10 units, six belong to the private sector, while the rest are the federation mills. There are about 130 functional sugar mills in UP in the government, private and cooperative sectors.

A week after Chief Minister Mayawati issued a warning against delay in crushing cane, private sugar mills are reluctant to commence the crushing activity early due to low sugar recovery. Mayawati on November 12, had asked the private sugar mills to commence crushing of the cane at the earliest. CM had said the sugar mills defying the government order will face legal action.

Mills in Maharashtra - the country's No. 1 sugar producer - have managed to crush just 12 lakh tonnes (lt) of cane during October, against the targeted 50 lt for the month. "We are expected to crush a record 825 lt during the 2010-11 season (October-September), which, at 11.5 per cent average recovery, would yield 95 lt of sugar.

With mills in Uttar Pradesh yet to begin crushing, farmer leaders have decided to hold their agitation and wait till mills open and declare the price at which they will buy cane. Millers, on the other hand, are of the firm view that they cannot operate feasibly at the state government mandated SAP of 205/quintal and there is no way they can afford to pay an incentive over it, as demanded by the farmers.

OTHER PLAYERS

Dhampur Sugar - Outcome of Board Meeting

The Board has approved merger of wholly owned subsidiary i.e. Dhampur Sugar Distillery Pvt. Ltd. (DSDPL) with Dhampur Sugar Mills Ltd. (DSML) w.e.f. October 01, 2010. The Board has also authorized Mr. Gaurav Goel and Mr. Gautam Goel, Managing Directors of the Company to take all necessary actions to get the necessary approvals from the concerned authorities and to finalize the scheme of merger.

Sugar division to be profitable in SY11: Balrampur Chini

Balrampur Chini announced its Q4 results. It reported losses of Rs 78.3 crore as against a profit of Rs 42.7 crore. It's net sales stood at Rs 508.3 crore versus Rs 378.9 crore. In an exclusive interview with CNBC-TV18's Udayan Mukherjee and Sonia Shenoy, Vivek Saraogi, Managing Director at Balrampur Chini said that the current correction in global sugar prices was only a mild pull back given the phenomenal surge earlier. He added that he expects global prices to stabilise at around Rs 27-30 cents per pound.

Shree Renuka Sugars Q4 net up by 15.5%

Shree Renuka sugars today reported a consolidated net profit of Rs 116.9 crore for the quarter ended on September, 30, 15.5 per cent growth as compared to the similar quarter in the year-ago period. The company had reported a net profit of Rs 101.2 crore for the corresponding quarter last financial year, Renuka Sugars said in a filing to Bomabay stock exchange.

Triveni's profitability hit by lower sugar prices

Though the cogeneration and distillery sub-segments within the sugar division did well to expand revenue, the higher cost of cane meant that they could not contribute to better profitability. Even full-year figures (year ended September) show sugar sales rising by 17%, but still incurring a loss of Rs22.2 crore.

Uttam Sugar Mills revises rights issue ratio

Uttam Sugar Mills Ltd has announced that the Board of Directors of the Company at its meeting held on November 23, 2010, has decided to increase the number of shares offered in the rights issue from 42,94,833 to 46,85,273 and modified the ratio of rights issue from existing 1:6 (i.e. one equity shares offered for every six equity shares held on record date along with two detachable warrants per equity share offered) to 2:11 (i.e. two equity shares offered for every eleven equity shares held on record date along with two detachable warrants per equity share offered).

Purti Group's sugar factory inaugurated at Jamni

The sugar Factory at Jamni started functioning from Saturday as part of the Purti Group. The factory, earlier known as the Mahatma Sugar Factory, had been shuttered for the last several years, before BJP national president Nitin Gadkari purchased it some time back.

On Saturday, Gadkari, Wardha MP Datta Meghe, BJP MLA Devendra Fadnavis and several other BJP leaders of the district were present at the factory's inauguration.

Sugar prices slip on selling pressure

Sugar prices declined by Rs 25 per quintal in the national capital today on stockists selling against reduced offtake. Marketmen said ample supply from mills ahead of month-end, created a huge stocks position in market and pulled down the sweetener's prices. Sugar ready medium and second grade prices dipped by Rs 25 to settle at Rs 3,000-3,125 and Rs 2,975-3,100 from Rs 3,000-3,150 and Rs 2,975-3,125 per quintal, respectively.

Sugar rises on higher seasonal demand

Sugar prices rose Rs 50 per quintal at the wholesale sugar market on Saturday on pick-up in demand in view of the marriage season. Marketmen said fresh buying by retailers and bulk consumers for the ongoing marriage season mainly pushed up wholesale sugar prices. Sugar mill delivery medium and second grade prices rose Rs 50 each to Rs 2,825-2,975 and Rs 2,805-2,965 per quintal.

Sugar production drops 29% due to excess rain: report

The Sugar production in Maharashtra fell by 29% after heavy rain in the region. Prakash Naiknavare, managing director of the Maharashtra State Cooperative Sugar Factories Federation Ltd., was quoted as saying that mills produced 408,000 metric tons until Nov. 20, compared with 573,000 tons a year earlier. He further added that a total 5MT cane were crushed, 20% less than 6.28MT last season.

Sugar declines on sluggish demand

Sugar prices declined further at the Vashi Wholesale market here today due to subdued demand from stockists and bulk consumers amidst adequate stock position. Small sugar quality (S-30) fell by Rs 19 per quintal to Rs 2,871/2,931 from overnight closing level of Rs 2,890/2,931. Medium sugar quality (M-30) also moved down by Rs 5/10 per quintal to Rs 2,906/2,971, as compared with Rs 2,911/2,981 yesterday. The following are today's closing rates per quintal, with the previous rates in brackets: Small sugar (S-30) quality Rs 2,871/2,931 (Rs 2,890/ 2,931) and medium sugar (M-30) quality Rs 2,906/2,971 (Rs 2,911/2,981).

India now eyes govt panel to decide sugar exports

A group of ministers will decide on freeing up sugar exports, trade minister Anand Sharma said on Thursday, just a week after the farm minister said he would take the decision. Sharma did not specify any timeframe for the ministers' meeting.

Jayshree Tea hungry for more tea, sugar acquisitions

B K Birla group company Jayshree Tea & Industries Limited is aiming at more acquisitions in tea and sugar, a top company official said. "We are looking at further acquisitions in tea and sugar and funds will not be a problem," the managing director of Jayshree Tea, D P Maheshwari, said. He said that the company had already snapped up a Bihar sugar unit in March this year at a cost of Rs 112 crore.

INDIAN SUGAR INDUSTRY

UP to give sugarcane growers Rs 40 a quintal more

The Uttar Pradesh (UP) Government has announced an unprecedented Rs 40/quintal increase in the State Advised Price (SAP) of sugarcane to be crushed by mills in the 2010-11 sugar season (October-September). UP factories will now have to fork out growers Rs 205 for every quintal of 'normal' cane delivered at their gates, with the corresponding rates of 'early' and 'rejected' varieties fixed at Rs 210 and Rs 205 a quintal, respectively. For the previous 2009-10 season, SAPs were set at Rs 162.5 a quintal for 'rejected', Rs 165 a quintal for 'normal' and Rs 170 a quintal for 'early' varieties.

Sugar turns sweeter on festival demand

Prices on Vashi sugar market shot up by Rs 30-40 a quintal on lower free sale quota for November and higher retail demand for Diwali. Last Friday, the Government declared 16.15 lakh tonnes (lt) , which is less than 19.98 lt for October. Last year, quota for November was 17.14 lt. Freight rates also increased by Rs 15-20 because of shortage of trucks at producing centres.

UP raises sugarcane price by '40

In a step that may take the sting out of the Opposition's onslaught on the issue, chief minister Mayawati on Tuesday announced a raise of Rs40 in the state advisory price (SAP) for normal variety of sugarcane. The price for the current crushing season 2010-11 has been fixed at Rs 205 per quintal.

Chandigarh police crack down on sugar hoarders

Chandigarh, Nov 5 (IANS) Two persons were arrested here for hoarding over 5,000 kg of sugar, police said Friday. In a joint operation by Chandigarh police and food and supplies department of the union territory, a raid was conducted at two places after a tip-off.

Kolhapur, Sangli mills to start cane crushing

While the state government has fixed the Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) for sugar this year at Rs 1,391 per tonne for a 9.5 per cent recovery rate of sugar, the farmers' agitation seems to be nearing an end in Sangli and Kolhapur. Mills that have entered into an agreement with farmers for a rate of Rs 1,900 per tonne will begin crushing. However for the others, supply of cane is yet to be started.

Rise in spot sugar prices

On Thursday (04 November 2010), the spot sugar prices on the Vashi wholesale market shot up by Rs. 30-40 due to heavy demand from retailers and upcountry buyers before the three-days market closure from Friday for Diwali. Naka and Mill tender rates also increased by Rs. 20-25 per quintal. According to the Bombay Sugar Merchants Association, the spot rates were: S-grade: Rs. 2,771-2840 (Rs 2,761-2,801) and M-grade: Rs. 2,811-2,881 (Rs 2791-2,851) per quintal. Naka delivery rates were: S-grade- Rs. 2,760-2,790 (Rs 2,740-Rs 2,760) and M-grade -Rs 2,800-2,840 (Rs 2,780-2,830) per quintal.

Sugar prices rise on strong demand

Sugar prices maintained its buoyancy at the Vashi Wholesale market here on persistent demand from stockists and bulk traders. "Sugar prices may rise further as there is strong demand from Northern and Eastern states in view of festive season along with rising trend in international markets, traders said.

Tech mission in Haryana to boost cane production

In a move to encourage more farmers in the state to take up sugarcane cultivation, the Haryana government has launched a technology mission on sugarcane, and sanctioned Rs 3.73 crore for the mission during the current fiscal. State agriculture department has framed the guidelines for the mission and it is expected to be implemented soon across the state.

Sugar mills in Uttar Pradesh challenge price hike

Sugar mills in Uttar Pradesh have filed a court petition against a state hike in prices they pay to farmers, an industry group said on Tuesday, threatening a row that could delay crushing and hit output. On Nov. 2, the northern state raised the minimum price sugar mills must pay to farmers by 23.5 percent to 210 rupees per 100 kg for very good quality product. Mills say this price is not viable given falls in domestic sugar prices.

Orissa: Aska Cooperative Sugar sets high price

In encouraging news for farmers in Orissa's Ganjam district, the Aska Cooperative Sugar Industry Ltd has decided to purchase sugarcane at Rs 2000/tonne rate, about Rs 300 more than last year. "Considering all factors we have decided to fix the sugarcane price at Rs 2000/tonne, the highest ever amount this time", the Chairman of the managing committee of the sugar body and District Collector V K Pandian said. The sugarcane price was fixed at a meeting after discussion with the representatives of the Ganjam district sugarcane growers association.

Sugar stocks up on firm international prices

Shares of sugar millers were trading higher on firm international prices and hopes delay in domestic crushing will lead to supply constraints, two analysts said. An analyst from a foreign brokerage said for Indian production to go beyond the estimated mark of 25 million tonnes for sugar season of 2010-2011, production in Maharashtra, where the crushing is currently delayed, is crucial.

Centre to decide on sugar exports by month-end

The Centre will take a decision on allowing export of sugar under the Open General Licence after it assessed the sugarcane crushing towards the end of the month. Cane crushing has been delayed in parts of Karnataka, Maharashtra and Gujarat, owing to rainfall. Union Agriculture and Food Minister Sharad Pawar said on Thursday that he would take a call after November 21, when he would get a report on sugar crushing. There would be a surplus of 3.5 million tonnes of sugar in the 2010-11 season.

Sugar, select dal prices up

Prices of urad dal, moong dal, gram dal, sugar and sooji moved up, while tur dal declined and other commodities remained unaltered at the wholesale foodgrains market here on

Thursday Urad dal and moong dal rose Rs 300 and Rs 100 per quintal to Rs 6,500 and Rs 5,900, respectively. Gram dal and sugar moved up by Rs 50 per quintal each to Rs 3,000 and Rs 2,900, respectively. Sooji (90 kg) went up to Rs 1,950 and tur dal moved down by Rs 100 per quintal to Rs 5,900. Wheat and maida rates were unchanged.

Commodities Buzz: 3.5 Million Ton Sugar Surplus Likely: India Farm Minister

India is likely to have 3.5 million metric tons of surplus sugar stocks this marketing year which began Oct. 1, Farm Minister Sharad Pawar said Thursday, adding that the government will likely take a decision by the end of November on allowing more exports. Global sugar prices have doubled since May due to poor weather in top producer Brazil, sparking fears of lower global supply this season and sending March sugar futures prices in New York to a 30-year high. Expectations of a good harvest in India, the second-biggest sugar producer, and surplus for exports could help cool global prices while Indian millers could gain from high overseas prices.

Sugarcane growers seek higher cane price in state

The sugarcane farmers in Karnataka are up in arms against the state **government** for delaying fixing the cane price for the present sugar season (October 2010 to September 2011). The government has not taken a stand on fixing the cane price on behalf of the sugar mills.

UP conducts 'forced mahurat' at sugar mills

The crop of sweetness is ready in abundance for harvest in Uttar Pradesh, one of the major producing state in the country. But as has been the wont for many years, just when it is time to start crushing the sweetener, a bitter feud has started brewing between the two most important stakeholders of the sugar industry—farmers on one end and factory owners on the other. And surprisingly, the state government has taken on itself the role of a priest in this episode and is trying to get differences between the two ironed out.

Sugar units want centre to solve their problems

Sugar factories in Gujarat are facing severe shortage of labour for quite some time now, forcing the managements of many to go in for further modernisation, including mechanical harvesting. The sugar factories are demanding subsidy in purchase of machineries from the government. They wanted to bring many problems like these to the attention of the

central government at the Gujarat State Federation of Co-operative Sugar Factories (GSFOCSF) golden jubilee function at Bardoli on Saturday

Harvest in full swing, sugarcane farmers hope for better prices

With the issue of sugar prices having been resolved in Sangli and Kolhapur, the major sugarcane growing regions in the state, harvest has begun in full swing across the state. While in Sangli, farmers have been promised by mill owners a first instalment of Rs 1,900, to be followed by Rs 100 later in January, some mills in Kolhapur have not yet declared the final price. Farmers feel that the prices may pick up later with the next round of the harvest as the initial recovery percentages are comparatively lower.

Should India export at risk of fuelling sugar prices at home?

It takes two to tango. This for a much welcome change is happening in the country's sugar economy. The industry, represented by Indian Sugar Mills Association (Isma) and National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories is showing much better appreciation than ever before, of the caution the government must exercise before making any policy changes for sugar, an oversensitive commodity. The recent good vibes between the government and industry may largely be because of the emerging new leadership in Isma, ready to see the official point of view.

Sugar eases on ample supply

Sugar prices declined moderately at the Vashi Wholesale market here today on reduced offtake from stockists and bulk consumers amid adequate stock position. Small sugar quality (S-30) dropped by Rs 9-20 per quintal to Rs 2,841-2,902 from last Saturday's closing level of Rs 2,861-2,911. Medium sugar quality (M-30) also fell by Rs 9-10 per quintal to Rs 2,891-2,971, as compared with Rs 2,900-2,981 last weekend. The following are today's closing rates per quintal, with the previous rates in brackets: Small sugar (S-30) quality Rs 2,841-2,902 (Rs 2,861- 2,911) and medium sugar (M-30) quality Rs 2,891-2,971 (Rs 2,900-2,981)

UP government forcing sugar mills to buy cane: UPSMA

The Uttar Pradesh Sugar Mills Association (UPSMA) today alleged that the state government was putting pressure on millers to purchase sugarcane from farmers, much ahead of the crushing operations start, setting a precedent. The sugar mills plan to start the crushing operations by November 20 and delivery of sugarcane prior to that may create law and

order problems. The local administration have started putting pressure on the mills of Meerut, Muzaffarnagar and Saharanpur districts to immediately buy cane at state advised price (SAP) of Rs 205 a quintal even though the factories have told them that they would not be able to start operation before November 20, said a senior UPSMA official, who did not wish to be named.

Rains halt cane crushing in Maharashtra

Continuing rain, with overcast skies, has slowed down the sugarcane crushing season in Maharashtra. It has also affected the recovery percentage, resulting in huge losses for individual mills. According to statistics available with the state's Sugar Commissionerate , 111 mills have started crushing operations. Of these, about 70 to 80 mills are running at moderate capacities, while the rest are at initial stages of operations.

Ministries differ on export of sugar, wheat

The commerce ministry on Monday pitched for allowing free exports of sugar and wheat to take advantage of high global prices, while its agriculture counterpart suggested to be 'cautious' in wake of high inflation. "...markets suit us. For the first time now world prices of sugar and wheat are higher than the domestic prices," Commerce Secretary Rahul Khullar said to a query on allowing exports of sugar and wheat. When asked specifically whether there is a case to lift the export curbs on these two commodities, Khullar said: "I think thats what I said."

UP sugar mills to challenge state cane price

Sugar mills in Uttar Pradesh plan to move court to challenge the price of cane set by the state government at Rs 210 per quintal for the 2010-11 season. The mills will approach the Allahabad in two days, according to sources close to the mills. Crushing in Uttar Pradesh is unlikely to start before the court gives its direction. They expect a decision by November 20 and till then all the more than 100 will remain idle.

Crushing delay puts UP govt, sugar mills & farmers on collision course

It's the same time of the year when sweet tidings usher in a lot of bitterness in Uttar Pradesh. Sugarcane, which is the mainstay of the state's economy, becomes bone of contention between all the three stakeholders: the growers, the crushers and the government for one reason or the other. While last year the pricing of sugarcane was the reason behind the heartburn among farmers as well as millers, this year it is the delay in

running the mills that is causing a major problem to the farmers. A delay in harvesting cane could hold up rabi sowing.

138 mills start crushing, produce 72 lakh quintal sugar

As many as 138 sugar factories in the state have so far crushed 82 lakh tonne sugarcane to produce 72.28 lakh quintal sugar with 8.82 per cent recovery rate as on Friday. Anil Bansode, joint director (development) at the sugar commissionerate said, "Around 120 sugar factories started crushing during the same period as the previous season.

Five officials of 2 sugar mills held for defying govt orders

Five general managers of two sugar mills, which did not start crushing sugarcanes by the date specified by the Uttar Pradesh government, have been arrested, police said today. Six senior officials of Bijnor and Chandpur sugar mills were booked under different sections of the IPC, Essential Commodities Act and Criminal Law Amendment Act after the district administration lodged complaints against them yesterday, police said.

INTERNATIONAL SUGAR INDUSTRY

Sugar May Jump 19% on Dry Weather in Brazil, Asia Demand, Newedge Predicts

Raw sugar may climb 19 percent by March if dry weather in Brazil, the worlds biggest producer, persists, amid growing demand from countries including China, according to broker Newedge USA.

Volatile sugar price back to record high

Sugar hit 30 US cents a pound in February this year, but fell by more than half in the following months.

Sugar Cane Farmers in India Seek Higher Price, May Delay Supply to Mills

Sugar cane farmers in Uttar Pradesh, Indias biggest grower, are seeking higher prices than rates set by the state government today, likely forcing mills to delay processing the crop, according to two farmers groups.

Sugar-Beet Flip-Floppers, and Other Sustainability News

Two years ago, after the United States Department of Agriculture gave its blessing prematurely it turns out to the commercial planting of genetically modified (GMO) beets that could resist Monsanto's Roundup herbicide, beet growers, along with the seed companies that supply them, the processors that buy from them, and the confectioners and soft drink manufacturers that rely heavily on sugar, made a pact with the GMO devil to abandon conventional sugar beets en masse in favor of genetically modified ones.

USDA issues draft plan allowing GM sugar beets

The U.S. Department of Agriculture issued a draft proposal on Tuesday to again allow farmers to grow Monsanto Co's (MON.N) genetically modified sugar beets, which are fiercely opposed by environmentalists.

Peterson eases to 11th House term

Peterson said losing the top post could actually free him up to be a better advocate for local interests like the sugar industry.

No investor stampede yet to Harare

Despite moves by three firms, Zimbabwe is not attracting new money, writes Michael Bleby

Kenya: Farmers Protest Against 'Slow Justice'

Nairobi The slow process of judicial proceedings on the 'illegal' sale of 10,000 acres of land belonging to Miwani Sugar Company is frustrating local farmers.

Zimbabwe: Scramble for Sugar Turns Sour for 17

Beitbridge POLICE here have arrested 17 people, who allegedly assaulted police officers and security guards during a scramble for sugar that had spilled from a haulage truck.

Farmers urge judiciary to expedite Miwani Sugar cases

Farmers in Kisumu and Nyando Counties want court cases involving Miwani Sugar Company (1989) expedited to pave way for the firms privatisation.

Sugar Workers' Center to Rise

MALAYBALAY CITY The Sugar Workers Livelihood Center (SWLC) is set to rise in this progressive agricultural city of Bukidnon province in Northern Mindanao, it was learned Monday.

Sugar prices tipped to surge

A commodities report from the National Australia Bank is predicting sugar prices will jump above 30 US cents a pound before the end of the year.

Turning sugar cane into propylene

THE Brazilian petrochemicals company Braskem hopes to start up an industrial-scale plant producing green polypropylene in 2013.

Guinness Peat burning along with sugar sale

THE portfolio tidy-up at Gary Weiss's Guinness Peat Group has taken another step forwards with a conditional agreement to offload 19.9 per cent of Maryborough Sugar Factory to Mitr Phol Sugar Corp, Thailand's biggest sugar producer, for \$4 a share. GPG holds a 23 per cent interest in the Queensland-based sugar company.

Pros and cons of Maryborough Sugar sale

The sugar industry lobby group has described the possible sale of a large stake of a Queensland sugar mill to an overseas company as "bittersweet".

China 2011-2015 Sugar Market May Be Short 12.5 Million Tons, Site Reports

Chinas sugar market may be in deficit by 12.5 million metric tons between 2011 and 2015, industry wesbite Sugarinfo.net said today, citing Qiu Xinzhi, secretary general of the China Sugar Association. Supply during the period will be 70 million tons, with demand estimated at 82.46 million tons, the report said, citing Qiu.

Frbiz Discusses China's Sugar Market

BEIJING, Nov. 1, 2010 /PRNewswire via COMTEX/ -- Frbiz reports that, affected by domestic and international futures prices rising, China's domestic sugar price has risen 0.9%. Inventory issues are expected to push China's sugar price slightly higher in the near future.

Ord Valley rice leaves on ship bound for PNG

Since the collapse of the Ord Valley's sugar industry back in 2007, no Ord crops have used the Wyndham Port for export, making the rice shipment a significant one for the Port Authority.

Sugar beets still in high demand

Every fall for more than a century, starting with horse-drawn wagons and now trucks, farmers deliver their sugar beets in a steady procession to the local beet dump.

U.S. adults eat 150 pounds of sugar/yr

The average U.S. adult consumes about 150 pounds of sugar annually and many are addicted to the sweet crystals, a doctor suggests.

Investing in ethanol key to energy independence

Zimbabwe's agrarian revolution is proving to be a resounding success on several fronts, not least the extent to which it is promoting economic independence. In order to achieve energy independence Zimbabwe must embark on yet another agrarian revolution, this time fuelled by ethanol.

Threats Turns into an Opportunity in Business

We keep hearing the following threats very often, Glaciers are melting. Ecosystem is collapsing irreversibly. Decomposed vegetation is releasing enormous amounts of Carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. The Temperature of the earth is increasing day by day. All these threats are coming under one name that is Global Warming.

Kenya: Licensing of Butali Sugar Splits Industry Regulator

Nairobi The Butali Sugar tempest and the related suspension of former chief executive officer Rosemary Mkok are threatening to tear the Kenya Sugar Board asunder

Thai company seeks a piece of Maryborough Sugar

Maryborough Sugar Factory Limited, a Queensland sugar mill, has announced Thai-owned Mitr Phol Sugar Corp will buy 19.9 per cent of shares owned by Guinness Peat Group, subject to conditions.

GPG sells Maryborough Sugar stake

Sir Ron Brierley's investment company Guinness Peat Group (GPG) has sold a 19.9 percent stake in Australian listed company The Maryborough Sugar Factory Ltd (MSF), according to an announcement to the Australian Stock Exchange (ASX).

How the world will meet an extra 50% sugar demand

Czarnikow, one of the worlds oldest sugar traders, today publishes its report Sugar in 2030: How the World will Meet an Extra 50% Demand. The paper analyses consumption and production trends over the next 20 years, as rising wealth in emerging markets leads to greater demand and further pressure to increase production globally.

CSR has asbestos obligations: Swan

Australian company CSR must honour its legal obligations to compensate victims of asbestos-related illness, says Acting Prime Minister Wayne Swan.

Farmers, millers differ on SAP for sugarcane

Ahead of the announcement of the state advisory price (SAP) of sugarcane for 2010-11 crushing season by the state government, the farmers and the sugar industry are at loggerheads. As a result, a meeting of stakeholders of the sugar industry, convened by the state government on Friday to evolve a consensus on SAP, remained inconclusive. The meeting was attended by the representative of Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA) and sugarcane farmers. Chief Secretary Atul Gupta presided the mee

Sugar zooms on tight exports, weak dollar

ICE raw sugar futures reached a fresh 30-year high and refined sugar a record peak for a second day on Friday due to tight export availability and a weak dollar, following a stimulus package by the Federal Reserve . “With the weakness of the dollar, people are scrambling to put money into commodities, including sugar,” said Jake Wetherall, a soft commodities trader with Rabobank . The Fed on Wednesday launched a fresh effort to support a struggling US economy, committing to buy \$600 billion in government bonds, and the dollar fell against a basket of currencies.

GPG sells stake in Maryborough Sugar

Sir Ron Brierley's investment company Guinness Peat Group (GPG) has sold a 19.9 per cent stake in Australian-listed company The Maryborough Sugar Factory Ltd (MSF), according to an announcement to the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX).

The sugar industry appears to have emerged the most endangered segment in the Nigerian manufacturing sector

The sugar industry appears to have emerged the most endangered segment in the Nigerian manufacturing sector, after the textile industry, following cumulative pressure on the sub-sector. Local production of sugar is shrinking, jobs are being lost and Nigerians now depend mainly on importation. Stakeholders say the industry is heading for a total collapse if the Federal Government fails to urgently reverse its policy on packaged sugar importation. The Nigerian economy lost N56.2bn to packaged sugar importation in 2009 alone, the Executive Secretary, National Sugar Development Council of Nigeria, Alhaji Usman Bello, said on Sunday

Imperial Sugar refinery to close

GRAMERCY Imperial Sugar said Thursday it will cease operations at its Gramercy sugar refinery Dec. 31 and reduce its packaging operations there, resulting in 170 of the plant's 283 workers being laid off.

Nebraska-Wyoming sugar beet harvest nearly done

A hefty harvest of sugar beets has left western Nebraska and eastern Wyoming fields.

Ugar Sugar Works loss narrows in Sep `10 qtr

Ugar Sugar Works reported the loss for the quarter ended September 2010 has narrowed. During the quarter, the loss of the company decreased to Rs 240.45 million compared with a loss of Rs 313.52 million in the same quarter last year. Net sales for the quarter for the quarter rose 21.83% to Rs 1,050.72 million, while total income for the quarter rose 21.63% to Rs 1,057.72 million, when compared with the prior year period.

Sugar exports needed to cash in on global prices

What a pulsating journey it has been for sugar since the beginning of 2010! The world saw raw sugar prices climbing to 30-year high of 30.4 cents a pound in February when Indian production was estimated at a dangerously low level of about 15 million tonnes and Brazil

was contending with a harvest-disrupting weather. Money managed positions then, too, contributed to the market frenzy.

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British Sugar owner tops 10bn in revenues

British Sugar and Primark owner Associated British Foods Group has this morning announced outstanding results with revenues topping the 10bn mark for the first time.

Swan sets conditions for sale of CSR sugar assets

CSR LTD has secured foreign investment approval for the \$1.75 billion sale of its sugar business to a Singapore company by agreeing to special measures to protect asbestos claimants.

Uganda Says That Sugar Production Increases 3.7% at the Largest Plants

Sugar production at Ugandas three biggest plants rose 3.7 percent in the first nine months this year because of increased capacity, the Uganda Sugar Cane Technologists Association.

Sugar growers need help

Sugar millers urged the government to subsidise sugar cane growers who suffers from a decline in primary sugar cane price for the 2010/2011 harvest season due to the strong baht. The price drops to Bt945 per tonne.

Thai Cane and Sugar Corporation to sell 40,000 tonnes of raws

THE state-run Thai Cane and Sugar Corporation (TCSC) will open a tender to sell 40,000 tonnes of 2010/11 raw sugar next week, a senior TCSC official said on Tuesday.

Brazilian troubles fuel sugar crop uncertainty

Concern about prospects for cane in Brazil is one of the main explanations for the recent sharp rise in the world price of sugar.

CSR gets federal clearance to sell sugar business

CSR Ltd has secured foreign investment approval for the \$1.75 billion sale of its sugar business to a Singapore company by agreeing to special measures to protect asbestos claimants.

US sugar beet harvest 97% complete as of November 7, 2010

US sugar beet growers had harvested 97% of this year's beet crop by November 7, up from 92% a week earlier and also above the 91% harvested at the same time last year, USDA data show. The harvests in North Dakota and Minnesota have already been completed, while the harvest in Idaho was 93% finished and in Michigan 90%.

Kenya: Branding Boosts Sales for Chemelil Sugar

The move has seen the increase in branded sale and production from 523 metric tonnes last year to 932 metric tonnes this year. The company's managing director Edward Musebe said branding has led to the expansion of the company's market network to cover far-flung areas such as Machakos, Kitui and Embu.

Cosan Net Income Doubles to \$257.5 Million on Higher Sugar, Ethanol Sales

Cosan SA Industria & Comercio, which shares control of the world's largest sugar-cane processor with Royal Dutch Shell Plc, said fiscal second-quarter profit more than doubled on higher sales of sugar and ethanol.

Incompetent Coughlan duped on Irish sugar industry Snodaigh

Speaking in the Dil this evening Sinn Fin TD Aengus Snodaigh severely criticised Tnaiste Mary Coughlan over her handling of the sugar industry when she was Minister for Agriculture.

Politicians clash on Mallow sugar plant closure

There have been rowdy scenes in the Dil after a European report found the closure of the Greencore sugar plant in Mallow four years ago may not have been necessary.

Mallow sugar factory closure a mistake - EU auditors

A restructuring of the sugar-producing industry led to the closure of the Mallow sugar factory in 2006 but it has now emerged that the factory was profitable and should not have been shut down.

EU Commission recommends Fiji changes

A European Commission report on the sugar cane harvest and sugar industry transport sector in Fiji has recommended an overhaul of the farms and transport system.

Aronson & Budhos: Sugar Changed the World

Plenty of diet books would like to influence us, but Marc Aronson and Marina Budhos *Sugar Changed the World A story of Magic, Spice, Slavery, Freedom, and Science* (Clarion 2010) aims to do more. It is a book for young adults about the history of sugar and how it intersected created, sustained, and deepened the cruelties of slavery, and led to revolution French, American, and Haitian.

Naked Juice's reNEWabottle Used For More Sizes

MONROVIA, Calif., Nov. 11, 2010 -- Naked Juice, the super-premium juice maker known for using only the best bare-naked fruits and vegetables, continues its promise of transparency -- literally -- with the introduction of the reNEWabottle for its 10-oz., 15.2-oz., and 64-oz. juice and juice smoothies. Made from 100-percent post-consumer recycled plastic, the reNEWabottle will reduce virgin plastic consumption by 7.4 million pounds per year. This bottle, essentially made from other bottles, provides juice lovers a clear view of the all-natural goodness

Zimbabwe: Ethanol Project Set to Transform Energy Sector

A massive US\$600 million ethanol project, set to transform the country's energy and agriculture sectors, is taking shape in Chisumbanje in Chipinge, Manicaland, with the first production of the fuel expected in the first quarter of next year.

S Africa celebrates 150th year of Indian arrival

Mahatma Gandhi was remembered by the South Africans as they marked the 150th year since the first indentured Indian workers arrived by boat in Durban.

Kenya: Bad Farming Blamed for Drop in Cane Yields

Nairobi The sugar industry could be headed for troubled times due to a decline in yields reported in sugar cane-growing regions.

Neb-Wyo Sugar Beet Harvest Overcomes Tough Weather

More than a million tons of sugar beets have been harvested this year from 45,600 acres in Nebraska and eastern Wyoming.

Sugar suffers biggest sell-off in 30 years

Sugar prices suffered their biggest one-day sell-off in 30 years on Thursday, tumbling by as much as 11 per cent after speculators pulled out from the market in the wake of dizzying gains.

Sugar factory closure 'needless'

The closure of the Mallow sugar factory, Irelands last, was needless because the business was profitable at the time, EU auditors have found.

EU sugar audit leaves sour taste

EU sugar reform hit Ireland hard and whether we can recover depends on how cheaply we can produce it, writes Europe Correspondent Ann Cahill

QSL downgrades forecast of Australian sugar crop

QUEENSLAND Sugar Limited (QSL) has downgraded its forecast for sugar exports from an initial estimate of 2.9-3.0 million metric tonnes to closer to 2.6 million metric tonnes, with some further downside risk, as part of potentially the smallest Australian sugar crop in almost 20 years.

Sugar still being sold at Rs 80 per kg

LAHORE - Government has failed in implementing the sale of sugar on control prices at Rs 72 per kg due to ambiguous price mechanism, which gives the sugar dealers and shopkeepers a margin to mint money and they still are fleecing the masses by selling such sugar supplied by the government at Rs 80 per kg, TheNation has learnt on Sunday.

Shock fall in sugar price

The world price of sugar has fallen dramatically. The commodity was at record highs of around 33 US cents per pound last week, but then fell by 20 per cent over two days.

Sugar price turns sour

A leading sugar analyst says there has been a crash in the price of sugar, with the value of the commodity dropping 20 per cent in just two days.

Biggest sugar mill to be established in Kanchanpur

KANCHANPUR: Preparation is underway to open a sugar factory in Kanchanpur with Rs. 300 million investment of the private sector.

Fiji Sugar Corporation selling land in Lautoka

The Fiji Sugar Corporation is selling vacant land in Lautoka which has failed to generate income.

Environmentalists, developers and others wonder what's in store from new governor Rick Scott

Of all the issues Gov.-elect Rick Scott addressed during his campaign - abortion, immigration, health care, taxes, offshore drilling, school vouchers, gay marriage, limits on lawsuits, and the \$1.7 billion in Medicare fraud fines paid by his former company, the environment received almost no play.

Drought hurts sugar giant but profit up 10%

ALTHOUGH Tongaat Hulett's South African sugar production has been affected by the severe drought this season, its profit from operations for the half-year has still grown 10%, to R963m from R873m in the corresponding period last year.

Rain shrinks crop, but sugar outlook sweet

It's been a volatile year for Australia's sugar industry but the long-term outlook is sweet, Queensland Sugar Ltd's annual general meeting has been told.

Queensland mills agree to pay for lower sugar content, after nightmare cane season

The Proserpine Sugar Mill and Canegrowers in northern Queensland have signed an agreement that guarantees growers will get paid for cane even if CCS falls as low as 5.5

New mill drives Empee Sugar's growth in Sept quarter

Expanded operations following the commissioning of a new sugar mill and cogeneration plant have contributed to strong growth for Empee Sugars.

Government should act decisively on sugar re-exportation

Re-exporting sugar is not healthy for the Ugandan sugar industry and the economy at large. Sugar is one of the essential commodities whose retail price is increasing very fast. For the poor households, sugar is becoming very expensive and this is seriously impacting on their food security and nutrition. The price of sugar has risen from Shs1,000 to Shs2,500 in a few years. The government should act quickly to restore sanity in the sugar industry.

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lawsuits, and the \$1.7 billion in Medicare fraud fines paid by his former company, the environment received almost no play.

South African sugar production forecast lowered

SOUTH Africa's 2010/11 sugar output is estimated at 1.949m tonnes, down from a previous 1.964m tonnes forecast, the latest estimate by the South African Sugar Association (SASA) showed.

Kenya: Rising Sugar Yield Piles Pressure on Local Millers

Sugar millers face stiffer competition from regional rivals in the coming months following a projected build-up of stocks in the international markets.

Kenya: Minister Names New Sugar Board Boss

Nairobi The fate of former Kenya Sugar Board chairman Okoth Obado appeared sealed after Agriculture minister Sally Kosgei gazetted the appointment of Mr Saulo Busolo to replace him.

Illovo to Sell Worm-Killer to Counteract Falling Sugar Profits, CEO Says

Illovo Sugar Ltd., Africa's biggest producer of the sweetener, will sign an agreement with one of the top three agrochemical companies in the U.S. turf market to sell and distribute its patented worm-killing agent.

Grinding season dry

Rain has been scarce, but for local sugar cane farmers, the absence of mud, coupled with good market prices, means this year's harvest will likely top last year's rain-saturated season.

Lovell sugar factory in full swing

In a process that began at the Lovell sugar factory nearly 100 years ago, sugar beets grown in the Big Horn Basin are sliced, heated and treated to extract and refine one of the beets approximately 2,000 chemicals: sugar.

EC must reverse decision on out-of-quota sugar and release internally, CIUS

The CIUS is calling for the European Commission to act now to keep sugar supplies within the EU market rather than export the sweetener, with it claiming that EU based confectioners and other food and drink manufacturers are facing sugar supply difficulties.

One-fourth of sugar mills owned by top politicians

ISLAMABAD: Sugar prices were reportedly allowed to skyrocket over the past few weeks so that a few easily make billions and the commodity produced by local mills, most of them owned by politicians with some being in the official policy making echelons, is also sold at higher rates gained during the crisis.

38 points set up for sale of subsidised sugar in Pindi

RAWALPINDI: Some 38 special sale points have been set up in all four districts of Rawalpindi division to provide sugar to the people at subsidised rate of Rs 63 per kg and due to the hectic efforts of City District Government Rawalpindi (CDGR) the commodity is being sold at Rs 72 per kg in open market under the directives of the Punjab Chief Minister, said a meeting held at Commissioners office on Sunday to review the demand and supply of sugar.

Massive release of sugar by TCP helps reduce price

KARACHI: With large-scale release of sugar in the wholesale markets of Karachi by Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP), its price in the market has nosedived by Rs 32 to Rs 35 per kg spelling financial relief for an overwhelming segment of the population.

Provincial governments responsible for sugar issue: Kaira

Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Qamar Zaman Kaira said on Saturday that there would have been no sugar shortage in the country, if the provincial governments had handled this matter properly. Addressing a press conference, he said that the federal government had given 150,000 tons sugar to Punjab government. He said that there was 775,000 tons sugar available in stock while the monthly consumption of sugar in the country was 275,000 tons. He said that those who talk of a revolution should understand first the philosophy of revolution. He said that revolution was the name of social changes as it was not the name of any party or the name of any change.

Sugar Output Slumps at India's Top Producing State as Rains Slow Harvests

Sugar production in Maharashtra, India's biggest producer, fell 29 percent in the season that began Oct. 1 after heavy rainfall in the main growing areas slowed harvests, a producers group said.

Sugar mills body requests govt to fix final ethanol price

NEW DELHI: Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA) on Sunday demanded that the government should fix the final price of ethanol at the earliest for smooth implementation of five per cent ethanol blending with petrol.

36 thousand bags of sugar recovered from Jaranawala

During a raid on a sugar mill in Jaranawala 36 thousand bags of sugar were recovered. Police has confiscated the sugar bags.

Sugar markets

THE Fiji Sugar Corporation is looking for markets outside of the European Union to sell its sugar to.

U.S. corn ethanol "was not a good policy": Gore

Former vice-president Al Gore said support for corn-based ethanol in the United States was "not a good policy", weeks before tax credits are up for renewal.

Time to test the principles

Congressional Republicans get to take their newly rediscovered affection for the free enterprise system out for a drive. They can save taxpayers billions of dollars by allowing to expire at year's end the subsidies for domestic ethanol production and tariffs on imported ethanol.

Saudi sugar prices surge, to rise further on global supply deficit

JEDDAH: Sugar prices in Saudi Arabia have recently jumped more than 20 percent and are expected to surge further in the near future as local traders have begun importing sugar at higher prices due to weaker global supply, dealers said Saturday.

SocialTwist Tell-a-Friend Nothing is too sacred to violate, or too holy for PAM to trample upon

During the 1960s and 70s, the Sugar Industry, which was the mainstay of our economy, was in deep trouble. The Labour Government set-out to shore-up the failing Sugar Industry by initialling a Project called The Sugar Industry Rescue Operation (SIRO). While the Labour Party Government was trying to rescue the Sugar Industry by means of SIRO, the political opponents of the Labour Party Government were trying to destroy the Industry by setting fire night after night in one cane field after another.

Researchers: Sugar tempers temper

Consuming sugar may make people sweeter-tempered and less prone to violence, multiple U.S. studies suggest.

ETHANOL

Midcourse correction in ethanol project gives jitters to sugar mills

The recommendation of an expert panel to prune the ethanol-blending programme of fuel retailers could spell trouble for the country's sugar industry that has already contracted to sell about 60 crore litres of ethanol. A committee under planning commission member Saumitra Chaudhuri has suggested that the quantum of ethanol for the plan be restricted to 40-50 crore litres for the current financial year, saying the ambitious programme could starve other industries that use spirit.

Sudan's White Nile, China's CAMC to Build Sugar, Animal-Feed Factories

Sudans White Nile Sugar Co. signed agreements for an ethanol factory and animal-feed plant with China CAMC Engineering Co., Managing Director Hassan Satti said.
